A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY
ON
SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
IN SRI LANKA

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INTERNATIONAL IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
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The minor or "village" irrigation sector is very important to Sri Lanka’s agriculture. Villages evolved around tanks in the dry zone of Sri Lanka where irrigated agriculture originated. Many of the ancient minor irrigation systems are still in use and they attest to the wisdom of Sri Lanka’s ancient rulers, and of designers and managers of the systems.

During the postindependent period emphasis was given to rehabilitation, improvement, and better operation and management of these village irrigation systems. Irrigation scientists, agriculturists, economists, sociologists, management specialists and political scientists became interested in the different fields of irrigated agriculture, including design, planning, system management, farmer participation, and institutional aspects. The research carried out and the seminars and workshops held with the participation of foreign and national irrigation practitioners, policy makers, and scholars have resulted in a large number of publications to enrich the literature on the minor irrigation sector.

The International Irrigation Management Institute which seeks ways to help developing countries improve the management and performance of irrigation systems, in collaboration with national institutions, has paid particular attention to improving the efficiency of small irrigation systems, which in IIMI’s irrigation-management jargon are "farmer-managed irrigation systems." As one such attempt IIMI conducted a literature review and prepared this selected bibliography on small-scale irrigation systems in Sri Lanka.

This bibliography lists the available writings, whether published or unpublished, on the subject of minor irrigation covering such areas as assistance programs, water management, farmer participation, and system performance and management.

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