

## **A Study on Present Status of Cattle Farming in Badulla District**

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The present study was conducted to determine the level of technical efficiency and production characteristics of house-hold level dairy cattle farms in Badulla district. A total of 165 cattle farms in seven veterinary regions in Badulla district were randomly selected by applying the stochastic production frontier methodology. Technical efficiency estimates were generated for different categories of collected data. The results of the study indicated that technical efficiency of milk production by most of the house-hold dairy cattle farms in above-mentioned veterinary regions is high. The mean technical efficiency was estimated to be 96%, 82%, and 77% in Welimada, Ridimaliyadda and Uvapanagama veterinary regions, and 88% for intensive farms, 84% for semi semi-intensive farms, 89% for farms with local breeds and 82% for farms with temperature breeds. The results suggested that farms in the sample could increase their level of milk production to a certain percent using the current input quantities efficiently. To enhance farm efficiency there is a need to improve farmers' access to extension services and government subsidies. Provision of education to the farmers, training and orientation of the farmers toward intensive dairy farming practices and modern technologies are the suitable measures to increase the efficiency of milk production.

**Keywords:** Technical efficiency, Stochastic, Production frontier, Cattle farming, Milk