

STATUS OF FOOD SECURITY AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL IN POOR MARINE FISHING SECTOR IN MUSLIM COMMUNITY: A CASE STUDY IN BERUWALA D.S. DIVISION

M.M.F. Mukarrama¹, U.K. Jayasinghe- Mudalige² and S.N. Dissanayake¹

¹ *Department of Agricultural Systems, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.*

² *Department of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Makandura, Gonawila (NWP), Sri Lanka.*

An assessment of food security of the poor marine Muslim fishing community in Sri Lanka has not been investigated yet. However, this assessment is very important for any policy formulation and thereby to develop the contribution to the fishery sector of the country by this community. The purpose of this study was to assess the status of household food security of the poor marine fishery sector in the Muslim community. More specifically it aimed to identifying and quantifying the status of food security of this sector and the factors influencing the present food security levels. Beruwala Divisional Secretariat Division was selected for this case study covering all 5 fishing inspection divisions. The sample size of 80 households was selected based on the proportionate random sampling method. For the data analysis, Aggregate Household Food Security Index was used to estimate the food security level within the households where it ranges from zero to hundred. Zero indicates total famine and hundred indicates total food security. Graphical descriptive analyses were done to find the factors influencing level of food security.

Results revealed that the Aggregate Household Food Security Index of the sample population is 84.57 and as it is between 75 and 85, sufficient level of food security was indicated according to FAO classification (2006). There was no significant impact of household expenditure per year on the level of food security. On the other hand there was a positive impact of Loan intake, fishing effort and age on the level of food security. Moreover the literacy rate and the household size had a negative impact on the food security level of this sector and also females had more food security than males. As such the marine fishery Muslim community of the Beruwala Divisional Secretariat Division has sufficient level of food security and their food security levels were not affected with expenditure patterns as they depend on household loans for their food security.

Key words: Food security, Aggregate household food security index