

ABSTRACT

A Survey on land preparation methods and type of implements used in paddy cultivation was conducted in the Eravur Pattu A.G.A. Division which is located in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. Supplementary data were obtained from the Statistical Department of Batticaloa and previous relevant study reports. The survey was conducted by means of administering a pretested questionnaire to a random sample of farmers. The information collected from the sample farmers covers the following broad areas. Ownership of farm power, power densities, tillage capacities, other cultural practices, yield of paddy, capacity of each type of farm power, depth of ploughing, family labour use and suitability of farm power.

In the area chosen for study, only an extremely small number of farmers own tractors but the reported use of tractor was very high in all the Agrarian Services Centres. Four Wheel tractor densities in the study location were well above the dry zone average, whereas the densities of two wheel tractor were very low. Only 40% of the farmers own four wheel tractor. The hiring charges of four wheel tractor ranges from 500 - 600 rupees per acre. Hiring charges of buffaloes varies from 300 - 350 rupees per acre. In Maha Season dry sowing is high, whereas in Yala Season mud sowing is high.

In most of the paddy lands chemical weeding is carried out. The yield in the study location varies from 63 - 67 bushels per acre. The capacity of four wheel tractor is high in medium textured soil, and it varies from 10-12 acres per day.

Capacity of 2 wheel tractor ranges from 1 - 1½ acres per day. Capacity of buffalo varies from 0.75 - 1 acre per day. The deepest ploughing was observed in the animal plough. ^{As far as} Family labour use is concerned, it was high in the study location. When we consider the suitability of farm power, four wheel tractor is suitable for large extent cultivation (more than 2 hectares). Two wheel tractor and buffalo are suitable for small holders. (less than 2 hectares).

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PERMANENT REFERENCE

A STUDY ON LAND PREPARATION METHODS FOR PADDY CULTIVATION
IN THE ERAVUR PATTU A.G.A DIVISION

BY

SEBASTIAN SYLVESTER

A SURVEY STUDY REPORT

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT

OF THE

ADVANCED COURSE

IN

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

FOR THE DEGREE OF

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE

COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

PERADENIYA

1986

APPROVED



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