

Green to Light Green

**DRY FISH PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN  
TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT: STATUS AND PROSPECTS**

**BY**

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FAG343



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**SRI LANKA**

**2013**

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## ABSTRACT

Fish was one of the main animal protein suppliers in Sri Lankan diet. However, it is more susceptible to spoilage than other animal food. Popularity of dried fish had increased substantially over the last years and even it is consumed as a snack. But data on dry fish consumption and production in Sri Lanka has up till now been very limited. Therefore this study assesses the consumption and production of dry fish in Trincomalee district. Proportionate sampling was done for producers and from Kinniya, Trincomalee Town and Gravets and Kuchaveli Divisional Secretariat divisions 30, 20, 30 samples were collected respectively. And 60 dry fish consumers were randomly selected in three D.S. divisions of Trincomalee district for this study.

Results revealed that mean household size of producers was 4.3 and the average family income of producer per month was Rs.21200.00. While mean household size of consumer was 4.9 and the average family income of consumer per month was Rs.27200.00. 30% of consumers preferred to consume Skipjack tuna (*Thunnus albacores*) because of its high fleshness. Sprats (*Anchoviella sp.*) dry fish was produced in high amount (1232.6 kg/season) due to higher demand. Katta/Kattawa (*Khuro nemus*) mostly consumed once in two weeks due to its higher taste than fresh fish and 35% of consumers consumed Trenched Sardins (*Amplicaster sp*) twice a week. Mean price of Skipjack tuna was Rs.464.37 per kg. The average expenditure on purchasing of Sprats (*Anchoviella sp.*) dry fish was Rs.462.50 per month per household. Average amount of Sprats (*Anchoviella sp.*) dry fish purchased by consumer was 0.88kg per month.

OLS regression results revealed that factors of fish purchasing cost, Producer's experience for dry fish production, family size ( $P<0.01$ ), Hired labour cost ( $P<0.1$ ) had significant impacts on income of producer. Multiple regression analysis was done for each type of dry fish and results revealed that household size, income exhibited significant and positive influence on expenditure of Sprats (*Anchoviella sp*) ( $P<0.05$ ) and distance at 1% significant level. Contrariwise, availability of Sprats (*Anchoviella sp*) significantly and negatively influenced the expenditure ( $P<0.1$ ). But expenditure on Skipjack tuna (*Thunnus albacores*) dry fish consumption was significantly affected by education, distance ( $P<0.05$ ) and ethnicity ( $P<0.01$ ). But expenditure on Katta/Kattawa (*Khuro nemus*) dry fish consumption was significantly affected by income ( $P<0.01$ ), education, distance and ethnicity ( $P<0.1$ ). However the producers and consumers were constrained by several problems. Therefore policies should be formulated to overcome these constraints to improve dry fish production and consumption.

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