

Coping Up with Chemical Fertilizer Import Ban: An Analysis of Adaptation Strategies of Paddy Farmers of Sri Lanka

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With the banning of imports of chemical fertilizer in May 2021, all crop cultivations were disrupted due to insufficiency of application of plant nutrients. This study was conducted to ascertain the extent to which paddy farmers adopted to use of organic fertilizers and to determine the factors determining organic and chemical fertilizer use paying attention to the decision to use organic fertilizers, quantities of fertilizer applied, and willingness to pay for fertilizers. Data collected from 463 farmers on the fertilizer application pattern in the Maha seasons of 2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23 was used for the analysis. Mean and frequency distributions were used to show the fertilizer pattern and regression models were used to determine the factors affecting fertilizer use decisions. The results indicated that 6.7%, 46.43%, and 39.09% of farmers used organic fertilizer. The result indicated that less educated farmers, having less land size, and part-time farmers are highly significant than that of highly educated farmers, having a large land size, and full-time farmers. For, the use of chemical fertilizers, females, not in a farming organization, educated farmer, and have less land size are significantly higher than males, members of farmer organization, less educated farmers, and have large land size. If a sudden policy change will happen in the future, can consider these variables and provide more priority to these farmers' characteristics without disturbing the paddy production in the country.

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