



## Impact of Organic Fertilizer Policy Adopted In 2021 on the Economic Sustainability of Rice Farming In Kurunegala District: Lessons for Future Policy Directions

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### Abstract

There are many discussions that examine the economic sustainability challenges in paddy cultivation. But this paper's main objective is to estimate the impact of the organic fertilizer policy on the economic sustainability of rice farming in the Kurunegala district, focusing mainly on the organic fertilizer policy adopted in 2021. Other specific goals of this paper include identifying the basic characteristics of farmers and estimating paddy productivity, cost, price, and production. My study focused on an Ahetuwewa divisional secretariat of 100 rice farmers that were randomly selected using the stratified sampling technique, and the randomly selected farming area was visited with the help of a survey-based questionnaire. The data was collected as primary data that was related to my study aims. The study used a mixed analysis technique with a deductive approach. The study results show that most male farmers engage in paddy cultivation, and most of them do farming as their primary occupation. The up-to-grade-5 education level was recorded at 28% among the whole sample, which indicated the educational level of rice farmers. The research used paired sample t-test estimation with Excel statistical software that shows there is a statistically significant difference between productivity, cost per unit, price per unit, and profitability before and after policy adoption. According to the study's qualitative findings, the majority of farmers believe that organic fertilizer policies reduce productivity. On the other hand, farmers had a positive attitude toward the policy because it acted as the best solution to prevent kidney diseases. The study's findings suggested that the government and policy interventions implement a number of policy reforms to increase agricultural productivity and production in order to ensure the country's food security. Furthermore, in order to provide adequate training to rice farmers and encourage youth collaboration in paddy farming. The government, agricultural organizations, and private agricultural firms should consult and market their extension services for a wide range of paddy farming by withdrawing the policy or returning to the previous policy.

**Keywords:** Economics, Sustainability, Organics, Government policy, Rice farmers

