

## Impact of Incomplete Milking on Milk Production in Kilinochchi District

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Agriculture is the main source of livelihood to the majority of the population in Kilinochchi district. Kilinochchi is located in the dry zone part of the country. Most of the cattle growers in Kilinochchi district practice incomplete milking which means milking only in the morning. The reasons for incomplete milking are that milk collecting centers are located far from many cattle farms and most of the farmers' milking cows return to the farm from grazing in evening after milk collecting time at the milk collecting center. This study investigates the impact of incomplete milking on milk production in Kilinochchi district. For this study, 240 farmers were randomly selected and interviewed to collect data using structured questionnaire. A multiple regression model was developed to determine the impact of incomplete milking on milk production. The results of this study indicates that a 10 % increase in the amount of concentrate feed averagely increases the milk production by 3.6 % while other things being equal and when farmer practices complete milking which means milking both in morning and evening, rather than only in the morning, milk production averagely increases by 40 % while other things equal. This study suggests that setting up more milk collecting centers and extending the milk collecting time in the evening may encourage farmers to practice complete milking, thereby substantially increasing milk production in Kilinochchi district.

**Keywords:** Incomplete Milking, Milk Collecting Center, Multiple Regression Model