

DETERMINANTS OF THE GRANTEES' DECISION ON SETTLING IN DISBURSED LANDS IN MAHAWELI SETTLEMENTS

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One primary objective of accelerated *Mahaweli* development programme was to increase the land use and land use efficiency of agriculture. Arable lands were distributed among peasants by this programme aiming to develop their livelihood and overall agricultural production of the country. *Mahaweli* system L is a newly developed settlement scheme within this programme. Compared to other *Mahaweli* systems, the number of farmers settled in the distributed lands is low in *Mahaweli* system L. A survey was conducted with 120 land grantees of *Mahaweli* system L to investigate the factors determining grantees' decision to settle in these allocated lands. Gathered information was analysed using both descriptive and binary logistic regression analysis. A model including people known to settlers in the new settlement, people known to settlers in their place of origin, frequency of settlers' interactions with fellow settlers, experience of discrimination, strength of ties with the people in their place of origin, and the level of intention of family members having in settling in the new settlement were tested. None of the given variables were associated to the grantees decision to settle in. This could have been a result of low representation of non-settlers in the sample due to lack of their reliable sources of contacts to implement the survey on them. This study does not warrant drawing robust conclusions; hence, repeating the study including more number of non-settlers is recommended.

Keywords: Land grantees, New land settlements, Non-settlers, Settlers