

# Farmers' Attitudes towards Organic Farming Practices in Sri Lanka

G.P. Paranamana\* and H.K. Sarath

*Department of Economics, University of Ruhuna*

*\*gp.paranamana1992@gmail.com*

## ABSTRACT

The Government of Sri Lanka took several measures to promote organic food production and thus, investigation of farmers' attitudes towards organic food production is an important and timely need. This study mainly focused on assessing farmers' willingness to use organic fertilizer in the upcoming season. The study also develops an index to accommodate important aspects that can be used to promote organic fertilizer. They include farmers' attitudes on availability of market for organic products, profitability, environmental and health aspects, the yield of organic farming. The analysis was based on the primary data collected from 60 paddy farmers in the Palapotha Gramanildhari division in *Hambantota* district. The results show that 22 percent of small-scale farmers did not sell their harvest and they are very likely to use organic fertilizer in the near future. Medium-scale and large-scale farmers sell their paddy harvest and 53 percent of them are less likely to use organic fertilizer and 25 percent of farmers are still undecided. The results of the relative importance index indicated that farmers are more inclined towards organic farming due to its eco-friendliness and health-hazard-free nature.

**Keywords:** Attitudes, Fertilizer, Market Opportunity, Organic Farming