

## DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN A NEW SETTLEMENT IN SRI LANKA

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**Abstract:** The Accelerated Mahaweli Development Programme is one of the most recent and largest multi-purpose development programmes in Sri Lanka, and System C is a major agricultural settlement that has been developed under this programme. An area of about 68,614 hectares is being developed under System C. The first settlements under the Accelerated Program began around 1981, and by the end of 1995, there were 25,555 families settled in this area. However, statistical information on the demographic and socio-economic situation of System C is virtually restricted to data on the number of families settled annually in the area. Census data too is not available since the expansion of settlement in this region began after the last national census held in 1981. This paper presents the findings of a study that was carried out in System C, with a view to collecting certain important baseline demographic and socio-economic characteristics.