Adaptability of Integrated Crop – Livestock farming systems to climate change

[1]E. J. P. Delina, [1]R. Thiviyatharsan and [2]T. Geretharan
[1]Department of Agricultural Engineering,
[2]Department of Crop Science,
Faculty of Agriculture,
Eastern University Sri Lanka
E-mail:evandel_foa@yahoo.com

The current trend in climate change is already evident in the change of livelihood of the people especially to the farmers which gives urgency for addressing agricultural adaptation more coherently. There are many potential adaptation options available for marginal change of existing agricultural systems as a mitigation plan of climate risk. The study examines the adaptability of integrated crop – livestock farming systems to climate change in Eravur Pattu DS Division, Batticaloa District. The study consists of data gathered from the questionnaire survey and focus group discussion held with farmers and statistical data from Divisional Secretariat office. These approaches measured the farmer communities' awareness on climate change, their practice and adaptation in integrated crop – livestock farming system to climate change.

The study revealed that 65% of respondents have the awareness for preparedness and mitigation plan for disaster and 74% of the farmers have reported that they are practicing integrated farming techniques. However, the study shows that the adaptability is still in poor level. The focus group discussions revealed that the community did not give much concern in the climatic pattern in early days. However, the continuous trainings and awareness given by the relevant officials made the community to think about the adaptation in their life to improve their livelihood status. The study also focused the constraints in the adaptation of the community to the climate change. Farmers expressed that low infrastructure facilities do not support them to mitigate the disaster and to adopt new technologies to overcome the climatic challenge in their livelihood pattern. As the conclusion, the study suggests that more concern should be taken in the grass root level of farmers to get a good impact on further implementations and for the sustainability in the community.

Keywords: Adaptation, climate, drought, farmer, household