

Land Issues of Post-War Ampara District: A preliminary observation

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Abstract

The objective of this research paper is to discuss regarding the land issues of the Ampara district. The economy of this district mainly depends on land / agricultural lands. Land use patterns of this district has changed significantly in the recent past particularly after the independence of the country. And also this paper is looking at the land disputes that emerged and observes after the end of civil war in the Eastern province which was in 2007. The paper points out the preliminary observation of a major study on the theme of the paper. The research poses a question as to why district of Ampara is found to be a home of numerous land disputes. The study is with objectives of observing, understanding and explaining the causes and the consequences of the land disputes of the district. While the overall study is aimed at investigating the question of the research using a comprehensive research methodology and data collection, this paper draws its observations to preliminary observations that comes from an intensive field visits and observations of all parts of the district. At this stage, the study observed that land disputes are numerous, widespread, complex and dangerous from the perceptive of return of normalcy and peace of country which underwent more than 3 decades of war and conflict. Preliminary observations point that disputes are found between on private land as well as on the state lands. It was also found that the land disputes occur between different stakeholders such as between individuals, between communities, between state and individuals and communities. Land disputes are found among the people as well as within the different departments of the government. The preliminary observations assert that there is urgent need of understanding of the complexity of the land issues and disputes of the district of Ampara which would be a great benefit the policy makers to draw their attention in addressing those issues for resolution. The paper is divided into three sections. First section spells about the overall research project. Second section dealt with preliminary findings of the study and third-section outline the needs of doing an in-depth study on the theme of the paper.

Key words: Land, Disputes, Land Use, Conflict

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The Performance of Seed Paddy Production in the Coastal Belt of
Ampara District

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ABSTRACT. Sri Lanka, like other countries in the Asian region, having an agricultural economy and the agricultural sector plays an important role in the economy and social development of the country. The average Paddy yield of the Ampara District (3 700-4 200 kg/ha) is very low when compared to the National and Potential yield (10mt/ha). One of the major reasons for this situation is lack of quality seed paddy. The coastal belt of Ampara faces many problems concerning seed paddy production. Therefore, this study intended to find out the major problems faced by the farmers and suggest causes for it. For the purpose of finding out the causes for the problems related to quality seed paddy, the study considered three variables. Those were socio-economic characteristics of farmers, cultivation practices adopted by the non-seed farmers and seed paddy farmers and third factor deals with problems related to the production of seed paddy and cost-benefit analysis of both non-seed paddy and seed paddy production.

The information needed for this study were collected through the structured questionnaire distributed to paddy farmers in the five A.I ranges in coastal belt of Ampara District namely Akkaraipattu East, Akkaraipattu West, Addalaichenai, Oluvil and Palamunai, and Ninthavur. One hundred (100) farming families (65 non-seed producers and 35 seed paddy farmers) were selected randomly and interviewed on the basis of proportionate random sampling method. The study conducted that the lack of quality seed paddy is one of the major problems that affect the yield of paddy. A low yield directly reduces the returns and profits. However, private seed paddy production programme fills the gap to a certain extent. The seed paddy production involves similar practices as in the case of non-seed paddy production except for the better field management and post harvest operations. For these practices seed producers incurred additional cost of Rs. 15 495 per acre but the remuneration was high. The profit of the non-seed paddy production and seed paddy production were Rs. 6 430 and Rs. 18 430 respectively. So the seed paddy production generates 3 times profit than non-seed paddy production. Almost all paddy farmers in this study were small holders (1-2 acre) and are without enough capital for investment for production. Hence, the farmers obtained loans during the season to buy inputs such as fertilizer, agrochemicals and to hire tractor and labour.

Socio Economic Status of Coastal Area Fishermen Families and Rebuilding Their Livelihood at Thirukkovil D.S. Division, Ampara District – Post Tsunami

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ABSTRACT. *After tsunami, fisheries is one of the major affected industry in Thirukkovil D.S Division. Large number of fisheries families have lost their properties and livelihood and they have become as refugees. It has had a considerable contribution to the economy of this Division and on the total production of the country. At present, it was totally collapsed due to large destruction caused by recent havoc. Thus the families involved in the fisheries have inefficient living standard to maintain their quality of life. They live with less income, unemployment, insufficient basic needs such as education, health, food and etc. The main objective of the present study is to explore socio economic status and uplift the socio economic status through providing rehabilitation programme and improving the level of quality of life.*

Data were collected through the sample of 100 affected fisheries families who were selected randomly from Fisheries Cooperative Societies in Thirukkovil D.S. Division. The result of this study reveals fisheries families have problems. This is the evidence that none of the ongoing programmes on rehabilitation paid attention on community. It is recommended, that in order to uplift socio-economic status of fisheries families, government and NGOs and their activities should be mainly focused on affected fisheries community. In addition to extent this idea further researches are needed.

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