



A Sociological Study of the Impact on the Socio-Economic Status of Subsistence Agricultural Households under the Policy of Shifting to Organic Fertilizer Use. (From Kaharawila village, Padduvasnuwara)

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Abstract

70 % of the Sri Lankan population is rural and among them higher number of peoples are engaged in occupations related to agricultural field. Dependent agriculture plays an important role there. Since long time ago, farmers have been used to utilize chemical fertilizer to gain more harvest from their agro products. On October 2021, government principles and circulars were prepared to impede the use of chemical fertilizer and encourage the use of organic fertilizer. In order to succeed those principles, government limited the importing of chemical fertilizer. Because of this reason, few changes occurred in the lifestyle of the dependent agriculture families. The effect to social and economic state of the dependent agricultural families under the principle of shifting to the use of organic fertilizer, is used as the experimental problem in this case study. The objectives of this case study are, identifying the consuming style changes, educational state changes that have taken place in the families engaged in dependent agriculture; identifying the effectiveness of agricultural products by the direct use of organic fertilizer. Data was obtained through forwarding questioners to 100 families engaged in dependent agriculture in the "Kahatawila" Grama Niladhari Division of "Paduwasnuwara-West" Divisional Secretariat region of Kurunegala District, under random sampling method. Analysis of data related to the experiment through quantitate and qualitative analysis by using primary and secondary sources used as the experiment method. 20% of the sample were the beneficiaries of any kind of subsidies. 60% of the sample were indebted. According to the Comparisons of the "Yala" season of 2022, to the "Yala" season of 2021, the cost of agricultural activities has been increased by approximately Rs.40, 000 for the "Yala" season of 2022. Because of this reason, 3% of the sample have given up the agricultural activities by the "Maha" season. According to the Comparisons of the harvest of "Maha" season of 2022, to the "Yala" season of 2021, the harvest has been decreased by approximately 700kg per Arch in the "Maha" season of 2022. As the reasons for the decrease of harvest, quitting from the use of chemical fertilizer, absence of quality organic fertilizer, change of consuming styles of the families, indebt rate increasing within families, crisis states such as divorce cases, minimum market value of the harvest a relative to the cost spent by the farmers on agricultural activities can be identified. In order to succeed the organic agriculture, gradual shifting to organic fertilizer based on a long-term plan, establishment of family counselling services on rural level, organizing programs on the enhancement of children's education can be suggested.

Keywords: Agriculture, Use of fertilizer, Effectiveness, Families, Harvest.

