

## Identifying the Potentials of Increasing Household Income of the Samurdhi Beneficiary Agricultural Households in Batticaloa District

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This study was conducted using 276 sample households selected from a multi staged-random sample from the four Divisional Secretariat (DS) divisions Manmunai South West, Manmunai West, Manmunai South and Porativu Pattu. Of the four selected DS divisions three were mainly paddy cultivating DS divisions while the Manmunai South DS division bordering the coastal area that cultivates chilli. The study completely focused on identifying the potentials of increasing income of the low income agricultural households. Receiving Samurdhi benefits was considered as the criteria for selecting the sample households. Specific objectives of the study were, to assess the monthly household expenditure, calculate the cost of production of the main crop cultivated by the households, find the agriculture related problems faced by the farmers, find the preference and potentials of the households for alternative means of income and explore the opportunities available for alternative means of income in the area. According to the findings of the study it was observed that potential of increasing household income exists in many facets. They require addressing the issues prevail in education, livelihood, skill development, vocational training, attitudes and etc. Developing attitudes of the Sumurdhi beneficiaries, introducing and encouraging of alternative livelihoods, provision of vocational training for young school leavers, promoting other food crop cultivations where suitable, improving the extension service, development of road network leading to sample villages, provision of irrigation water for upland cultivation, promoting the livestock sector, introducing income earning activities for women are few suggestions of the studied beneficiaries.

**Keywords:** Baticaloea, Household income, livelihoods, Samurdhi beneficiaries