

## **Indigenous Methods in Sri Lankan Agriculture: Belief, Mysteries, Myths or Science<sup>Ψ</sup>**

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### **Abstract**

*The underlying concept in indigenous technology in agriculture is based on accepting man and his behaviour as a necessary component of nature. Methods adopted in agriculture are never haphazard but are purposely designed to merge with the ecosystem and be natural rather than to compete with nature. From land preparation to harvesting, all the steps in agriculture were carried out to conserve energy as in the biological systems approach and to conserve water and biodiversity, essential for a sustainable ecosystem. Watershed management for the efficient management of the ecosystem was a major aspect of indigenous agriculture. The choice of plant species grown in watershed areas and on the bunds of reservoirs is evidence of this aspect of management and of the “bio/phyto” remediation of water resources. The concepts underlying indigenous agriculture will be discussed in this paper using rice farming as a case study.*

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<sup>Ψ</sup> The full text of these papers are currently not available and hence the abstract alone has been presented here.