

ABSTRACT

An Economic Evaluation of Production Efficiency in Paddy Production in Trinidad, West Indies.

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This study deals with an economic evaluation of production efficiency of paddy production in the wet season, rainfed, low land, crop in Trinidad, West Indies. It is based on a survey of 255 paddy farmers conducted jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, and Marine Resources and the Central Statistical Office during the year 1988. Out of the sample 156 farms were selected for detailed analysis. The study tested the hypothesis whether large scale producers were more technically efficient than small & medium scale producers.

Multiple regression and analysis of variance were used to test the hypothesis. Results of the analysis confirmed the hypothesis that large farms are more

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technically efficient than the small and medium scale farms. The average technical efficiency of large scale production was 65% while that of small & medium scale production was 42%. However, the study showed that small and medium scale farms were capable of achieving a high technical efficiency.	
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The main factors influencing the technical efficiency were the differences in the production systems between the two groups of farms. The large farms, in contrast to the small and medium scale farms, utilized highly mechanized methods of production and had good irrigation and drainage infrastructure, utilized good quality, high yielding varieties and had good access to agronomic information on the crop.

It was concluded that to improve the technical efficiency of production in the small and medium scale, wet season, rainfed, low land, paddy crop, strategies and policies were needed to improve: the irrigation and drainage infrastructure, seed quality and agronomic information to these farmers.