

Survey on Socio-economic Status of Orchid Farmers at Nattandiya DS Division, Puttalam District, Sri Lanka

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Orchids are a frequently grown ornamental plant consisting of many varieties with high price value in the local and international market. Experiment was done to analyze socio-economic status of small-medium scale orchid farmers at Nattandiya DS Division, Puttalam District, North Western Province, Sri Lanka using Simple random sampling technique. Data collected from personal interviews with 100 farmers during the period from September to November, 2017 were analyzed using SPSS software. Growers were categorized into small scale farmers (<100 plants), medium scale farmers (100 to 1000 plants) and large scale farmers (>1000 plants). Respondent's gender, marital status, age and monthly revenue represent the status of farmers. Result showed that all of the sampled orchid farmers (100%) were married and majority were female (65%). The majority (80%) of respondent's age was between 30 to 50 years. Majority of respondents (70%) revenue per year was Rs. 10,001 - Rs 30,000. All the sampled small scale farmers (100%) were engaged in cultivation of Dendrobium as potted plants. Dendrobium sp. has high demand in the local market. The medium scale farmers cultivated all four popular varieties of orchid [Dendrobium sp. (100%), Phalaenopsis sp.(100%), Vanda sp. (40%) and Cattleya sp. (20%)] as potted plants (40%) and cut flowers (60%). The involvement of farmers in cut flower production is higher than potted plant production. Result indicated that cultivation is mainly done by the married women aged between 30-50 years and has the potential to be a profitable occupation.

Keywords:Cutflower, Dendrobium sp., farmers, income, orchid, potted plant