

## **OVERALL CONTRIBUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT OF THE COMMUNITY AROUND DAMBULU-OYA RESERVOIR**

**W.A.D.V. Weerathilake and U. Edirisinghe**  
Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture  
University of Peradeniya.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Dambulu-oya reservoir is located in Matale District, Central Province of Sri Lanka. Community around Dambulu-oya reservoir lives in three villages *viz*, Pohoranwewa, Ibbankatuwa and Tennekoopura. Their livelihood consists of different activities, but mainly based on fishing and farming. There is a well-managed Fisheries Co-operative Society commenced in 1993, where the office is located at Pohoranwewa.

### **OBJECTIVES**

General objective of this study was to identify the overall contribution of the co-operative society for socio-economic upliftment of the community around Dambulu-oya reservoir. Specific objectives were the determination of benefits and problems, which arise, in co-operative management and to study the present management system of the society.

### **METHODOLOGY**

For this study, both primary and secondary data were collected. Primary data were obtained from members and non-members of the co-operative society using a pre-tested questionnaire and from informal discussions. Secondary data were taken from annual reports and audit reports of the society. Collected raw data were edited, coded and tabulated in spreadsheets for analysis. Data were analyzed using EXCEL and SPSS. The percentages and means were estimated and chi-square test was performed to examine the relationship among the study variables.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Ninety six percent of the society members are married. Average family size of these society members is 4.3 and it is higher than Sri Lankan average family size in 2003. Education level is very low. Only 2% of the members have passed A/L. Income levels are also very low in this area.

Forty eight percent of the members are below the Rs. 6 000.00 monthly income level while 2% of them are below Rs. 3 000.00 monthly income level in 2004.