**Analysis of the impacts of changing the policy on fertilizers and other agro -chemicals during 2019 - 2022 for the paddy cultivation in Imbulpe DS Division in Sri Lanka.**

W.H.S.D Madusanka,1S H P Malkanthi1\*

*1Department of Agribusiness Managment, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of  Sri Lanka, Belihuloya, Sri Lanka*

*\*sudeerasac@gmail.com*

In many Asian countries, paddy cultivation plays an important role in social and economic development. In Sri Lanka, paddy is cultivated in almost all regions of the country as a wetland crop. Rice is the staple food of the people of Sri Lanka. Supplying the nation's rice requirement is the first and leading role of domestic paddy cultivation. However, compared to the year 2019, today Sri Lanka’s paddy production has fallen 13.9% in 2021-22 (April-March) and the average yield per hectare by 14.4%. Thus, imports have soared to a five-year high. This could be due to the banning of chemical fertilizer and agrochemicals importations on May 6, 2021. This study was conducted to assess the impact of the sudden banning of chemical fertilizers and other agrochemicals on the performance of the present situation of paddy cultivation in Imbulpe DS Division in Rathnapura District. A sample of 120 paddy farmers was randomly selected from three Grama Niladhari divisions namely Muththettuwegama, Seelagama and Kubalgama. Data collection was done using a household survey from October to November 2022. Descriptive statistics and paired t-tests were used to analyse the data. According to the results, male farmers were more prominent in paddy cultivation than females. Farmers belonging to the 56-65 years age group have highly participated in paddy cultivation. The majority of farmers had senior secondary education. The size of most of the paddy lands was between 0.5-1 acre. The average paddy production before the banning of chemical fertilizer was 1106.875Kg per acre. However, at present average paddy production is 434.79Kg per acre. The majority of the farmers (73.3%) had an average seasonal income before the banning 101332.50 LKR per acre. However, at present average seasonal income is 75120. 33LKR.The average seasonal cost of production Before the banning chemical fertilizer 25550.00 LKR per acre. However, at present, the average seasonal cost of production 55891.66 LKR per acre. According to the review of overall findings in the current situation, it seems that the farmers' income has depreciated significantly compared to the previous situation. As a result, food safety issues have arisen among the farmers of this DS division. Therefore, the situation needs to be remedied by systematic use of chemical fertilizers and agrochemicals or some suitable alternative instead. These findings will help the government and other responsible parties to implement measures to overcome this problem.

 **Keywords:***chemical fertilizers, agrochemicals, paddy cultivation, organic farming, Rathnapura district*