

## **Impact of Permanent Crop Clinic Programme (PCCP) for the management of pest and diseases in Galle district**

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### **Abstract**

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors in Sri Lankan economy. It is an important source of employment for the Sri Lankan workforce. Crop cultivation is the main economic activity of the people living in rural areas and need to improve crop cultivation and its productivity. There are more advantages and needs in improving crop production. The provision of accurate and effective pest control measures to the farmers is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture in Sri Lanka. This study was conducted to evaluate the permanent crop clinic programs in Galle district. This was conducted by Galle - western zonal area and covered the 23 plant doctors including 16 permanent plant crop clinics. The sample consisted of 60 farmers those who comes to the plant crop clinics during the *Maha* 2016/17 season. The primary data collection methods were interviews, questionnaire surveys and key informant discussions. Personal individual interviews were done by investigator using the prepared questionnaire. The results were analyzed using SPSS software. Nearly 45% of the farmers visited to plant crop clinics at least two times during *Maha* 2016/17 season. 77% of farmers visited to crop clinics to identify unknown pest and diseases in respect to their cropping fields. Majority of the farmers are highly satisfied of the advices given by plant doctors (56%). Majority of the farmers (36%) preferred to visit plant crop clinics conducted on Saturdays. Meantime 22% of farmers willing to visit plant crop clinics on Wednesdays because due to availability of plant doctors. When considering the farmers' preference time to visit crop clinic is around 85% of the farmers were preferred to visit clinic in the evening and 15% willing to visit in the morning. 88% of farmers have strongly positive attitudes towards the tools using when diagnose. Only 12% of farmers have the moderate attitudes towards the tools using when diagnosing. Around 35% of farmers get prescription sheets which are easy to understand. None of the farmers got prescription sheets that were very difficult to understand. From plant crop clinics 53% of farmers got the prescription instructions with highly practice solutions and only 7% of farmers mentioned the given instructions were not practical. Need to address household farming sector with the plant crop clinic and co-ordination among the private agrochemical dealers and government plant doctors are needed. It will reduce the wrong prescriptions, mishandling and over usage of agrochemicals in crop fields.

**Key words:** *Maha* season, Plant crop clinics, Prescription sheets.

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