

**CERTIFIED SEED PADDY PRODUCTION IN AMPARA
DISTRICT: CONSTRAINTS AND PROFITABILITY**

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ABSTRACT

Certified seed paddy production is ensuring the high yield and distribution of quality seed to the country. The study examined the profitability of Certified Seed Paddy production, factors affecting seed paddy production and constraints in seed paddy production. The data related to socio-economic characteristics, farm inputs, agronomical practices, marketing details, cost of production and constrains in Certified Seed Paddy production were collected from sixty certified seed paddy producers from three DS divisions in the Ampara District. Pre-tested questionnaires were used to collect data and stratified random sampling technique was used to draw the sample and the data were analyzed using SPSS statistical software.

Most of the seed paddy farmers (96.7%) had own land and the average extent cultivated was five acres. The average yield was 1,846 kg per acre and average quantity of sold seed paddy was 1.591 kg per acre in last '*Maha*' season, at a farm gate price of Rs 46.67. The average cost of production of study area was Rs 45,114 per acre and average profit of seed paddy production was Rs 29,870 per acre. Poor agronomical practices, higher cost involved in management of weed, pest and disease, high input cost, labour shortage, impact of combine harvester, rejection of sample seed lot by the Seed Certification Services, Inadequate marketing facilities and adverse weather condition were major constraints in seed paddy production. Regression results were used to analyze factors affecting the profitability of certified seed paddy production in the study area. The profit was significantly influenced by the sold quantity, quantity of planting material used for cultivation and farming experience.

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