

Development and Strengthening of Farmer Organizations through Farmer Conventions

Final Evaluation Report on the Impact of Farmer Conventions held in Anuradhapura and Matale Districts

**W.M.G.B. Giragama
M.S. Sri Gowri Sanker
S.M.A. Samarakoon**

Research Study No.104

June 1999

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Agrarian Research and Training Institute
114, Wijerama Mawatha
Colombo 7
Sri Lanka**

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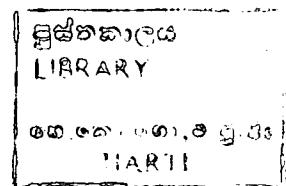
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Foreword

With the changing economic environment and the operation of free market policies, farmers who are mostly carrying on agriculture at subsistence level, require new knowledge and skills to enable them to become commercially oriented and adopt new cultural practices to intensify production if small-holder farming is to be profitable. With this in view, the present Government has introduced the National Policy Framework on Agriculture, Lands and Forestry by which the farmer organizations would be restructured and strengthened to play a key role as the necessary link between the farming community and support services. In addition, they are expected to actively participate in the supply of agricultural inputs, harvesting, storage, marketing and dissemination of technical knowledge.

As a prelude to this point of concern, HARTI has launched a Farmer Convention Programme, which is the forum comprising divisional and district level relevant officers and selected farmer representatives, in the Anuradhapura and Matale districts. The main objective of this Farmer Convention programme was to develop and strengthen rural farmer organizations by creating general awareness among officers of line agencies and farmer organizations through promoting the participatory problem solving approach and the concept of self-reliance. As a matter of policy, every research and training activity aimed at farmer level, should be evaluated to measure the impact of their end results. This sort of evaluation would provide a basis to resuscitate the relevant policy measures and approaches pertinent to this sector.

The HARTI Research and Training Officers who were involved in conducting these Farmer Conventions have evaluated their impact. According to their analysis, the Farmer Conventions have made considerable improvements in reducing the gap between relevant officers and farmers while enhancing the participatory problem solving approach to achieve objectives set by the Government. This evaluation reveals that a satisfactory level of attainment has been reached in improving the skills of farmer representatives to undertake development activities at farmer organization level. Useful suggestions for the future Farmer Conventions have been incorporated in this report. I would strongly emphasize that the weaker areas identified by the evaluation as obstacles for the proper implementation of relevant policy measures and shortcomings found at Officer's level, should be given the highest attention by the relevant Officers.

I wish to thank Mr. W.M.G.B. Giragama, Mr. M.S. Sri Gowri Sanker and Mr. S.M.A. Samarakoon the Research and Training Officers of the Institute who conducted this evaluation study. My thanks are also due to other District and Divisional Officers and farmers who contributed to this study in various ways.

Dr. S.G. Samarasinghe
Director
HARTI

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A special word of thanks goes to Dr. S.G. Samarasinghe, the Director, HARTI, and Mr. R. de S. Ariyabandu, Head of the Irrigation, Water Management and Agrarian Relations Division (IAR) for the encouragement, comments and suggestions given at all stages of the study.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Piyasena Ganewatte for his external evaluation comments and untiring effort on reformulating this report.

We place on record our gratitude to the relevant District level Government Officers of Anuradhapura and Matale districts. A word of appreciation is due to Mr. B.M. Sunil Thilakaratne, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Agrarian Services, Anuradhapura; Mr. M.P. Gunawanse, Divisional Secretary, Thirappane; Mrs. Chitra Ariyaratne, Regional Manager, Central Bank, Anuradhapura; Mr. Sripathy Gunasekara, Assistant Director, In-Service Training Centre, Maha Illuppallama and Mr. W.M. Yasamanna, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Agrarian Services, Matale for all their assistance.

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**W.M.G.B. Giragama
M.S. Sri Gowri Sanker
S.M.A. Samarakoon**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agriculture plays an important role in the economy of Sri Lanka contributing 20 percent to its GDP and 42.2 percent to the labour force in agriculture and related areas of forestry and fishing. Successive Governments endeavored to promote agriculture through organizing farmers for greater productivity.

The Farmer Organizations were officially recognized as an important strategy in the Gal Oya Water Management Project (1978-1985) and it is significant that this Project was implemented jointly by the Irrigation Department and the Agrarian Research and Training Institute (ARTI). The major objectives were to organize farmers for efficient water management, procurement and distribution of agricultural inputs and adoption of innovative cultivation methods for greater productivity and income.

These Farmer Conventions were carried out by HARTI in 1995/1996 to establish a dialogue between farmers and officials so as to create an understanding and appreciation of each other's roles and attitudes. This report is an assessment of the three Farmer Conventions held in 1996, - two in Anuradhapura and one in Matale.

The major part of it is in Chapter 3 and gives details of the impact of Conventions on Farmer Organizations. To start with, the farmer representatives had discussed the constraints they had faced. The problems of repair, maintenance and rehabilitation of village tanks (46 percent), inadequate supply of agricultural inputs and a lack of agro wells were the problems they had confronted.

The Conventions have played a major role in identifying problem solving authorities and the progress of the implementation of remedial measures. The impact of the Farmer Conventions on increasing the membership and the dynamism of Farmer Organizations are carefully analyzed. Among the many positive factors that had emerged at the Conventions were the improvement in the ability and willingness of Officers to meet farmers (overall 81 percent) and changes observed in the attitudes of Officers. A lack of positive attitudes among some officers was also noted by the Evaluation Team.

Farmers' views on the level of implementation of solutions to problems raised at Farmer Conventions, revealed that they are frustrated at the level of implementation of solutions to problems raised. It is significant that only the Thirappane Divisional Officer's area has achieved 45.5 percent success in the implementation of projects. In Ipalogama and Talawa, 66.7 percent and 75 percent of projects respectively have not been implemented.

The Conventions have revealed the farmers' views on Officers approach to problem solving and implementation of decisions being poor. Nearly 50 percent of the Officers were not successful in the implementation of projects. This does not hold much hope for the future and remedial action is recommended.

The report indicates that there was a positive impact on development activities through dissemination of experience gained at these Conventions. There was an overall increase (88.7 percent) in *shramadana* activities and nearly 20 percent increase in problem solving with Officers' participation, while improvement of the knowledge of new technology increased by 14.6 percent.

Among suggestions for future Farmer Conventions was the recommendation that a Convention should include more details on Farmer Organizations and related activities (overall 53 percent); that a greater responsibility be taken by relevant line agencies (overall 25.7 percent); that there should be more visits by Officers to Farmer Organizations and a greater participation of Ministry level decision makers in Conventions.

The Impact of Farmer Conventions

The officers' responses provide an opportunity for them to give their side of the story in follow up discussions. The aim of such follow up discussions is to enable the officers to identify the difficulties faced by some of them in implementing the decisions of Farmer Conventions. It is important that the farmers should realize and appreciate that officers are subject to limitations in terms of financial, material and manpower resources.

A significant factor that emerged in the Convention was the pivotal role to be played by a Divisional Secretary. He has an important role in coordinating the development activities of different government agencies and the NGO sector. As has been demonstrated in one Divisional Secretary area, his leadership can have a positive impact in raising the morale and commitment of Divisional level officers.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry has introduced several unique innovations for use of farmers such as the "AMA" concept on integrated agricultural development, and "*Govi Sevana*" (another village level centre for integrated agricultural development).

The Report emphasizes that the Farmer Convention concept and the "AMA" concept are similar in their objectives and strategies and considers it desirable and advantageous to combine the "AMA" concepts with the Farmer Con-

vention concepts and strategies so as to create a greater impact on the farmer community.

The Report affirms that the Farmer Conventions have had a positive impact on both officers and farmers and a recommendation is made that HARTI should organize Farmer Conventions in the achievement of national targets in the development sphere.

The summary and conclusions of the report highlight a major contribution that HARTI could make in human resources training, particularly for *Govisevana Niyamakas*, who form the link between farmer organizations and the Divisional level government mechanism. The report concludes by indicating the valuable role that HARTI could play, in designing programmes to strengthen Farmer Organizations to become Farmer Companies for taking up challenges emerging out of structural adjustment policies and trade agreements.

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Glossary of Terms & Abbreviations

AC	-	Assistant Commissioner
ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
AI	-	Agriculture Instructor
AIB	-	Agriculture Insurance Board
AO	-	Administrative Officer
ASC	-	Agrarian Services Centre
CB	-	Central Bank
CCB	-	Coconut Cultivation Board
CDO	-	Coconut Development Officer
CO	-	Colonization Officer
DD	-	Deputy Director
DI	-	Department of Irrigation
DO	-	Divisional Officer, Department of Agrarian Services
DPD	-	Deputy Provincial Director
DS	-	Divisional Secretary
FAO	-	Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations
FC	-	Farmer Convention
FO	-	Farmer Organization
GO	-	Government Organizations
IFAD	-	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IO	-	Institutional Organizer
MEA	-	Mahaweli Economic Agency
MI	-	Maha Illuppallama
NGO	-	Non Government Organization
NIRP	-	National Irrigation Rehabilitation Project
NPF	-	National Policy Framework, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry
PMB	-	Paddy Marketing Board
RPM	-	Resident Project Manager
TA	-	Technical Assistant
WFP	-	World Food Programme

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Agriculture plays an important role in Sri Lanka's economy in terms of providing employment. As much as 42.2 percent of the labour force is involved in agriculture, forestry and fishing and contribute around 20 percent to the country's GDP. The contribution of the manufacturing and service sectors are 20.4 and 50.3 percent respectively. More emphasis on non-agricultural sectors, after the liberalization of the economy, has been attributed as the main reason for this increased contribution to the GDP by these sectors (Department of Census and Statistics, 1996).

Sri Lanka is an agricultural country which traditionally favours the production of rice which is the staple diet of most of the people. As far as the rural economy is concerned the small agricultural worker can be identified as the dominant factor in the rural sector, where 78 percent of the population comprising owner cultivators, tenants and share croppers play a vital role in determining the production process. The small holders in agriculture, most of whom operate below 2 acres of land cultivate mainly to satisfy their subsistence requirements (Central Bank of Sri Lanka, 1996). Having realized the importance of the agricultural sector in the economy of Sri Lanka, successive governments did initiate policies and strategies for its restructuring and development. A major strategy adopted was the formation of Farmer Organizations to achieve greater production and productivity.

1.2 Background of the Farmer Organization Programme in Sri Lanka

For the first time in Sri Lanka, a Farmer Organization component was included in the USAID funded Gal Oya Water Management Project (1979-1985) implemented jointly by the Irrigation Department and the Agrarian Research and Training Institute (ARTI) with the support of the Cornell University of the USA.

The concepts and strategies of the Farmer Organization Program were developed and field tested by the ARTI-Cornell Team. A significant feature was the new strategies evolved with a Sri Lankan flavour. The major concepts that evolved were the bottom up approach to planning and organization; building organizations based on hydrological boundaries and the use of trained catalysts to facilitate the organization of farmers and promote self reliance of the farming community. The major activities undertaken by Farmer Organizations included procurement and distribution of agricultural inputs on a cooperative basis, efficient water management, adoption of innovative cultivation methods for greater productivity, development of credit and marketing skills and resolution of farmer conflicts.

The concepts and strategies followed in the Gal Oya experiment were to serve as the base of the Farmer Organization Programme of the Irrigation Management Division (IMD) created in 1984 in the Ministry of Lands and Land Development. The implementation of the Integrated Management of Major Agricultural Settlements (INMAS) provided the field infrastructure for the implementation of the expanded Farmer Organization programmes in all major settlement schemes and was later expanded to cover other agricultural settlements and the Mahaweli Development Project. A landmark in the history of Farmer Organizations was the promulgation of the Agrarian Services Act No. 4 of 1991, which made provision for the registration of Farmer Organizations with body corporate status and the power to sue and be sued. According to the Deputy Commissioner of Agrarian Services, Anuradhapura and Matale districts, which held the first Farmer Conventions, there were 1,060 and 686 registered Farmer Organizations respectively in June, 1996.

1.3 The Concept of Farmer Conventions

The concept of Farmer Conventions, a forum of farmer leaders, District and Divisional officers to get-together to discuss and resolve their agriculture and development problems through mutual understanding of each others problems was first mooted by Mr. D.M. Ariyaratna, the then Director of the Irrigation Management Division (and later, the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry). At this forum it was decided that the Institute should plan and organize Farmer Conventions in Anuradhapura and Matale Districts, which were two of the major agricultural districts in the country.

1.4 Farmer Conventions in Anuradhapura and Matale Districts

Altogether three Conventions, two in Anuradhapura and one in Matale

were conducted by the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) with the aim of sharing Farmer Organizations' experience and developing strategies with the assistance of relevant authorities, to identify the constraints among Farmer Organizations and find suitable remedial measures for them. All relevant officers from line agencies participated in the Conventions, while Farmer Organizations were represented by their Presidents and Secretaries.

The first Farmer Convention was held at Thirappane Divisional Secretary (DS) area in the Anuradhapura district, which was followed by the Convention at Matale covering up Matale and Ukuwela DS areas of the Matale district. Having rectified the shortcomings highlighted during these Conventions, the HARTI organized the third Convention under the patronage of the Hon. Deputy Minister of Lands and Forestry at the Maha Illuppallama In-service Training Center. Talawa and Ipalogama were the two Divisional Secretary (DS) areas covered under this programme. Invitations were extended to the relevant Divisional and District level officers and their participation was of considerable benefit to the farmers who looked upto them for remedial measures for their problems (Refer Annexe 1).

After these conventions, the concepts were further refined by the HARTI officers and redesigned to be on par with present Government policies. Development and strengthening of Farmer organizations through Farmer Conventions have relevance to the National Policy Framework under section 10.2 and sub sections 10.2.1, 10.2.2 and 10.2.3 of policy recommendations. Since the Government efforts to restructure the agriculture sector were then centered around Anuradhapura and Matale districts, the Conventions were first organized there. The profile of these districts are illustrated below.

1.5 General Profile of the Convention Districts

(a.) Anuradhapura District

The Anuradhapura administrative district, with an area of 1,737,000 acres (7,179 square kilometers) (Department of Census and Statistics, 1995), is one of the largest administrative districts in the country and comprises 21 Divisional Secretary divisions. The district lies entirely in the Dry Zone and is located between $79^{\circ}45'$ and $81^{\circ}0'$ east longitude and $7^{\circ}45'$ and $9^{\circ}0'$ north latitude. In the North, it is bounded by Mannar and Vavuniya districts, and in the east by Trincomalee and Polonnaruwa districts. The south is bordered by Matale and Kurunegala districts and the west by the district of Puttalam. The Anuradhapura district is made up of

four main river basins, the Kala Oya and the Malwathu Oya which drain the western segment and the Yan Oya and Ma Oya which drain the eastern segment. The Maha Illuppallama Agro Meteorological Station for a period of 30 years, ranging from 1961 to 1990, had reported that the mean monthly rainfall figures for *maha* and *yala* seasons have been 950 mm and 440 mm respectively at 75 percent probability level.

Further the irrigation systems play a very vital role in the district not only as regards the livelihood of the people, the majority of whom depend on agriculture, but also as regards other uses of water. As such, irrigation systems are a *sine qua non* for the betterment of the people of the district. Evidence shows that ancient settlers of the area developed a system of reservoirs, big and small and diversion canals. Irrigation Systems range from small village tanks irrigating fields less than 200 acres in extent to large reservoirs irrigating thousands of acres.

Given the slow rate of urbanization and industrial development, agriculture will continue to remain the dominant sector in the Anuradhapura district, making it a predominant agricultural district which covers a total land area of 703,430 hectares. According to Agricultural Census (1982), around 113,675 hectares or 17% of the total land area is under some form of cultivation or is potentially cultivable. About 201,181 hectares are under forest cover and inland water covers an extent of about 14,580 hectares (Agricultural Census, 1982). The extent cultivated under paddy and harvested during *maha* and *yala* from 1992/93 to 1996/97 are given below in Tables 1.1 and 1.2.

Table 1.1 : Extent Cultivated and Harvested in *Maha* (in hectares)
Anuradhapura District

Period	Extent Cultivated			Extent Harvested		
	Major	Minor	Rainfed	Major	Minor	Rainfed
1992/93	20,636	20,609	732	20,223	20,197	718
1993/94	28,279	31,175	1,814	27,953	30,678	1,722
1994/95	27,759	30,044	1,490	27,665	29,287	1,452
1995/96	20,086	12,552	-	18,516	6,483	-
1996/97	9,583	6,012	137	9,428	5,892	84

Source : Department of Census and Statistics, 1997. HARTI Data Bank 1998.

**Table 1.2 : Extent Cultivated and Harvested in *yala* (in hectares)
Anuradhapura District**

Period	Extent Cultivated			Extent Harvested		
	Major	Minor	Rainfed	Major	Minor	Rainfed
1993	6503	647	-	6371	573	-
1994	18554	6679	-	18416	6513	-
1995	13435	5593	-	13179	5184	-
1996	3930	430	-	3930	412	-
1997	2996	1248	-	2877	1198	-

Source : Department of Census and Statistics, 1997. HARTI Data Bank 1998.

Regarding Farmer Organizations, around 1,060 Farmer Organizations (June 1996) have been registered with the Department of Agrarian Services, Anuradhapura, out of which only 502 are active. Further details are given in Table 1.3.

**Table 1.3 : Basic Information of Farmer Organizations in
Anuradhapura District**

Characters	1995 June	1996 June	% of Increase
Registered Farmer Organizations	970	1,060	9.28
Active Farmer Organizations *	450	502	11.56
Members of Farmer			
Organizations (male)	41,405	43,231	4.41
Members of Farmer			
Organizations (female)	-	9,678	-

* Farmer Organizations are considered active if they are functioning effectively in terms of activities, regular and constructive meetings, good financial status and cordial relationship with relevant officers.

Source : Deputy Commissioner's Office, Department of Agrarian Services, Anuradhapura, 1996.

(b) Matale District

The Matale administrative district is located at the Northern edge of the central hills and the northern part of the district is in the Dry Zone, whereas the southern part of the district is in the Wet Zone and has a pleasant climate. Matale is the capital city of the district, which has a land area of 1993.3 sq. kilometers with a population of 434,000 (mid year 1994). About 80.8 percent of the population is in the rural sector, 10.6 percent is in the urban sector and 8.6 percent is in the estate sector (1981). Population density is provisionally 218 persons per sq.km. in 1994 (Department of Census and Statistics, 1995).

The district comprises 10 Divisional Secretary areas. In the north it is bounded by the Anuradhapura district. In the east by the Polonnaruwa and Ampara districts. The west borders the Kurunegala district and the south and the south-east are bounded by the Kandy and Badulla districts respectively.

According to the Matale meteorological station (average for the period 1985 to 1995) the mean monthly rainfall figures for *maha* and *yala* are 1,136 mm and 870 mm respectively. The extent cultivated under paddy and harvested during 1992/93 *maha* to 1996/97 *maha* and from 1993 to 1997 *yala* in the Matale District are given in Tables 1.4 and 1.5.

Table 1.4 : Extent Cultivated and Harvested in *Maha* (in hectares)
Matale District

Period	Extent Cultivated			Extent Harvested		
	Major	Minor	Rainfed	Major	Minor	Rainfed
1992/93	4,530	6,747	3,683	4,507	6,713	3,664
1993/94	4,534	6,764	3,728	4,449	6,734	3,698
1994/95	4,496	6,608	3,856	4,428	6,582	3,761
1995/96	4,486	6,250	3,556	4,484	6,196	3,409
1996/97	4,467	6,932	2,886	4,464	5,326	1,673

Source : Department of Census and Statistics, 1997 HARTI Data Bank 1998.

**Table 1.5 : Extent Cultivated and Harvested in *yala* (in hectares)
Matale District**

Period	Extent Cultivated			Extent Harvested		
	Major	Minor	Rainfed	Major	Minor	Rainfed
1993	1,677	2,089	497	1,664	2,073	495
1994	379	2,221	539	379	2,211	537
1995	1,650	2,434	563	1,636	2,430	562
1996	1,551	1,861	296	1,551	1,856	282
1997	2,199	2,207	439	2,155	2,163	430

Source : Department of Census and Statistics, 1997. HARTI Data Bank 1998.

Further there are a total of 686 Farmer Organizations registered with the District Agrarian Services Department, out of which 574 have been active till the end of June 1996. Further details with regard to Farmer Organizations are given in Table 1.6.

Table 1.6 : Basic Information on Farmer Organizations in Matale District

Characters	1995 June	1996 June	% of Increase
Registered FO	680	686	0.88
Active FO*	570	574	0.70
Members (male) of FO	21,286	21,579	1.37
Member (female) of FO	3,365	3,546	5.38

* Farmer Organizations are considered active if functioning effectively in terms of activities, regular meetings and good financial status and if they maintain cordial relationship with concerned officers.

Source : Asst. Commissioner's Office, Department of Agrarian Services, Matale, 1996.

Chapter 2, which follows this introductory chapter, gives details of the objectives and methodology of Farmer Conventions.

CHAPTER TWO

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 The Overall Objective and Specific Objectives of the Farmer Convention Project

The overall objectives of Farmer Conventions and the specific objectives which have been designed to achieve the overall objectives are discussed in this Chapter. Further, the methodology adopted by the HARTI officers in selecting Farmer Organizations, their representatives along with the procedure for selecting respective Divisional Secretary areas and Divisional Officer areas are discussed here.

2.2 Overall Objective

The overall objective is to:

Strengthen and develop the Farmer Organizations to face the impending challenges in the agrarian sector through the participatory approach and to establish a basis for the Farmer Organizations and their members to be accepted as vital groups in planning and implementation of agrarian related development programmes at Divisional and District levels.

2.2.1 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives are to :

- (a) Create opportunities for Farmer Organizations to share their experiences or both successes and failures encountered during previous years in carrying out agricultural development activities.
- (b) Ascertain factors which influenced the success and failure of activities undertaken by the Farmer Organizations.

- (c) Motivate farmer representatives to use the participatory development approach.
- (d) Create awareness among members of Farmer Organizations on their roles and positions under the present agricultural policy through group discussions.
- (e) Narrow the gap that exists between the Divisional and District level officers and farmer organizations.
- (f) Encourage the Farmer Organizations to assess and plan their future development activities under the National Policy Framework.
- (g) Assess the existing extension facilities of the farming community granted by line agencies and suggest remedial measures to develop the services that could be rendered by them.

2.3 Methodology and an Analysis of the Existing Situation

During their preliminary visit to Anuradhapura and Matale districts, the HARTI officers had informative and constructive discussions with the District level officers and Divisional level officers in order to assess the prevailing conditions of Farmer Organizations. Having analyzed the existing situation of the Farmer Organizations and available facilities through the line agencies, the HARTI officers had further discussions with Divisional Officers of the areas concerned with Farmer Organizations. The following steps were followed in their dialogues.

Step 1 : Having had discussions with Divisional Officers, details were obtained on the number of “active” and “inactive” Farmer Organizations. It should be observed that the selection criteria was based on factors such as sound financial status, active membership, regular and well-organized meetings and active leadership.

Step 2 : Based on their performance, and in consultation with the Divisional Officer (DO), with due consideration to their membership strength some active as well as some inactive Farmer Organizations were randomly selected. The objective was to assess the factors responsible for their success or failure respectively through exchange and experience.

Step 3 : Based on resource availability and closeness to infrastructure facilities, the Convention Centers were fixed with due consideration to the Farmer Organizations’ accessibility to them. The following Table illustrates steps 2 and 3 respectively.

Convention	Centre	D.O. Area	No. of FOs invited	No. of FOs participated
1st Convention	Thirappane	Thirappane	15	13
	Mahanama M.V.	Muriyakadawela	08	06
		Sivalakulama	04	01
2nd Convention	Matale Agrarian Services Dept.	Tenne	15	14
	Asst. Commissioner's Office	Palapathwela	27	07
3rd Convention	Mahallup-pallama Inservice	Ipalogama	34	33
		Eppawala	10	09
	Training Center	Talawa	08	03
		Katiyawa	16	12

Step 4 : Selected Farmer Organizations were represented by their Presidents and Secretaries. On their absence other office bearers did represent the organizations.

Step 5 : Farmer representatives were requested to present briefly activities undertaken by them in the past and at present (The white board, flip charts and overhead projectors were used the purpose).

Step 6 : Lectures with video presentations were delivered by the Resource Persons to enhance participants' involvement in the proceedings.

Step 7 : Question and answer sessions and discussions were conducted to formulate the development strategy.

Step 8 : Sectoral discussions of DO areas were held for the adjustment of time schedules of the Conventions.

Step 9 : HARTI publications were distributed among participants with the aim of disseminating information on agricultural and agrarian issues.

2.4 Evaluation Methodology

The methodology of the evaluation study is basically different from that of a research programme and is similar to an in-depth investigation. This has been carried out in order to assess the impact of Farmer Conventions on Farmer Organizations, and to measure the level of attainment of the original objectives through the operationalization of specific objectives stipulated in Chapter one of this report. The multi-disciplinary team comprising the Farmer Organizations Training Specialist, the Sociologist and the Socio-economic Analyst with practical research orientation and training carried out the evaluation. It was done in two phases. The phase one was carried out from 6th May 1996 to 11th May 1996 and the phase two from 3rd June 1996 to 6th June 1996. The major evaluation techniques used are given below.

2.4.1 Formal and Informal Discussions

The HARTI officers had separate discussions with relevant Divisional level officers and farmer representatives centering round the Farmer Convention objectives and their outcome.

A guide line was prepared by the HARTI Officers which facilitated effective and constructive interviews. Although there was a Discussion Guide, discussions were conducted in a free and pleasant atmosphere giving the participants a chance to criticise, appreciate and suggest ways and means for the improvement of future Farmer Conventions. Discussion contents were recorded for further analysis. Farmer representatives aired their views on Convention decisions and evaluated their progress. Further discussions revealed the obstacles experienced by the implementing authorities. Formal interviews with higher Officers of the district helped convey the gist of informal discussions the team has had with farmers and relevant Divisional Officers.

2.4.2. Participatory Appraisal Techniques

Participatory Appraisal has a dual purpose of analysis and change. The Association of Farmer Organizations with the study, enriched its value and also it provided an opportunity to the Farmer Organizations and their members to enhance their understanding of various problems confronting them. Interaction with Officers helped the farmer representatives to improve their perceptions of social reality. It provided further stimulus to their activities.

Priority problems were tabled before the Evaluation Forum, comprising farmer representatives and officers concerned in order to have them evaluated and analyzed.

2.4.3. Structured Questionnaire Survey

Copies of a structured questionnaire were distributed among the farmer representatives, who had participated in previous Farmer Conventions, to obtain their opinions on various aspects of progress of Farmer Convention outcomes (Annexe 2).

Uni-variate and bi-variate tables were formed with the outcomes of the questionnaire survey. The evaluation of the Farmer Convention was discussed based on the above tables which helped deduce the inter and intra relationships of Convention objectives. Uni-variate tables were formed to measure the Divisional Secretary level attainments, while bi-variate tables were formed to assess the overall attainments in interrelated objectives. Divisional level and District level officers provided statistics about their programmes from the time of the Farmer Convention to the evaluation period.

2.4.4. Use of Secondary Data

Relevant publications and data from the Central Bank, the Department of Census and Statistics, the Asst. Commissioner's Office of the Department of Agrarian Services, the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Rajarata Fertilizer Corporation, District Office of the Coconut Cultivation Board, District Office of the Agriculture Insurance Board, the Divisional Agrarian Centers and the Divisional Secretary's Office were used in the study.

2.5 Convention Day Activities

The Convention was fixed for two days and covered such aspects as the participatory approach in problem solving, collaborative ventures forming future strategies, lectures on activities of Farmer Organizations and their leadership, and National Policy Framework on Agriculture.

Day One

- * The Farmer Organization representatives discussed their organizations' activities with regard to the past and the present. They spelt out their experiences

- * This was followed by a review of Farmer Organization reports by Divisional level Officers.
- * An exchange of ideas and views between officers and farmers took place.
- * Finally, the day one programme was concluded with lectures and a video programme on farmer organization related themes. Special lectures were given by specialists on development and strengthening of Farmer Organizations, under the National Policy Framework, leadership and Participatory problem solving.

Day Two

- * Relevant District Officers explained the work of their departments currently being done for Farmer Organization development.
- * Farmer organizations submitted proposals for their future development and pointed out the constraints confronting them.
- * The sessions were concluded with the formation of a collective development strategy. Certain problems, falling within the purview of Officers present were sorted out and solved.
- * Collected details and information on problems which could not be solved instantly to be submitted to higher authorities.

The HARTI officers functioned as catalysts and Resource Persons.

These methodologies were adopted at every Farmer Convention. At the end of every convention, a work plan was developed to overcome the problems disclosed in the proceedings.

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CHAPTER THREE

ATTAINMENT OF FARMER CONVENTION OBJECTIVES AND ITS IMPACT ON FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

3.1 Overall Attainment of Farmer Convention Objectives

In general it is difficult to say that Farmer Conventions have been able to completely fulfill the main objective of strengthening and developing farmer organizations for increased productivity. Nevertheless, the Farmer Conventions were able to develop certain aspects such as creating awareness of the participatory development approach and the anticipated role of farmer organizations in national development. Further there was considerable improvement in officer participation in the farmer organization activities and in easing out tensions existing between Officers and farmer representatives.

The Farmer Conventions have achieved mixed results in different Divisional Secretary areas where they were held. Current macro and micro policies followed and their impact on activities at grass roots have also contributed to this mixed attainment of results. Though the Convention had no direct aim of improving the standard of living of the rural peasantry, a considerable change in the approaches of farmer representatives, who participated in the convention, towards problem solving, was observed during the evaluation. The success and failure of different aspects of the convention from the farmers' point of view are discussed in the Chapter to follow.

3.2 Impact of Farmer Conventions on Farmer Organizations

3.2.1 Priority Problems of Farmer Organizations

Although there were many problems highlighted by the Farmer Organizations, the following have been given greater emphasis in the Anuradhapura and

Matale districts. Table 3.1 illustrates the problems and priorities mentioned by FOs.

**Table 3.1 : The Priority Constraints of Farmer Organizations
Highlighted at the Farmer Conventions**

Constraints	Thirap- pane (%) n ₁ =13	Ipalo- gama(%) n ₂ =23	Talawa (%) n ₃ =10	Matale (%) n ₄ =6	Uku- wela(%) n ₅ =5	Overall N=57
1. Rehabilitation of tanks*	42.8	52.6	41.2	50.0	40.0	45.6
2. Inadequate supply of agricultural inputs	19.0	6.2	5.9	20.0	40.0	11.9
3. Lack of agro-wells	9.5	15.4	17.6	10.0	-	10.9
4. Problems of land titles	-	9.2	5.9	-	20.0	9.9
5. Improper agricultural credit systems	14.3	12.4	17.6	-	-	7.9
6. Improper marketing facilities	-	3.1	5.9	10.0	-	6.9
7. Punishment to violators of FO rules and regulations	4.8	-	5.9	10.0	-	4.9
8. Others	9.6	1.1	-	-	-	2.0

* Tank rehabilitation includes rehabilitation of sluices, and canals

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in DS Areas.
 N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

The above Table gives an indication of the importance of the problems at DS level. In Thirappane DS area, the problems of rehabilitation of tanks and low supply of agricultural inputs were the main problems. Further, the improper agri-

cultural credit systems followed have also become an important constraint which is followed by a lack of agro-wells. It is interesting to note that the problem of land titles was not considered as a problem by farmers of Thirappane.

A different scenario was observed in the Ipalogama DS area where rehabilitation of tanks gained much importance followed by a lack of agro-wells. Apart from these, the problem of improper agricultural credit systems has been recorded as being a severe constraint. The problem of land titles has also made an impact on the farming community of Ipalogama. A marginal impact is noticed as regards other problems such as inadequate supply of agricultural inputs and lack of marketing facilities.

In the Talawa DS area, the problem of rehabilitation of tanks has become a priority problem. Problems of a lack of agro wells and improper agricultural credit systems have also caused considerable difficulties to the farmers in this area. Most other specific problems like lack of land titles and punishment to violators of farmer organization's rules and regulations were the last among prioritized problems.

The farmer representatives of the Matale DS Division highlighted the problem of rehabilitation of tanks as their priority problem. The other important problems mentioned were a low supply of agricultural inputs; lack of agro-wells; improper marketing facilities and punishment to violators of FO rules and regulations.

In the Ukuwela DS area, the problem of rehabilitation of tanks and the inadequate supply of agricultural inputs were priority problems, followed by the problems of title to land.

On the whole, the problem of rehabilitation of tanks was the priority problem in all DS areas. Inadequate supply of agricultural inputs is the problem of highest priority in the Ukuwela DS area. A lack of agro-wells was a problem of much concern in Ipalogama, while the problem of land title has created considerable hardships for farmers of the Talawa and Ukuwela DS areas. Improper agricultural credit schemes are the problem of importance in the Thirappane and Ipalogama DS areas, while the problem of improper marketing facilities was the problem in Matale DS area. The problem of lack of punishment to violators of farmer organization rules received the lowest consideration in all DS areas.

3.2.2 Relevant Problem Solving Authorities According to Farmer Organizations

The farmer organizations identified the relevant authorities and officers who were responsible for solving the problems. Table 3.2 indicates them and their responsibilities.

Table 3.2 : Relevant Problem Solving Authorities

Authorities and Officers	Thirap- pane (%) n ₁ =13	Ipalo- gama(%) n ₂ =23	Talawa (%) n ₃ =10	Matale (%) n ₄ =6	Uku- wela(%) n ₅ =5	Overall N=57
1. Divisional Officers/ Agrarian Centers	16.7	17.4	45.7	50.0	50.0	38.2
2. Divisional Secretary	22.2	21.8	15.5	27.5	12.5	20.6
3. Officers of the Irrigation Department	11.1	17.4	23.3	-	12.5	16.1
4. DD, AD & AI/Department of Agriculture	16.7	13.0	15.5	12.5	25.0	13.3
5. Officers of the Mahaweli Authority	33.4	30.4	-	-	-	11.8

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.

N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

It is quite clear from the above table that the Mahaweli Authority is the main problem solving body in Thirappane and Ipalogama DS areas, while the Divisional Secretary has become the second important problem solving authority in those two DS areas. At the third level, Divisional officers of relevant Agrarian Centers of the DS areas of Thirappane and Ipalogama receive an equal percentage of importance. The Department of Agriculture and it's Officers are at the next level to solve the problems of farmers at the Thirappane DS area, while officers of

the Department of Irrigation are the next to be answerable in the Ipalogama DS area.

In the Talawa DS area, the major problem solving authorities are the Divisional Officers of Agrarian Centers. They are closely followed by the Officers of the Irrigation Department. Next to follow are the Divisional Secretary and the Officers of the Department of Agriculture.

In Matale DS area, the Divisional Officers of Agrarian Service Centers are identified as the major problem solving body. Further the Divisional Secretary and the authorities of the Department of Agriculture follow the Divisional Officers of the Agrarian Service Centres in solving problems of farmers. Officers of the Mahaweli and Irrigation Department have no major responsibility in the Matale DS area.

The situation is somewhat different in Ukuwela where the Divisional Officers of the Department of Agrarian Services are the prominent problem solving body. The Department of Agriculture and it's Officers are the next relevant problem solving authorities in the view of farmer representatives. The Irrigation Department and the Divisional Secretary have received the third place of importance in problem solving in this area. As discussed earlier, the Mahaweli Authority and the Irrigation Department do not have much responsibility for problem solving in Matale and Ukuwela DS areas. This is due to the fact that a smaller number of cultivators depend on tank irrigation for their agricultural activities.

Divisional Officers of Agrarian Centers are the major problem solving authorities in Talawa, Matale and Ukuwela DS areas. The Divisional Secretary plays a major role in the Matale DS area and in the DS areas of Thirappane and Ipalogama. The Irrigation Department has become the major problem solving authority in the Talawa and Ipalogama DS areas. Though the Department of Agriculture plays a major role in all DS areas, it's presence is mostly felt in the Ukuwela DS area. The Mahaweli Authority has a little or no responsibility of problem solving in the Matale and Ukuwela DS areas and in contrast it plays a vital role in Thirappane and Ipalogama DS areas of the Anuradhapura district.

3.2.3 Level of Implementation of Remedial Measures for the Constraints Highlighted at the Farmer Convention

Table 3.3 indicates the level of implementation of the remedies suggested at the conventions by relevant officers.

Table 3.3 : Farmers' Views on the Level of Implementation of Solutions to the Problems Raised at Farmer Conventions

Farmers' Views on the implementation level of solutions	Thirap- pane (%) n ₁ =13	Ipalo- gama(%) (%) n ₂ =23	Talawa (%) n ₃ =10	Matale (%) n ₄ =6	Uku- wela(%) (%) n ₅ =5	Overall N=57
Implemented Completely (Excellent)	45.5	-	-	-	-	9.1
Implemented Somewhat (Good)	-	-	12.5	20.0	25.0	4.5
Implemented Poorly (Poor)	27.3	33.5	12.5	60.0	50.0	36.6
Not Implemented at all (Very Poor)	27.3	66.7	75.0	20.0	25.0	42.8

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.

N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

Table 3.3 gives a very gloomy picture of farmers' views on the level of implementation of solutions to problems raised at the Farmer Convention. The only redeeming feature is that Thirappane DS area has completely implemented 45.4% of the suggested plans for the solution of their problems. Talawa DS area has done poorly in that 75% of the decisions taken have not been implemented followed by Ipalogama DS area with 66.7% are not implemented at all. This is a quite disturbing matter and the authorities should look into it on a priority basis.

3.2.4 Views on the Implementation Process of Remedial Measures

Though the previous sub section 3.2.3 dealt with the level of implementation, this Table illustrates the farmers' views on the process of implementation of remedial measures. Even though these two sections look similar, there is a slight variation among the objectives as shown in Table 3.4.

Table 3.4 : Views of Farmer Organizations on the Implementation of Remedial Measures

Opinion on Progress	Thirap- pane (%) n ₁ =13	Ipalo- gama(%) n ₂ =23	Talawa (%) n ₃ =10	Matale (%) n ₄ =6	Uku- wela(%) n ₅ =5	Overall N=57
Progressing Well	45.4	43.8	16.7	40.0	58.3	40.8
Progressing Somewhat (As officers are reluctant to participate)	18.2	12.4	16.7	20.0	16.7	16.8
Progressing Poorly	36.4	-	-	20.0	-	11.3
Not progressing at all	-	43.8	66.6	20.0	25.0	31.1

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.

N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

Table 3.4 demonstrates the DS level views of Farmer Organizations on the implementation of remedial measures. In the Thirappane DS area, majority of farmer representatives indicated that they are satisfied with the officers' attitudes and they feel that the activities implemented are progressing well.

Regarding the views of Farmer Organizations on the implementation of remedial measures, it could be observed that the Ukuwela DS division with 58.3% of activities in progress is followed by Thirappane with 45.4% of activities. It is regrettable that 66.6% of activities are not in progress in Talawa DS division. Ipalogama DS division has only 43.8% compared to the other areas considered to have low averages.

All DS divisions have recorded responses of farmers as positive regarding officers' attitudes except in Talawa. It has also recorded the highest percentage of negative responses followed by Ipalogama. A lack of officer participation is recorded in Matale DS division. In this regard it is followed by Thirappane, Talawa and Ukuwela DS divisions. Farmers from Matale and Thirappane DS divisions

feel that Officers should have channeled their programmes through Farmer Organizations. In Thirappane DS division, farmer representatives have reported that officers are unable to award contracts to Farmer Organizations due to a lack of funds they are subject to. The farmers' perceptions of officers' attitudes are negative in respect of Ipalogama and Talawa DS division, a fact which should be taken note of by the authorities concerned.

3.2.5: Officers' Approach Towards Problem Solving and Implementation of Decisions: Views of Farmer Organizations

Here, the attitudes of concerned officers responsible for remedying the constraints highlighted at farmer Conventions are analysed. Table 3.5 clearly indicates whether the Officers' efforts in carrying out their duties at farmer level were satisfactory or not.

Table 3.5 : Farmer Organizations' Views on Officers' Approach Towards Problem Solving and Implementation of Decisions

Category	Farmers' View	Thirappane (%) n ₁ =13	Ipalo-gama(%) n ₂ =23	Talawa (%) n ₃ =10	Matale (%) n ₄ =6	Uku-wela(%) n ₅ =5	Overall (%) N=57
1. Satisfied as they responded at Farmer Conventions		67.6	59.3	87.5	60.0	80.0	52.1
2. Not satisfied as officers are reluctant to do their work		32.4	4.7	12.5	40.0	20.0	47.9

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.

N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

Table 3.5 indicates that a majority of farmer representatives from the Thirappane DS division, have indicated that the Officers' attitudes were satisfactory as they have responded positively at the Farmer Conventions. But the situation is almost evenly balanced in Ipalogama and Matale DS divisions where farmer

representatives were satisfied on the approach of officers in problem solving. Since the percentage is quite high in Ipalogama and Matale DS divisions compared to Thirappane, Talawa and Ukuwela, it is upto the concerned authorities to review their activities rendered so far to Farmer Organizations. It is felt that review measures would help minimize the gap between Officers and farmers in order to render efficient and effective services at farmer level. The Farmer Conventions not only aim at developing Farmer Organizations but also stress on effective implementation of strategies.

3.2.6 Improvement in the Active Participation of Members in Farmer Organizations' after the Convention

This sub section deals with the impact of Farmer Conventions on the farming community as it is aimed at mobilizing rural peasants for improved income levels. Table 3.6 indicates the level of impact on improvement of active participation of members in their activities.

Table 3.6 : Improvement in Active Participation of Members in Farmer Organizations

Level of Improvement	Thirap-	Ipalo-	Talawa	Matale	Uku-	Overall
	pane (%) $n_1=13$	gama(%) $n_2=23$	(%) $n_3=10$	(%) $n_4=6$	wela(%) $n_5=5$	(%) $N=57$
Completely Successful	27.3	31.8	12.5	40.0	50.0	30.0
Somewhat Successful	27.3	40.9	37.5	40.0	0.0	34.0
Not Successful	45.4	27.3	50.0	20.0	50.0	36.0

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in different DS divisions.

N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

Table 3.6 indicates the DS division wise improvements of the active participation of farmers in their numerous.

The Evaluation Team observes a considerable improvement in the par-

ticipation of Farmer Organization's members in activities in Ukuwela, Matale and Ipalogama DS divisions, while it has been low in Talawa, Ukuwela and Thirappane DS divisions.

Having a close look at the details given in the above Table, it is felt that the farmer convention has brought about mixed results as indicated at the beginning of this chapter. Only 30.0% overall improvement has been observed in the five DS divisions. In the somewhat successful category, the overall rate was 34% while 36.0% forms the unsuccessful category. It could be observed that the low percentages in the somewhat successful category is due to poor participation of farmers. This could be rectified through more such Conventions at which the farmers could be educated and mobilized to help the authorities achieve the national level targets. Hence, this 34% of the somewhat successful category may be motivated to play a more active role. A majority of farmers are of the view that the level of improvement in active participation has been hampered due to reasons such as improper leadership, poor communication skills, inadequate dissemination of knowledge pertaining to farmer organizations and a lack of awareness of Government policies. Since this is considered a serious problem to development, immediate action is recommended. Authorities concerned should find out why the Farmer Convention was unable to bring about an improvement in participation of Farmer Organization members and remedy the situation to achieve better results.

3.2.7 Level of Dissemination of Experience and Knowledge Gained at the Farmer Conventions by the Members of Farmer Organizations

The objective of this section is to assess the level of dissemination of experience and knowledge gained by the farmer representatives at Farmer Conventions. Future Conventions will become more effective, only if a satisfactory trend is achieved in this regard. All members of the Farmer Organizations are expected to be aware of Convention proceedings which would create an awareness among them on matters of social as well as national significance. Table 3.7 demonstrates this aspect.

Table 3.7 : Level of Dissemination of Experience Gained at the Farmer Convention among Other Members of the Farmer Organizations

Level of Dissemination	Thirap- pane (%) n ₁ =13	Ipalo- gama(%) n ₂ =23	Talawa (%) n ₃ =10	Matale (%) n ₄ =6	Uku- wela(%) n ₅ =5	Overall N=57
1. Entire knowledge/experience gained at farmer conventions	100.0	62.5	80.0	100.0	50.0	74.2
2. Knowledge of activities of farmer organizations	-	-	20.0	-	37.5	14.7
3. Knowledge on strengthening farmer organizations and creating awareness about their rights	-	37.5	-	-	12.5	11.1

Note : n₁ = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.

N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

Table 3.7 indicates the level of dissemination of Convention proceedings/experience among members of their respective Farmer Organizations. It is evident that in almost all DS divisions the farmer leaders have disseminated the knowledge and experience gained at the Farmer Convention among their members. In the Thirappane and Matale DS divisions, all farmer representatives have educated their members on the entire proceedings that took place at the Farmer Conventions. In the Talawa DS division, most of the farmer representatives have disseminated all their experiences while a few have conveyed information only on issues with regard to farmer organization activities discussed at the convention. This has been possible due to direct impact of Farmer Conventions held.

The above Table shows the different levels of dissemination of experience/knowledge. A majority of the representatives educated their members on various problems discussed at the Conventions. Around 65% of them have disseminated information on the entire proceedings of the forum to their members.

This is what was expected from effective Farmer Conventions. 25.6 percent have discussed with their members only the relevant aspects of Farmer Convention decisions such as how to strengthen and develop Farmer Organizations and how to activate their members. According to the Evaluation Team's observations, the level of dissemination of experience and knowledge gained at the Convention is satisfactory. It is important to study why the remaining 35% of farmer representatives failed to impart information on proceedings of the Convention to the general membership. This would help in the conduct of effective conventions in the future.

3.2.8 Improvement of Dynamism Among Membership as a Result of Farmer Convention

An objective of a Farmer Convention is to increase the dynamism and the level of activity among farmers by creating awareness in them on issues of national significance. Here, the improvement of dynamism in the membership has been measured by changes in the active membership that have occurred during the period 1995 January and 1996 January. The increase of active membership is evaluated from data supplied by farmer representatives who participated in the Convention. Around 22% (Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996) of increase has been recorded in this regard and the figure is found to be encouraging when it is compared with district level figures which indicates a 5.5% increase only of active FOs in both districts from 1995 to 1996. Table 3.8 illustrates the situation clearly.

Table 3.8 : Improvement in the Level of Activity Among Members After Dissemination of Knowledge/Experience Gained at Farmer Conventions

Is there any improvement in level of activity of members?	Thirap- pane (n ₁ =13)	Ipalo- gama(%) (n ₂ =23)	Talawa (%) (n ₃ =10)	Matale (%) (n ₄ =6)	Uku- wela(%) (n ₅ =5)	Overall (%) (N=57)
1. Yes	60	57.1	75.0	33.3	100.0	62
2. No	40	42.9	25.0	66.7	0.0	38
Increases in active membership	67.7	10.7	19.9	14.3	40.7	-

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.

N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

Table 3.8 indicates that a majority of the farmer representatives from the Thirappane, Ipalogama, Talawa and Ukuwela DS areas have accepted that there is an improvement in the level of activity among members whereas no such improvements have been recorded in the Matale DS division. It is significant that in the Ukuwela DS division, there is a 100 percent indication of improvement in the level of activity among the membership which is measured on the increase in active membership. The highest increase in active membership is recorded from the Thirappane DS division which is followed by Ukuwela. All other DS divisions Ipalogama, Talawa and Matale indicate almost similar percentages of increases in active membership.

3.2.9 Change of Approach Among the General Membership Through Dissemination of Farmer Convention Experiences

Having studied the improvement on the level of activity among membership, it was felt that studying the nature of changes among the general membership of the farmer organizations was necessary to analyze its impact on changes at grass-roots. Around 52% of farmer representatives have accepted that there is a positive change of attitude among the Farmer Organization members towards development activities, 38% have stated that there is no significant change in this regard, while 10 percent have remained neutral. Table 3.9 illustrates the situation further.

According to the Impact Evaluation Survey Data (HARTI, 1996), the highest level of increase in general membership since the Farmer Convention, is reported from Talawa and Ukuwela. But, in all other DS divisions, Thirappane, Ipalogama and Matale, a majority of farmer representatives have stated that there is no significant increase in general membership.

When attention is drawn to the type of changes in the general membership as a result of the Farmer Conventions, the Table 3.9 provides us with DS division-wise information. In Thirippante most of the farmer representatives have said that the type of improvement among general membership noticed is the ability to request relevant officers and institutions to perform a productive role. The rest of them have accepted that the general awareness of members about Farmer Organizations has increased, while a few of them have opted to say that farmer leaders are now working with more dedication and commitment.

Table 3.9 : Change in the General Membership

Type of Change	Thirap- pane (%)	Ipalo- gama(%)	Talawa (%)	Matale (%)	Uku- wela(%)	Overall N=57
	n ₁ =13	n ₂ =23	n ₃ =10	n ₄ =6	n ₅ =5	
1. Awareness of FOs	33.3	75.0	40.0	100	66.6	56.9
2. Dedicated work by FO leaders	16.7	12.5	20.0	-	33.4	17.0
3. Performing leading roles by officers and institutions on Farmer Organizations' requests		50.0	0.0	20.0	-	17.0
4. Expectations about receiving agricultural inputs at subsidized rates	-	12.5	20.0	-	-	9.1

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.

N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

In Ipalogama, a majority of the farmers (75 %) have said that general awareness has increased considerably, while there are positive changes in the dedication of farmer leaders with a rise of their expectations on receiving agricultural inputs at subsidized rates. In Talawa the situation is almost similar to that of Ipalogama with an addition of a significant change in increased abilities and confidence to request the relevant authorities to fulfil their needs.

The situation is quite different in Matale. There it is recorded that the major change is in the increase of general awareness of farmer organizations. In Ukuwela, the degree of dedication of FO leaders has increased.

An increase in awareness is the dominant change that had occurred in Ipalogama. A positive change of attitude of farmer leaders with regard to dedication towards their activities is observed in Talawa. The ability to request relevant

line agencies to perform their roles is significant in Thirappane and Talawa. Expectation of receiving agricultural inputs at subsidized rates has occurred mainly in Talawa. Hence, the Evaluation Team is of opinion that the above Table provides a mixed, but a positive set of results and changes taking place in relevant DS divisions. They will definitely have a positive effect on all future development activites of farmers.

3.2.10 Development Activities Initiated by Farmer Organizations Through Experiences Gained at Farmer Conventions

This sub-section deals with integrated development activities initiated by Farmer Organizations and their impact at grassroots. Although, the Farmer Organizations are to handle certain specified development programmes, the following activities illustrated in Table 3.10 have received greater prominence amidst all others. Further, the concept of self-reliance and participatory approach to development have been emphasized during Convention discussions.

Table 3.10 : Development Activities Initiated by Farmer Organizations Through Experience Gained at Farmer Conventions

Activities	Thirap- pane (%) n ₁ =13	Ipalo- gama(%) n ₂ =23	Talawa (%) n ₃ =10	Matale (%) n ₄ =6	Uku- wela(%) n ₅ =5	Overall (%) N=57
	n ₁ =13	n ₂ =23	n ₃ =10	n ₄ =6	n ₅ =5	N=57
1. <i>Shramadana</i> activities	38.4	33.3	-	14.3	50.0	88.7
2. Problem solving efforts with officers' participation	7.7	33.3	-	14.3	25.0	18.6
3. Improvement of knowledge of new technology	-	8.4	-	57.1	-	14.6
4. Increasing funds of FOs	15.4	8.47	33.3	-	-	10.6
5. Input subsidy programme	7.7	6.6	33.3	14.3	-	10.6
6. Tank rehabilitation	30.8.6	-	-	-	-	9.5
7. Construction of bunds through contracts	-	-	33.3	-	25.0	7.4

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.
N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

Table 3.10 indicates that *shramadana* activities have become most effective in Ukuwela and Thirappane. The problem solving efforts are mostly initiated by farmers of Ipalogama and Matale. Only Matale DS area has made efforts to improve farmers' knowledge on new technology. Fund raising activities are mainly found necessary in Talawa which has initiated a considerable number of activities in the construction of Tank bunds. The farmer organizations of Thirappane DS area, are mainly concentrating on tank rehabilitation.

The DS areas, mainly dependent on tank irrigation, have initiated activities with regard to tank rehabilitation, construction of bunds and input subsidy programme. The Evaluation Team suggests that concerned Officers should handle with greater enthusiasm these development activities initiated by Farmer Organizations in their areas to transform agriculture into a productive venture. Although the objectives of Farmer Conventions revolve round aspects of self-reliance and participatory methodology, result achieved have revealed only a moderate impact.

It appears that *shramadana* activities in relation to agriculture and irrigation have gained a place of prominence. Problem solving through Officers' participation have also assumed to be a process of significance from the farmers' point of view. It is important that technological innovations be introduced to the rural peasantry for increasing productivity. Based on this concept, the third important activity is improvement of a knowledge of appropriate technology which has recorded an achievement of 14.6%. All other development activities such as fund raising, input subsidy programmes, tank rehabilitation and bund construction have received equal importance. Self-reliant development activities specified under categories No. 1, 4, 6 and 7 have added upto 56% thus showing dominance over other categories. The concept of self-reliant activities and participatory approach have produced positive results, as indicated by the above Table. This indicates a commendable impact of Farmer Conventions.

3.2.11 Pattern of Improvement in Meeting Relevant Officers Since Farmer Convention

As we have discussed in previous chapters and sub-sections, the bridging of the existing gap between officers and farmers is one of the possible strategies to assist Farmer Organizations to achieve the set national goals. The poor level of participation of Officers at meetings of Farmer Organizations, in one of the complaints that surfaced at Conventions. However, the Conventions were successful in bringing them together. The level of achievement in this regard is discussed

under the relevant sub section. Table 3.11 illustrates an improvement in the pattern of meeting relevant officers to solve the problems of farmers.

Table 3.11 : Improvement in the Pattern of Meeting Relevant Officers Since the Farmer Conventions:

Pattern of improvement in meeting relevant officers	Thirap- pane (%)		Ipalo- gama (%)		Talawa (%)		Matale Uku- wela (%)		Overall (%)
	$n_1=13$	$n_2=23$	$n_3=10$	$n_4=6$	$n_5=5$	$N=57$			
1. Improvement in meeting relevant officers	Good	80	70.6	83.3	100.0	100.0	81.0		
	Poor	20	29.4	16.7	-	-	19.0		
2. Trend of improvement	Good	50	54.5	33.3	33.7	100.0	52.5		
	Poor	50	45.4	66.7	66.7	-	44.8		
3. Improvement in discussing with relevant officers	Good	80	66.7	75.0	100.0	100.0	81.6		
	Poor	20	33.3	25/0	-	-	18.4		

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.

N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

Improvement in the trend of meeting relevant officers in every DS division is illustrated by Table 3.11. In all DS divisions under review, there are significant improvements in varying degrees as a result of the Farmer Conventions held in Matale and Ukuwela. The trend of improvement is satisfactory in Thirappane, Ipalogama and Ukuwela. In Talawa and Matale, the trend is not satisfactory according to the farmers in those areas.

All DS areas have registered improvements averaging around 85 percent and Matale has recorded a 100 percent increase.

Though the Evaluation Team was satisfied by the overall performance of DS areas, it has caused them concern that the trend of improvement is not found

satisfactory in Talawa and Matale. Hence, it is felt that remedial action should be taken by the authorities concerned to rectify the situation.

It is observed that the pattern of meeting officers has registered a considerable improvement from the farmers' point of view. It has been categorized into two phases namely improvement in the meeting of officers, and improvement in discussing with them. A majority of farmer representatives have accepted that the frequency of meeting relevant officers has increased since the Farmer Conventions. This is due to promotion of participatory problem solving approaches at the Conventions. The equal percentages of two distinct options of category No. 2 of the above table are attributed to the geographical background of the areas selected and the socio-economic status of the areas concerned. Nevertheless, the trend of improvement aggregates to 55.2 % and it is quite a satisfactory figure.

3.2.12 Improvement in the Problem Solving Approach Among Members of Farmer Organizations as a Result of Farmer Conventions

The improvement in the level of participatory problem solving is discussed in detail in Table 3.12. There the manner in which farmer representatives improved their problem solving approach with Officers, is specified. It is important to discuss these different types in order to assess the level of impact of the Conventions on the new approach.

Table 3.12 illustrates the type of improvements that have taken place as a result of Farmer Conventions in the five DS divisions. Most improvements have taken place in Thirappane where farmers have gained greater ability to discuss their problems with concerned Officers. Improvement in water management, water supply and preliminary arrangements to obtain inputs have also been significant in Thirappane.

In Ipalogama, a majority of the farmers said their ability to discuss problems with relevant officers has considerably improved. At the same time, a few farmers pointed out that no significant improvements have been observed among their members.

A majority of farmer representatives from Talawa said that no considerable changes have taken place as a result of Farmer Conventions. Improvement in water management and water supply, and introduction of appropriate line agencies to provide agricultural inputs have not recorded any considerable rise according to them.

Table 3.12 : Improvement in Problem Solving Among Members of Farmer Organizations

Type of Improvement	Thirap-pane (%)	Ipalo-gama(%)	Talawa (%)	Matale (%)	Ukuwela(%)	Overall (%)
	n ₁ =13	n ₂ =23	n ₃ =10	n ₄ =6	n ₅ =5	N=57
1. Ability to discuss and resolve problems with relevant officers	71.4	41.7	-	20.0	75.0	41.2
2. No considerable change	-	33.3	60.0	40.0	25.0	32.3
3. Improvement of water management and water supply	14.3	8.3	20.0	20.0	-	11.8
4. Ability to undertake tank rehabilitation activities	-	16.7	-	20.0	-	8.8
5. Introduction to appropriate institutions to get agricultural inputs	14.3	-	20.0	-	-	5.9

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.

N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluatioin Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

Though the situation is almost similar in Matale where a majority of farmers have said that there has been no considerable improvements in their activities, the second priority is shared by three types of improvements with equal percentage. They are the ability to discuss with relevant officers, improvement in water management and water supply and the ability to undertake tank rehabilitation activities. But, in Ukuwela only two options have been recorded. A majority of the farmers, a three quarter of them, have agreed that their ability to discuss with relevant officers has increased, while a lesser number of farmers have declared that there has been no considerable change.

It is quite interesting to note that the improvement of the activity of farmers to discuss problems with Officers is the major change in Thirappane and Ukuwela. The disappointing trend of "no considerable change" is high only in Talawa. Further, Talawa and Matale are the two areas which show a maximum improvement in water management and water supply. In addition, the highest attainment for improvement of the ability to repair anicuts is recorded from Matale, while the introduction of appropriate agencies for the supply of inputs is high in Talawa.

According to the views of the Evaluation Team, all DS areas except Talawa and Matale have made considerable progress in various aspects of farmer activities. The concerned officers of these two districts should re-think their strategies and find out the factors responsible for a lack of progress there. So that adverse trends found could be reversed.

3.2.13 Suggestions of Farmer Organizations Towards Improving of Future Farmer Conventions

Previous sub-sections discussed the impact of Farmer Conventions on the attainment level of objectives from the farmers' point of view. Farmer Organizations have become the core of the evaluation since these Conventions were aimed at developing and strengthening of Farmer Organizations. Hence, welcoming suggestions from farmer representatives regarding future conventions was found to be necessary. Their suggestions, stipulated under three major categories, are given in Table 3.13 which would be incorporated in future Conventions.

Talawa and Thirappane have favoured the suggestion of prompt action by concerned officers in solving their problems. The suggestion to detail officers to make periodic visits to Farmer Organizations and the inclusion of Ministry level decision makers in the Conventions are highly favoured by the farmers of Thirappane. They are closely followed in this regard by farmers of Matale and Ukuwela. The reason for this trend can be that the first Convention was held at Thirappane with no participation of either district level or Ministry level Officers. The participation of such Officers was facilitated in the remaining two Conventions. In the third Convention at Maha Illuppallama which was inaugurated by the Hon. Deputy Minister of Lands and Forestry, participation had improved. The Evaluation Team is of the view that these constructive suggestions should be implemented to enhance the level of achievements of Farmer Conventions at Farmer Organization level.

Table 3.13 : Farmer Organizations' Suggestions for Future Farmer Conventions:

Suggestions for future farmer conventions	Thirap-pane (n ₁ =13)	Ipalo-gama (n ₂ =23)	Talawa (n ₃ =10)	Matale (n ₄ =6)	Uku-wela (n ₅ =5)	Overall (N=57)
1. The Conventions should include more details on Farmer Organizations and related activities	16.6	55.6	60.0	50.0	50.0	53.1
2. Responsibility for it should be taken by relevant line agencies/ officers under whose mandate it falls	33.6	22.2	40.0	16.7	25.0	25.7
3. Relevant officers should be instructed to visit Farmer Organizations periodically	49.8	22.2	-	33.3	25.0	21.2
Ministry level decision makers should take part in the final session of a Convention						

Note : n₁ = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.

N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

The above Table reveals that the future Farmer Conventions should include more about the fundamentals of Farmer Organizations and related issues. About 53 percent of the Farmer Organizations and their representatives have opted for this suggestion, while 25.7 percent feel that the relevant officers or line agencies should carry out their mandates without delay. Around 21 percent of them say that future Conventions should include decision making authorities, preferably at Ministry level, in order to facilitate effective measures to solve problems as quickly

as possible. They should be in a position to direct the authorities for the proper implementation of remedial measures. In addition, the farmer representatives stated that the relevant field level Officers should periodically visit the Farmer Organizations to monitor and evaluate their activities and to direct them to proceed on correct lines.

Having studied the performances of various programmes, it is appropriate to summarize the overall positive and negative impact of Farmer Conventions in each area.

3.2.14 Overall Attainments of Farmer Conventions

The overall attainment of Farmer Convention objectives varies from one aspect to another and analysis by Divisional Secretary area was found to be a necessary measure to assess the area-wise changing patterns. The sectional analysis reveals certain important changes identical with certain areas. As discussed earlier, the impact of Farmer Conventions is influenced by geographical features of the area concerned and the socio-economic factors. For instance, Matale and Ukuwela are influenced by export agriculture, which is not a prominent feature in other areas. Similarly, Talawa, Thirappane and Ipalogama are under the influence of the Mahaweli system.

Table 3.14 indicates the degree of impact of Farmer Conventions.

Table 3.14 : Degree of Impact of Farmer Conventions

DS Areas	Positive Impact (%) $n_1=13$	No Considerable Change (%) $n_2=23$	Negative Impact (%) $n_3=10$	Overall (%)
				$N=57$
1. Thirappane	78	-	22	8.6
2. Ipalogama	56	-	44	20.6
3. Talawa	44	-	56	25.8
4. Matale	56	11	33	5.0
5. Ukuwela	89	11	-	40.0

Note : n_i = No. of FOs interviewed in respective DS Area.
 N = Total No. of FOs interviewed

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

The Table 3.14 reveals the magnitude of the positive impact of Farmer Conventions as felt in Thirappane and Ukuwela, while in Matale, evidence shows a moderate impact. Some degree of negative impact is also experienced in these areas. A completely negative impact is experienced in Talawa.

It is necessary that the policy and decision makers take into consideration results of the Conventions for the formulation of development strategies. The Evaluation Team is satisfied about the overall impact of Farmer Conventions in all areas except in Talawa.

The micro and macro level changes due to policy implications and other socio-economic parameters should be analyzed along with the impact of Farmer Conventions to see the hidden facts which perhaps are the external reasons for pseudo progress in some areas. It is imperative that farmers and Officers should adopt participatory problem solving approaches among themselves to identify the priority problems and solve them accordingly. The positive impact of Farmer Conventions is the result of the collective effort of concerned officers and Farmer Organizations. This varies from location to location depending on the type of crops grown there.

According to the above Table, the highest membership increase of 35.14% is recorded at Ukuwela. It is followed by a 22.64 % increase in Talawa and 18.10% in Ipalogama respectively. The lowest increase 4.42% is registered in Matale, followed by 7.53% in Thirappane. Since the first Convention was held at Thirappane, the next in Matale and the last in Maha Illuppallama covering Ipalogama and Talawa the membership increase has had a varying rate. Since all these figures are comparatively above the district figures, one could presume that Farmer Conventions have played a vital role in the process. Nevertheless, the membership increase is affected by several other factors which are perhaps external in nature.

3. 3 The Pattern of Inter-relationships Between Attainments of Farmer Convention Objectives

The changing phenomenon of the participants' and the officers' attitudes have been studied in the previous sub-sections. The intra-relationship of achievements and impacts of Farmer Conventions been analyzed in detail earlier. An attempt is also made to portray inter-relationships in the results of Farmer Conventions to assess the impact of interconnections and the type of interactions existing between different results as an impact of Farmer Conventions on Farmer Organi-

zations. This is assessed through the bi-variate table depicting two inter-related variables displayed one against another. Though there were possibilities to create many bi-variate tables, we have considered only twelve such tables which have an impact on each other. In order to make the calculations easy, overall attainments are considered without being restricted to DS divisions.

Table 3.1 in Annex 4 deals with inter-relationships between priority problems highlighted by the Farmer Organizations and the concerned problem solving authorities. Here the row-wise and column-wise variables are the relevant problem solving authorities and the priority problems highlighted by the Farmer Organizations at the Farmer Conventions respectively. A high percentage of interaction is observed in the Divisional Officers of Agrarian Centers and Officers of the Irrigation Department as regards problems involved in rehabilitating tanks.

Table 3.2 in Annex 4 explains the inter-relationship between development activities initiated by the Farmer Organizations and the level of active participation of members in them. The rows and columns represent the level of active participation and development activities initiated. According to this Table, the highest interaction is between *shramadana* activities and the successful participation of members in them.

It is evident from the Table 3.3 in Annex 4, which deals with the level of dissemination of experience gained at Farmer Conventions against development activities initiated by the Farmer Organizations and found to be successful due to dissemination of experience gained at Farmer Conventions among members. Tank rehabilitation activities are in satisfactory progress due to extensive dissemination of Farmer Convention proceedings.

Table 3.4 in Annex 4, reveals the pattern of interaction between the level of dissemination of experience and knowledge gained at Farmer Conventions and improvements in the problem solving approach in Farmer Organizations. Maximum interaction is observed between the complete dissemination of knowledge/experience and improvement in ability to discuss with Officers to solve problems. It means, the ability to discuss with concerned officers with regard to problem solving has improved due to dissemination of knowledge of Farmer Convention proceedings.

Changes in attitudes of the general membership through dissemination of Farmer Convention experience and knowledge in development activities are cross-examined in Table 3.5 in Annex 4. *Shramadana* and problem solving activities with Officers' participation have received maximum support due to awareness

about Farmer Organizations and related issues which have made a significant impact on the construction of bunds through contracts. Further, the leading role played by the officers and organizations as a result of Farmer Conventions has made a significant impact on *shramadana* activities.

According to Table 3.6 in Annex 4, the Farmer Conventions have made a considerable impact on meeting Divisional Officers of Agrarian Centers and other officers of various agencies enabling farmers to receive greater attention as regards their needs.

Table 3.7 in Annex 4, reveals an expansion of *shramadana* work and an improvement of the knowledge of farmers on new technology.

Table 3.8 bears evidence to improvement of relations between farmers and officers of concerned agencies, facilitating a better dissemination of knowledge and information among farmers.

The pattern of inter-relationship between the progress of remedial actions and the problems of farmer organizations and the level of implementation of problem solving approaches is clearly indicated in the Table 3.11 in Annex 4. Accordingly, the highest level of inter-impact is observed between the ability of farmers to discuss with officers their problems and issues and evolve remedial measures.

The co-relation between the Officers' attitude towards problem solving, and the level of implementation of remedial measures could be observed in Table 3.12. The highest percentage of representation is observed in the case between the satisfactory level of officers' attitude and the successful implementation measures.

Having analyzed this section with Tables from 3.1 to 3.12 in Annex 4, it is possible to understand the emerging pattern of impact of Farmer Conventions and their inter-relationships in the divisions they were held in. On the whole, the Evaluation Team has observed a satisfactory trend as regards the impact of Farmer Conventions at Farmer Organization level to identify issues through mutual sharing of information between farmers and Officers and to evolve and implement solutions rapidly.

Officers' responsiveness and their perceptions on Farmer Conventions are indicated in the following Chapter.

CHAPTER FOUR

DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE FARMER CONVENTIONS

As discussed in the earlier chapters, the Farmer Conventions are organized in order to address the issues confronting the farmers and their day to-day agricultural activities. Every Farmer Convention developed a work plan at the end of the Convention as a remedial package to redress the constraints highlighted. Decisions taken at each Farmer Convention are given below.

4.1 Decisions Taken at the Thirappane Convention

- (a) Formation of a Federation of Farmer Organizations at Divisional Secretary level was found imperative for the maximum utilization of funds released to the Divisional Secretary for development purposes. This will help to get more participation and support from other departments, institutions and NGOs. Further, this will be helpful in producing more effective training programmes.
- (b) More financial allocations should be made to Divisional Officers' to enable them to initiate new programmes.
- (c) That details of various contracts relating to agriculture, irrigation and rural development be made available to Farmer Organizations, allowing them an opportunity to tender for them.
- (d) The Divisional Secretary urged that details of irrigation contracts and the Organizations handling them be made available to him without delay. It, he said would provide a clear picture of district development activities to the Divisional level Administrator.
- (e) It was agreed, that Farmer Organizations should be politically free and neutral.

- (f) Meetings of the general body of a Farmer Organization should be held after the Divisional Officers' official meetings as it would then enable the official decisions to be conveyed to a larger number of members.
- (g) That the lending institutions should maintain an upto date list of names of borrowers in order to prevent them from becoming defaulters. Further the Farmer Organizations should maintain a risk fund to help deserving defaulters.
- (h) It was decided to request the Paddy Marketing Board (PMB) to purchase paddy through Farmer Organizations and give them their commission without delay.

Exact dates should be given to farmer organizations regarding paddy purchasing by PMB and the delay in payment should be minimized to maximum possible level.

4.2 Decisions Taken at the Matale Convention

- (a) A decision was taken to form a Federation of Farmer Organizations at DS level.
- (b) Production collecting centers should be established within the central area of Farmer Organizations. It was unanimously accepted.
- (c) The forum insisted that all inputs to farmers and agricultural development should be channeled through Farmer Organizations for better and effective management of development activities. Further, seed and fertilizer should be given to the Farmer Organizations at concessionary rates by reducing the existing custom of payment of commissions to Divisional Officers. The relevant DOs' have agreed to the suggestion.
- (d) A decision was taken to vest the responsibility of collecting Agricultural Insurance premiums and land rents with Farmer Organizations. This would help Farmer Organizations to raise their funds by getting a commission. In addition, tractors, threshing machines and other agricultural equipment should be supplied to the Farmer Organizations at concessionary rates with due consideration to their financial status.

- (e) A decision was made to have a separate building for Farmer Organizations to meet and discuss their activities. In order to facilitate the above proposal, suitable land to erect such buildings should be located, it was agreed.
- (f) It was agreed that proper land titles should be given to farmers, who have not yet received such titles, through Farmer Organizations.
- (g) The forum collectively decided that concerned officers should make sure that uninterrupted assistance of the Government is available to Farmer Organizations for environmental protection. All possible assistance should be given to Farmer Organizations to start and maintain nurseries in accordance with regional requirements.
- (h) Programmes should be prepared by Farmer Organizations to implement the *Kanna* meeting decisions, and they should be empowered to take action for the optimum utilization of loans in their areas.
- (i) A common decision was reached, that minor irrigation contracts should be awarded to Farmer Organizations which are financially sound to undertake them.

4.3 Decisions Taken at the Maha Illuppallama Convention

- (a) The Deputy Provincial Director (DPD) of Agriculture assured the provision of training of farmers on relevant issues and promised to provide seed paddy to Farmer Organizations. He also assured the smooth functioning of the department in future which in the past was affected by a shortage of required officers.
- (b) Central Bank representatives (The Regional Manager and an Executive Officer of the Anuradhapura Regional Office) said that steps were taken to reduce problems in obtaining loans. The loans will be provided based on *Kanna* meeting reports and requests for loans would remain valid for three years.
- (c) They also answered questions raised by Farmer Organizations on loans. They said that providing loans through Farmer Organization is now being followed at Alayapathawala and Mihintale and a policy decision will be made after an evaluation on the impact of the system.

- (d) The Bank representatives agreed to take steps to solve the problem of credit to farmers who don't possess proper land titles. It was felt imperative that other State and Commercial Banks together with the Central Bank should hold similar discussions with farmer representatives periodically to evaluate the existing system and implement more effective and less cumbersome procedures to assist the farmers to develop their sector.
- (e) The forum decided that the Agricultural Insurance Board (AIB) officials should visit Farmer Organizations and participate in *Kanna* meetings. Further, it was agreed that periodic inspections should be done to assess crop failures for quick payments to be made to those affected. AIB authorities said that there would be better networking of their services and operations once the new control areas have been identified and formed.
- (f) The Paddy Marketing Board (PMB) officials agreed to conduct and operate their activities in villages through Farmer Organizations by appointing a representative. Further, the PMB's plan to provide financial facilities to Farmer Organizations regarding the purchase of paddy was welcomed by the farmer representatives who were present there. The PMB will take steps to resolve the existing difficulties in purchasing paddy from the areas of Muriyakadawala and Thirappane in the Anuradhapura district.
- (g) The Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB) officials explained their present training programmes and said that the activities will be extended to other areas where there was less involvement. They also explained their programme of distribution of seed coconuts among farmers of major irrigation schemes. The CCB authorities acceded to the requests of farmer representatives and a decision was made to extend training programmes in coconut cultivation and development.
- (h) The Deputy Director of Irrigation, Anuradhapura explained the activities of his department in the district. He cleared some points raised by Farmer Organizations regarding tank rehabilitation. The Irrigation Department, it was revealed had forwarded proposals to rehabilitate minor and medium level tanks under NIRP. Attention was drawn to tank rehabilitation which comes within the purview of the Provincial Irrigation Officers and the Deputy Director requested Farmer Organizations to forward their re-

quests to Provincial Offices. Around 370 tanks are to be rehabilitated under the IFAD programme and it was announced to provide more efficient irrigation facilities. Farmer representatives felt the need for speedy action in order to rehabilitate the Mahakandarawewa tank and the request was accepted by the Deputy Director who had already forwarded the proposal to the Government stressing the need. Repairs to minor irrigation tanks in Kattiyawa and Eppawala will be attended to promptly by the irrigation authorities.

- (i) The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of the Department of Agrarian Services accepted the suggestion for rehabilitating minor irrigation tanks under the decentralized budget, and wanted requests regarding the subject forwarded to him without delay. He also said that the Department of Agrarian Services has plans to rehabilitate around 35 tanks during 1995 and that every Agrarian Center will have the opportunity of rehabilitating at least one of them.
- (j) Strengthening of Farmer Banks is a greatly felt need and the farmer representatives indicated how necessary it is. It was also agreed to distribute the available 2000 bushels of seed paddy among the Farmer Organizations. The slow progress in the issue of farmer identity cards was brought to the notice of officials who agreed to expedite the process. The land title problem in Talawa was debated in the Convention and it was decided to make an appeal to the concerned Divisional Secretary through the Deputy Commissioner of Agrarian Services for speedier action.
- (k) Re-organization of Farmer Organizations as Farmer Companies and increasing their funds to perform development activities were found to be a great need. The Department of Agrarian Services agreed to conduct surveys to assess the activity of Farmer Organizations to implement the suggestion within the National Policy Framework.
- (l) No concrete decision was taken with regard to the request of farmer representatives about issuing of fire arms to safeguard their crops from wild animals. The matter had National Security Implications, it was said.

The above are the major decisions taken at the Conventions. An evaluation of their impact was carried out based on the process of implementation of these decisions. The results of the evaluation are given in the Chapter to follow.

CHAPTER FIVE

IMPACT OF FARMER CONVENTIONS - OFFICERS' RESPONSES

5.1 Impact of Farmer Conventions

This chapter includes the summarized version of Officers' responses to post-Farmer convention activities of Anuradhapura and Matale districts. Since farmers in Anuradhapura depend more on tank and Mahaweli water than those in Matale district, the Officers of the former area, particularly those of the Mahaweli Authority and the Irrigation Department, are given more importance, than those of the Matale district. In the two Farmer Conventions held in Anuradhapura, the participation of relevant District and Divisional officers was higher than what it was in Matale where only one Convention was held. This is reflected in summarized form of officers' views with regard to post-convention activities of officers and Farmer Organizations. The aim of organizing follow-up discussions is to identify the difficulties faced by concerned officers in implementing the decisions taken at Farmer Conventions and to evaluate the degree of progress of such activities. Farmers' perceptions of Officers' attitudes and other related issues are also analyzed. The following sections elaborate the above scenario.

5.2 Views of Anuradhapura District Officers

5.2.1 Deputy Commissioner (DC) of the Department of Agrarian Services

- (a) The prolonged land problem in the Talawa was looked into. The Deputy Commissioner along with DO Talawa had inspected the area and assured that necessary action would be taken soon to remedy the situation. The problem was explained in detailed.
- (b) Since the Farmer Convention, Farmer Organizations under major irrigation schemes are now being registered at the relevant Agrarian Centers.

Farmer identity cards are being issued to register farmers through Farmer Organizations. When the Evaluation Team pointed out the shortages of identity cards and the slow process of issuing them, specially in Eppawala the DC took prompt action to resolve the issue.

- (c) Action to establish Farmers' Banks is in progress. Farmer Conventions have also given due consideration to credit problems of farmers raised at the forum. The Farmer Organizations will be expected to play a vital role as Bank agents at grass-roots.
- (d) Fund raising activities for Farmer Organizations have been started with the awarding of some tank rehabilitation contracts under the World Food Programme (WFP) and the National Irrigation Rehabilitation Project (NIRP).
- (e) The problem of providing guns to farmers could be solved by joint committees comprising the DO, DS and Farmer leaders.
- (f) As a result of Farmer Conventions, farmers from Ipalogama have solved problems, like lack of tractors, through the DC and the farmers have approached the DC for agricultural loans too.
- (g) Machagama farmers from Eppawala have received a tractor after the Farmer Convention when they expressed their need for it.

5.2.2 Deputy Provincial Director of Agriculture

- (a) Though the farmers raised problems at the Farmer Convention regarding lack of training on cultivation practices, there were no specific requests from Farmer Organizations. In future, such requests would be promptly attended to when presented.
- (b) Despite agreement reached at Farmer Conventions regarding the supply of seed paddy, requests were considerably low due to the prevailing drought. Further, the available manpower at the Provincial Department is insufficient to meet the existing work load.
- (c) Farmer Organizations' requests for assistance for bee-keeping was found to be a difficult issue due to the inadequacy of bee boxes. The manufac-

turing cost of a bee box is far higher than the stipulated selling price of each. It is the main reason for its non-availability.

(d) Crop damage due to application of certain agro-chemicals was reported by the Agricultural Instructor (AI) of Talawa. Due to a lack of appropriate knowledge on agro-chemicals, action for getting compensation from the agro-chemical company is delayed. In future, the Provincial Department of Agriculture will organize training programmes for the Agricultural Instructors handling such complaints.

5.2.3 Deputy Director of Irrigation

(a) The Department of Irrigation was unable to take proper action to rehabilitate the Kalawewa tank, since the tank comes under the Mahaweli Authority. This problem was raised at the Farmer Convention by a Farmer Organization. The plan to rehabilitate the Maha Illuppallama *wewa* and certain other tanks with the help of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is still at the formulation stage under the North Central Provincial Development Programme. Though progress is not mainly due to the Farmer Convention, it has had an indirect impact on accelerating the process of launching the project.

(b) The following details support the progress of tank rehabilitation programmes under the National Irrigation Rehabilitation Project (NIRP) from 1992 to 1997. Implementation of these programmes have been expedited as a result of the Farmer Convention.

Period Type	1992 - 1997	
	48 Minor Tanks	04 Medium Tanks
Status	07 handed over to FOs 15 under construction 22 will be started (Tenders are called) 03 doubtful to be carried out due to risk areas	01 under construction 03 under formulation

- (c) As specified at the Farmer Convention, the status of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) funded programme of rehabilitation of 370 tanks is given below.
 - * 300 minor tanks will be rehabilitated by the Agrarian Services Department under the World Food Programme (WFP).
 - * 05 medium size tanks will be rehabilitated by the Central Irrigation Department.
 - * 65 minor tanks will be rehabilitated by the Provincial Irrigation Department.
- (d) Due to non-availability of funds, certain programmes suggested by the Farmer Organizations at Conventions have not been attended to, but the priority problems have been looked into. Since there is no special fund allocation to attend to the problems raised at Farmer Conventions, the progress of activities is slow.
- (e) Conventions have opened up avenues for the Farmer Organizations to get to know the functions of the Irrigation Department. They also provided room for discussions between farmers and officers of line agencies. Further, the Farmer Convention has proved to be a development tool in order to promote the integrated approach to agricultural development.

5.2.4 Regional Manager, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura Regional Branch

- (a) Due to the Farmer Conventions, the Central Bank authorities were able to give a better banking service to the farmers and officers. It was also useful to collect information from farmer representatives on various aspects of agriculture loan facilities, prevailing difficulties and the annual plan of Farmer Organizations.
- (b) Details of Cultivation loans provided through various State and Commercial banks during the year (1995) ending 31st December, is given in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 : Details of Cultivation Loans Provided for Farmers

Bank	No. of loans provided	Amount in Rs.
Hatton National Bank	1,007	13,422,162
Regional Rural Development Bank	7,299	53,617,284
People's Bank	4,188	80,163,310
Bank of Ceylon	22,494	152,488,102

Source : Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura Regional Office, 1996.

It is evident from the above Table that the Bank of Ceylon has provided more cultivation loans than any other Bank. Cancellation of cultivation loans would be considered only after repayment of 25 percent of the loan. This was misinterpreted by certain farmers and a discussion took place with the farmer representatives at the Farmer Convention.

(c) According to the Central Bank the existing Banks are sufficient to provide credit to Farmer Organizations and the special Banks for farmers are not necessary. Streamlining the existing banks to form an appropriate strategy to provide low-interest and less complicated credit facilities to farmers is imperative. Before 1993, the Central Bank had a system of refinancing the loan defaulters and it would provide relief to farmers if the system is re-introduced.

Note : The view of the authorities of the Department of Agrarian Services is entirely different to that of Central Bank in respect of Farmer Banks.

(d) Due to representations made by Farmer representatives, cultivation loans have been issued without land titles. The Central Bank has received complaints from farmers regarding the functions of the Regional Rural Development Bank, Tambuttegama branch after the Farmer Convention.

- (e) As suggested and agreed at the forum of the Farmer Convention, the Central Bank along with other Regional Banks in Anuradhapura have organized a discussion series with farmers at Rajangana, Mihintale, Nochchiyagama and Shravasthipura. Sixty farmers were selected through Banks and taken to Maha Illuppallama and Bathalagoda for training on various aspects of cultivation and related issues.

5.2.5 Resident Project Manager (RPM) - Mahaweli Economic Agency, Tambuttegama

- (a) As a result of the Farmer Convention, some Farmer Organizations under the Mahaweli area requested that they be registered at the Department of Agrarian Services. Requests of some Farmer Organizations' could not be proceeded due to their weak financial management. Successful applications were forwarded to the Director General for his approval.
- (b) The Farmer Organizations, which had maintained proper accounts and conducted regular meetings, are eligible to be awarded contracts. Hence these Organizations which have not got contracts should revive their activities to become eligible for them without blaming the officers.
- (c) The Ganthiriyagama tank rehabilitation proposals have been sent to the relevant authorities for funding. Small tank rehabilitation proposals have been forwarded to the Asian Development Bank. Action would be taken on receipt of funds.

5.2.6 Divisional Secretary (DS), Thirappane

- (a) As decided at the Thirappane Convention, the DS should be informed of details of development activities undertaken by Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and other agencies in the area. Since the Convention and upto date, this procedure has not been adhered to. As an authorized person and a representative of the Central Government, the DS has not been able to take prompt action on problems emerging from contracts and other activities. Further, the output of certain NGOs was not satisfactory although they had received funds through the Central Bank.
- (b) As agreed upon at the Thirappane Convention, the DS's recommendation

for the issue of fire arms to protect crops is being carried out now. But the fire arms are in one corner of the village thus leaving the rest of the area vulnerable to attacks by wild animals. Hence, equal coverage of the whole village should be considered in issuing fire arms and any violation in this regard should be notified to the relevant authorities. Further, complaints have been received with regard to improper use of guns and a committee comprising Farmer Organization leaders and *grama niladharis* should be set up to look into them. Improper use of fire arms should be seriously dealt with.

- (c) The impact of the Convention in Thirappane has been satisfactorily leading to removal of obstacles which had existed between officers and farmers. Further it significantly increased the participatory problem solving approach.

5.2.7 Assistant Director, Agriculture Insurance Board (AIB)

- (a) Inspite of a shortage of Officers, the AIB representatives continue to visit villages and participate in village level activities of farmers in order to educate them about crop insurance, livestock insurance and the pension scheme for farmers. The frequency of such visits has increased since the Convention.
- (b) The request of FOs to expedite payments, was not fulfilled due to a lack of officers. It led to considerable hardships being created for both the AIB and the farmers. The new system of assessing crop damage, introduced at Rajangana by the AIB with the participation of farmer organizations, is found to be a success and the AIB plans to expand it to other areas.
- (c) Under the 'Kerala' project, animals are insured with the collaboration of the Department of Animal Production and Health. There is a considerable increase in forming the farmer pensions and insurance schemes by the members of Farmer Organizations since the Convention. One of the successful ways to increase the number of beneficiaries of the insurance scheme is to educate them through a forum like the Convention.

5.2.8 Assistant Director, Coconut Cultivation Board (CCB)

(a) As assured by the CCB at the farmer convention, a number of farmer training programmes and group discussions were held inspite of the low requests of Farmer Organizations. The training programme and group discussions revolved round the situation of coconut cultivation. Table 5.2 reveals the situation regarding the cultivation and the spread of a crop desease.

Table 5.2 : Training Programmes Conducted by the Coconut Cultivation Board

Month	No. of Programmes	Type of Programme	No. of Participants	Area-wise distribution of programmes
February 1996	2	Training	30	Anuradhapura Kalawewa
	6	Group discussions	105	Anuradhapura Kalawewa
March 1996	10	Training	140	Tambuttegama
				Anuradhapura
				Kalawewa
				Tambuttegama
				Padaviya
	5	Group discussions	98	Talawa
				Tambuttegama
				Kalawewa
April 1996	3	Training	23	Padaviya
	5	Group discussions	105	Anuradhapura
				Kalawewa
				Padaviya

Source : Coconut Cultivation Board, Regional Office, Anuradhapura, 1996.

(b) Based on assurances made at the Convention, the CCB has already despatched seedlings to areas of major irrigation schemes in Anuradhapura.

Vilachchiya	-	6,200	seedlings
Huruluwewa	-	19,000	"
Nachchaduwa	-	6,500	"
Mahakanadarawa	-	6,000	"
Nuwarawewa	-	3,500	"
Rajangana	-	6,500	"

- (c) Having considered the requests of farmer representatives, the CCB plans to develop 100 acres by providing half an acre to a farmer organization and 55,000 seedlings are to be distributed under the subsidy programme.
- (d) The Farmer Conventions should be continued to develop the integrated agricultural development concept with the participation of farmers and officers.

5.2.9 District Marketing Manager of Rajarata Agro Fertilizer Co. Ltd.

There were no complaints from farmers regarding the fertilizer distribution upto the date of evaluation and the Company continues to supply fertilizers to the agrarian centres without any interruptions. There is no direct impact on fertilizer supply due to farmer convention.

5.2.10 Regional Manager, Paddy Marketing Board (PMB)

- (a) Due to the drought, the purchase of paddy by the PMB was found to be low. During the last *yala* season (1995) only 60 percent of the normal production was recorded. Hence, the expected purchase of paddy by PMB, as assured at the farmer convention, was not made. Nevertheless, the purchase of paddy during the year 1995 was satisfactory and the trend is indicated in the following Table 5.3.

Table 5.3 : Purchase of Paddy (in Kg) by PMB - 1995

Months	Direct Purchase	Through FO	Through Co-op.	PMB Representatives
October	303,148	88,118	9,540	400,806
November	7,664,245	3,713,580	29,600	11,407,425
September	1,166,374	556,324	-	1,722,698
Total	508,639	68,950	-	577,589

Source : Paddy Marketing Board, Regional Office, Anuradhapura, 1996.

It is requested that around 80.85 percent of the total purchase be through Farmer Organizations. Selling of paddy to the PMB has considerably raised the financial status of the Farmer Organizations as they receive cents 25 per Kg of paddy as commission.

- (b) According to various requests, the PMB has made arrangements for the Farmer Organizations and Co-operative Societies to become agents of the PMB with a recommendation from the Divisional Officer and the Assistant Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Agrarian Services. This was discussed at the Convention.
- (c) Farmer Conventions have made a considerable impact on the PMB's activities with regard to purchases through Farmer Organizations.

5.2.11 Head Quarters Divisional Officer, Department of Agrarian Services

According to the work plan presented by the Department of Agrarian Services at the Convention, progress is given below with regard to minor tank rehabilitation. DC Anuradhapura has already provided his views on the subject in the sub section 5.2.1. Under NIRP, ten tanks are scheduled to be rehabilitated as follows:

DO Area	No. of Tanks
Ipalogama	3
Talawa	3
Thirappane	2
Eppawala	1
Muriyakadawala	1

Apart from above plan, the following activities have been completed as promised at the Convention.

DO Area	Completed Task
Ipalogama	One tank
Thirappane	One tank, one agriculture road
Talawa	One agriculture road
Eppawala	One tank

5.2.12 Divisional Officer, Thirappane Agrarian Services Centre

- (a) Farmer Organizations which participated in the Convention have strengthened their organizations as well as their financial situation to a considerable level. Further these organizations render positive support to all officers in the conduct of public.
- (b) Membership of Farmer Organizations has also considerably increased as well as their requests for registration at the DO office. The growth has been restricted to one organization per GS division. This is consequent to the understanding and awareness created by the Convention.
- (c) Farmers have immensely improved their capabilities to achieve their necessities through Farmer Organizations. The monthly increase in general membership and entry to Farmers' Banks indicate the positive impact of the Convention. Productive relationships have begun to blossom out between farmers and officers with maximum utilization of available resources. Both parties enjoy optimum assistance from each other in development activities.
- (d) The distinction between Farmer Organizations which have participated in the Conventions and those that have not participated, is clearly visible through their activities of membership development fund raising, capacity funding, exchange of ideas with officers and the handling of problem solving methodology.

The above are summarized views of officers in Anuradhapura at district and divisional level. Summarized views of the Matale district officers are given below.

5.3 Views of Matale District Officers

5.3.1 Assistant Commissioner, Department of Agrarian Services, Matale

- (a) As discussed in the Farmer Conventions, Agriculture Fairs have been conducted at Ukuwela, Tenne, Elkaduwa and they were found to be highly successful. In addition, children's fairs were conducted at Ovilakanda and the profit collected was deposited in the accounts of children of farmers.

- (b) The district level marketing committee is not functioning as expected due to time constraints. Fertilizer worth Rs. 1,100,000/= has been distributed to the Farmer Organizations in Ukuwela, Tenne and Raththota on loan basis. These initiatives have often been constrained due to inadequate storage capacities. In addition, the Agrarian Committees from Dewahuwa, Ukuwela, Raththota and Hettipola have used their funds to buy fertilizer for farmers.
- (c) According to the work plan presented at the Convention, eight Banks had provided loans to farmers and the recovery rate was more than 45 percent. The expected total recovery rate would be around 90 percent and the Table 5.4 gives a picture of loan recovery pattern in certain farmer organizations.

Table 5.4 : Pattern of Recovery of Loans in Farmer Organizations

Agrarian Centre	Farmer Organization	Loan Recovery Rate (%)
1. Kimbissa	Bellan Oya	93
2. Gallewala	Talakiriyagama	26
3. Naula	Bibila Danwehera	83
4. Palapathwela*	Pandiwitा	45
5. Tenne*	Owilla	58
6. Raththota	Bodhikotuwa	44

* Participated in Farmer Conventions.

Source : District Assistant Commissioner, Department of Agrarian Services, Matale, 1996.

- (d) The collection of land levy (*akkara badhu*) is done by some Farmer Organizations. The commission for the service goes to them.
- (e) As a result of a decision of the Farmer Convention, a plant nursery was set up in Palapathwela. The Farmer Organizations have now become familiar with *kanna* meetings. Nearly 10 cases were referred to Court for decisions.

- (e) A Revolving Fund from the Government which is handled by the DS could be utilized for the purpose of holding training programmes and other relevant activities at Farmer Organization level.
- (f) The Convention seems to be a useful measure of strengthening the Farmer Organizations for sustainable development. Future Conventions should be held in the respective villages with the participation of district level and divisional level officers which would increase awareness among villagers on the necessity for an integrated development strategy.

5.3.2 Divisional Secretary, Matale

- (a) It is regrettable to note that the farmers of Tenne and Palapathwela have still not taken the initiative to contact the DS to solve their land title problems even after the Farmer Convention had paved the way to solve it. Nevertheless, land problems highlighted at the Farmer Convention, were solved upto some extent and some of the land titles were handed over to the owners. The delay in awarding titles is inevitable in some extreme cases only. The farmers could go ahead with their agricultural activities even without land titles and the arrangement in this regard is already in implementation. Under the new Government policy of *jayabhoomy* in the land sector, most of these owners would be provided with titles relieving them of a long standing problem.
- (b) As requested by the Farmer Organizations at the Farmer Conventions, steps were taken to minimize political interventions.
- (c) Steps were taken to solve the problem of fire arms, for safeguarding crops from wild animals. This was a subject debated at the Farmer Convention.

5.3.3 Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, Matale

- (a) Following Farmer Conventions, many training programmes were held. Some at the request of Farmer Organizations and some as scheduled. In addition to the training programmes given in Table 5.5, a special programme on vegetable cultivation, extension work, and research and training was held for the Halangoda Farmer Organization. Another training programme was conducted on butter fruit cultivation for the Owilla Farmer Organization in Tenne DO division. Table 5.5 gives details of various training programmes conducted in the Palapathwela and Tenne Agrarian Service Centre division in Matale.

Table 5.5: Details of Training Programmes Conducted in Palapathwela and Tenne Divisional Officers' Areas

Subject	Palapathwela AC		Tenne AC	
	No. of Programmes	No. of Participants	No. of Programmes	No. of Participants
1. Direct fertilizer application	10	235	12	312
2. Environmental protection	03	65	03	43
3. Home gardening	02	62	04	33
4. Integrated pest management (IPM)	02	35	01	21
5. Seed paddy cultivation	02	16	02	14
6. Organic fertilizer application	-	-	03	52
7. Soil conservation	-	-	03	36
8. Vegetable nursery management	-	-	08	129
9. Mushroom cultivation	-	-	02	16
10. Bee-keeping	-	-	03	18
11. Farmer organization activities	02	24	03	63
Total	21	437	43	737

Source : Department of Agriculture, Deputy Director's Office, Matale, 1996.

- (b) The Palapathwela DO division has recorded an attendance of rate of 437 participants for 21 programmes averaging around 21 participants per programme. Though these figures are higher for the Tenne DO division with 737 participants in 43 programmes, the average participation rate is comparatively low with 18 participants per programme. The enthusiasm in participation was high in Palapathwela ASC division despite a fewer programmes held there.
- (c) The Farmer Convention has really opened up avenues for the farmer representatives to approach Officers for arranging training programmes. It would be useful that a similar Convention is held at national level for the Policy makers to be kept informed of what the farmers at grass-roots level would need.

5.3.4 Assistant Director, Agriculture Insurance Board (AIB)

- (a) Many training programmes have been conducted for Farmer Organizations on big onion insurance, *kanna* meeting decisions, etc., based on requests from Farmer Organizations.
- (b) There has been a considerable improvement in the Farmer Pension Scheme in Tenne and Palapathwela DO Divisions. About 420 and 190 farmers from Palapathwela and Tenne respectively have joined the scheme during the period from June 1995 to May 1996.
- (c) During the period, 1994/95, the total contribution to Agricultural Insurance was Rs. 525,000/= and the compensation paid out was Rs. 6,00,000/=. The Farmer Convention has benefited both the AIB and the farmers. AIB activities have had recorded a considerable increase. Farmer conventions should be combined with the activities of other agencies periodically, for mutual reinforcement.

The low participation of officers from Anuradhapura and Matale could be attributed to the number of Conventions held in these two districts. Further, officers connected with irrigation activities were found to be of little use in Tenne and Palapathwala DO divisions. Hence, their comments have not been considered when discussing about the Matale district. The Evaluation Team could deduce from Officers' versions on Farmer Conventions, that the implementation of decisions taken by conventions is satisfactory.

The Matale district has recorded a satisfactory trend towards progress compared to the Anuradhapura district. The low achievement in Anuradhapura could be attributed to the vastness of the area under control and its limited staff. Scarcity of water due to frequent droughts too has been a serious issue which curtailed activities.

These five Chapters have so far dealt with various aspects of Farmer Conventions and their impact on Farmer Organizations. The observations made have led the way to providing the necessary recommendations on policy matters in order to achieve the set targets of Farmer Organizations. The next Chapter deals with conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The final chapter of this evaluation report deals with conclusions and recommendations. The constraints associated with farmer Conventions during the course of the analysis of data gathered were identified. As discussed already under various aspects, having ascertained the impact of Farmer Conventions from Officer's as well as farmers, an overall summary of conclusions and recommendations are given below. Certain pragmatic suggestions also have been included in them for consideration of policy implementors towards strengthening and developing Farmer Organizations for better productivity with emphasis on national priorities.

The main objective of Farmer Conventions is to develop and strengthen Farmer Organizations by creating a general awareness among Officers of line agencies and Farmer Organizations through promoting the participatory problem solving approach and the concept of self-reliance. Further, to offer encouragement to Farmer Organization members to group together in order to take common action to solve their problems by participating in development interventions including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation handled by various officers. The objective of this follow-up evaluation is to measure the overall attainment of these objectives by Farmer Organizations in an attempt towards sustainable development of agricultural activities.

6.1 Conclusions

Improvement in the participatory problem solving approach among farmers and relevant line officers, increased the active membership and promoted development activities initiated by the Farmer Organizations. Setting up a work plan for future activities, creating awareness on Government development policies at Farmer Organization level, and a change of attitude of farmers towards participatory approaches and self-reliance were the main endeavours of the Farmer Con-

vention. In addition, certain minor tanks were rehabilitated and farmers from Eppawala DO area received a tractor as an indirect result of the Farmer Conventions held in their area. It was observed that the farmers' participation was dependent on the location of Farmer Convention venues. In some cases, participation was severely hampered due to distance the farmers were required to travel. Hence, the future Conventions should be conducted at DS level in suitable and central venues.

- (a) With regard to the participation of Farmer Organizations, only 98 farmer organizations out of 137 (72%) participated in the Conventions. The level of participation varies by DS area. As far as Officers are concerned, almost every Convention has recorded satisfactory participation of Divisional level Officer's, however the participation of District level Officers was below the satisfactory level, specially at Thirappane.
- (b) The impact of Farmer Conventions has also been measured by the change in membership of Farmer Organizations. Accordingly, Farmer Organizations from Ukuwela, Talawa and Ipalogama DS areas registered a satisfactory percentage of increase in their general membership since the Farmer Conventions were held. Although, Matale and Thirappane have recorded an increase, it was found to be below the average in comparison with District level figures indicated in Table 1.3 and Table 1.6.
- (c) Of the various constraints highlighted by farmer representatives, rehabilitation of tanks and problem of land titles gained the attention of Officers and farmer representatives who participated in the Convention. It was observed, from the farmers' point of view, that Divisional Officers of relevant Agrarian Services Center, District Officers of Department of Agrarian Services and Divisional Secretary of the area concerned are the responsible officers to solve most of their problems and they expect a greater contribution from them towards problem solving.
- (d) Most of the farmers have expressed their disappointment over the Officers' attitudes to implementing remedial measures. This was visible among farmers from Talawa and Ipalogama DS areas. This trend no doubt causes much anxiety to many. However it is an issue to be clearly proved. Certain irrigation related activities were not completed, as promised, at the Convention, due to a delay in getting the approval for them from higher level officers. This situation had let to non-availability of funds. A few

solutions suggested at the Farmer Conventions too were not properly implemented due to a lack of initiative on the part of the Officers'. This trend was found to be significant in Talawa, Ipalogama and Matale DS areas. Although a number of reasons could be given for such lapses, the implementors too should be more concerned with performing their legitimate duties.

- (e) An increase in the active participation of members in Farmer Organizations is found to be a key indicator of the successful impact of Farmer Conventions. In Matale, Ukuwela and Thirappane DS areas, the Farmer Conventions have strengthened the active participation of farmers and officers. Yet in the other two DS areas the degree of interest evinced was low. A proper dissemination of Farmer Convention experience among the members of Farmer Organizations by their representatives and a proper follow-up of activities by the concerned Officers is extremely essential to make this programme a success.
- (f) Farmer Conventions have led to a considerable increase in the active membership of the Farmer Organizations in the DS areas of Ukuwela and Thirappane. Almost every Farmer Organization participating in the Convention has recorded that common awareness amongst members regarding organizational activities, Government policies and the participatory problem solving strategies have significantly increased. It is attributed to attendance in the Convention.
- (g) The gap existing between the Divisional and District level officers and the Farmer Organizations has been reduced considerably as a result of the Convention. It is considered a positive achievement.
- (h) In addition to dissemination of knowledge on the problem solving approach, a further output of Farmer Conventions was the initiation of development activities. Most of them commenced *shramadana* activities and arranged to learn new technology. *Shramadana* activities were too used mainly on tank rehabilitation.
- (i) There was a considerable improvement in participatory problem solving efforts with relevant line officers specially in Ipalogama and Ukuwela DS areas.

- (j) A positive change is observed in farmers as regards their confidence in meeting Officers. In every DS division, it is seen that the farmers have come very close to Officers.
- (k) The officers have taken the initiative to understand the activities of Farmer Organizations.
- (l) The ability of farmers to meet Officers and discuss their problems and development activities has increased.
- (m) Officers explained the reasons for delays in solving the problems of the Farmer Organizations during the Evaluation. The delays in approving of remedial action by higher authorities, inadequacy of funds to carry out programmes, shortages of Officers to monitor, and the vastness of areas to be covered. Apart from these, the Officers stressed on a lack of follow up action as yet another powerful constraint.
- (n) According to the Deputy and Assistant Commissioners of the Department of Agrarian Services of Anuradhapura and Matale, their Divisional Officers play a vital role in developing Farmer Organizations. This was emphasized in the report given by the Divisional Officer of the Thirappane Agrarian Services Center.

The Evaluation Team observes a satisfactory trend in Divisional Officers' attitude towards implementing remedial measures. However, the District level authorities have yet to show it. Repetition and overlapping of activities by Government departments and non-governmental organizations should be avoided so as to provide a more efficient service to the farming community. Though there is some positive impact of Farmer Conventions, it has been constrained by several factors and those prominent among them are discussed below for the benefit of future Farmer Conventions.

6.2 Constraints

- (a) A lack of coordination of meetings and communication gaps existing among officers at District level have affected the participation of District level Officers at the Farmer Conventions. Hence, information about meetings should be systematically delivered on time at least at the district

level to coordinate such meetings without any overlapping (e.g. Thirappane Convention).

- (b) There was no participation by representatives of NGOs' and other relevant funding agencies in the Farmer Conventions. If they had participated, the repetition of programmes could have been avoided and the feasibility of getting funds for Farmer Organizations could have been explored.
- (c) The absence of Ministry level or National level Officers in the Farmer Conventions made it difficult for relevant District and Divisional level Officers to take proper decisions on the complex problems highlighted by the Farmer Organizations.
- (d) Poor leadership of certain farmer representatives deprived the Farmer Organizations from taking complete advantage of the forum with relevant Officers.
- (e) It is regrettable to notice that the participation of some Officers on these fora is being determined more by the subsistence allowances they could get, than by the service they could render to the rural peasantry. On the other hand, farmers are disillusioned with attending meetings without any significant output. The concerned authorities should take note of this and change the situation. Certain foreign funded Projects provide financial facilities to farmers for remedying some of their problems and the anticipation of such benefits persisted to prevail throughout the Farmer Conventions and it was also a reason for the poor participation from certain DO areas (e.g. Talawa).
- (f) Despite the final decisions taken at Farmer Conventions to remedy prolonged problems, the implementing level was not that satisfactory due to the political interventions and affiliations at the Provincial and Central Government level.
- (g) The success of the Farmer Conventions should be evaluated by comparing the changes and improvements that had taken place in the Convention areas with those of other areas which were not selected for the Convention. Average district level figures could be used for the comparison.

- (g) Farmer Convention proceedings were curtailed on some occasions due to inadequate time and several other reasons such as poor resource availability and infrastructure facilities.

6.3 Recommendations and Directions for Follow-up Activities

Implementing a strategy is a consultative process with a two-way communication in mutually sharing ideas, knowledge and experience between policy makers and implementors who are identified by the Government as field level staff. Since a Farmer Convention's prime objective is revolving round this theme, the future conventions with incorporation of NGOs', relevant private sector organizations and national level decision making authorities would certainly render greater assistance in the years to come. Certain suggestions to overcome difficulties of the farming community as observed by the evaluation team are given below.

(a) Strengthening and Developing of Farmer Organizations

Strengthening and developing successful Farmer Organizations should be the combined effort of various line agencies which are formulating policy measures, implementing plans and providing services and goods. Hence, a joint programme which is not *ad-hoc* and isolated should be drawn to organize and promote Farmer Organizations to adopt participatory development approaches. The programme should be a part of the District development programme which is based on Government policies. The combined effort should comprise strategies to accommodate different characteristics of organizations in different locations.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry has, in late 1994, initiated an Integrated Participatory Process for Agricultural Development (IPPAD). It is popularly termed the AMA Programme, which is being translated into a new action plan to be effective during the *maha* season 1995/96. This programme incorporates the main features of the Ministry's National Policy Framework (NPF) and the Implementation Strategy that was introduced to all agriculture related officials, Farmer Organization leaders and political representatives at a series of district level meetings commencing in Anuradhapura and Matale Districts in February 1995. Hence, the name "AMA" combining the initials of the two districts which connotes (in Sinhala language) "an immortal drink". This programme is being launched as an incremental development effort and also as an experiential learning process.

Since the Farmer Conventions and the AMA concept have almost similar objectives and a useful impact on rural peasantry, the end-result could be doubled by merging together strategies to form one programme comprising different development components. Farmer conventions make room for the District level officers to take part in the forum to heed farmers' requests and provide more attention. A model programme is depicted in Annex - 3 for the perusal of authorities concerned.

(b) The Scope of the AMA Programme

It is important to know that certain requests by Farmer Organizations for village level farmer centers have been fulfilled through the AMA programme and the Government has commenced setting up *Govi-Sevanas*, village level centers for integrated agriculture and agrarian activities. The Farmer Conventions and the AMA programme have contributed useful services to the farming community. However, the AMA programme needs be restructured to bring about better participation of Officers in the formulation and implementation of development strategies.

(c) Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation

Continuous monitoring and evaluation by an appropriate institution on the activities of Farmer Organizations to provide necessary guidelines and advice is imperative. In addition, village level organizations should be further strengthened to form a district level federation. Future Farmer Conventions should include other aspects of enhanced farmer organization activities and Government policy implementation programmes while ensuring the participation of national level decision making authorities and various 'implementors'.

(d) Role of NGOs

There should be a control intervention of NGOs and other voluntary organizations in rural development on the basis of certain policy guidelines. It is felt that there would be a danger with the Farmer Organizations depending heavily on NGOs. Information on development activities planned and implemented by NGOs should be conveyed to responsible officers at district level so as to avoid repetition, and waste of time and resources on the part of other Organizations, Governmental or Non governmental who would intervene with their own programmes.

(e) **The Expanding Scope of Farmer Conventions**

The Farmer Conventions should be held in combined DO areas which are behind national targets. The Divisional level Farmer Conventions should be further extended to the District level with the participation of policy makers. Initially, officers should win the confidence of the rural peasantry by performing their services more efficiently by making more frequent visits to the villages. The higher authorities should make all possible efforts to remove obstacles in the implementation of remedial measures often verbally agreed upon. The moderate impact of Farmer Convention is to be attributed to poor implementation strategies followed. Hence, shortcomings in every DS area, as mentioned in this report, should be studied in detail based on the success or failure of Farmer Conventions and their impact on the Farmer Organizations. Special attention is needed for Talawa and Matale DS areas.

(f) **Human Resources Development**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry is now conducting training programmes on building small groups through participatory rural appraisal method. Under the above programme, the Human Resource and Development Division of the Ministry is preparing programmes and plans for each village and some of them are found to be difficult to be implemented without the cooperation of NGOs and various Government departments. Hence, a Farmer Convention with the participation of Government departments, NGOs and Farmer Organizations should be organized to discuss development plans for every Divisional Secretary area and explore possibilities of their proper implementation. The farming community should be made aware of its development plans. When these plans are prepared and implemented, the active participation of Farmer Organizations in them should be ensured. As a result of this productive measure, members of Farmer Organizations by gathering round development activities will be strengthening their Farmer Organizations at Divisional level. In order to promote the activity, Farmer Conventions should be re-arranged as the third-phase of the small group building programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry. This programme should be pursued with the ultimate aim of establishing a national level Farmer Organization.

(g) ***Govisevana Niyamakas***

Since *Govisevana Niyamakas* are the link officers between Farmer Organizations and the Divisional level Government mechanism, their training is im-

perative. But their vast number pose a constraint to rapid training. Nevertheless, the curriculum and the training programmes should be designed in accordance with those of other line agencies who are currently functioning in the field of agriculture, agrarian and rural development.

(h) The Role of HARTI

The positive contributions of HARTI in the sphere of Farmer Organization training would be a valuable contribution in designing the programmes for strengthening Farmer Organization activities and the development of their constituent parts such as accounting and book-keeping, knowledge of other institutions in the field, training methodologies, elucidation of national policy framework and the AMA concept. These training programmes should be undertaken at every DO and GS level from which it could be further expanded to relevant grass-root sectors.

There is much scope and potential for Farmer Conventions not only to strengthen ties with officers at different levels in the Government mechanism but also to transform these organizations as Farmer Companies which would offer solutions to challenges emerging from national and international agricultural development activities within the framework of liberalization policies. Pioneer institutions such as HARTI could take a leading role in this regard.

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M.M. Karunarathna	-	Owilla Farmer Organization Tenna, Matale
W.G. Ananda Jayasena	-	Wattegedara Farmer Organization Wattegedara
G.M. Somawathie	-	Pahalawela Farmer Organization Kotuwagedara, Matale
G.M. Ranawathie	-	Tenna Farmer Organization Muwagala Tanna, Matale
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Mr. S.M.A. Samarakoon	-	Research and Training Officer Agricultural Resource Management Division
Dr. W.U.K. Rajapakse	-	Research and Training Officer Marketing and Food Policy Division
Mr. R.M. Bandara Ratnayake	-	Research and Training Officer Training Division

**Post Evaluation of the Farmer Convention:
A Sample Questionnaire**

Name of the Farmer Organization : :

Membership : :

1st January 1995

1st January 1996

(1) What are the constraints revealed by Farmer Organizations (FOs) at the Farmer Convention (FC) to be solved on a priority basis?
i.
ii.
iii.

(2) What are the Institutions/Departments which responded to above constraints by giving suitable remedies?
i.
ii.
iii.

(3) How far have the remedies been implemented? (indicate the level of progress)
i.
ii.
iii.

(4) What is your opinion on the implementation process of these remedial measures?
i.
ii.
iii.

(5) Are you satisfied about implementing procedures of remedial measures in relation to officers' attitude towards solving problems raised at the FC?

(6) Can you see any improvement in the participation of members of your organization during the implementation of remedies specially after the FC?

(7) i. Have you disseminated knowledge and experience gained at FC to other members of your farmer organization?
Yes No

ii. If yes, what sort of knowledge/experiences have you disseminated to others?

(8) Have you seen any changes in the activities of members after disseminating the knowledge/experience gained at the FC to members of the FOs?

Number of active members in January 1995

Number of active members in January 1996

(9) Have you seen any changes in the the General Membership after imparting knowledge/experience gained at the FC to members of the FOs?
If yes, give reasons.

(10) What are the activities initiated for the development of your FO by using the experience and knowledge gained at the FC? List out the most important activities.

(11) Is there any improvement in meeting/having discussions with relevant officers as a result of the FC?

Yes No

If yes, how has it improved?

(12) Can you see any improvement in the problem solving approach among your FO members specially after the FC? If so, give details.

(13) List out your suggestions for further improvement of future Farmer Conventions and the towards strengthening of Farmer Organizations.

Organization of Farmers' Conventions with the Concept of AMA in Kurunegala and Puttalam Districts

Introduction

Under the implementation of the AMA programme, 14 ASCs in the Puttalam and Kurunegala Districts will be developed as model centres. In order to achieve this task, the Farmer Organization (FO) representatives should be educated on the functions and responsibilities of Farmer Organizations under the New National Policy Framework (NPF) of the Ministry of Agriculture. FO representatives, District level as well as Divisional level Officers engaged in agrarian and related fields should get together to form an integrated implementation strategy in order to achieve the objectives under AMA & NPF. Strengthening and enhancing the activities of FOs can be done through exchanging their experiences on their establishment. A two-day Convention covering two ASC areas will be organized to achieve the objectives of the programme.

Participants

1.	Farmer Organization Representatives (Two persons from each FOs)	80
2.	<i>Govi Sevana Niyamakas</i>	20
3.	Divisional level relevant officers	10
4.	NGO representatives	04
5.	Divisional Secretaries	02
6.	District level relevant officers	12
7.	Provincial level officers	02
8.	Ministry level officers	02

Programme

1st Day :

1. FO representatives will reveal their experiences.
2. Divisional level officers will comment on FO representatives' reports.
3. Special lectures on **AMA** methodology, Development of FOs under NPF and leadership characteristics, etc. will be organized.
4. Presentation of video programmes on FOs.

2nd Day:

1. Ministry level officer/Provincial level officer explains **AMA** program and NPF briefly and their future plans.
2. District level relevant officers will express their services currently being rendered to FOs.
3. FO representatives will put forward their proposals on their development activities.
4. All relevant Government officers including national level Policy Makers and Ministry Officers along with NGOs will form an implementation plan with the collaboration of FO representatives on their proposals.

Priority problems identified in the Farmer Conventions would be attended to by relevant officers.

Tentative Programme of Proposed Farmer Conventions

District	ASC	Venue
1. Puttalam	1. Serukele ASC 2. Munneswaram ASC	Puttalam Agrarian Service Asst. Commissioner's Office
2. Kurunegala	1. Maho ASC 2. Ambanpola ASC	Maho ASC
3. Kurunegala	1. Ehatuwewa ASC 2. Galgamuwa ASC	Galgamuwa PS Office
4. Puttalam	1. Ehela Puliyankulama ASC 2. Tabbowa ASC	Chilaw ADA Office
5. Kurunegala	1. Mahananeriya ASC 2. Rajangana (LB) ASC	Galgamuwa Irrigation Training Centre
6. Kurunegala	1. Moragollagama ASC 2. Rambe ASC	Polpitigama

Table 3.1 Priority problems expressed by FOs and the problem solving Authority/Officer

Officers authority	Problems (1)	Rehabili-tation of Tanks (%)	Marketing problems (%)	Improper supply of agri. inputs (%)	Problem of land titles (%)	Lack of agro-wells (%)	Improper agri.credit systems (%)	Punishment to violators of FO rules (%)
Divisional officers of Agrarian Centres	38	7	16	7	12	12	5	
Divisional Secretary	26	-	2	9	-	2	2	
Officers of the Irrigation Department	37	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Officers of the Department of Agriculture	9	2	9	7	-	-	-	-
Officers of the Mahaweli Authority	14	-	-	-	2	5	5	

Table 3.2 :Development activities initiated by the FOs through active participation of the members who gained experience at the Farmer Conventions

Level of Active Participation	Dev. Activities	Shrama-dana Activities (%)	Problem Solving with Officers' Participation (%)	Increasing Funds of FO (%)	Input Subsidy Programme (%)	Tank Rehabilitation (%)	Improvement of knowledge on new technology (%)
Not much successful	13	6	10	3	6	-	-
Not successful due to farmers' hesitation	6	6	-	3	6	3	-
Completely successful	17	6	3	6	6	6	6

Table 3.3 : Dissemination of experience and Knowledge gained at FCs among other members on development activities initiated by the FOs

Dev. Activities Level of active dissemination	Shrama-dana activities (%)	Problem solving with officers participation (%)	Increasing the funds of FOs (%)	Input subsidy programme (%)	Tank rehabilitation (%)	Improvement of knowledge on new technology (%)
Dissemination of entire knowledge gained at FC	47	20	7	-	33	13
Knowledge on activating FO	7	7	-	-	7	-
Knowledge on strengthening FOs and creating awareness on their rights	13	-	-	-	7	-

Table 3.4 : Improvement of problem solving approach in FOs due to experience and dissemination of knowledge gained at FCs to members of FOs

Level of dissemination	Improvement in problem solving approach	Able to discuss with officers to solve problems (%)	No considerable change (%)	Water supply and water management (%)	Able to undertake rehabilitation of families (%)	Introduction to appropriate institutions to get Agri. inputs (%)
Disseminated entire knowledge gained at FCs	36	19	6	-	-	6
Disseminated knowledge on activating FO activities	19	6	-	-	-	-
Disseminated knowledge on strengthening FOs and creating awareness of their rights	12	-	-	-	-	-

Table 3.5 : Change in members' attitude through dissemination of experience on development activities initiated by FOs

Type of changes \ Dev. Activities	Shrama-dana activities (%)	Problem solving with officers participation (%)	Increasing funds of FOs (%)	Input subsidy progr. (%)	Tank rehabilitation (%)	Improvement of knowledge on new technology (%)
Awareness about FOs	67	67	17	17	50	17
Dedicated work by FO leaders	17	17	-	-	17	-
Leading role of relevant officers and institutions	33	-	-	-	17	-
Hope of receiving agri. inputs at subsidized rates	-	-	-	-	17	-

Table 3.6 : As a result of farmer conventions, improvement in meeting relevant officers who are responsible for solving problems

Meeting Relevant officers	Improvement in meeting relevant officers		Improvement pattern			Improvement in discussing with officers	
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Very good (%)	Good (%)	Not satisfactory (%)	Yes (%)	No (%)
Divisional Officer of Agrarian Centres	57	3	26	3	17	51	6
Divisional Secretary	26	-	11	3	3	20	-
Officers of the Department of Irrigation	26	-	11	3	6	20	3
Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Depart- ment of Agriculture	14	6	6	-	3	14	3
Officers of the Mahaweli Authority	11	8	6	-	6	11	8

Table 3.7 : Development activities of FOs improvement in meeting relevant officers after Farmer Conventions

Development activities	Improvement in meeting relevant officers		Improvement Pattern			Improvement in discussing with officers	
	Yes %	No %	Very good (%)	Good (%)	Net satisfactory (%)	No %	No %
Shramadana Activities	34	7	21	-	14	31	10
Problems solving with officers' participation	21	3	7	-	14	21	3
Increasing funds of FOs	10	-	3	3	3	10	-
Input subsidy programme	10	3	-	-	7	10	3
Tank rehabilitation	24	-	14	-	10	20	3
Improvement of knowledge on new technology	17	-	3	-	7	17	-

Table 3.8 : Improvement of alertness among membership and the problem solving approach in FO after the FC experience

Improvement in problem solving	Yes (%)	No (%)
Able to discuss with officers to solve problems	34	17
No considerable change	17	7
Water supply and water management	7	7
Able to repair anicuts	10	3
Introduction to appropriate institutions to get agri.. inputs	3	3

Table 3.9 : Dissemination of knowledge/experience gained at FC and improvement in active participation of FO members

Improvement in the level of dissemination	Yes (%)	No (%)
Disseminated entire knowledge gained at FC	52	37
Disseminated knowledge only on implementation of FO activities	11	-
Disseminated knowledge on strengthening FOs and creating awareness on it's rights	11	4

Table 3.10 : Progress of meeting relevant officers and improvements in the problem solving approach in FOs after the Farmer Conventions

Improvement in problem solving approach	Improvement in meeting relevant officers		Improvement pattern			Improvement in discussing with officers	
	Yes %	No %	Very good %	Good (%)	Not satisfactory (%)	No %	No %
Able to discuss with officers	45	-	21	31	21	45	-
No considerable change	21	7	7	-	7	14	7
Water supply and water management in the field	14	-	3	-	7	14	-
Able to undertake rehabilitation of tanks	10	-	7	-	-	10	-
Introduction to appropriate institutions to get agri. inputs	7	-	3	3	-	7	-

Table 3.11 : Implementation process of remedial actions for the problems raised at FCs and improvement in problem solving approach in FOs

Improvement in problem solving approach and level of implementation	Able to discuss with officers	No consider-able change (%)	Water supply and water management (%)	Able to undertake tank rehab. (%)	Introduced appropriate institution to get agri. inputs (%)
Not satisfied	10	16	3	-	3
Satisfied and progressing well	29	6	6	10	-
Progressing but officers are reluctant to participate in	3	6	3	-	-
Not satisfied and should have been done through FOs	3	-	-	-	-
Not progressing due to lack of funds at FOs	1	-	-	-	3

Table 3.12 : Implementation process of remedial action and implementing officers' attitude towards problem solving from the farmers' point of view

Officers' attitude and level of implementation	satisfactory (%)	Not satisfactory (%)
Not satisfied	7	24
Satisfied and progressing well	42	-
Progressing but officers are reluctant to participate in	2	11
Not satisfied and should have been done through FOs	2	7
Not progressing due to lack of funds at FOs	4	-

Source : Impact Evaluation Survey Data, HARTI, 1996.

Note : Farmers reported more than one choice Annex I (Table 3.1 to Table 3.12)