

EVALUATION OF SEED DISTRIBUTION PROJECT UNDER *DIVI NEGUMA* PROGRAMME: CASE STUDY IN KANDY DISTRICT

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Seed distribution programme was implemented to improve nutritional level, reduced cost of living, increased vegetable production and to create new income generating sources for households. In addition, under the seed distribution, project beneficiaries are expected to maintain seed stocks to meet future seed requirements. It is argued that seed distribution project did not meet its intended objectives. The study was conducted to evaluate the impact of seed distribution project. Data were collected from 90 beneficiary farmers chosen randomly in Kandy District. The specific objectives were to study implementation mechanism of the project, ascertain socio-economic condition of beneficiary families, examine project outcomes and their impact on household economy and identify problems faced by beneficiaries and their suggestions to overcome them. Study found that 88% of households have utilized the seeds provided, while the rest (12%) had not utilized seeds due to lack of space, time or interest in cultivation. Among the users, only 55% found their seeds germinated but only 43% out of 55% had harvested the crop. Others' plants died at young stage mainly due to the attack by animals and unknown diseases. It was also reported that the quality of seeds were very low. All of them had applied organic fertilizer. Out of harvested households, 73% were involved in farming. There was no relationship between education level and gender with the project outcomes but occupation did have an impact. Lack of continuous monitoring and evaluation programme has caused the failure of the project. Study recommended that comprehensive survey should be conducted before implementing the next stage. Furthermore, it is necessary to verify the quality of seeds before distributing among farmers.

Keywords: *Divi neguma*, Evaluation, Seed distribution, Households