

**MARKET ACCESS FOR SMALLHOLDER VEGETABLE FARMERS
IN THE KOPAY DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DIVISION IN
JAFFNA DISTRICT**



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ABSTRACT

This study, titled “Market Access for Smallholder Vegetable Farmers in Kopay Divisional Secretariat Division, Jaffna District,” examines the factors influencing market accessibility among smallholder vegetable farmers. Agriculture is a key livelihood activity in the Jaffna District, and vegetable cultivation plays an important role in household income and food security. However, limited market access restricts the profitability and sustainability of small-scale farming. Data were collected through questionnaires and interviews with vegetable farmers, in the Kopay Division. The descriptive statistics analysis used major challenges such as poor transportation, lack of price information, and dependence on middlemen. Factors such as education level, farm size, access to extension services, and participation in farmer organizations were found to significantly improve market access. The study recommends strengthening farmer cooperatives, improving infrastructure, and promoting direct marketing channels to enhance farmers income and market efficiency. These interventions can support sustainable agricultural development and improve the livelihoods of smallholder vegetable farmers in the Kopay region.

Keywords: Farmer cooperatives, market access, smallholder farmers, vegetable marketing

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