

**PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND THE FARMER'S
SATISFACTION ON THE USE OF MAHAWELI IRRIGATION
WATER AT MAHAWELI C ZONE.**



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ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka is being recognized as one of the tropical countries where the economic development is much based on the agricultural sectors which can be succeeded through the successful irrigation modes. Agricultural activities are carried out in most of the dry zone with the help of irrigation rather than depending on rainfall pattern. Mahaweli C zone is the area where the irrigation is mainly done by the Authority of Mahaweli C zone with the right utilization of the water for the paddy farmers who are surrounded by and in such far away. The critical concern of using channels is based on the understanding and analyzing the irrigation related problem in broader context of both technical and social aspects. Therefore, this present study was carried out in order to identify the problems and satisfaction level of the paddy farmers to assess the status of agricultural production, socio economic and the livelihood performance of farmers in Mahaweli C zone and also to measure the satisfaction level of Drinking water, irrigation, elephant attack, and other water utilization in Mahaweli C area.

The survey covered 150 farmers of Mahaweli C zone from head mid and tail of the Mahaweli river where stratified random sampling method was used for data collection and the collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics in SPSS software of version 22. Problem identification and farmer's satisfaction level were assed in the context of both Yala Season (6%) satisfied and Maha Season (90%) satisfied where the water allocation was influenced much in the production capacity of the paddy where the limited level of grazing land was is a major constraint for livestock rearing farmers 1.3% .The major constrains to the paddy farmers were water allocation (90%) and elephant attack (100%). Further, Most of the farmers were identified with the primary level of education (79.3). The Lower number of

farmers was engaged with the large scale cultivation (2%) while higher numbers of farmers were with the cultivation of 1.5 hectare. As far the conditions of the livelihood activities of farmers from Mahaweli C zone mainly based on the Yala Season and Maha Season for paddy cultivation (100%) where the source of income was typically higher . The satisfaction level of the farmers regarding drinking water scheme of the Mahaweli C zone shows that 21% of the total were not satisfied with the drinking water where the satisfaction level in using irrigation water, drinking water, cleaning, cooking, and washing were with the value of 88%, 70%, 73.3%, 80% and 88%, respectively. Awareness program related to community participation in the Mahaweli C zone regarding the solution in water allocation in Yala Season (94%), in Maha Season (10%), elephant attacks (100%), kidney disease (18%), land limitation and weed problem (100%), will help the further improvement of the command area.

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