



***A STUDY BASED ON THE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN
MEERIGAMA DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DIVISION OF GAMPAHA
DISTRICT***

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There are several terms used for indigenous knowledge, traditional or conventional or local knowledge. The indigenous knowledge is a unique, prototype traditionally sustained and practical knowledge confined to particular community, people or culture. It is the conventionally accumulated knowhow, belief system, norms, ethic system, and practices involving tools, techniques and activities aiming at solving problems in human life cycle of a culture or community.

Sri Lankan indigenous knowledge is acutely vivid and productive. The principal objective of this paper was to investigate the traditional agricultural knowledge and practices and its situation in Meerigama Divisional Secretariat Division. Other objectives were to explore the traditional cultivation methods, and to study religious practices involving traditional agriculture.

The method of research was the ethnographic hence survey design was applied. As a sample, two Gramasewa Divisions, Borlana and Muruthawala were used. Primary data was collected conducting interviews among farming community. In addition to that participatory observation was applied for collecting further primary data. For collecting secondary data encyclopaedias and other reference sources and internet were used.

Findings are that still farmers use traditional norms and belief systems in their cultivation. Certain religious practices and observances apply for their agricultural work.

The indigenous knowledge used by this farming community has to be recorded and preserved for future generation use. Oral communication tradition is still prevailed hence it is very essential to record and preserve this knowledge as intangible cultivation heritage.

Keywords: *Traditional Knowledge, intangible cultural heritage, indigenous knowledge, Agriculture, Oral communication tradition*