

Potentials and Constraints for Forest Gardening in the Up Country: A Case Study at Welimada Area

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This paper is on the potentials and constraints for forest gardening in Weillamada. Forest gardening is an agroforestry practice which is used to solve deforestation related issues in the world and in many countries it is called home gardens. As an agricultural country, forest gardening can be effectively used to improve green cover in the country. Research problem of the study is, what are the potentials and what are the constraints for forest gardening in Welimada. The main objective is to identify potentials and constraints for forest gardening. Sub objectives are to identify the existing forest gardening pattern in the area, the variations of forest gardening among gramani ladari divisions, the strengths, weakness, threats and opportunities in forest gardening in the area. Primary data was collected using 60 questionnaires, 6 interviews, and a SWOT analysis. Secondary data was collected from research papers, books and the internet. Data analysis was done using qualitative and quantitative methods. MS Excel and SPSS were used for quantitative analysis. Many respondents of the questionnaire survey, belonged to age group of 19-4 years. A considerable percentage of respondents are involved in farming as an occupation and some job holders were also involved in farming. Most respondents have been living in the area since their birth and know about area well. Land ownership, amount of highlands and paddy lands, size and distance form house to lands, are significant for forest gardening. Farmers have a few highlands and one or two paddy lands and the size and the distance are decisive. Framers work in their lands for more than 6 hours per day. According to SPSS analysis, Pearson's chi-square value was 1.851^a of paddy lands and forest gardening and contingency coefficient was .193. Spearman's correlation was -.041. In amount of highland and gardening, Pearson's chi square was 5.568^a and carried .228 of contingency coefficient and .169 of Spearman's correlation. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threat relevant to forest gardening are identified in SWOT

analysis. The findings indicate that there is a good potential for forest gardening in highlands. More human and physical constraints disturb to distribution of forest gardening in the area. Governmental and non-governmental sectors should take actions to launch forest gardening regularly.

Key words: *Forest gardening, Potentials, Constraints, Highlands, Paddy lands.*