

Indigenous Adaptations to Climatic Variation in Agricultural Activities: A Study Based on the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka.

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It is obvious that Sri Lanka experiences remarkable climatic variations under global climate change. The greater impact of climatic variation is on agriculture, water resources and the people who involve in the agricultural activities. Agricultural land use agricultural production and survival of the peasant community will be the focal point of concern in the future agricultural development efforts. There are so many research undertaken on climate variation and impact on agriculture but the adaptations have been less concerned. Sri Lankan peasant community have so many traditional views, attitudes, concepts, knowledge and customs related to agricultural activities. But their scientific significant and effectiveness have not been adequately subject to study.

In this research is attempted to identify the climatic variations in the relevant area, and then identify and prepare an inventory of indigenous adaptations used by farmers in the Dry Zone, to prepare indigenous adaptation methods used by the farmers to identify climate variation and to analyses the scientific reality of the adaptations in order to understand their effectiveness. This was undertaken mainly based on field data collected in the sample areas and on recorded information collected by review of literatures where climatic and weather incidents were recorder in the past. The present study found that the most indigenous adaptations strategies were depended on the last generation of community in Anuradhapura districts. By end of this generation the wide range of indigenous knowledge has come to end. Most of adaptation strategies had been changed as a result of change of natural environment and the collapse of the traditional socio economic system in Anuradhapura district it was evidence that has some adaptations strategies are deferent. The present study explored that some indigenous activities in fact have a scientific reality. Such knowledge has to powerful advantages over outside knowledge it has little or no cost and it is readily available. Modern science is not appropriate, and use of simpler technologies and procedures are required to solve problems. Thus, indigenous knowledge provides basis for problem solving strategies in local communities, especially the poor.

Keywords: climatic variation; adaptation; agricultural activities
