



TEMPORAL CHANGES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND USE (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AKMEEMANA DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DIVISION)

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ABSTRACT

Agricultural land use is one of the types of land use which always faces with changes in Sri Lanka. This study focus to study temporal changes of agricultural land use during the period from 1956 to 2016, based on Akmeemana Divisional Secretariat Division (DSD) in Galle District. There were observable changes in the area, such as Southern expressway, tsunami rehabilitation program, land sales and abandoned paddy lands. Although development have been done in this area, there are not much researches of agriculture have been conducted. The area is highly affected to changes of agricultural land use due to the data of Akmeemana DSD. This study mainly focused to identify temporal changes of agricultural land use, the areas of affected to changes and reasons, and prepare an updated map of agricultural land use for the study area. Data were gathered from, observation, informal discussions with villagers and Grama Niladhari officers, questionnaires, aerial photographs, digital data of Geographical Information System and metric maps. The sample was selected as 8% among the total numbers of families of the area. Collected data was analysed using ArcGIS 10.1 and simple statistics methods. The result shows, sparsely used cropland, mixed croplands, oil palm have newly achieved. Home garden has taken place at a considerable level. Due to the selected criteria, Southern Expressway and flat lands, development activities, and land fragmentation have affected the temporal changes of agricultural land use. Year 1985 was the year which most affected changes in agricultural land use where taken place. The study recommended, to introduce proper land use methods to the study area

Keywords: Temporal, Changes, Land use, Agricultural land use.