

ABSTRACT.

Tenant Cultivation is a common practice in paddy cultivation in Sri Lanka. Under this system the farmer undertakes to cultivate a given portion of paddy land belongs to an owner, with a promise to share the harvest between them as agreed upon. Under this system the farmer has to do all the labour work in the cultivation process. It is an accepted practice that tenancy agreement commences with a mutual consent of both parties, but never with any kind of legal document. Even that, this system had been existed throughout the history smoothly uninterrupted. The responsibilities of each party were fulfilled to their utmost satisfaction.

But with the introduction of tenancy law by the Colonials, enacted especially on behalf of the tenant farmers, they compelled to seek their tenancy rights and fight for them against their land lords, with the aim of securing this right for their future generation. With that drastic change of the tenant farmer, constant disputes arose with the owners. These disputes occurred on rent, succession or undue influence and so on. This is same even today. Due to these disputes a bulk of paddy fields are left uncultivated and people try to deviate from paddy cultivation after having lost its interest. The result will be the insufficient paddy production in the country.

The problems identified in this research should, at least be minimized by way of implementing proper mechanism to protect the rights of the tenant farmer, while securing the owner too. In this regard the immediate responsible officials in the area should be given authoritative power to give a reasonable solution with immediate effect, wasting nothing. The most important attempt of this research is to find out a suitable mechanism to create an interest and sense of motivation among the farmers in paddy cultivation, while looking for a proper methodology to empower the tenant farmer to keep him attached in the tenant cultivation to the best of his ability and satisfaction.