

**STATUS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION REPRESENTING
THREE MAJOR ETHNIC GROUPS IN AMPARA DISTRICT**

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BY

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to analyze the status of livestock production in Ampara district which representing three major ethnic groups such as Muslim, Sinhala and Tamil. Simple random sampling technique was used to draw the sample from the Ninthavur, Karaithevu and Uhana Divisional Secretariat (DS) divisions 33 samples in each division were collected. Data were collected through pretested questionnaires and were analyzed using statistical software SPSS for frequencies and regression analysis.

The study indicated that average age of Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim ethnic farmers in Ampara district is 42.19 years. Average family size of 3 ethnic farmers is 4.81 and household income is 22171.71 rupees. Majority of the Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim ethnic farmers are married. Majority of the illiterate farmers are located in 3 major ethnic area and only few (3.03%) of the Muslims are above high school in their education level. Majority of the respondents' from Muslim ethnic group are engaged with agriculture and only few of the farmers are involved in livestock as a sole occupation. Agriculture and livestock are the main occupation majority of the Tamil famers engaged.

- From this survey, it would be concluded that Most of the farmers (51.51%) in Muslim ethnic group mainly reared poultry as their livestock. Cattle, buffalo and swine are reared mainly in Sinhala ethnic groups in Uhana DS division. Fifty seven percentage of the Tamil ethnic farmers from Karaithevu DS division reared goat as their main livestock. Swine production is only done in Uhana DS division because of the cultural ethics.

Only the Sinhala ethnic farmers reared swine as a livestock for meat production. Tamil and Sinhala ethnic farmers reared cattle and buffalo for milking purpose and Muslim people reared livestock for meat purpose. Muslim ethnic farmers are reared livestock intensively but Tamil and Sinhala ethnic farmers are reared livestock semi intensively. Most of the Muslim, Tamil and Sinhala farmers are rearing livestock with their own investment because most of them are small level producers. Most of the 3 major ethnic group farmers were reared local breeds because of climate adaptation.

This survey revealed that up to 75% of the 3 ethnic farmers have more than 4 years experience in livestock rearing. Majority of the cattle, goat, buffalo and poultry farmers reared local breed as their livestock. Only few (9.09%) poultry farmers in Muslim ethnic group reared improved breed as their breed.

Natural breeding program is the main breeding program adopted with in the 3 major ethnic group farmers and majority of the livestock farmers not involved in vaccination program. All the infrastructures conditions are moderate with in the 3 major ethnic groups. Foot and mouth disease is the main disease affect cattle, goat and buffalo and Pullorum Disease, Ranikhet Disease and Gamboro Disease are the main disease effect poultry. Livestock production was mainly effected by Disease, High cost for input, unpredicted weather and Low availability of feed

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