Profitability and Sustainability of GAP Adoption: A Study of Capsicum and Tomato Farmers in Kandy District of Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka Good Agricultural Practices (SL-GAP) was introduced with the aim of ensuring consumer safety and providing market benefits to local vegetable, fruit farmers. This study is an attempt to determine the profitability of SL-GAP adopted capsicum and tomato farmers and sustainability of adopting SL-GAP as a farming practice in Kandy district of Sri Lanka. Primary data was collected from 120 farmers including 60 farmers each from GAP-adopted and others. Stratified sampling technique was used. Mean comparison done using paired t-test showed that there is a significant difference of net profits of GAP and non-GAP capsicum farmers and GAP and non-GAP tomato farmers. Multiple linear regression was estimated to identify the factors which determine the net profit variation. Transport cost, GAP adoption and capsicum showed positive significant ($p<0.05$) relationship with the net profit. Inorganic fertilizer cost, labor cost, farm maintenance cost, cost for worker's security and welfare had a negative significant ($p<0.05$) relationship with the net profit. A Logistic model was estimated to analyze the factors which determine the GAP adoption. Extension service has a positive significant ($p<0.05$) relationship to the GAP adoption. Qualitative analysis revealed that ensuring safety of farm produce, receiving new techniques and knowledge, increasing the quality of products determine the future adoption, continuation of SL-GAP program. High initial investment, input costs, absence of a guaranteed market for SL-GAP products are the major challenges for farmers in the Kandy district who cultivate capsicum and tomato.

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