

**PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPROVING THE INCOME
OF PADDY FARMERS, IN THE MANMUNAI WEST
VAVUNATHIVU DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DIVISION.**



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ABSTRACT

Rice is the staple food in Sri Lanka and paddy is produced in two seasons per year. However, farmers in Manmunai west vavunathivu D.S division face many hardships to obtain a satisfactory yield from paddy cultivation and the revenue after spending much money for inputs is merely unsatisfactory.

For the purpose of finding out the causes for the problems, the research considers nine variables as conceptualization. Those are Intervention of private rice millers, Quality standards of paddy, Government policy toward paddy/rice sector, Lack of storage space, Price of agrochemicals, Transport cost, Labor cost, Hiring charges, and Agricultural research and expansion,. The information for knowing problems and causes has been collected through the structured questionnaire issued to paddy farmers in Manmunai west vavunathivu D.S division. 100 farming families have been taken from 10 G.N divisions and questionnaires were issued on the basis of amount of paddy they produce.

Almost all paddy farmers in this division are small holders and are without capital for investment in production. Hence, the farmers get loans during the season to buy agrochemicals, hire tractors, and even to pay for labour. Not only that, as the price of paddy is very low in this division, they are unable to manage their cost of living using this income. Therefore, they also get loans during the season to meet the expenses of food and other family needs, from the private rice millers. These debts get accumulated pushing farmers into serious problems. These crisis faced by the paddy farmers have lead to very large increase in poverty. Therefore, the ultimate purpose of study is to find out causes for these problems and propose the remedies and strategies to improve the income of paddy farmers.

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