

PERMANENT REFERENCE

SOME CONSTRAINTS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF FRUIT CROPS  
IN THE BATTICALOA DISTRICT

by

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## ABSTRACT

The climate of the Batticaloa district is quite suitable for the cultivation of many tropical fruit crops; nevertheless the fruits produced in the neighbouring districts find a market in the Batticaloa district. Therefore a survey was conducted to identify some of the constraints to fruit cultivation (Viz, banana, cashew, mango and citrus fruits) in this district. A sample of thirty fruit cultivators from the different divisions of the Batticaloa district were selected and interviewed.

From the information gathered it's learnt that the banana cultivators are more successful and satisfied with the income they get. Most of the banana farms are less than 1 ac in size and family labour is only used. Farmers adhere to most of the recommend practises of the Department of Agriculture. It is suggested that people, interested in farming must be given subsidies and incentives to make them involve in banana cultivation and the subsidies must be made available to them in time as to avoid frustration of farmers as observed in some cases.

Most of the cashew and mango farms are in remote areas far away from owners residences, and no one is willing to reside in the farms and look after those, owing to the prevailing turmoil situations. Because of the above situations the owners, are unable to maintain the farms properly and the farms are almost at a neglected state. The mango cultivators who have already got the first instalment of subsidies are unable to get the other instalment and proceed further in their cultivation process. Hence there are no prospects for these farmers until the current unbest situation and condition return to normal.



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In the case of citrus fruit free growers, most of them seem to be not interested investing further to upgrade the conditions in their farms and most of them are considering to cultivate some other crops since fruits from other areas are brought and sold at competitive prices.

It is also suggested these farms should be well distributed in the district to avoid transport requirements and should not exceed more than 1 ac so that there will be no labour shortage as the family labour alone will be sufficient in most of the cases.

There for to make any comments or recommendation it's suggested that more citrus growers be interviewed.