

**FACTORS AFFECTING ON TAPPING DECISION OF KITHUL
(*Caryota urens*) TAPPERS' AT PANWILA
DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DIVISION IN KANDY
DISTRICT**

A dissertation submitted to the
Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture
UvaWellassa University
In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of
Bachelor of Science in Palm & Latex Technology and Value Addition

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**Palm & Latex Technology and Value Addition Degree
Programme**

Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture

UvaWellassa University of Sri Lanka

2015

ABSTRACT

Lack of Kithul tappers' involvement in tapping of Kithul trees is highly affected for a sharp declining of Kithul industry. The study was carried out to find out the factors affecting on tapping decision of Kithul (*Caryota urens*) tappers at Panwila Divisional Secretariat Division in Kandy District, to identify the constraints related to Kithul tapping decision and to suggest measures to motivate tappers. Panwila Divisional Secretariat Division consists of 12 Grama Niladhari Divisions where Kithul tapping is done. From each Grama Niladhari Division 60 registered Kithul tappers were selected through simple random sampling process to the sample. Primary data was collected through pre- tested, semi structured questionnaire by direct interviewing. Secondary data (Documents related to Kithul tapping) were obtained from Department of Export Agriculture, Peradeniya, Vidatha resource centre and office of Divisional Secretariat Division, Panwila. Binary Logistic Regression model was used to analysis the collected data. Data were analyzed by using MINITAB 16 software and Microsoft office excel. A significant association was observed between decision taken to tapping and age of the Kithul tappers, income received from Kithul tapping, number of Kithul trees at tapping stage and tapping experience of the tappers. The main recognized problems of the Kithul tapping through this research study were younger generation was away from Kithul tapping. In addition, the number of tappable Kithul trees per land was very low. Experienced tappers participation in nearby lands Kithul tapping was very low. Subsidies given by government only received few tappers. Monkeys and chipmunks attack caused to drastically decline the Kithul industry in this studied area. This is the main reason for tappers low satisfaction for Kithul tapping.

Key Words: Kithul, Seasoning mixture, tapping stage, Recognition, Tapping decision