

EVALUATION OF DIFFERENT LIFT IRRIGATION
METHODS ADOPTED IN MANMUNAI SOUTH &
ERUVIL PATTU, KALUWANCIKUDY D.S
DIVISION OF THE BATTICALOA DISTRICT

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Abstract

A study was conducted to evaluate and find out the efficient lift irrigation method based on farmer's economic status and field level feasibility at Manmunai South and Eruvil Pattu, Kaluwanchikudy D.S division, which is located in the Batticaloa district of Eastern part of Sri Lanka.

High literacy rates are found among the farmers in the study area. Most of the farmers (61.8%) are identified as full time farmers. Farming experience, number of family members involved in farming, average holding size, land use and type of soil are also discussed.

In the study area, deep aquifer is mostly observed as main water source and to overcome the water shortage, farmers use tube wells in limited number.

The identified lift irrigation methods at the study locations are analyzed. The present percentages of the different irrigation methods are compared with that in the past to estimate the degree of adaptation of new methods. It is evident that most of the farmers are presently using either kerosene (60.4%) or electricity, (14.1%) which are the main sources of power for irrigation pumps. Unavailability of electricity supply at the field level is found to be limiting the use of electric pumps. Total cost of irrigation using kerosene and electric pumps are estimated and compared, It was found that the running cost of kerosene pumps is 84.5% higher than the electric one. Introducing improved irrigation methods and provision of subsidies to purchase irrigation equipments may help to improve the efficiency of irrigation in this area.