

# Economic Analysis of Maize Production in Galnewa DS division, Anuradhapura District



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## ABSTRACT

Maize is the most important coarse grain, for which around 30,000 ha of land area devoted annually, the second highest extent of land next to rice. Maize is traditionally cultivated during the 'Maha' season throughout Sri Lanka. A rise of domestic requirement of maize and imports was observed in year 2014. With the expected growth of per capita national income, demand for poultry products and maize are expected to rise in the next decade. The main objective of this study is to analyze the maize production and marketing activities in Galnewa DS division, Anuradhapura District from farmers' perspective, and recommend solutions to overcome constraints faced by farmers.

Both primary and secondary data were used in this study. Primary data were collected from 100 maize farmers. They were interviewed at their door step /farm. Questionnaires were designed to collect data about maize production. These questionnaires were pre-tested in source GN divisions. The random sampling method was used for the primary data collection among the maize farmers in the Galnewa DS division.

Results indicated that the average age of respondents was 46 years. Their average monthly income was Rs. 31,400/=. Average years of schooling was 9 years. 83% of respondents were involved full time in farming. All the respondents grow maize during the 'Maha' season under rainfed conditions.

The study found that majority (78%) of farmers use both family members and hired labors. 85% of them use hired labor for harvesting while 53% for ploughing.

The average total cost of cultivation in 'Maha' season was Rs. 21,418/= and Rs. 21,768/= in 'Yala' season per acre.

The pattern of extent under maize cultivation and production during 'Maha' and 'Yala' seasons had shown an increase trend during the last 15 years. The study results reveal that the average yield in 'Yala' season was 2,414 kg per acre and 2,188kg per acre in the 'Maha' season. About 62% of farmers sell their product through middleman. Average farm gate price received by the farmers was Rs.34 /=- per Kg of maize.

None of the farmers were getting loans for maize cultivation and they have not insured their maize cultivation the respondents were neither exposed to extension services nor participated in any training programs.

The study revealed that the gross income of farmers in 'Yala' season was Rs. 84,346/= while it was about Rs. 75,317/= in the 'Maha' season. These farmers 'Maha' season profit was Rs 48,790/= and 'Yala' season was Rs 56,924/=. Marketing efficiency in 'Maha' season was 2.61 and in the 'Yala' season was 3.06, indicating that 'Yala' season cultivation was more profitable.

It was evident from the regression results that profit in 'Maha' season maize production was significantly affected by total yield, extent of land, farm gate price and seed cost.

It is recommended that better extension services for maize farmers and provision of more irrigation facilities during 'Yala' season to increase maize production and improve farm income.

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