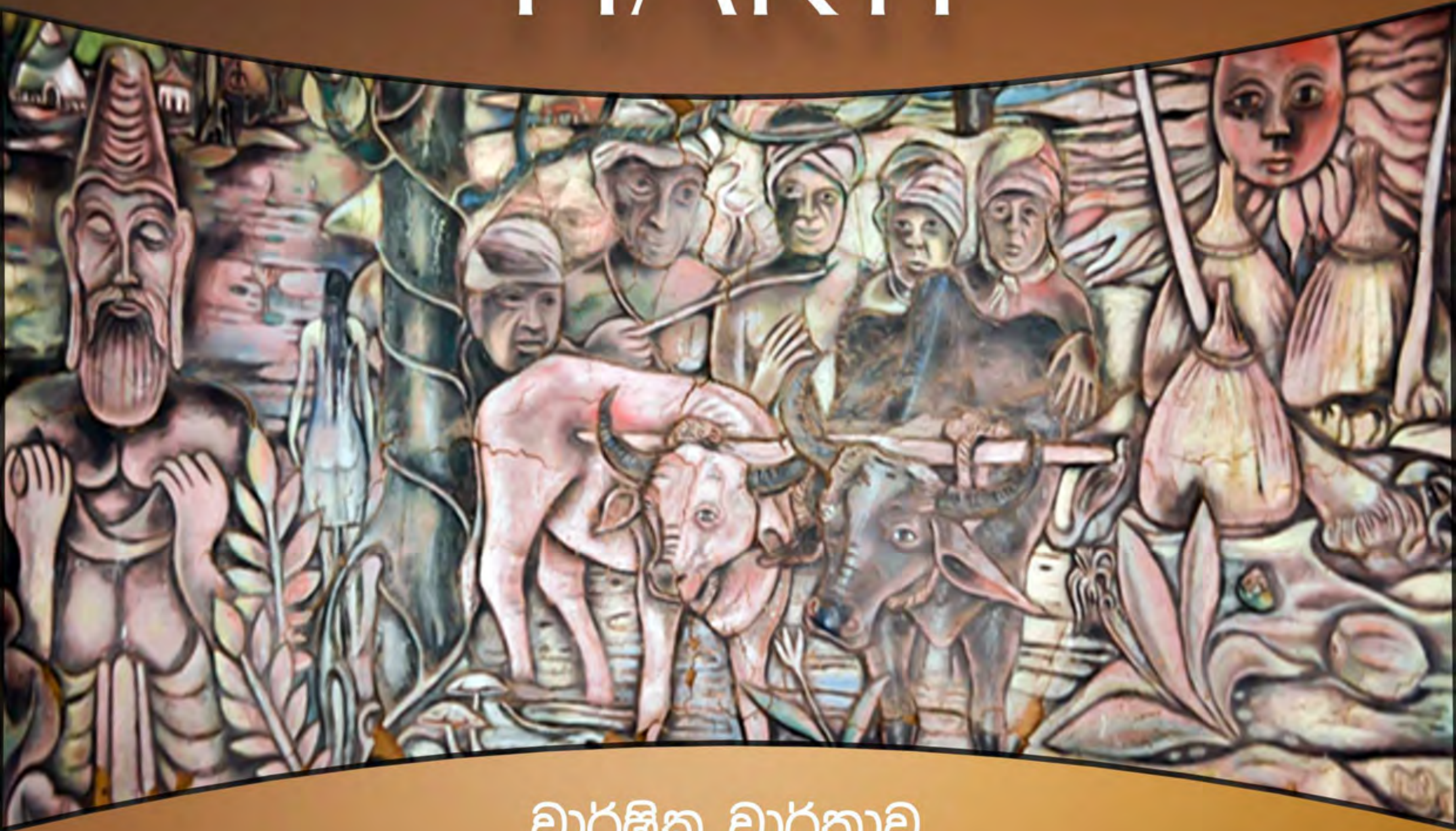
HARTI



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வருடாந்த அறிக்கை
ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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ஹெக்டர் கொப்பேகடுவ கமநல ஆராய்ச்சி, பயிற்சி நிறுவகம்

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute

Contents

CHAPTER 01
Institutional Profile/Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

About Us

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute established under the Agrarian Research and Training Act. No. 5 of 1972 is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Agriculture. Promotion of policy-oriented research and addressing training needs of the agricultural and rural sector are the key objectives of the institution. As a pioneer in the field of agricultural research in the country, the institution has been serving its stakeholders since its inception. It is armed with a wide range of experience gathered by conducting socio-economic research, training and providing information for formulation of development policies for the agricultural sector.

Vision

Be the leader for generating and disseminating knowledge for sustainable agrarian and rural development.

Mission

To strengthen agrarian and rural sector through conducting research and training activities.

Goals

- To make policy process more effective through knowledge generation and timely dissemination;
- To keep the public informed by providing independent assessments on national policy issues;
- To strengthen the capacity for socio-economic policy analysis by investing in the capacities of its staff and the institute's knowledge base;
- To increase the capacity of rural development stakeholders through training.

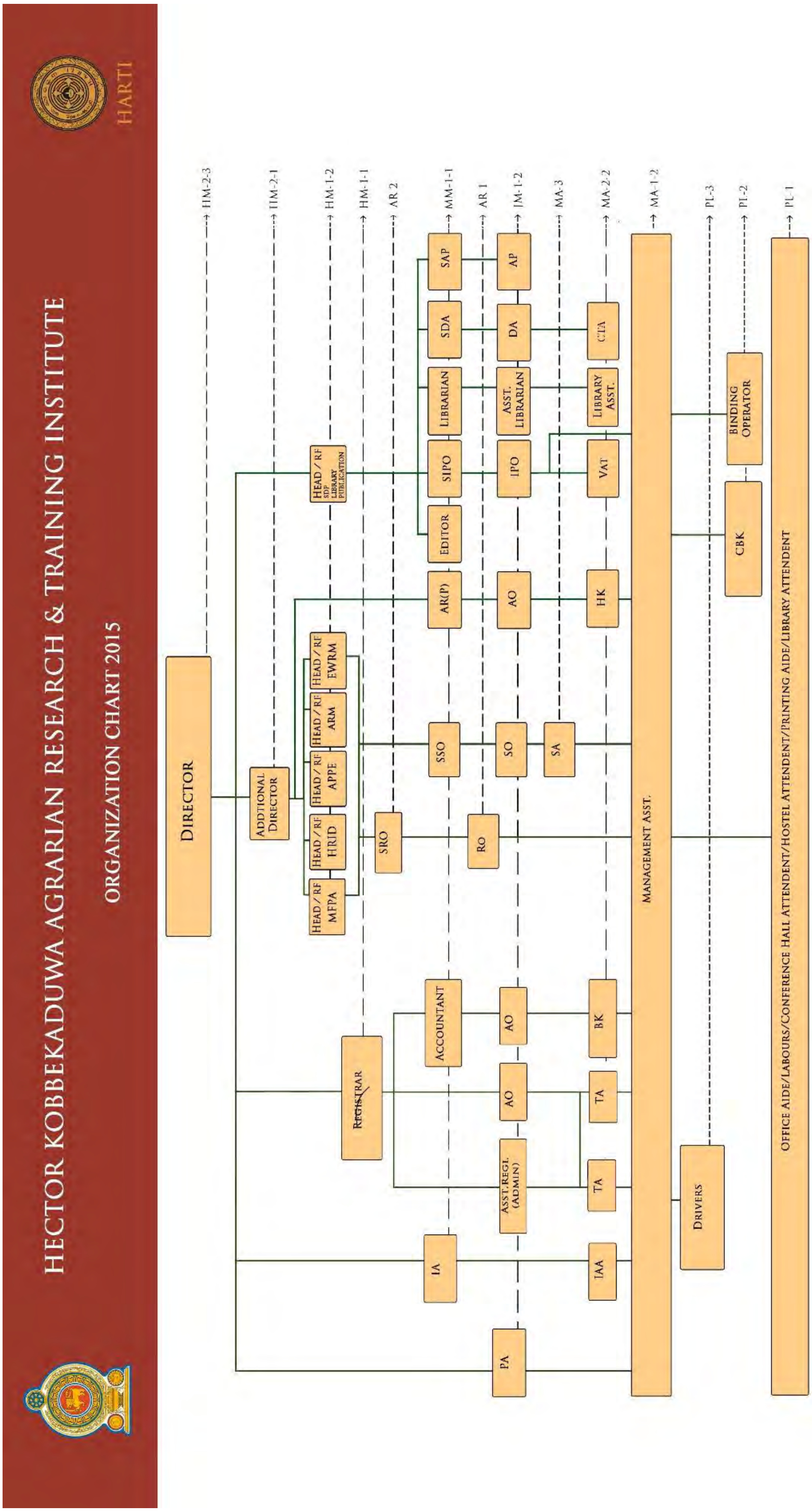
Objectives

- Timely dissemination of market information to policy makers, farmers and traders;
- Identification of agrarian policy perspectives;
- Research planning-priority setting in agrarian issues;
- Building relationships with public/private sector organizations, universities and regional & international research institutes/agencies;
- Engaging a committed, competent and contented team of employees.

Strategies

- Strengthen the Research and Training Committee (RTC);
- Agree on thematic areas;
- Ensure uniformity of different types of publications - layout, cover page, pagination, fonts and styles;
- Improve literature review in preparation of research proposal;
- Arrange external review after peer review of all research reports before publication;
- Assign responsibility for each issue of the institute journal to the respective Division;
- Obtain donor assistance to secure services of a professional editor;
- Increase research outputs in local languages;
- Recruit researchers at senior level;
- Explore possibility of engaging expatriates' researchers through the UNDP;
- Establish linkages with universities;
- Disseminate research findings at the end of the year colloquium;
- Introduce measurable performance-based evaluation system;
- Organize faculty development
- Improve quality of printing of the publications

1.2 Organizational Chart



1. Director	01	17. Librarian	01	33. CTA-Computer Technical Assistent	01
2. AD-Additional Director	01	18. SDA-Senior Data Analyst	01	34. BK-Book Keeper	01
3. Registrar	01	19. SAP-Senior Analyst Programmer	01	35. HK-House Keeper	01
4. Head/RF (Research Fellow) MFPA-Marketing Food Policy		20. RO-Research Officer	24	36. VAT.Visual Aide Technician	02
5. Head/RF HRID-Human Resourse & Institute Development		21. PA-Personal Assistant to the Director	01	37. Library Assistant	02
6. Head/RF APPE-Agricultural Policy & Project Evaluation	05	22. AO-Accounts Officer	01	38. Management Assistant	54
7. Head/RF ARM-Agricultural Resourse Management		23. AO-Administrative Officer	02	39. Drivers	18
8. Head/RF EWRM-Environment Water Resourse Management		24. SO-Statistical Officer	12	40. CBK-Circuit Bunglow Keeper	01
9. SRO-Senior Research Officer	19	25. IPO-Information & Publication Officer	04	41. Binding Operator	01
10. IA-Internal Auditor	01	26. Asst.Laibrarian	01	42. Office Aide	
11. Asst.Dir.(Admin)-Assistant Director (Administration)	01	27. DA-Data Analyst	02	Labours	
12. Accountant	02	28. AP-Analyst Programmer	01	Conference Hall Attendent	33
13. SSO-Senior Staticical Officer	01	29. SA-Statistical Assistant	30	Hostel Attendent	
14. Editor	02	30. IAA-Internal Audit Assistant	01	Printing Aide	
15. AR(P)-Assistant Registrar (Programme)	01	31. TA-Transport Assistant	01	Library Attendent	
16. SIPO-Senior Information & Publication Officer	01	32. TA-Technical Assistent	02	Total	235

1.3 BOARD OF GOVERNORS – 2024

Mr. Janaka Dharmakeerthi		Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries Chairman of the Board of Governors (From January to August 2024)
Mr. M.P.N.M. Wickramasinghe		Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Livestock, Irrigation, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Chairman of the Board of Governors (From October to November 2024)
Mr. D.P. Wickramasinghe		Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation Chairman of the Board of Governors (From December 2024)
Dr. G.G. Bandula		Director/CEO, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (From January to August 2024)
Mrs. P.M.H. Priyadharshai		Director/CEO, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (From October to November 2024)
Prof. A.L. Sandika		Director/CEO, Hector Kobbekaduw Agrarian Research and Training Institute (From December 2024)
Mrs. P. Malathy	Board Member	Director General of Agriculture Dept. of Agriculture (From January to February 2024)
Mrs. K.N.S. Ranatunga	do	Director General of Agriculture Dept. of Agriculture (From April to December 2024)
Mr. K.D. Bandula Jayasinghe	do	Land Commissioner General Land Commissioner General's Dept. (From January to August 2024)
Mr. A.H.M.L. Abeyratne	do	Commissioner General of Agrarian Development Dept. of Agrarian Development (From January to June 2024)

Mr. U.B. Rohana Rajapaksha	do	Commissioner General of Agrarian Development, Department of Agrarian Development (From August 2024)
Mr. Ajith Gunasekara	do	Director General of Irrigation Department of Irrigation (From January to August 2024)
Ms. H.A. Asha Hapuarachchi	do	Commissioner of Dept. of Co-operative Development and Registrar of Co-operative Societies Dept. of Co-operative Development (From January to August 2024)
Mrs. G.D.S.N. Chandrasena	do	Addl. Secretary Agricultural Development - Ministry of Agriculture I) (From January to August 2024)
Mrs. Pubudika S. Bandara	do	Senior Asst. Secretary (Admin) Ministry of Lands (From January to June 2024)
Mrs. Sujeewa S. Guruge	do	Senior Asst. Secretary (Admin.) Ministry of Lands (From July to August 2024)
Ms. D.G. Niluka Kumari	do	Director Ministry of Finance Economic Stabilization and National Policies (From January to August 2024)
Mr. A. Lakkathas	do	Additional Secretary Ministry of Industries (From January to August 2024)
Mrs. H.I.D.D. Hettiarachchi	do	Director of Education (Agriculture and Environmental Studies) Ministry of Education (From January to August 2024)
Mr. M.B.L. Rahuman	do	Addl. Secretary (Admin.) Ministry of Irrigation (From February to August 2024)
Ms. E.A. Ekanayake	do	Asst. Secretary Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security (From January to August 2024)

Mr. N.A.A. Wijesiri	do	Regional Manager Regional Office of the Central Bank (From January to August 2024)
Professor K.A.S.S. Kodithuwakku	do	Dean / Faculty of Agriculture University of Peradeniya (From January to August 2024)

1.4 Board of Governors Meetings – 2024

Dates of the Meeting		No. of Members Attended
1.	29th February 2024	09
2.	30th April 2024	13
3.	28th June 2024	12
4.	29th August 2024	11

1.5 Members of the Audit and Management Committee

1)	Ms. D.G. Niluka Kumari	(Chairman)	-	Director Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies
2)	Mrs. G.D.S.N. Chandrasena	(Member)	-	Addl. Secretary Ministry of Agriculture
3)	Ms. E.A. Ekanayake	(Member)	-	Asst. Secretary Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security
4)	Mr. A. Lakkathas	(Member)	-	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industries (From September)
5)	Mr. M.B.L. Rahuman	(Member)	-	Additional Secretary Ministry of Irrigation (From September)
6)	Mr. E.W.G.K. Priyadarshana	(Observer)	-	Chief Internal Auditor, Ministry of Agriculture
7)	Ms. M.I. Welarathne	(Observer)	-	Audit Superintendent, Auditor General's Department

1.6 Audit and Management Committee Meetings – 2024

Number of Meetings	-	03
Dates of Meetings	-	28th February 2024 29th July 2024 09th September 2024

1.7 COMPOSITION OF RESEARCH AND TRAINING COMMITTEE 2023/24

No	Name	Designation/Establishment	Research Interests
1	Wijithapura Wimalaratana (Prof.) (Rev.)	Senior Professor, Department of Economics. Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo	Comparative Economic Development, Rural Development
2	Abeywickrama L. M. (Prof.)	Senior Professor. Department of Agricultural, Economics & Extension Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna	Environmental Economics
3	Aheeyar M. M. M. (Mr.)	Researcher, nternational Water Management Institute (IWMI)	Water Management
4	Chandrakumara D.P.S. (Prof.)	Senior Professor, Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science. University of Sri Jayewardenepura	Social Sciences
5	Dayawansa N.D.K. (Prof.)	Professor, Department of Agriculture Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture University of Peradeniya	River Basin Management
6	Dharmasena P.B. (Dr.)	Chief Scientist International Center for Research and Development	Sustainable Water Resources Management
7	Dileepa M. Endagamage (Ms.)	Senior Lecturer Department of Decision Sciences Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura	Applied Statistics, Operations Research Categorical Data Analysis
8	Fernando A.P.S. (Dr.)	Senior Lecturer Department of Agricultural Systems Faculty of Agriculture Rajarata University of Sri Lanka	Land Transactions and Development, Food Security

9	Frank Niranjan (Dr.)	Consultant, Former Additional Director Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy	Evaluation and Impact Assessment
10	Fredric Abeyratne (Dr.)	Consultant, Policy Initiatives, Former Agricultural Economist United Nations Development Program	Agricultural Economics, Policy Analysis
11	Gunathilaka H.M. (Prof.)	Consultant, Former Director (Environment and Safeguard) Asian Development Bank	Economics
12	Gunawardena E.R.N. (Prof.)	Senior Professor, Department of Agric Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture University of Peradeniya	Hydrology, Water Policy
13	Keminda Herath (Prof.)	Professor, Department of Agribusiness Management Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka	Applied Statistics, Environmental Modeling
14	Padmini, Chandra (Dr.)	Senior Scientist, Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy	Research Management
15	Manjula P. Sumith Magamage (Prof.)	Professor, Department of Livestock Production. Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka	Animal Production
16	D.D. Prabhath Vitharana (Eng.)	Consultant, Ex- Head of Water Manag Division, Department of Agrarian Development	Minor irrigation Rehabilitation and Agrarian Development
17	Prasada D.V.P. (Prof.)	Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Business Management. Faculty of Agriculture University of Peradeniya	Agricultural Economics, International Development
18	Prasanthi Gunawardena (Prof.)	Professor, Department of Forestry and Environmental Science Faculty of Applied Science University of Sri Jayewardenepura	Environmental and Resource Economics, Ecological Economics, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Policy

19	Priyanga Dunusinghe (Dr.)	Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts University of Colombo	Statistics Applied Economics Labour Economics
20	Rupasena L.P. (Dr.)	Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Systems, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Rajarata	Agricultural Marketing
21	Sooriyakumar K. (Dr.)	Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics Faculty of Agriculture University of Jaffna	Agricultural Market Analysis, Applied Micro and Macro-Economics, International Trade
22	Saman K. Herath H.M. (Prof.)	Professor, Dean Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, Uva Wellassa University	Soil Science
23	Shantha Wijesinghe (Dr.)	Senior Lecturer Department of Geography Faculty of Humanities and Social Science University of Sri Jayewardenepura	Research Methodology, Statistics, Human Resource Planning, Spatial Economics and Dynamics of Industrial location
24	Thivahary Geretharan (Dr.)	Senior Lecturer Department of Agriculture Economics Faculty of Agriculture Eastern University of Sri Lanka	Agricultural Economics
25	Tudor Silva (Prof.)	Professor Emeritus Department of Sociology University of Peradeniya	Sociology
26	Wijeratne D.B.T. (Dr.)	Assistant (Programme) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Agricultural Development

1.8 Executive Summary

In 2024, twelve research studies were initiated, using the capital budget allocations, targeting various segments of the agrarian sector. These studies cover a range of critical topics, with strong emphasis on rural development and sustainable agriculture.

Rural Sector Development: Two studies were launched to explore emerging sectors within the rural economy —agritourism and agro-based start-ups. These sectors are considered key drivers for enhancing rural livelihoods and promoting economic growth. As of December 2024, the studies have achieved 75% of physical progress.

Food and Nutrition Security: Ensuring food and nutrition security is a core objective of economic policy and a challenge faced by many countries, including Sri Lanka. To support evidence-based policy recommendations, two studies were initiated in 2024. The first investigates food consumption patterns and behaviors among urban adolescents — a critical demographic influencing future food demand. The second study focuses on calculating the cost and affordability of nutritious diets, which is essential for developing sustainable food policies. As of now, both studies have reached 75% physical progress.

Climate Smart and Eco-Friendly Agriculture: In response to the growing need for climate-smart and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, HARTI prioritized four studies in 2024. These studies focus on farmer adaptation to climate change, sustainable nutrient management, and the promotion of eco-friendly farming techniques.

1. **Assessing Farmer Adherence to Early Forecasts for Climate Resilience in Sri Lankan Paddy Cultivation** – This study, examines how farmers adapt to climate-related changes through the use of early weather forecasts. As of now, it has reached 75% completion.
2. **Beyond Fertilizers: A Comprehensive Look at Sustainable Nutrient Management for Enhanced Rice Production in Sri Lanka** –Adopting a holistic approach to nutrient management, this study aims to improve rice productivity while promoting ecological balance. It has achieved 75% physical progress.
3. **Participatory Conservation and Productivity Improvement of Paddy-Based Ecosystems in the Low Country Wet Zone** –This study focuses on the the conservation of paddy eco-systems and enhancing their productivity. It has reached 70% physical progress.
4. **Promotion of Vermi-Compost and Organic Liquid Fertilizers in Farming** – Aimed at encouraging the use of organic fertilizers, this study supports the transition toward eco-friendly agriculture practices. By the end of December 2024, it had achieved 100% of its physical targets.

Value Chain Studies: Two studies were initiated to examine contractual agreements in the mango and pineapple value chains, and to assess the functionality and sustainability of Dedicated Economic Centers in Sri Lanka. These studies have achieved physical progress of 75% and 50% respectively.

Market Intelligence and Data Management: The collection, compilation, and dissemination of agricultural market information — particularly food commodity prices — continued successfully, achieving 100% progress during the period. Daily and weekly food commodities bulletins were published on schedule.

Research studies undertaken in 2024 have shown substantial progress across key areas. Aligned with the broader objectives of rural development, food security, value chain enhancement, and sustainable agricultural practices, these studies are expected to provide critical policy recommendations for the future development of the agrarian sector in Sri Lanka. The first drafts of policy briefs and reports for all studies were completed by the 31st December 2024.

Training Programs for 2024: Four training programs were scheduled for 2024, with a total of 43 sessions completed by the end December 2024. These included 19 one-day training programs on food security conducted in Mannar, Vavuniya, and Batticaloa, attended by 753 participants. In Hambantota and Kurunegalla, 20 one-day awareness programs focused on strengthening farmer organizations, reaching 927 participants. The second phase of the entrepreneurship development program in the Polonnaruwa District engaged 105 participants who commenced agro-entrepreneurship. Additionally, 73 youth took part in an awareness program on opportunities for agri-entrepreneurs in the districts of Ratnapura, Kandy and Gampaha. Altogether, these training programs reached and trained a total of 1,858 participants in 2024.

Information and Communication: In 2024, the institute actively disseminated across a range of formats. To date, three research reports and nine policy briefs have been published, along with two issues each of the *Sri Lanka Journal of Agrarian Studies* (Vol. 20, Nos. 1 & 2) and *Govi Katauthu Adyanaya* (Vol. 14, No. 1). We also published two issues of *Govijanatha Sinhala* magazine (Vol. 26, Nos. 1–2 and 3) and a special edition commemorating the *Jathika Aluth Sahal Mangallaya 2024*. Additionally, we also published Sinhala-language booklets on human–wildlife conflict and climate change. In terms of multi-media, 39 video documentaries were produced—33 in Sinhala and 6 in Tamil—complemented by the launch of the Govimina website, which now provides Sri Lankans with timely agricultural news and technology updates. Beyond Treasury funding, the institute partnered with international organizations such as FAO, DevPro Guarantee Ltd., and Unique Land Use GmbH to conduct joint research and consultations, significantly broadening our institutional reach and impact.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the entire HARTI team across all staff categories for their remarkable dedication in revitalizing the institute. Special appreciation goes to the Research and Training Committee for their efforts in enhancing research quality, and to the Board of Governors for their steadfast support and diligent oversight of compliance.

DIRECTOR / CEO
Prof A.L.Sandika

CHAPTER 02
Progress and the future Outlook, special achievement challenges and future goals

2.1 Research Divisions

The HARTI operates through six dedicated research divisions, each aligned with the institute's core mandate. However, a key challenge across all divisions is the shortage of research staff. Due to the government hiring freeze in 2024, we have had to implement our Action Plan with limited resources, including fewer research officers and field personnel, such as Statistical Officers and Statistical Assistants.

i. Food Systems Division
Adopting a circular-economy perspective, the Food Systems Division integrates consumption, production, processing, and distribution, driven by labour, energy, and waste, and influenced by policy and climate dynamics. To streamline this broad scope, the Division focuses on three core pillars: a) food utilization, b) food access, and c) food availability.

ii. Environment Division
As climate science evolves, agricultural societies are compelled to shift toward conservation-oriented, small-scale farming and innovative water management practices. The Environment Division embraces this long-term paradigm shift, aligning its mandate with strategies that foster resilience and sustainability within agrarian communities.

iii. Rural Development Division
The Rural Development Division emphasizes integrated and holistic approaches to rural empowerment, investigating both current rural conditions and their underlying causes. This work is especially critical as rural populations often bear the brunt of social, economic, and environmental shocks, where impoverishment continues to deepen beyond surface-level poverty.

iv. Education and Training Division
In response to rapid societal and technological changes, the Education and Training Division moves beyond traditional agricultural training. Its focus is on equipping learners with transdisciplinary tools and adaptable skill sets, avoiding reliance on narrow, discipline-specific knowledge that may quickly become outdated.

v. Data Management Division
The Data Management Division serves as a central hub for collecting grassroots-level data and streamlining information flow across institutions. More than just statistical processing, the Division collaborates with research teams and stakeholders to develop real-time information dissemination systems for the public, academic community, and policymakers.

vi. Information and Communication Division
In an era of information overload and misinformation, the Information and Communication Division develops clear, targeted, and accessible data dissemination strategies. It tailors outputs to meet user needs and automates distribution across multiple communication platforms. The Division works closely with the Data Management Division to sustain a user-focused and reliable information ecosystem.

2.2 Research Progress

The following research studies were completed in 2022 and 2023, and the publication process was finalized in 2024:

I. Empowering Climate-Vulnerable Farmers: A Study Assessing the Current Status of Vulnerability
II. Economic Analysis of Processed Fruit and Vegetable Industry in Sri Lanka.
III. Poultry Feed Production in Sri Lanka: Effects of Economic Crisis, Response, and Way forward

2.2.1 Completed Studies

The following studies identified in the Action Plan 2024 were completed and draft reports and policy briefs were submitted:

01. Food Consumption Patterns of Urban Adolescents in Sri Lanka: Motives, Barriers and Implications for Healthy Eating Habits

Source of Funding: Consolidated Funds

Research Team:	Roshini Rambukwella	- Co-Ordinator
	Ruvini Vidanapathirana	- Co-researcher
	Duminda Priyadarshana	- Co-researcher
	Raveena Udari	- Co-researcher
	Sangeeth Fernando	- Co-researcher

Research Objectives:
To investigate food consumption behavior and patterns among school-going adolescents in Sri Lanka, and explore strategies and policies to promote healthy eating habits among them.

SDG Goal:

Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Key Findings:
1. Students' diets are heavily reliant on cereal-based foods such as rice, with a notably low intake of fruits, vegetables, and pulses. There is frequent consumption of junk food and sugary beverages. Over 50% of students regularly skip meals - particularly breakfast —and 80% snack daily, often choosing inexpensive, less nutritious options.
2. Adherence to healthy eating initiatives is low, influenced moderately by peers and marked by strong resistance to fast food bans (81.2%). School canteen committees are often ineffective, and most schools lack structured nutrition awareness programs. Healthy food efforts, such as fruit juice bars, are sporadic, while government meal programs primarily target primary-grade students.
3. Adolescents' food habits are influenced by inconsistent family dietary practices that prioritize convenience, limited parental oversight of health, and strong peer influence - often shaped by social popularity and trends on social media.

Key Recommendations:
1. Strengthen school canteen regulations and promote nutrition awareness by implementing healthier food policies, enforcing hygiene standards, integrating nutrition into the school curriculum, teacher training, and utilizing social media outreach to encourage healthier dietary habits among students and parents.
2. Enhance access to milk bars with support of NLDB, fruit juice centers, traditional food stalls, school gardens, and nutritious meal programs. Actively involve parents and local communities to reduce junk food consumption and promote healthy eating habits.
3. Engage students through feedback, taste-testing, and incentives to encourage healthy choices. Promote traditional foods at school events, and improve school canteens by increasing funding, expanding meal programs, and enhancing hygiene standards in government schools.

02. Adapting to Change: Assessing Farmer Adherence to Early Forecasts for Climate Resilience in Sri Lankan Paddy Cultivation

Source of Funding: Consolidated Funds

Research Team:

	Thushara Dharmawardhana	- Co-ordinator
	Dinusha Rathnayake	- Co-researcher
	Sanduni Chathurika	- Co-researcher

Research Objectives:

To explore how smallholder paddy farmers in Sri Lanka use climate forecasts in making crop management decisions, assess whether such use leads to benefits, and identify the opportunities and barriers to adopting climate information by smallholder farmers for building resilient agricultural systems.

SDG Goal:

1. SDG 13: No Poverty
2. SDG 02: Zero Hunger
3. SDG 01: Climate Action

Key Findings:

1. Nearly half of the sample farmers relied on television for climate information, while around 28% —especially younger farmers familiar with modern technology —accessed climate information via smartphones.
2. Among the sample, 63% of paddy farmers used climate information to mitigate crop losses caused by climate hazards such as droughts and floods.
3. Of the total sample, 23% of farmers called for more reliable and accurate climate information, 20% urged more frequent updates, and 19% stressed the need for timely dissemination.

Key Recommendations:

1. The existing government mechanism for climate information dissemination should be strengthened by establishing direct linkages among Agricultural Service Centers (ASCs), the Department of Meteorology and Natural Resource Management Centre of the Department of Agriculture, along with complementary training for extension officers to effectively utilize global climate-prediction tools.
2. Climate information should be digitally accessible, trustworthy, and linguistically appropriate. Digital climate advisory services have the greatest impact when tailored to local contexts, aligned with user needs, language preferences, and made credible through trust-building measures.
3. Mobilize community-based educators and youth to champion climate-smart information. Engaging local champions —particularly youth —has proven effective in scaling digital climate advisory services within smallholder communities.

03. An Exploration of Farmers' Preferences for Organic Fertilizer Applications in Paddy Cultivation

Source of Funding : Consolidated Funds

Research Team : R.M.D.H. Rathnayake -Co-ordinator
D.T.P.S. Dharmawardhana -Co-researcher

Research Objectives: To identify current eco-friendly nutrient management practices in paddy cultivation and explore farmers' preferences for adopting such approaches

SDG Goal:
Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Key Findings:

1. Fifty percent of the farmers in the sample have voluntarily adopted the use of organic fertilizer for paddy cultivation. Additionally, 47% produce organic fertilizer at the farm level; however, a major challenge they face is the limited availability of raw materials.
2. Paddy farmers show a strong preference for user-friendly solid fertilizers (86%), particularly granular fertilizers with formal certification (97%). These fertilizers are primarily sourced from external producers (70%), mainly from the government.
3. Although the majority of farmers are aware of the environmental and health benefits of using organic fertilizers in cultivations, low adoption is mainly due to limited awareness of practical application methods, the scarcity of high-quality organic fertilizers in the market, and the high labor demands associated with their use.

Key Recommendations:

1. Conducting training and awareness programs and establish model farms to enhance paddy farmers' capacity in adopting organic agricultural practices.
2. Improving the production and market availability of high-quality organic fertilizers by promoting the use of diverse raw materials, establishing community-based production centers, and introducing advanced organic fertilizer production techniques.
3. Ensuring that the preferences of grassroot farmers are taken into account in policy decisions related to environmentally friendly paddy cultivation.

Dissemination:

The findings of the study have now been forwarded to the National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NISF) and, in collaboration with them, the final report is scheduled to be submitted to the Parliamentary Sectoral Oversight Committee for Food Security and Agriculture.

04. Promotion of Production and Application of Vermicomposting and Organic Liquid Fertilizers in Farming

Source of Funding : Consolidated Fund

Research Team : Renuka Weerakkody – Co-ordinator

Research Objectives:
The Department of Agriculture recommends applying 10 Mt of well-decayed organic fertilizer to a hectare (4,050 kilograms per acre) for optimal crop yield. However, many agricultural officials and farmers view this recommendation as challenging, primarily due to the perceived difficulties in producing, sourcing, and managing large quantities of organic fertilizer. In contrast, vermicompost producers have demonstrated that producing vermicompost - considered one of the valuable natural fertilizers- is much less challenging than conventional organic fertilizer production. This exploratory study aims to promote the production and utilization of vermicompost through educational and training programs, as well as effective communication strategies. Ultimately, the goal is to encourage regenerative farming practices by leveraging new media for cost-effective community outreach.

Key Findings

1. Analysis of the responses to the four videos uploaded on the HARTI official YouTube channel on vermicomposting reveals that a segment of the farming community is actively seeking new technological innovations through new media, despite limited access to formal extension services.
2. Ongoing communication within the WhatsApp group, which consists of approximately 1,000 members, reflects the community's confidence that challenges in producing and managing large volumes of organic fertilizers for agricultural purposes can be successfully addressed. Furthermore, the use of vermicompost is recognized as a means to rejuvenate soil and achieve high crop yields.
3. Approximately 700 participants have completed training programs facilitated through the aforementioned WhatsApp group. A post-evaluation revealed that 61% of the trainees have successfully adopted the technology.
4. This study further demonstrates that new media facilitates rapid and cost-efficient transfer of knowledge to farming communities across large geographic areas, both domestically and internationally. It also highlights the diverse interests of technology seekers, the limited outreach of formal agricultural extension services, and the need to strengthen the connection between agricultural research and extension practices.
5. Overall, the evaluation reinforces the effectiveness of the vermicompost program and new media platforms in steering individuals toward regenerative farming practices, aligning with the study's overarching objective of promoting regenerative farming practices. The high demand for institute-published books on regenerative farming further validates this approach, highlighting its relevance and broad appeal to a wide audience.
6. Notwithstanding its benefits, the vermicompost program has struggled to gain widespread recognition and acceptance, due to limited awareness among the general public, officials, and policymakers. As a result, it remains underutilized and has yet to secure a significant market share in the fertilizer sector, limiting its potential impact.

Key Recommendations:

1. Policymakers and extension agents should actively promote vermicomposting technology as a regenerative farming practice, offering an effective alternative for rejuvenating degraded by continuous use of chemical fertilizers.
2. To popularize these valuable techniques among the people, the efficiency and the effectiveness of traditional agricultural extension services should be improved. This requires strategic reforms in the extension organization and technical transfer processes. Specifically, operational framework of extension organizations should be transformed into a repository of experiential knowledge, and equipped with e-learning tools and communication infrastructure to enable efficient dissemination of real-time information.
3. The government's extension service should embrace new media as a valuable tool for disseminating knowledge generated by research institutes, which often fails to reach the public promptly. To enhance the effectiveness of this service, it is crucial for extension agents to provide regular oversight and maintain active communication throughout the dissemination process.
4. When using new media to promote technology, it is essential to address the diverse needs of technology seekers at different stages of the adoption process. Tailoring content and support to these varying stages will ensure more effective technology integration.

05. Contractual Agreements in Mango and Pineapple Farmgate

Source of Funding: Consolidated Funding and external funding from ACIAR of University of Peradeniya

Research Team:

M.D.D. Perera	-	Co-ordinator
S.P. Fernando	-	Co-researcher
A.K.A. Dissanayake	-	Co-researcher
U.D.R. Udari	-	Co-researcher

Scope/Introduction:

Producing and selling on a contractual basis is a common arrangement in agriculture worldwide. Though many have engaged in contracts, due to poor legal provisions and other factors, both producers and collectors have violated the contracts. The research used island-wide primary data collected from 550 mango producers and 108 pineapple producers with contractual agreements in Sri Lanka. Further, the research will address the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger.

Objectives:

To evaluate the agriculture contractual agreements prevalent at the mango and pineapple farm gate level in Sri Lanka, and to identify their key characteristics of contractual agreements in order to suggest policy measures to enhance the market linkages.

Key Findings:

1. Two main types of contractual models are observed. In the informal model, individual entrepreneurs or collectors enter into seasonal, informal agreements directly with producers. In the intermediary model, a processor or major trader—such as a fruit exporter or supermarket—contracts, either formally or informally, with a collector or middleman, who then establishes informal agreements with multiple producers.

2. Only 0.5% of farmers have formal written contracts in the mango farmgate. The majority (99%) rely on oral, informal contracts in pineapple farmgate. These contracts are performed under mutually convenient terms and conditions by collectors and producers.

3. There is no significant difference in losses or prices among the different types of contracts. More than three-third (36%) of growers expect full or substantial support and co-operation in developing a regulatory framework and infrastructure for agricultural contracts at the mango and pineapple farmgate.

Key Recommendations:

1. Sri Lanka's informal model contracts emphasize that the success of these initiatives depends on the availability of supporting services, which, in most cases, are likely to be provided by government agencies. Therefore, a wider government intervention is recommended.
2. Develop the existing mango and pineapple value chains by introducing a digital market platform that provides real-time price data and supports formal and responsible contracts. These contracts should emphasize product quality, pricing mechanisms, force majeure, and dispute resolution.
3. Improve access to information and capacity building.
4. Establish an enabling environment, which promotes alliance agreements to facilitate value chain financing. The government should play a key role by providing technical know-how, information, capital support and co-ordination to help the value chain function smoothly.

06. Progression of Agro-Based Start-ups: Designing Effective Interventions for Sustainable Entrepreneurship

Source of Funding : Consolidated Fund

Research Team : H. J. C. Jayasooriya – Co-Ordinator

Research Objective:

To understand the effects of entrepreneurship development interventions on the progression of agro-based start-ups in Sri Lanka, and to propose suitable structural and functional modalities/designs to be adopted in these interventions.

SDG Goal:

1. SDG Number 08: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
2. SDG Number 09: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Key Findings:

1. A significant 68% of respondents had previous employment experience, and 46% had been involved in a business before. However, 58% of those with past businesses reported failures. This suggests that while previous experience in employment or entrepreneurship may foster entrepreneurial intent, it does not necessarily ensure success. The data reveals that many initiated

businesses as an alternative career, indicating risk-taking and opportunity-driven behavior — traits commonly associated with entrepreneurs.

2. Primary data from surveyed entrepreneurs reveal widespread issues with accessing quality raw materials, high costs, and insufficient market knowledge. For example, mushroom growers struggled with rising costs and poor-quality inputs; many entrepreneurs lacked reliable suppliers and faced losses due to inconsistent input quality; and limited awareness and access to market trends, buyers, and export processes often left them stranded in unprofitable or unsustainable operations.
3. A striking 90% of entrepreneurs reported that support was either mistimed or mismatched. Many received materials or assistance after their most critical startup phase, or items that didn't suit their business model. Young and knowledgeable entrepreneurs preferred low-interest loans and strategic guidance over direct financial grants, while others emphasized tailored technical training and help with certifications

Key Recommendations:

1. Implement Stage-Specific Support Mechanisms

Design and roll out multi-phase support systems aligned with the entrepreneurial journey:

- Pre-startup: Business idea validation, proposal development, and basic financial literacy.
- Early stage: Hands-on technical training, product development support, and one-on-one mentoring.
- Growth phase: Market linkage facilitation, certification support (e.g., GAP, HACCP), and export-readiness guidance.

This ensures that entrepreneurs receive relevant support when they need it most, enhancing resource utilization and improving the chances of long-term sustainability.

2. Enhance Market Access and Supply Chain Resilience

Develop a national support framework that integrates:

- Market research training and demand forecasting tools to guide production decisions.
- Raw material supply hubs or co-operatives to reduce costs and ensure quality.
- Digital platforms to connect entrepreneurs with buyers, suppliers, and export facilitators.

This recommendation addresses a critical gap in market awareness and input accessibility, which are key determinants of profitability and business continuity.

3. Establish an Integrated Institutional Co-ordination Model

Create a centralized entrepreneurial support eco-system that links various government institutions (e.g., DOA, SED, NEDA, and DEA) through:

- A digital tracking and referral system (e.g.: QR code-based registration as suggested in the report).
- Clearly defined roles for each institution based on their core strengths.
- Sequential service delivery, where entrepreneurs move through stages of support across institutions.

This will prevent duplication, optimize resources, and ensure comprehensive and seamless support, ultimately creating a more coherent and impactful intervention model.

07. Agritourism as a Sustainable Livelihood Development Practice in Sri Lanka

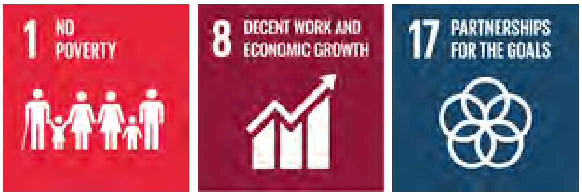
Source of Funding: Consolidated Fund

Research Team:	G. V. N. Aiome	-	Coordinator
	Sagarika Hitihamu	-	Co-researcher
	Uthpala Jayasinghe	-	Co-researcher
	S. P. Fernando	-	Co-researcher

Research Objective:
The overall objective of this study is to examine the potential of agritourism development as a source of livelihood development.

SDG Goal:

1. SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
3. SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals



Key Findings:

1. Agritourism Potential in the Study Area
Five sub-categories of agri-tourism sectors are identified within the community-based tourism approach for rural development in the study area: paddy cultivation and tourism, vegetable cultivation and tourism, combined paddy and vegetable cultivations and tourism, spice gardens and tourism, cinnamon cultivation, processing and tourism. These sub-categories exhibit strong potential for community-based tourism. Sri Lanka's spice and cinnamon sub-sector holds significant global appeal. Additionally, 70% of surveyed farmers expressed interest in diversifying into agritourism activities. Overall, agritourism sectors such as paddy, vegetable, spice, and cinnamon exhibit strong potential in the study area.

2. Potential Benefits of Agritourism to Farms and Society
In all the five agritourism sub-categories, most respondents (100%) identified additional income as the primary benefit of agritourism for farmers. Job opportunities created through agritourism were considered as a key advantage by 65% of participants. Meanwhile, 35% believed agritourism offers opportunities for community engagement, and 17% highlighted its role in conserving traditional farming practices. Only a small proportion (11%) viewed agritourism as a way to increase awareness of farming activities. Community-based tourism is practicable for these areas, as agritourism raised local employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth in hospitality, guiding, and handicraft production. These initiatives also strengthen social cohesion and promote rural heritage. However, women represent only 20% of participants in agritourism projects, highlighting a significant gender disparity.

3. Challenges:
Across the five sub-categories, financial constraints are the most significant issue, reported by 63% of respondents. Inadequate infrastructure is another major challenge, identified by 47% of participants. Lack of knowledge and skills concerns 35%, while marketing challenges affect 31% of those involved

in agritourism. Regulatory issues are seen as a problem by 20%, and the initial investment cost is considered a challenge by 11%. All five agritourism sectors also face land scarcity as a priority issue, with both villages exploring solutions to expand farming operations and agritourism services. Additionally, there are significant digital marketing gaps, as 75% of agritourism operators do not use digital platforms for promotion. Only 15% of tourists discovered agritourism sites through online channels.

Key Recommendations:

1. Capitalize on community-based agritourism potential

Agritourism sub-sectors such as paddy cultivation, vegetable farming, spices, and cinnamon present rich opportunities for immersive, community-driven tourism experiences in rural Sri Lanka. These sub-sectors maximize the use of local resources while creating meaningful connections between tourists and producers. By formalizing agritourism marketplaces, communities can ensure equitable benefit sharing, foster local entrepreneurship, and preserve cultural heritage. Empirical studies from Sri Lanka confirm that agritourism enhances rural incomes, promotes farm diversification, and supports sustainable development when backed by community engagement and supportive infrastructure

2. Strengthen enabling frameworks and infrastructure

To support sustainable agritourism, Sri Lanka must implement clear policies and guidelines. This includes:

- Policy reform and incentives: Simplify licensing procedures, introduce tax benefits/subsidies for agritourism operators, and align policies across tourism, agriculture, and rural development ministries.
- Public–private partnerships (PPP): Encourage collaboration among government bodies, private investors, MSMEs, and local communities, building on ecotourism models like the Sri Lanka Ecotourism Foundation.
- Infrastructure enhancements: Invest in rural connectivity (roads, signage, accommodation, sanitation), visitor centers, and digital infrastructure (internet access, booking platforms, mobile apps).

Together, these measures create a robust foundation for agritourism growth.

3. Empower communities and promote digital outreach

Building the capacity of local stakeholders is essential:

- Capacity-building and training: Provide training for farmers and community members in hospitality, tour management, and cultural interpretation. Facilitate knowledge exchange between successful agritourism ventures.
- Digital marketing and promotion: Develop online platforms and social media campaigns (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp) to increase destination visibility and showcase unique stories, drawing on successful agritourism strategies in other countries.
- Global branding and networks: Connect Sri Lankan agritourism enterprises with international networks, such as the Global Agritourism Network, to access expertise and funding, and broader markets.

- Sustainability focus: Integrate eco-friendly practices—like organic farming, waste management, and environmental conservation—to appeal to eco-conscious tourists and help build rural resilience.

08. Participatory Conservation and Productivity Improvement of Paddy-based Eco-system in Low Country Wet Zone

Source of Funding : Consolidated Fund

Research Team : Renuka Weerakkody – Co-ordinator

Research Objectives:
Paddy-based eco-systems serve as vital multi-functional systems, providing a wide range of services to both humanity and the environment. As such, their significance extends far beyond mere rice production. In Sri Lanka, the cultivation of rice on every asweddumized paddy land is legally mandated, underscoring its critical importance. Paddy is also the most subsidized crops in the country. Furthermore, the socio-cultural context of paddy farming is closely related to the life of the farming community. Despite these substantial benefits, paddy lands in the Low Country Wet Zone (LCWZ) of Sri Lanka face considerable challenges, including frequent fallowing, abandonment, and environmentally detrimental practices such as land filling. This study aims to explore the effectiveness of a participatory approach in conserving and improving productivity of paddy lands in the LCWZ, with a particular focus on the Godaporagodalla abandoned paddy field located in the 445 Pahala Hanwella Grama Niladhari Division of the Padukka Agrarian Service Centre area.

Key Findings:
1. To conserve and enhance the productivity of the paddy-based ecosystem in the LCWZ, it is crucial to take proactive measures to ensure the continued cultivation of *yayas*. This can be achieved by formulating and implementing targeted action plans that specifically address the existing challenges at the *yaya* level. A participatory approach that engages diverse stakeholders, including farmers, officials, and local communities, is essential to encourage and empower the farmer community to take ownership of *yaya* development and management.
2. The long-term viability of developed *yayas* relies heavily on the sustained intervention and oversight of agricultural officers in partnership with farmer organizations. It is vital to foster a supportive environment that motivates and empowers farmers rather than isolating them. By nurturing collaboration and providing guidance, farmers are more likely to adopt best practices, invest in their land, and work collectively to address common challenges, ultimately ensuring the continued existence and productivity of the *yayas*.
3. *Yaya* development plans must incorporate strategies to prevent the factors that lead to misuse or abandonment of paddy fields. They should also include measures to reduce risks and minimize their negative effects on farming. Especially, there should be options for mitigating disasters stemming from climate emergencies.

Key Recommendations:
1. The farmer organization dedicated both labour and financial resources to the re-cultivation of the Godaporagodalla *yaya*, which had remained abandoned for nearly 50 years due to poor drainage and recurrent flooding. The proactive involvement of officials in the re-cultivation process, along with support from a local society run by university students - who provided seed paddy - greatly

motivated the farmers. Accordingly, the participatory approach employed to re-cultivate paddy fields in the LCWZ has proven to be a successful initiative.

2. Under the guidance of the officials and with the farmers' enthusiasm, the traditional paddy variety, Rath Del was cultivated. However, the farmers faced significant setbacks when their crop was completely destroyed by the worst flooding in half century. Despite this challenge, the farmers were able to recover during the subsequent *maha* season, due to ongoing intervention and encouragement from the agricultural officials. The continuous oversight and support provided by these officials played a critical role in strengthening the resilience and viability of the newly developed paddy field.
3. The effort to revitalize the *yaya* was hampered by neglecting the development of a proper drainage system, which proved to be critical oversight. Therefore, it is essential to pay adequate attention to other contributing factors that adversely affect *yaya* development, including watershed management, drainage infrastructure, and community interests. Addressing these interconnected issues is vital for the sustainability of the re-cultivation programs.

2.2.2. Ongoing Studies

01. Unlocking the Digital Potential: Challenges and Potential for the Advancement of Digital Agricultural Extension Services in the Agricultural Sector in Sri Lanka


- **Source of Funding** : Treasury Funds
- **Research Team** : M. D. Susila Lurdu - Co-ordinator
  Sangeeth Fernando - Co-researcher
  Sagarika Hithihamu - Co-researcher

Research Objective:
To conduct an exploratory study on the current background in order to propose solutions to increase the effectiveness of the use of digital extension services in Sri Lanka.

Sustainable Development Goal for the Research:

1. Goal 2 and 2a. Objective
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. 2a. Increase investment, including through enhanced international co-operation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant

and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries.

Key Findings:

1. Seventy-four percent of farmers and 95% of officials own smart phones. However, due to low proficiency in using these devices and the technological challenges of constantly updating them, not all farmers with smart phones are utilizing digital agricultural extension services.
2. Ninety-one percent of farmers in the study area are unaware of the digital mobile app specifically developed by the National Agricultural Information and Communication Centre (NAICC) for farmers.
3. In addition to digital tools like social media networks and radio agricultural services, there are digital agricultural apps developed to meet farmers' extension service needs. However, a lack of proper awareness among farmers and officials (93%), unfamiliarity with how to access these apps (39%), and issues with outdated content leading to reduced credibility and reliability (29%) are the main challenges faced in using digital agricultural extension tools.

Key Recommendations:

1. Increase awareness among grassroots agricultural officials - such as Agricultural Extension Officers, Technical Support Officers, Agricultural Research and Production Assistants - about digital agricultural extension, usage, and access.
2. Provide practical training on digital agriculture extension to selected farmer organizations and women's groups at every agricultural service center, delivered by trained officials.
3. Regulate the dissemination of agricultural knowledge and information on social media networks related to the agricultural sector, with state intervention to ensure proper management.

02.Dedicated Economic Centers in Sri Lanka: Functionality and Sustainability

Source of Funding: Consolidated fund

Research Team:	Prasanna Wijesinghe	-	Co-Ordinator
	N. P. G. Samantha	-	Co-researcher
	Duminda Priyadarshana	-	Co-researcher
	Jayamini Champika	-	Co-researcher
	Sangeeth Fernando	-	Co-researcher
	Anupa Dissanayake	-	Co-researcher
	M. R. F. Saffra	-	Co-researcher

Research Objective:

To examine the functionality of Dedicated Economic Centers in Sri Lanka and analyze socio-economic dimensions of DECs

SDG Goal:

SDG No 2, 2.c

Key Findings:

The field survey was ongoing

Picture - Data Collection in Meegoda Economic Centre

Ministry Requested Study

01. Study on the Use of Plastic Crates Provided to Minimize Post-Harvest Losses

Funding Source : Consolidated Fund

Research Team: W.H. Duminda Priyadarshana – Co-ordinator

Objective of the Study:

To examine whether the intended objectives were achieved by providing plastic crates to vegetable and fruit producers/traders — through the Ministry of Agriculture and the Institute of Post-Harvest Management (IPHT) during 2019 -2023 — in order to minimize post-harvest losses.

SDG Goals: Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2 ZERO HUNGER

Key Findings:

1. It was found that the subsidized plastic crates were in usable condition, but were not being used for overall market circulation. It was observed that farmers typically handle their produce on the farm and mostly use the crates only to transport their produce to supermarkets.

2. With the use of these plastic crates, it was observed that about 75% of the farmers who received them changed their traditional market practices and began transporting their vegetables and fruits to supermarkets using these crates.

3. To minimize post-harvest losses in the general market, the availability of these plastic crates is crucial. However, this outcome is not directly due to their availability. Ideally, these crates should be accessible to all stakeholders in the marketing chain — from producers to the final consumer — but this was not the case in practice

4. Due to poor conditions in essential infrastructure, including transportation, it has been observed that even though plastic crates are available, they are not being used.

Key Recommendation:

1. Several separate outlets should be opened within the economic center for producers and traders who bring their products in plastic crates to dedicated economic centers.

2. Since post-harvest management cannot be addressed by providing plastic crates to just one party, all stakeholders in the process should have these crates in circulation —especially to minimize damage during transportation —and the public sector should provide the necessary infrastructure to support this

3. Since the use of these plastic crates cannot be implemented for all vegetables and fruits at the same time, at least 05 types of vegetables and fruits with the highest post-harvest losses should be selected, and the use of these crates should be made mandatory for all parties involved.

4. Providing high-quality plastic crates on a subsidized basis to new entrepreneurs entering direct marketing channels including supermarkets, hotels, and exports, can gradually minimize post-harvest losses.

2.3 Education and Training Division

01. Agricultural Entrepreneurship Development Training Program – Phase II: "A Training Program to Provide Necessary Support for New Agricultural Entrepreneurs to Successfully, Continuously, and Sustainably Manage Their Agricultural Businesses."

Coordination of the Program:

The Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, the Agri-Business Development Unit of the Department of Agriculture, and the Small Enterprise Development Division provided resources for this training program.

Resource Person:

- HARTI Resource Persons:
- External Resource Persons from:

Need of the program and objective:
The main objective of this program is to enhance the knowledge and skills required for new entrepreneurs to sustain and develop their businesses continuously and sustainably amid various challenges.

External Location and Participation:
- One-day training program

A group of young individuals who participated in the first phase of the awareness program held in the Matale District, and have since started a business.

A total of 94 participants from the Matale District attended the program:

- Matale – 27 participants
- Dambulla – 36 participants
- Rattota – 31 participants

SDG Goal:
1. SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
2. SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Results and Outcome:
1. The emergence of a successful, strong, and stable group of young agricultural entrepreneurs who can contribute to the rural economy.
2. Empowering new entrepreneurs to sustain their businesses despite challenges.
3. Improving the economic status and living standards of the beneficiaries.
4. Developing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for sustaining and growing businesses amid the challenges faced by new entrepreneurs.

02. Three-day Residential Training Programme on "Motivating Rural Youth to Develop as Agri-Entrepreneurs

Coordination of the Program:
This is a joint programme conducted by the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agricultural Research and Training Institute and the Department of Agriculture. Resource persons were contributed by the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agricultural Research and Training Institute, the Agri-Business Development Unit, the Youth Farmers' Club Headquarters of the Department of Agriculture, the Small Enterprise Development Unit, the Export Development Board, and selected successful agricultural entrepreneurs.

Resource Person:

- HARTI Resource Persons:
- External Resource Persons from:

Need of the program and objective:
The primary aim of this programme was to empower youth to become agricultural entrepreneurs by developing their knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

External Location and Participation:
A three-day residential training programme.

Three groups of 25 participants each were selected through applications and interviews. These were young people form Kandy, Gampaha, and Ratnapura districts who were ready to start agricultural entrepreneurial activities and were already been novel agri-entreprenures.

In total, 71 participants were selected from the three districts — 25 from Kandy, 25 from Gampaha, and 21 from Ratnapura.

SDG Goal:

01. SDG Number 08: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
02. SDG Number 09: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Results and Outcome:

1. Establishment of teams of young entrepreneurs, empowered through knowledge, skills, and attitude development.
2. Enhancement of income levels by diversifying products and identifying new market opportunities.
3. Strengthening relationships with support service providers to facilitate future ventures.
4. Participants gained entrepreneurial knowledge, skills, and attitudes, empowering them to become strong entrepreneurs.

03. Empowering Communities for Food Security: Awareness Programme on Household Food Security for Women Community Leaders

Coordination of the Program:

- Hector Kobbekaduwa Agricultural Research and Training Institute
- Provincial Department of Agriculture
- Provincial Director of Health Services Office
- Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Resource Person:

- HARTI Resource Persons: Susila Lurdu
- External Resource Persons from:

Need of the program and objective:
The main objective of this awareness program was to enhance the community's knowledge, attitudes, and skills on actions they can take at the household level to maintain food security in rural areas with limited resources.

External Location and Participation:
One-day Training Programme.

The training beneficiaries were women, aged between 20 and 50 years, were members of active women's organizations and able to communicate messages effectively. These women were trained to pass on their knowledge to similar groups in their communities.

SDG Goal:
The program aligns with the second sustainable development goal: ending hunger and achieving food security.

Results and Outcome:
1. Raising awareness about the actions that can be taken at the household level to maintain food security.
2. Encouraging individuals to practically implement the actions related to maintaining food security in the targeted areas.
3. Ensuring stable food security in these areas and, more broadly, across the country.

Participants gained knowledge about the current challenges in the food production sector and solutions, growing home garden-based crops and livestock, food preservation methods, and financial literacy to help maintain food security. They also learned about the nutritional aspects of food consumption and food security.

04. Strengthening of Farmer Organizations

Source of Fund: Consolidated Fund

Training Team:

- P.C.J. De Silva (Coordinator)
- Resource Persons from Dept. Of Agrarian Development
- Susila Lurdu
- Chinthaka Jayasooriya

Objective of the Training Program

To ensure farmer organizations perform its duties as mentioned in the Act

SDG Goal: SDG 2 Ending hunger and achieving food security.

Recipient Institute/ Group

For representatives of FOs and Agrarian Research and Production Assistants

Days and Location of the Training Programs

10 one day training programs in 10 Agrarian Development Centers in Hambantota and 15 one day training programs in 15 Agrarian Development Centers in Kurunegala District.

Number of participants: 406

Expected Results

- Proper maintenance of documents and accounts by FOs
- FO members gaining knowledge of FO responsibilities and powers defined by the Act
- Understanding the importance and potential of FOs for developing the farming community

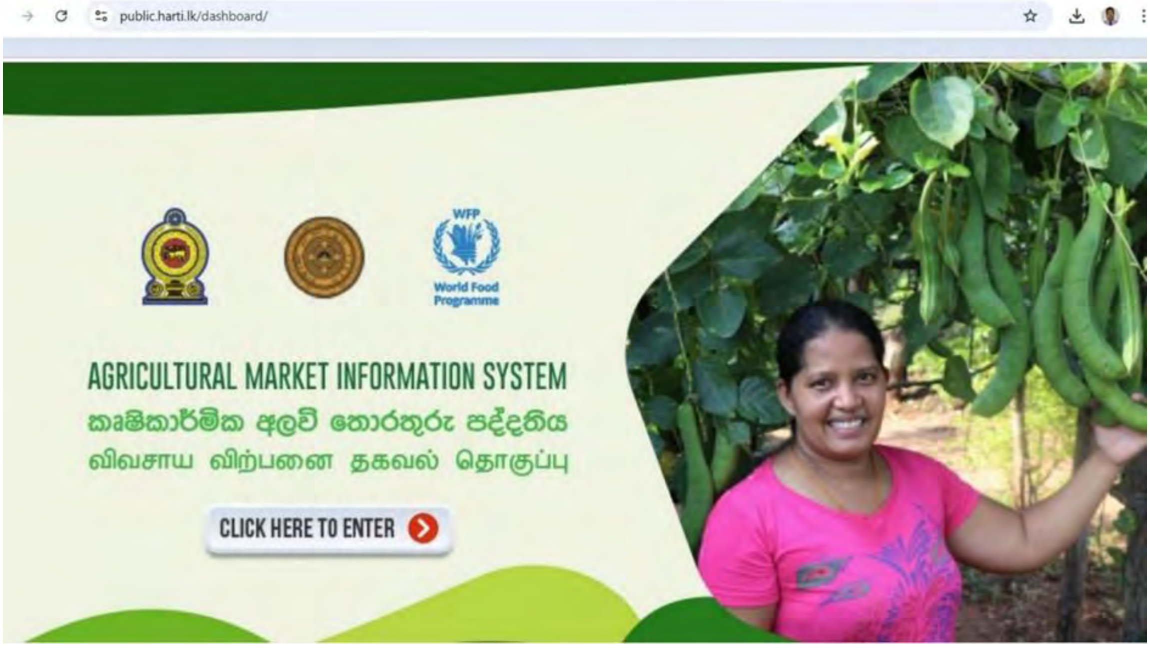
Benefits Received by the Participants

Knowledge on FOs' power, responsibilities, and potential as organizations established for the development of farming community; skills in keeping accounts, motivation to broaden the vision; and the development attitudes for personal and community growth.

Participants' Response and Feedback

Participants' feedback was collected both verbally and through a specific evaluation sheet. The evaluation showed that the program is very important and should be extended from the divisional level to FO level, so a wider segment of the farming community can attend and benefit.

2.4. Data Management Division



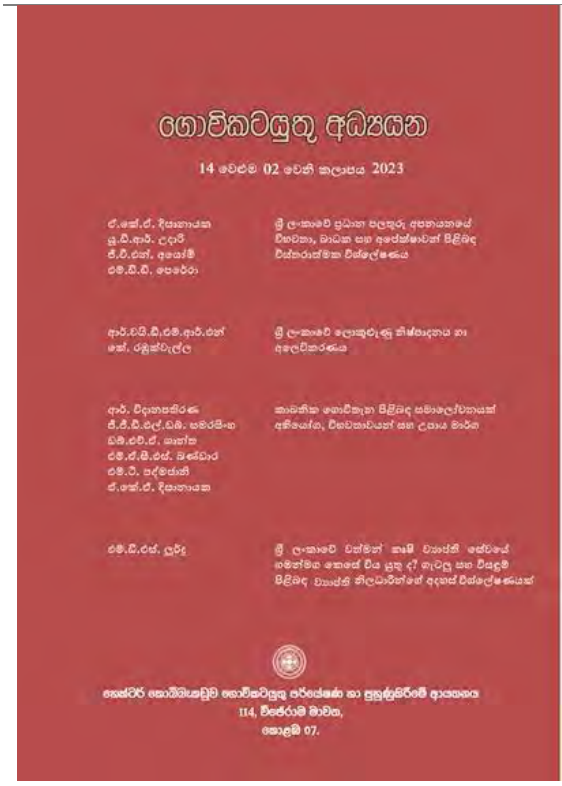
Agriculture Marketing Information System (AMIS)

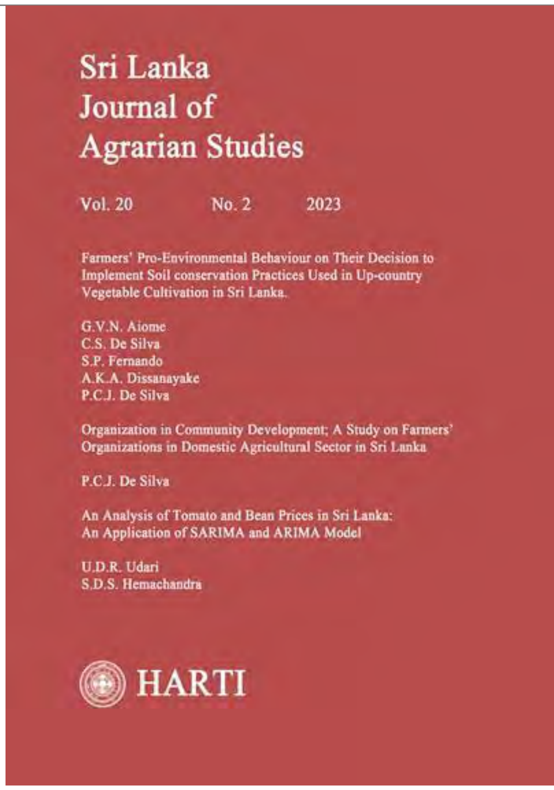
The main objective of the project is to collect market price and information, processing, analyzing and disseminating market data and information. Wholesale prices, retail prices and farmgate prices of the food commodities are collected from 45 marketplaces covering the major producing and distributing areas in the country. Farmgate prices are collected weekly from 27 locations and wholesale prices from 37 locations and retail prices from 45 locations. Prices for around 150 commodities are collected, representing all districts through the selected 45 locations. Daily wholesale prices form 10 Economic Centers and wholesale markets are disseminated via "6666" of the Mobitel network. Market data and information are published as daily, weekly and monthly bulletins and thoe are disseminated through the website (www.harti.gov.lk), WhatsApp groups, email groups.

To enhance the efficiency of market data collection, processing, analysis, output generation, and dissemination, an Automated Cloud System (Web application) has been developed. A trial version is currently running alongside to existing AMIS. Market data and information are shared with policymakers, ministries, public and private institutions, university students, and any other data users upon request. This is also a key responsibility of the Data Management Division.

2.5 Information and Communication Division

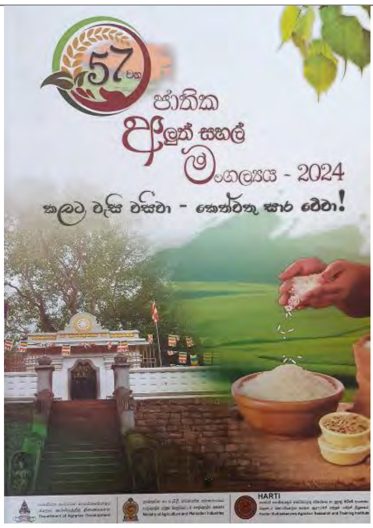
Publishing four issues of the “Govijanatha” magazine.





Releasing Volume 14, Issue 1 (2023) of the "Govi Katauthu Adyanaya" journal

Publishing the Sri Lanka Journal of Agrarian Studies, Vol. 20, No. 1 (2023).



Printing and issuing a special commemorative edition for the "අලුත් සහල් මංගල්‍ය" 2024.

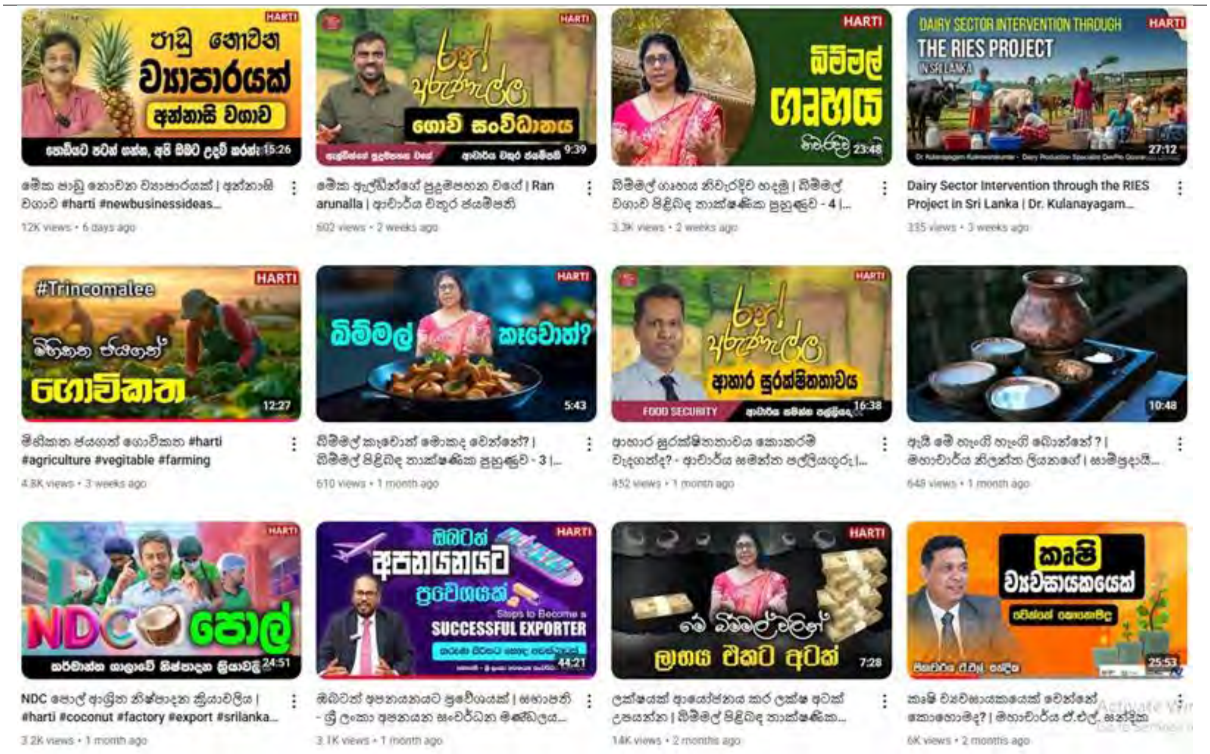
2.5.1 Publications:

a. Printing and issuing a special commemorative edition for the "අලුත් සහල් මංගල්‍ය" 2024.
b. Publishing four issues of the "Govijanatha" magazine.
c. Releasing Volume 14, Issue 1 (2023) of the "Govi Katauthu Adyanaya" journal.
d. Publishing the Sri Lanka Journal of Agrarian Studies, Vol. 20, No. 1 (2023).

2.5.2 Social Media Posts

- Official Facebook Posts 88
- Official X Account Posts 45
- Instagram Posts 23
- YouTube Videos 34 Videos have been uploaded

The full 38 videos are as follows.



01 More weight, more milk, less disease "Kottukachchi" - Goat management - Part 2 https://youtu.be/sq4hc2gB1u8

02."Goat Management" - Low-cost animal management, very easy for those involved in dairy farming https://youtu.be/i52GoYAMavQ

03. Ananda Samarakoon's revelation "Today's kitchen has changed and this is also a reason why people are getting sick" https://youtu.be/mbP1DJ5G8Y8
04. The amazing farmer who shares knowledge with university students - "You can earn a lot of income from orange cultivation" https://youtu.be/1NX3ShfCwM4
05. Guava growing teacher, "This is a good extra income, even if the price drops to the maximum, it is still cheap https://youtu.be/RUgP15kH4Uo
06. Let's cultivate fallow fields for good luck https://youtu.be/mQxD3Nep9a8
07. How to produce silage correctly https://youtu.be/PvD7uZpjza0
08. Today I am a successful agribusiness entrepreneur https://youtu.be/Xj59YHN9Pd0
09. How to properly cultivate Azolla, which is very important in milkweed control https://youtu.be/IZbOrO3jwmA
10. 200000 income from first harvest https://youtu.be/TU_X3t-1jOw
11. How to properly cultivate grass, which is very important in dairy farming https://youtu.be/crNsuYNaIHs
12. How to properly house a bee colony https://youtu.be/9S-eQ2u4jBI
13.Do you also like ornamental flower cultivation? https://youtu.be/8YlFHHAFiTg
14. How to set TMR, which is very important in dairy cow management https://youtu.be/AeSbMRz9xKM
15. You too can win like this with effort https://youtu.be/MovWM05i7Ac
16. Qualities that agricultural extension officers should possess https://youtu.be/BGr0F1jePqI
17. Beekeeping https://youtu.be/Wtx2y3PB23I
18. I am now a successful entrepreneur - traditional rice has good question https://youtu.be/LzQcB-Nk3ZU
19. An agricultural business that can't go wrong https://youtu.be/Fta0eP6PLeU
20. Beekeeping Technical Training - 2 - Bee Box Maintenance and Inspection https://youtu.be/IQuNia0SeK4
21. An opportunity to earn six to seven lakhs per month https://youtu.be/AfpzUCL9bUg
22. The power of farmers' organizations to uplift the peasantry. https://youtu.be/ue3d1CFg95g
23. Does the government have sufficient safe rice stocks? https://youtu.be/WOB6WGW5g0A
24. "The Past is a Teacher" Lecture by Mr. Ananda Samarakoon https://youtu.be/cUe2tlBqz_0
25. Income of Rs. 600,000 per month from dairy farming https://youtu.be/pgYmV-duO-Y
26. Egg and chicken industry with constantly changing prices https://youtu.be/-xhVYcOUXVQ
27. Beekeeping Technical Training - 01 - Honey Extraction https://youtu.be/xDYTDA1T_z4
28.Is paddy farming not allowed in the wet zone? https://youtu.be/ipHqiP6t-SI
29. You can also earn extra income through beekeeping https://youtu.be/aUkocGWcRQc
30.What is this global value chain? https://youtu.be/nIWrHBv-FG8
31. How the DEE Tech project that makes dairy farmers millionaires was created https://youtu.be/IODVoN4VH8c
32. How to build a safe home without failing - Dr. Manoj Kodikara https://youtu.be/qoywWNsjVgI
33. How to properly cultivate crops in polytunnels - Dr. Manoj Kodikara https://youtu.be/ElD9hRQdunU
34.This is how to make money from anthuriums https://youtu.be/PuyJaBL6fKY
35. Earn lakhs from pomegranate cultivation https://youtu.be/9ssro_WG-yM
36.How does the new graft affect the rice plant? https://youtu.be/KdJD_UGbaoM
37. Groundnut seed production that brings income in millions https://youtu.be/YvUh4_pjwCE

38. Path to Development - "It is important to change attitudes positively"
https://youtu.be/Tfo6SrJZWEE

1. Published an article titled "Factors Affecting Soil Conservation Practices Used by Upcountry Vegetable Farmers" in Govijanatha Magazine, July–September 2024 (Volume 26), HARTI.
2. Authored an article titled "Agritourism as a Sustainable Livelihood Development Practice: Spice Gardens in the Matale District – Sri Lanka," To be published in Govijanatha Magazine.
3. Jaffna Milk Production - Govijanatha, Volume 26 - Issue 1-2, January -June 2024.
4. "Economic Importance of Coffee Cultivation", Volume 26 - Issue 3, July-September 2024
5. "More Profits from Nutmeg" Volume 26 - Issue 4, October -December 2024

Newspaper Article
"Why are farmers in the Lowland Wet Zone abandoning paddy farming?" Mawbima (Sarubima Supplement).

2.6 LIBRARY

The main objective of the library is to collect, compile, retrieve and disseminate information related to the agrarian sector for the benefit of HARTI research staff and other interested persons and organizations. During the year, the staff borrowed 164 books, 16 reference books and 05 journals for reference. The number of visitors to the library during the year was 76.

Acquisition of Books, Journals and Reports

During the year, 27 books have been acquired for the library collection. A large number of periodicals, newsletters, and annual reports have been received as exchange or donation from local and foreign institutions.

Library Services

Requests from the research staff and outside users for information and documentation services such as literature search, reference services, current awareness services and SDI services were attended to. Access to internet-based information facilities was further extended for the research staff with the WiFi facility being set up in the library. Collection of newspaper articles on various subjects and indexing of the articles for quick reference continued for the use of both internal staff and outside users.

Inter Library Cooperation (ILC)

The HARTI Library provides library material through the inter-library loan facility. This facility is available only for the requesting libraries and not for individuals. Inter-library loan facility functions between university and special libraries at present. The libraries that wish to request for the facility have to sign the inter-library loan agreement prior to obtaining publications on loan. In addition, e documents were shared via email with the universities for research purposes.

Library Promotional Activities

A promotional leaflet about the HARTI library was distributed to university students and HARTI visitors.

2.7 External Partnership

		Allocation 2024(Rs. Mn.)
1	DevPro Guaranty Ltd	1.09
2	Food and Agriculture Organization	7.52
3	International Food Policy Research Institute	3.67
4	Unique Land Use GmbH	2.20

1. **DevPro Guaranty Ltd**

a. **Establishment and Maintenance of Dual Websites; Govimina Agri Hub.lk and Govimina Agri Hub.Com**

The primary objective of this initiative is to boost agricultural literacy among Sinhala- and Tamil speaking farmers — particularly women and female agricultural assistants—by launching two up-to-date, content-rich websites that comprehensively cover agricultural communications. The goal is to cultivate modern farmers and agri-entrepreneurs equipped with the latest knowledge and technology

b. **Enhance Capacity Building and Networking among Women Entrepreneurs and the Officials in the Three Districts of Rathnapura, Badulla, and Monaragala (Social Media and New Media Training)- 2024/2025**

The project aims to accelerate digital adoption among MSMEs — especially women entrepreneurs —in Ratnapura, Badulla, and Monaragala. By equipping them with essential knowledge and skills to use social media and online platforms, it seeks to foster business growth. Concurrently, the initiative strengthens the capacity of the National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA) and relevant government officers, empowering them to provide effective support for MSMEs in digital marketing and e-commerce expansion.

2. Food and Agriculture Organization

Name of the Training Program

"Improving Technical Capacity of Seed Sector Stakeholders" - under the FAO-DOA-HARTI collaborative project for Strengthening of Good Quality Seed and Plant Material Production, Quality Assurance and Marketing Systems

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Target Training Group

Field level officers of the DOA who are involved in seed production, quality assurance and marketing of seeds and planting materials; and farmers who are engaged in seed production and marketing

Objective of the Training Program (Main Objective Only)

- The main objective of this program is to strengthen the capacity of officers involved in seed production, certification, and knowledge; and to enhance seed producers' knowledge on seed production and marketing.

Relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the Training Program

- SDG 2: Zero Hunger – Enable food security by ensuring the timely availability of quality seed and planting material at an affordable cost

Institutions or Groups Conducting the Training

- Resource personal support was obtained from HORDI, FCRDI, SPMDC, SCS of the Department of Agriculture, while organizing and coordination were provided by the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute.

Training Program Locations and Dates

(1) North Western Province	-	Rice Research and Development Institute, Batalegoda - 07 and 08 October 2024
(2) Central Province	-	In-Service Training Institute, Gannoruwa - 21 and 22 October 2024
(3) Uva Province	-	Agriculture Research and Development Center, Bandarawela - 21 and 22 November 2024
(4) Southern Province	-	In-Service Training Institute, Angunukolapalassa - 28 and 29 November 2024
(5) Northern Province	-	to be conducted in March 2025
(6) Eastern Province	-	to be conducted in April 2025

Farmer trainings in all six locations are to be conducted from March to May 2025

Number of Participants

(1) North Western Province	-	30 participants
(2) Central Province	-	38 participants
(3) Uva Province	-	32 participants
(4) Southern Province	-	30 participants

Nature of the Training Program (One-day/Two-day, etc.)

- Two-day residential training programme

Expected Outcomes

- Development of trainer groups consisting of agricultural extension officers who can promote hybrid seed production processes among needy and potential farmers
- Introduction of a new group of farmers to hybrid seed production for selected crops
- Production of awareness videos on the hybridization process of selected crops and key messages that seed farmers should know under the Seed Act.

Benefits Received by Participants at the End of the Training Programme

The knowledge and skills of Agricultural Extension Officers and field level officers of the DOA are being improved in hybrid seed production process for selected crops.

Participant Feedback or Reactions about the Training Program

- Incorporative practical sessions into these training programmes will contribute to more effective output.
- Seed should be tested for hybridity before being sold. To facilitate this, officials should be provided with the necessary knowledge to initiate a testing programme within the Department of Agriculture or through recognized private sector institutions.

03. International Food Policy Research Institute

Research Title

FRESH Initiative; A Survey on Measuring Markets and Consumer Access to Fruits and Vegetables in Sri Lanka

Research Team

- P.A.J Champika
- N.P.G Samantha
- Prasanna Wijesinghe
- M.D.D. Perera
- Sangeeth Fernando

Research Objective (Only the Primary Objective)

To evaluate the effects of the economic crisis on:

1. The production and marketing of fruits and vegetables; and
2. The affordability of a healthy diet

Relevant Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for the Research

Goal No. 02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Key Findings Related to the Primary Objective:

Since the second quarter of 2019, Sri Lanka has experienced a rising trend in the cost of a healthy diet, starting with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and reaching a peak in 2022 during the economic downturn. This increase is primarily due to the sharp rise in nominal food prices associated with the country's economic challenges. However, when adjusted for inflation, the real cost of healthy diets shows only small fluctuations.

Analysis of retail price movements in tomato, beans, brinjal, banana and papaya revealed that the median values of both retail and farmgate prices for the years 2018, 2019, 2022, and 2023 are significantly different at a 5% level. Furthermore, all pre-crisis scenarios (2018 and 2019) differ significantly from post-crisis scenarios at the 5% level. However, this price increase did not transmit to farmgate level for the banana - embul variety. As a result, banana – embul farmers were disproportionately affected and worse off due to the economic crisis.

Key Recommendations

1. Conduct a Cost of a Healthy Diet (CoHD) analysis quarterly to identify districts most adversely affected, and recommend targeted interventions accordingly.
2. Propose targeted financial support for banana farmers significantly impacted by the economic crisis to aid in their recovery and build resilience.
3. Organize training and educational programs for fruit and vegetable farmers, focusing on strategies for rapid financial recovery from economic losses. Key areas of training should include crop enterprise budgeting, viable crop substitution, and mixed cropping practices to enhance sustainability and profitability

4. Unique Land Use GmbH

In Sri Lanka, agricultural modernization is a key policy focus, supported by the World Bank through the Agriculture Sector Roadmap (ASR). This roadmap promotes evidence-based dialogue to transition towards high-value crops with greater export potential, job creation, and improved nutritional outcomes, while also enhancing climate resilience. Since 2017, the World Bank and European Union have supported the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project (ASMP) to improve smallholder productivity, market access, and value addition. The ASMP showcases new technologies for both high-value perennials and annual crops.

Although these technologies have demonstrated improved yields and reduced input use, their financial viability compared to conventional methods remains unclear. Understanding this is crucial for assessing scalability and identifying the necessary post-project support. Moreover, Sri Lanka aims to phase out fertilizer subsidies in favor of market-based pricing, complemented by targeted cash transfers for smallholders.

This study aims to compare costs and profits across crop systems to inform these modernization efforts.

Hector Kobbekaduwa
Agrarian Research & Training Institute

Annual Financial Statements of Accounts
for the year 2024

114, Wijerama Mawatha
Colombo 07.
Sri Lanka.

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2024

LKR

ASSETS	Notes	2024	2023
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	55,485,756	45,903,450
Receivables-Debtors	3	33,070,983	28,064,472
Receivables-Deposits	4	764,370	764,370
Inventories	5	7,264,546	7,568,596
Prepayments	6	25,297	24,654
Other current assets	7	499,087	17,126
		97,110,039	**82,342,668**
Nun-current assets			
Other financial assets	8	4,771,313	4,630,965
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	9	57,749,792	15,686,367
Land and buildings	10	31,526,530	32,826,222
		94,047,635	**53,143,554**
Total assets		**191,157,674**	**135,486,222**
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	11	**27,289,796**	**28,959,096**
		27,289,796	**28,959,096**
Non-current liabilities			
Employee benefits	12	61,857,698	55,008,475
		61,857,698	**55,008,475**
Total liabilities		**89,147,494**	**83,967,571**
Net Assets		**102,010,180**	**51,518,651**
NET ASSETS/EQUITY			
Government Grant - Capital	13	30,912,189	28,908,768
Grant from Mr.Malinda Senevirathne		-	445,200
Grant from Presidential Secretarial		-	526,500
Reserves	14	3,711,152	5,619,846
Revaluation Reserve		40,011,648	26,450
Institute Retention (Funded Project)	15	577,369	-
Capital Grant Funded Project		-	1,497,645
Accumulated surplus/(deficits)	17	26,797,822	14,494,242
Total net assets/equity		**102,010,180**	**51,518,651**

The accounting policies on pages 5 to 8 and Notes on pages 9 to 15 an integral part of these financial statements. I certify that the financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the requirements of Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Thushari Wedage
ACCOUNTANT
Date 27.02.2024

G. W. Thushari Wedage
Accountant
Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute
114, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo - 07.

Prof.A.L.Sandika
DIRECTOR

Prof. A. L. Sandika
Director / CEO
Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute
No. 114, Wijerama Mw., Colombo 07.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these Financial Statements. These Financial Statements were aprroved by the Board of Directors and signed on their behalf.

CHAIRMAN

D.P. Wickramasinghe
Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands & Irrigation
80/5, "Govijana Mandiraya", Rajamalwatta Road
Battaramulla.

Board Member

G.D.M. Muditha Gunarathna
Deputy Director
Department of National Budget
General Treasury
Colombo - 01.

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 December 2024 LKR

Revenue	Notes	2024	2023
Funds from government Treasury		192,554,500	162,227,000
Other revenue	17	40,475,267	50,326,537
Bad Debt over Provision		4,145,591	782,510
		237,175,358	**213,336,047**
Capital Grant received for Research and Training Activities		17,700,740	15,990,000
Funds from Outsiders for Research and Training Activities		32,953,057	58,065,331
Grant From FAO - Asset		1,385,010	-
Incentive Retention Asset		1,951,526	-
Asset Purchased Income - Government Grant		2,250,539	-
		293,416,230	**287,391,378**
Expenses			
Wages, salaries and employee benefits	18	(175,686,271)	(144,467,293)
Research and Training Activities	20	(18,854,740)	(19,645,376)
Funds to Outsiders for Research and Training Activities	21	(32,953,057)	(58,065,331)
Depreciation	9, 10	(4,912,387)	(5,655,619)
Other expenses	19	(54,656,567)	(43,275,695)
Bank Charges		(154,050)	(153,705)
Total expenses		**(287,217,072)**	**(271,263,019)**
Surplus / Deficit for the period		**6,199,158**	**16,128,359**

....
ACCOUNTANT

G. [illegible]
Accountant
Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research
and Training Institute
114, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo - 07.

....
DIRECTOR

Prof. A. L. Sandika
Director / CEO
Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian
Research & Training Institute
No. 114, Wijerama Mw., Colombo 07.

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended December 31, 2024

2,023		Notes	2024	
	Cash flow used in operating activities			
16,128,359	Net deficit / Surplus for the year			6,199,150
	Adjustment for			
5,647,929	Depreciation		4,912,387	
(5,647,929)	Amotization			
4,377,657	Provision for Gratuity		16,133,224	
(1,343,155)	Investment Income		(1,390,557)	
899,895	Prior year adjustment		206,640	
(782,510)	Bad Debt over Provision		(4,145,591)	
	Profit/Loss on Disposal scrap Items		-	
	Incentive retention- Asset		(1,951,526)	
	Government Grant Asset		(2,250,539)	
	Grant From FAO		(1,385,010)	10,129,028
19,280,246				**16,328,178**
	Working Capital Changes			
4,820,600	Receivables		(860,921)	
(1,103,683)	Inventories		304,050	
1,959	Prepayments		(643)	
(6,914)	Other current assets		(481,961)	
4,714,633	Payables		(1,669,300)	(2,708,775)
27,706,841	**Cash used in operating activities**			**13,619,403**
(7,558,190)	**Payment of Gratuity**			(9,284,003)
20,148,651	**Net cash used in operations**			**4,335,400**
	Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
(145,594)	Other financial assets		(140,348)	
(4,594,039)	Infrastructure, plant and equipment		(4,305,600)	
1,343,155	Investment Income		1,390,557	
	Library book cost recovery for loss books		19,172	
	Funds from outside for Research & Training activities		32,953,057	
(3,396,478)	**Net cash used in investing activities**			**29,916,838**
	Cash Flow from Financing Activities			
18,334,000	Government Grant - Capital Received		23,527,000	
2,767,990	Capital Grant from outside project for Fixed Assets			
(15,990,000)	Capital Grant received for Research and Training Activities		(17,700,740)	
782,510	Bad Debt over Provision		-	
	Expenses from outside for Research & Training activities		(32,953,057)	
	Incentive Amount		11,996,074	
-	Incentive Paid Amount		(9,539,209)	
(8,611)	Incentive Fund Institute Share 10%			
5,885,889				**(24,669,932)**
22,638,062	**Net Increase in Cash & Cash equivalents**			9,582,306
23,265,388	**Cash & Cash Equivalent at the Beginning of Period**	I		45,903,450
45,903,450	**Cash & Cash Equivalent at the End of Period**	II		**55,485,756**
	Notes:			
	Cash & Cash Equivalent		**1**	**11**
			01.01.2024	**31.12.2024**
45,875,260	Cash at bank		45,875,260	55,465,756
28,190	Cash in hand		28,190	20,000
45,903,450	**Total**		**45,903,450**	**55,485,756**

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute
Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity
for the year ended 31 December 2024

LKR

	Government Grant Capital	Reserves	Grant from Mr.Malinda	Capital Grant Presidential Sec.	Capital Grant Funded Project	Revaluation Reserve	Institute Retention (Funded Project)	Accumulated Surplus/(Deficits)	Total
Balance as at 01 January 2024	28,908,768	5,619,846	445,200	526,500	1,497,645	26,450	-	14,494,242	51,518,651
Funds received from Treasury	23,527,000								23,527,000
Ajustment last year asset income	(1,572,300)	(1,856,138)	(445,200)	(526,500)	(1,497,645)			5,897,783	-
Disbursements in 2024							2,528,895		2,528,895
Capital Grant received for Research and Training Activities	(17,700,740)								(17,700,740)
Purchasing of Tabs		(103,534)							(103,534)
Adjustment of asset Purchased income during the year	(2,250,539)						(1,951,526)		(4,202,065)
Transfer to Institute Share 40%		50,977							50,977
Prior Year Adjustments								206,639	206,639
Revaluation for the year						39,985,198			39,985,198
Income & Expenditure								6,199,158	6,199,158
Balance as at 31 December 2024	30,912,189	3,711,152	(0)	(0)	-	40,011,648	577,369	26,797,822	102,010,180

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31st December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 General

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis in accordance with the Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards (SLPSAS) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and the provisions of the Finance Act No. 38 of 1971. No adjustments have been made for inflation. The accounting principles are consistently applied on an accrual basis.

1.2 Comparative Information

The Institute has consistently applied its accounting policies to ensure alignment with the previous year. Prior-year figures have been reclassified where necessary to conform to the current year's presentation.

1.3 Going Concern

The Institute has sufficient resources to continue its operations for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

1.4 Events After the Balance Sheet Date

All material post-balance sheet events have been considered, and necessary adjustments or disclosures have been made in the financial statements where applicable.

1.5 Valuation of Assets

(i) Property, Plant & Equipment

Below Asset classes of Property, plant, and equipment have been revalued as of 31st December 2024. The following asset classes were revalued:

- Equipment/Furniture
- Computer Installations
- Welfare Equipment

The revaluation cost is determined based on the fair value, market price, scrap value, and purchase price of the assets.

Newly acquired or constructed assets, including incidental expenses, are recorded at cost. Expenditures incurred for the acquisition, extension, or improvement of permanent assets are treated as capital expenditures, while maintenance and repair costs are expensed as incurred.

(ii) Depreciation Rates

The following depreciation rates are applied annually:

- Buildings – 2.5%
- Equipment/Furniture – 10%
- Computers – 20%
- Books – 10%
- Vehicles – 20%

Depreciation is charged for the full year in the year of disposal, whereas no depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition.

1.6 Capital Grants for Asset Purchases

- Capital grants received for asset purchases are recorded in accordance with SLPSAS 11.
- Assets granted by donor agencies for special projects, where ownership is not transferred to the Institute, are not recorded as institute Assets.

1.7 Palwehera Bungalow Building

The Palwehera Bungalow was transferred to the Divisional Secretariat Office, Dambulla, on November 1, 2019, at a transfer value of Rs. 1,962,545.66. This transfer value has been written off this year with the approval of the Board of Directors.

1.8 Debtors

(i) Scholarship Debtors

Six scholarship debtor balances continue to be outstanding. Adequate provisions have been made for risks and uncertainties in accordance with SLPSAS 08.

During the year finalized pending case of scholarship debtor that finalized balance was paid by employee.

(ii) Other Debtors

Other debtors are recorded at expected realizable amounts. Adequate provisions for bad and doubtful debts have been made as follows:

- Debtor balances over 5 years – 100% provision
- Debtor balances between 1 and 5 years – 5% provision

(iii) Unrecorded Hostel Income

Unrecorded hostel income amounting to Rs. 8,895,470/- was generated from hostel operations between May 2015 and July 2018. This amount was identified by a special committee appointed by the Director of HARTI but was not recorded, following a decision by the Board of Governors.

(iv) Receivable from Divisional Secretariat Dambulla

This amount includes the transfer value of the Palwehera bungalow, which remains unsettled due to outstanding rental payments and has been requested for write-off.

1.9 Stocks

Consumable items are valued at cost, while other stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realizable value. Stock valuation follows the FIFO method.

1.10 Investment
Fixed deposits are renewed at the same banks.

1.11 Liabilities and Provisions

1.11.1 Gratuity
The actuarial valuation of gratuity liabilities has been incorporated into the financial statements for gratuity payments under the Payment of Gratuity Act No. 12 of 1983. Gratuity is calculated based on the Basic Salary and Cost of Living Allowance. The provision for gratuity is discounted based on the current Treasury bill rate.

1.11.2 Contingent Liabilities

A provision has been made for contingent liabilities related to pending court decisions.

1.12 Contingent Assets

A provision has been made for contingent assets related to pending legal cases involving the recovery of scholarship debts. Details are as follows:

- **Mr. P.D.J. Ananda** – Rs. 1,250,000.00 recovered from guarantors; Rs. 2,759,754.28 still pending.
- **Mr. M.S. Gowrisanker** – Rs. 1,250,000.00 recovered from guarantors; Rs. 3,634,110.07 pending.
- **Dr. Gamini Wickramasinghe** – Ongoing legal proceedings; Rs. 514,000/- deposited as at 31st December 2024 but classified as an unauthorized deposit.
- **Ms. R. Athukorala** – Rs. 1,250,000.00 recovered from guarantors; Rs. 931,521.00 still pending.
- **Mr. P.D.R. Kumarasiri** – Rs. 332,868.56 recovered from guarantors; Rs. 116,433.44 pending. During the year paid Rs 50,000/- by Guarantors'.
- **Ms. A.C.K. Sepala** – Court ordered payment of Rs. 1,200,000.00; Rs. 900,000.00 settled to date. Balance payment was settled on the month of February 2025.
- **Mr.E.A.C.Priyankara** – Ongoing legal proceedings.

1.13 Defined Contribution Plan

The Institute contributes 15% of employees' monthly salaries to the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and 3% to the Employees' Trst Fund (ETF). These contributions are recognized as expenses in the Statement of Financial Performance in accordance with current circulars issued by the Department of Management Services.

1.14 Statement of Financial Performance

The Statement of Financial Performance includes:

- Provisions for bad and doubtful debts and all expected future expenses required for daily operations and property maintenance.
- Revenues from Government Treasury funds, hostel charges, conference hall charges, and other income sources.

1.15 Transport and Printing Costs

Transport and printing expenditures are allocated across all divisions, research, and training. These costs are accounted for at approved rates and adjusted as a percentage of relevant expenditures. Special transport rates apply to funded projects, and these amounts are disclosed under other revenue.

1.16 Capital Grants for Research and Training Activities

The Treasury allocates funds for research and training under the government capital grants program. According to LKAS 38, research and training costs can be treated as intangible assets; however, the Institute's research outputs do not meet the criteria of LKAS 38. Therefore, total research and training costs are expensed in the Statement of Financial Performance, and the corresponding capital grants are also transferred to the Statement of Financial Performance for the year.

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute
Notes to the Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

LKR

2 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
Cash in hand	20,000	28,190
Cash at bank - A/c No 2323292	32,231,752	41,208,178
Cash at bank - A/c No 2323293	12,724,497	1,133,289
Cash at bank - A/c No 2323315	711,637	2,298,960
Cash at bank - A/c No 2323317	9,797,870	1,234,833
	55,485,756	**45,903,450**

3 Receivables

Staff Debtors		
Housing Loan	110,368	143,257
Consolidated loan	21,945,953	20,155,566
Festival Advance	1,250	-
Auditorium Income Receivable	317,088	529,600
Hostel Income Receivable	116,901	833,114
Scholarship debtors	17,915,464	17,965,464
	40,407,024	**39,627,001**
Other Debtors		
Investment income receivable	36,722	39,446
Recoverable from resigned employees	314,126	340,151
Debtors - Mobitel Pvt Ltd	250,626	125,928
Receivable from admin division	14,234	14,234
Receivable from Rashmini	23,575	70,725
Recoverable from Metropolitan Office (Pvt) Ltd	-	70
Receivable from Ministry of Public Administration	-	44,800
Receivable from Medical Insurance	253,429	-
Divisional secretariat Dambulla	-	1,962,546
R 585 Funded WFP Effects of Rising Food Prices on Household Food Security in Sri Lanka	-	103,534
R 597 An Assessment of post harvest losses of maize in Anuradhapura	-	(0)
Receivable from Mrs.Sagarika Hitihamu	84,000	-
CR 603 Survey on Measuring Markets and Consumer Access to Fruits and Vegetables in Sri Lanka	1,557,538	-
Receivable From APO	234,187	-
Receivable Banglow Rent	13,895	-
	2,782,332	**2,701,434**
	43,189,356	**42,328,435**
Less:		
Provision for Bad & Doubtful Debtors	(200,619)	(232,018)
Provision for scholarship	(9,917,753)	(14,031,946)
	33,070,983	**28,064,472**

4 Receivables

Deposits		
Fixed - Caterer	70,000	70,000
Sundry - Sri Lanka Telecom (Internet facility)	3,125	3,125
Sundry - Post Master General	24,945	24,945
Sundry - Colombo Gas and Water Co.	4,750	4,750
Sundry - Water supply and Drainage Board	500	500
Sundry - Celltel Lanka Ltd.	3,500	3,500
Sundry - Ceylon Electricity Board	407,550	407,550
Sundry - Fuel Deposit	250,000	250,000
	764,370	**764,370**

LKR

5	Inventories	2024	2023
	Publication and journals	2,971,456	2,971,457
	Consumables	2,641,364	2,888,667
	Sales Center	1,651,725	1,708,473
		7,264,546	**7,568,596**

6	Prepayments		
	Building Insurance	25,297	24,654
		25,297	**24,654**

7	Other current assets		
	Purchase Advance	499,087	17,126
		499,087	**17,126**

8	Other financial assets		
	Call Deposits	1,500	1,500
	Fixed Deposits at State Mortgage & Investment Bank	1,500,000	1,500,000
	Fixed Deposits at State Mortgage & Investment Bank-Housing Loan Scheme	3,269,813	3,129,465
		4,771,313	**4,630,965**

9 Infrastructure, plant and equipment

Schedule of Depreciation of Assets - 31 December 2024

LKR

Particulars	Cost as at 01.01.2024	Additions / Adustments during the Year 2024	Revaluation	Total Cost / Revaluation as at 31.12.2024	Acc/Dep as at 01.01.2024	Dep.for the year 2,024	Transfer for Revaluation A/C	Accu/Dep. ended 31.12.2024	Net Value as at 31.12.2024
Equipment/Furniture	63,211,060	4,324,849	(24,111,587)	43,424,322	55,365,663	1,938,862	(57,304,524)	-	43,424,322
Computer Installation	39,464,523	1,385,010	(27,326,023)	13,523,510	32,867,439	1,250,846	(34,118,285)	(0)	13,523,510
Motor Vehicles	71,888,647	-	-	71,888,647	71,888,646	-	-	71,888,646	1
Books	16,629,851	13,904	-	16,624,582	15,385,966	436,657	-	15,822,622	801,959
	-	(19,172)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Welfare Equipment	3,735	-	(3,735)	-	3,734	(3,734)	-	-	-
Total	**191,197,815**	**5,704,590**	**(51,441,345)**	**145,461,060**	**175,511,447**	**3,622,630**	**(91,422,809)**	**87,711,268**	**57,749,792**

10 Land and buildings

Schedule of Depreciation of Assets - December 31,2024

Particulars	Cost as at 01.01.2024	Additions/ (Disposals) during the Year 2024	Revaluation	Total Cost as at 31.12.2024	Acc/Dep as at 01.01.2024	Dep.for the year 2,024	Transfer for Revaluation A/C	Accu/Dep. ended 31.12.2024	Net Value as at 31.12.2024
Land	1,857,387	-	-	1,857,387	-	-	-	-	1,857,387
Buildings	56,268,739	-	-	56,268,739	25,299,903	1,299,692	-	26,599,595	29,669,143
	58,126,126	**-**	**-**	**58,126,126**	**25,299,903**	**1,299,692**	**-**	**26,599,595**	**31,526,530**

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute
Notes to the Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

LKR

	Payables	2024	2023
11	Acccrued expenses	12,602,633	8,113,188
	Payable Research & Training Expenses	1,777,811	1,819,666
	Tender deposit refundable	183,462	183,462
	Canteen deposit refundable -Upatissa Paranamana	50,000	50,000
	Unpaid expenditure	46,674	35,774
	Payable to Resigned Employees	690,551	690,551
	Stamp Fees Payable	12,625	14,350
	Payee Tax Payable	120,618	-
	Retention	136,526	136,526
	Creditors	339,730	1,369,904
	Gratuity Payable	126,913	126,913
	Payable to Ministry	-	1,550
	Management Development Book	-	8,000
	Special Advance	-	1,600
	Paybale to divisional secretary dambulla	1,000,000	1,000,000
	Payable to Mr.Narayanasamy	-	10,800
	Payable to Podu sewaka sangamaya	3,120	-
	Unauthorized Deposit	514,000	430,000
	CIRDAP	1,165,513	-
	Podu sevaka sangamaya EMP 828 samanmalee	-	9,500
	incentive scheme payable 2022	-	117,115
	Payable to megaclub & Dr.Sandeepani		-
	Payable to Resilience RTL	-	2,000
	Bank Loan and Savings Payable	-	0
	Payee Tax Mr.Duminda	28,999	-
	Payable to P G D L W Samarasinghe	-	4,991
	Payabe to H Chandrika	-	4,991
	Payabe to Wijekoon	-	1,814
	Payabe to Report Writing	-	642,000
	Creditors against projects		
	Rapid food Security & need Assessment	-	7,774
	R-512 Capacity Development of Agrarian Research -Technology personnel in Sri Lanka on Global Change and sustainability	-	22,831
	WS 02/2024	857,425	-
	SC 01/2024 Sri Lanka Cost and Profitability of Agriculture Production	1,493,308	-
	SC 02/2024 Promoting business oppertunities and industry thinkag through capacity building and networking among micro small medium scale women entrepreours	395,692	-
	R-559 Energy/water baseline assessment for drip irrigation technologies for various	648,588	648,588
	R-561 -2	-	11,825
	WS 01/2024 National level policy dialogue	570,308	-
	Media 02/2024 Establishment and maintenance of dual websites govimina	430,052	-
	CT - 472	72,482	-
	R -581 Consumer Preference Different Rice Varieties in Sri Lanka	542,635	542,635
	SC- 01/2022 Development of Universal whether Index Insurance Portal for scaling Bundled solutions in Sri Lanka	-	0
	SC - 02/2022 Data Collection for the market functionality index (WFP)	-	2,040,635
	PR 586 Funded wfp Recent Policy Changes of Import of Fertilizers and Other Agrochemicals: Effects on Agricultural Production and Farming Households	-	1,946,835
	Media 01/2023 "GOVIMINA" Newspaper and the "GOVIMINA" Magazine		721,032
	R 587 Value Chain Analysis Survey for the Project for Livelihood Enhancement of Small and Medium Scale Agri Producers Through Strengthening Supply Chain	-	2,653,918
	SC 01/2023 Data Collection for the Market Functionality Index (MFI)	-	3,224,750
	R 588 Leveraging the Integrated E-Extension Services to Minimize the Sri Lankan Agricultural Sector Vulnerability to Climate Shocks (FMM/GLO/MUL)	-	1,987,017
	R 599 Leveraging the Integrated E-Extension Services to Minimize the Sri Lankan Agricultural Sector Vulnerability to Climate Shocks	3,480,132	146,122
	T 452 Organizing Workshops, Developing Training Materials and Tools and Conducting Training Programs	0	230,440
		27,289,796	**28,959,096**

12 HECTOR KOBBEKADUWA AGRARIAN RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE
Actuarial Valuation of Gratuity Liabilities as at 31 December 2024

		Rs.
Change in the Present Value of The Difined Benefit Obligation (PV)		
Provision for PV-DBO as at 01 January 2024	=	55,008,475.33
Interest Cost for the period	=	3,845,333.40
Gratuity paid for those who left during the period	=	-
Gratuity payable for those who left during the period	=	(9,284,002.50)
Actuarial (Gain)/Loss on PV	=	12,287,891.35
Provision for PV-as at 31 December 2024	=	61,857,697.58

AMOUNTS RECOGNIZED IN THE BALANCE SHEET AND INCOME STATEMENT

Liability recognised in the balance sheet		
Provision for Gratuity as at 31 December 2024	=	61,857,697.58
Unrecognized actuarial Gains/(Losses) as at 31 December 2024	=	-
Liability recognized in the balance sheet as at 31 December 2024	=	61,857,697.58

Expenses recognised in the income statement		
Interest Cost	=	3,845,333.40
Net Actuarial (Gain)/Loss recognized immediately	=	12,287,891.35
Expences recognized in the Income Statement		16,133,224.75

Movements in the Net Liability Recognised in the balance sheet		
Opening Net Liability as at 01 January 2024	=	55,008,475.33
Expences recognized in the Income Statement	=	16,133,224.75
Gratuity paid/payable for those who left during the period	=	(9,284,002.50)
Closing Net Liability as at 31 December 2024	=	61,857,697.58

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute
Notes to the Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

LKR

		2024	2023
	Government Grant - Capital		
13	Balance as at January 01,	28,908,768	31,195,361
	Capital Contribution During the year	23,527,000	18,334,000
	Capital Grant received for Research and Training Activities	(17,700,740)	(15,990,000)
	Adjustments last year	(1,572,300)	(4,640,694)
	Adjustments during the year	(2,250,540)	-
	Balance as at December 31,	**30,912,189**	**28,908,768**

		2024	2023
	Reserves		
14	Capital Reserve	1,675,000	1,675,000
	Incentive Fund - Institute share	2,036,152	3,944,846
	Grant Incentive Fund 40%	-	
		3,711,152	**5,619,846**

		2024	2023
	Institute Retention (Funded Project)		
15	Institute Retention (Funded Project)	577,369	-
		577,369	-

		2024	2023
	Accumulated deficits		
16	Balance as at January 01,	14,494,242	(2,534,012)
	Prior year adjustment - for the year	6,104,422	899,895
	Expenditure over income as at December 31,	6,199,158	16,128,359
	Balance as at December 31,	**26,797,822**	**14,494,242**

		2024	2023
	Other Revenue		
17	Hostel charges	14,354,682	15,301,880
	Conference hall charges	12,366,830	10,655,800
	Sales of publications	189,385	44,740
	Interest on investments	344,059	375,542
	Interest on staff loan	1,046,497	967,613
	Recurrent contribution from projects	-	465,731
	Bungalow fees and room rent	212,944	225,789
	Manpower Income	-	27,543
	Other income	78,718	149,605
	Differ Income	-	5,655,619
	Supplier's Registration Unidentified	-	128,000
	Supplier Registration	152,000	-
	Admin Cost	2,478,591	5,784,745
	Mobitel Income	124,697	147,150
	Sales of Note Books & Bags	-	2,725
	Tender Fees	-	9,000
	Transport Facilities for funded project	6,852,304	10,385,054
	Overhead (Funded Project)	628,709	-
	Debtor - Scholarship Income	1,645,850	-
		40,475,267	**50,326,537**

		2024	2023
	Wages, salaries and employee benefits		
18	Salary -Permanent staff	70,813,551	76,333,555
	Salary - Investigators	14,118,500	10,995,020
	Cost of Living Allowance,Special Allowance & other	50,003,317	31,532,911
	EPF	16,491,302	14,920,770
	ETF	3,298,260	2,977,490
	Overtime	4,828,116	3,329,890
	Gratuity	16,133,225	4,377,658
		175,686,271	**144,467,293**

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute
Notes to the Statements for the year ended December 31, 2024

LKR

		2024	2023
	Other expenses		
19	Local subsistence & Local transport	6,927,682	6,723,599
	Foreign Travel Allowance	122,960	175,608
	Stationery and office requisites	2,602,548	2,184,317
	Fuel and lubricants	2,902,097	2,284,337
	Uniforms	669,999	251,702
	Vehicle repairs	7,535,993	2,712,797
	Maintenance of Building	765,757	978,748
	Plant machinery and equipment repairs	3,958,051	2,809,556
	Telephone charges	3,654,112	3,101,855
	Electricity	6,537,363	6,633,572
	Water bills	1,146,190	1,052,192
	Taxes to local authorities	792,497	566,928
	Postal charges	270,000	351,900
	Transport	1,030,461	1,161,759
	Technical Advice for Vehicles	120,000	75,000
	Technical Advice for Construction	90,000	15,000
	Newspapers	43,720	55,870
	License and insurance	836,521	292,140
	Security charges	4,272,450	4,318,856
	Cleaning services	1,458,377	1,297,673
	Laundry services	426,075	389,995
	Audit fees	683,600	800,000
	Medical Insurance	662,000	781,600
	Canteen charges	1,005,152	966,757
	Miscellaneous expenses - Others	50,693	187,757
	Legal charges	290,000	50,000
	Advertisement	218,890	151,685
	Interview charges	52,120	14,520
	Board of governors	243,145	437,255
	Printing & Publication	973,016	931,374
	Entertainment	5,340	13,073
	Dissemination of information	137,631	251,729
	Cost of Sales - Publications	169,754	54,169
	Withholding Tax	11,668	23,887
	Audit & Mgt Committee	106,296	126,275
	Staff Development	1,682,248	841,740
	Translation Fees	60,975	88,965
	Technical Advice for Equipment & Others	30,000	
	Data Purchasing	100,750	60,375
	Salary control		(1)
	Writt off Expences	2,007,346	54,086
	Damage Stock	3,089	7,047
		54,656,567	**43,275,695**

...ctor Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research & Training Institute
...tes to the Statements for the year ended December 31,2024
...earch & Training Activities

Description	Amount(Rs)
20 ES 01/2024	750,820.61
Media 01/2024	430,789.21
ES 02/2024	389,882.56
Institute Publication	76,106.50
Monitoring Research & Training	220,636.38
WS 03/2024	56,826.01
WS 04/2024	263,640.00
R - 602	1,330,790.01
R - 604	1,144,942.55
R - 605	1,282,389.38
R - 606	1,756,822.19
SA 01/2024	958,421.81
PR 601 - Treasury	1,093,631.00
R - 608	1,138,092.41
WS 05/2024	88,610.00
R - 607	1,706,568.37
WS 06/2024	15,610.00
R - 609	502,248.23
Media 04/2024	348,957.13
Media 06/2024	225,436.09
Media 07/2024	273,493.53
Media 05/2024	114,000.00
T - 468	357,664.36
T - 470	365,154.47
T - 469	912,326.19
T - 471	741,515.20
T - 473	192,775.95
T - 475	1,022,027.36
T - 476	1,094,562.50
	18,854,740.00

21 Funds to Outsiders for Reserch and Training Activities

Project No	Project Name	Funded Agancy	Amount (Rs)
WS 02/2024	Climate - Adapted Farming Practices and Climate Adaption of Vulnerable Groups in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka - Community Dissemination Workshop	World Vision	2,367,151.5
CR 599	Leveraging the Integrated E-Extension Services to Minimize the Sri Lankan Agricultural Sector Vulnerability to Climate Shocks	FAO	23,146,685.0
WS 01/2024	Climate - Adapted Farming Practices and Climate Adaption of Vulnerable Groups in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka National Level Policy Dialogue	World Vision	66,527.7
Media 02/2024	Establishment and Maintenance of	DevPro	659,285.4
PR 601	Assessment of Harvest Loss of Mango Under Alternative Contractual Arrangements Between Farmers and Collectors	University of Peradeniya	1,000,000.0
Publication 01/2024	Afuth Sahal Mangallya - 2024	Rathna (Pvt) Ltd	436,399.0
CT 472	Strengthening of Good Quality Seed Planting Material Production, Quality Assurance and Marketing System	FAO	2,175,599.1
CR 603	Survey on Measuring Markets and Consumer Access to Fruits and Vegetables in Sri Lanka	IFRI	2,220,482.6
SC 01/2024	Unique Land Use GMBH	Unique Land	852,967.4
SC 02/2024	ortunities and Industry Linkages Through Capacity Building and Networking Among Micro, Small and Medium-Scale Women Entrepreneurs	DevPro	27,959.1
			32,953,056.7

3.2. Audit Report

Audit Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements and Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) for the Year Ended 31 December 2024, in terms of Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit was conducted under my authority in accordance with the provisions of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the Agrarian Research and Training Institute Act No. 5 of 1972, and the Financial Regulations Act No. 38 of 1971, and should be read in conjunction with Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024 include the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Financial Performance, the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Cash Flow Statement, and Notes containing a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section, the financial position of HARTI as of 31st December 2024, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, present fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards (SLPSAS).

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

(a) A consolidated loan of Rs. 21,945,953 had not been properly disclosed under current and non-current assets as per SLPSAS No. 01, paragraph 71.

(b) Employee benefit disclosures had not been made according to SLPSAS No. 19, paragraphs 141(a) to (d).

(c) The Institute had provided hostel facilities free of charge to various individuals from May 2015 to July 2018. Although a committee had identified Rs. 8,895,470 as receivable income in 2019, this amount was neither recorded as income nor collected.

(d) An amount of Rs. 695,429 in accrued expenses was not accounted for, leading to the understatement of both expenses and accrued liabilities by that amount.

(e) Expenses amounting to Rs. 436,828 related to the current year but paid in 2025 were not recorded, resulting in the overstatement of the year-end surplus.

(f) Although 103 laptops and accessories valued at Rs. 4,256,390, received as donations for research projects, were in use, they were not recorded in the financial statements.

(g) Assets valued at Rs. 1,804,500 purchased during the current year had been recorded in the 2023 financial year along with depreciation of Rs. 302,350. The failure to rectify this misstatement resulted in overstated depreciation and understated accumulated funds.

(h) An expenditure of Rs. 327,110 relating to 2025 was recorded as an accrued expense in the current year, thereby understating the surplus and overstating payables.

(i) Publications valued at Rs. 2,971,456 were found to be either destroyed or unusable but had not been removed from the books or provided for.

The audit was conducted in accordance with the Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuS). I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

1.3 Other Information in the Annual Report 2024

Other information refers to content included in the Institute's 2024 Annual Report, received prior to this audit report, excluding the financial statements and auditor's report. Management is responsible for such information. My opinion does not cover the other information, and I do not express any form of assurance thereon. If any material inconsistencies between the financial statements and other information had been found, they would have been reported. However, I have no such matters to report.

1.4 Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements in accordance with SLPSAS and for establishing internal controls to enable the preparation of financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Management must assess the Institute's ability to continue as a going concern and disclose matters related to it unless an intention exists to cease operations. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Institute's financial reporting process.

According to Section 16(1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the Institute must maintain proper books and records to prepare financial statements accurately.

1.5 Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. While reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, it is not a guarantee that a material misstatement will always be detected. Misstatements may arise from fraud or error and are considered material if they could influence users' economic decisions. In conducting the audit, I exercised professional judgment and skepticism, identified and assessed risks of material misstatements, evaluated accounting policies and disclosures, and assessed the appropriateness of the going concern basis.

I communicated with those charged with governance regarding audit findings and significant deficiencies in internal control identified.

- In forming the basis for the expressed audit opinion, appropriate audit procedures were planned and executed to identify and assess the risks of material misstatements in the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. The impact of misstatements resulting from fraud is generally more significant than those arising from error, as fraud typically involves deliberate concealment, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal controls.
- Although the audit was not intended to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal controls, an understanding of the internal control environment was obtained in order to design audit procedures appropriate to the circumstances.
- The appropriateness of accounting policies used, the reasonableness of accounting estimates, and the related disclosures made by management were evaluated.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern assumption in preparing the financial statements was assessed. If it is concluded that a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, attention must be drawn to the related disclosures in the financial statements in the audit report. If such disclosures are inadequate, the audit opinion must be modified. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease operations.
- Transactions and events on which the structure and content of the financial statements are based were assessed to ensure they are appropriately and fairly recorded, and that the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, including related disclosures.

Significant audit findings, major internal control deficiencies, and other matters identified during the audit have been communicated to those charged with governance.

2. Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

2.1 Special provisions are included in relation to the following requirements under the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018:

2.1.1 Except for the effects of the matters described in the section "Basis for Qualified Opinion" in my report, all necessary information and explanations required for the audit were obtained, and based on my observations, the Institute has maintained proper financial records, in accordance with Section 12(a) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

2.1.2 In accordance with Section 6(1)(d)(iii) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the financial statements of the Institute are consistent with those of the previous year.

2.1.3 As required under Section 6(1)(d)(iv) of the same Act, the recommendations made by me in the previous year have been incorporated into the current year's financial statements.

2.2 Based on the actions taken by the Institute and the audit evidence obtained, and subject to materiality limits, I have not become aware of anything that would cause me to report that:

2.2.1 As per Section 12(d) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, any member of the Institute's Board of Governors had, directly or indirectly, any interest in any contract or agreement relating to the Institute that was inconsistent with normal business conditions.

2.2.2 Except for the observations stated elsewhere in this report, the Institute has acted in compliance with applicable written laws or any other general or special directions issued by its Board of Governors, as required under Section 12(e) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

	Reference to Laws / Regulations	Non-Compliance
(a)	Regulation 381(1) of the Financial Regulations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	Although it is mandatory to obtain prior approval from the Treasury's Department of State Accounts to open an official bank account, the Institute had maintained four mobile bank accounts without obtaining such approval.
(b)	Section 3.4 (ix), Chapter 3 of the Operations Manual of Public Enterprises Circular No. PED 01/2021 dated 16 November 2021	According to regulations, acting appointments should not exceed a period of one year. However, six officers of the Institute had been engaged in acting duties for several years, during which a total sum of Rs. 2,063,343 had been paid as salaries and allowances.
(c)	Section 7(b) of Treasury Circular No. MOF 01/2015/01 dated 15 May 2015, issued by the Ministry of Finance and the Secretary to the Treasury	A Senior Research Officer of the Institute participated in a training program held in China from 01 to 14 November 2024. An advance payment equivalent to USD 375 (Rs. 112,678) was made for incidental expenses covering 15 days. Meanwhile, the sponsoring Chinese organization had paid CNY 2,100 (approximately Rs. 84,000) as a daily allowance for the same period. According to applicable circular provisions, the officer was required to repay the Rs. 84,000 being an unentitled amount within one month upon return to Sri Lanka. However, in violation of these provisions, the Board of Governors, at its 403rd meeting, approved repayment in 36 monthly installments.

2.2.3 In accordance with Section 12(f) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, it was observed that the Institute had acted in a manner that was not consistent with its vested powers, duties, and functions.

2.2.4 As per Section 12(g) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, it was observed that the resources of the Institute had not been procured and utilized in a timely, economical, efficient, and effective manner, in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

2.3 Other Matters

(a) Although an approved cadre of 228 staff members was granted by the Department of Management Services on 27 May 2019, the Institute had not established a recruitment procedure for 13 positions included in that cadre.

(b) According to the Institute's approved recruitment policy, annual efficiency bar examinations should be conducted for approved positions. However, no such examinations had been held since 2019.

(c) As of 31December of the reviewed year, the total amount receivable stood at Rs. 43,189,356, of which Rs. 17,915,464 related to foreign scholarship loans. From this, Rs. 12,643,448 represented outstanding balances dating back to before 2002, for which recovery action had not yet been initiated. Additionally, a sum of Rs. 5,272,016, recoverable from an officer who had resigned without informing the Institute to accept a university lecturer position in 2021, had also not been pursued.

(d) An amount of Rs. 2,158,880 was recorded as payables outstanding for more than five years, and necessary actions to settle or clear these balances had not been taken.

(e) A lorry valued at Rs. 600,000, donated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1984, had been recorded in the books but had not been officially transferred to the Institute as of 31 December of the year under review.

3.3. Audit Answers

Fin/Aud/Qry/2024 **ARI/B/HARTI/FA/01/24/35/01**

Audit Response under Section 12 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) related to Financial Statements and Other Legal/Regulatory Requirements for the Year Ending December 31, 2024

The clarifications related to the above-mentioned report submitted under reference No. ARI/B/HARTI/FA/01/24/35/01 dated 2025.05.30 are provided below

1.2. Basis for Qualified Opinion

(a) Accepted. Will take steps to classify correctly in the future.

(b) Employee benefits have been accounted for according to Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standard (SLPSAS) No. 19. As highlighted by the audit, other necessary disclosures as per the standard will also be made in the future.

(c) Regarding the allocation of five hostel rooms to officers claimed to be security personnel of the Minister of Agriculture: a committee was appointed by the Director on 10.07.2019 under letter No. R/INFO/5. The committee's report was submitted on 02.09.2019. Based on this, a recommendation to account for Rs. 8,895,470 as income was submitted to the Audit and Management Committee on 03.09.2020. Following the committee's recommendations, the information was disclosed in the financial statements under note 1.8(iii) of the 2024 annual financial report.

(d) Accepted.
(e) G 36 – Difference: Rs. 468,703.00

A total of Rs. 438,757.38 including EPF and ETF was listed under incidental expenses related to Project 2-4. A total of Rs. 718,554.52 was included under G 36 for research and training expenses. Supporting documents for EPF/ETF deductions show the total as Rs. 1,157,311.90. Therefore, accounting is accurate.

G 83 – Difference: Rs. 1,000.00 – Agreed.
P – Difference: Rs. 30,875.00
Salaries and relevant ETF for Projects CT 472 and CR 603 have been properly accounted for based on supporting documents. The EPF (25%) and ETF (3%) were included, and stamp duty of Rs. 75 was deducted before recording. Thus, accounting is correct.

(f) Though the institute received 103 tablets under external projects, the Agreements with the relevant institutions did not state the transfer of ownership. The tablets were provided based on operational need. Since they are in use, they were included in the 2024 financial report based on market value. Before Board approval, the matter was presented to the Audit and Management Committee, and based on their recommendation, a note was included in the financial report. It was disclosed as an annexure to the audit report, clarifying that ownership has not been transferred. Based on the Auditor General's recommendation, arrangements have been made to formally account for them in 2025.

(g) Accepted.

(h) Depreciation was calculated for 2023 based on the existing fixed asset depreciation policy. Since this was deemed accurate, changes were not made in 2024. However, the depreciation policy has now been revised.
(i) Accepted.
(j) Accepted. Necessary steps are being taken.

2. Legal and Regulatory Compliance Report

2.2.2

(a) Four mobile accounts have existed since the beginning of the Institute. However, approval documents from the Treasury for initiating these accounts are unavailable. Steps will be taken to seek guidance from the Treasury.

(b) Due to the inability to recruit statisticians for several years, their acting duties were assigned (with Board approval) to qualified individuals temporarily until permanent recruitment.

(c) Senior Research Officer Ms. Sagarika Hettihamu participated in a training program in China from November 1–14, 2024. She received ¥2100 (approx. Rs. 84,000) as incidental allowance. According to circulars, this should be paid in one installment. However, she requested to pay it in 36 monthly installments due to financial hardship. This request was submitted to the Board, which approved her request after considering her past and future service and confirming there would be no financial loss to the state. It was emphasized that no similar concessions would be granted in the future.

2.3. Other Matters

(a) A cadre of 228 staff approved on May 27, 2019, by the Department of Management Services is in use. A request was submitted to revise the cadre list, and until such revision is received, recruitment continues under the 2012 approved procedure. A revised cadre list has been sent, and preparations are in place to implement a new recruitment scheme once approved.
(b) Necessary steps are being taken to conduct the Annual Efficiency Bar Examination promptly.
(c) As of December 31, 2024, Rs. 17,915,464 was outstanding from foreign scholarship loan recipients. Actions on these loans are as follows:

1. Ranjani Athukorala	731,521.00	Now living in Australia; has agreed to pay the full amount by Dec 2025
2. P.D.J. Ananda	2,759, 754.28	Address unknown; legal action not possible
3. Gowri Shankar	3,654,110.67	Address unknown; legal action not possible
4. P.D.R. Kumarasiri	18,433.49	Sureties are repaying; final installment due
5. Gamini Wickramasinghe	4,392,878.10	Final judgment received, but non-payment continued; Attorney General was notified, but no legal action yet. Reminder will be sent
6. E.A.C. Priyankara	5,272,016.00	Left service in 2022. Legal action initiated in 2023. Case ongoing; one surety unreachable due to address change

The institute actively pursued legal actions, and the number of defaulters has now reduced to six due to these steps. Out of the remaining three, all have untraceable addresses. Efforts to contact them continue.

(d) Breakdown of the long-standing loan balance of Rs. 2,324,342.85:

Refundable deposits	-	115,462.00
Canteen deposits	-	50,000.00
Dues to retired employees	-	189,150.61
Withheld deposits	-	136,526.06
Creditors	-	57,703.75
Gratuity to be paid	-	126,912.50
District Secretariat – Dambulla	-	1,000,000.00
Project-related loan balances	-	648,587.75
Total		**2,324,342.85**

Amounts payable to employees who have retired/resigned from service

- **T. Ravichandran (Rs. 150,015.00):** Surety for a scholarship holder. Payment held by the institute.

  N.S. Wickramaarachchi (Rs. 39,135.61): Informed, but has not come forward to claim the amount.

Withheld Charges: Related to construction work; no claim has been submitted yet.

Gratuity Payable- 126,912.50

Includes unpaid cost-of-living-related gratuity. Two individuals are scholarship sureties. One of them (H.K.S. Premalal) is a scholarship debtor.

Rs. 1,000,000.00 – Dambulla District Secretariat: Tax liability for Pelwehera holiday resort. Written notification was sent, but no clear response has been received yet.

Steps will be taken to settle remaining project-related loan balances during 2025.

(e) Steps have been initiated to appoint a committee to dispose of relevant vehicles in accordance with circulars. Remaining work will be expedited.

Chapter 04
Performance indicators

Publications

Research reports	Working papers	Periodicals
	04	

Newsletter
04 volumes

Newspaper
05 volumes

Projects

Research	**Research**	**Training**
Consolidated fund	financial aids (external)	
12	04	04

Social Media

Facebook users-

You tube – Uploaded videos - 38 full-length videos and 53 short videos

Chapter 05

Performance in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals

Achievements and Challenges in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Through a revised action plan, the organization was able to reach the sustainable development goals that expected to achieve through research and training programs through strategic planning of data collection methods in the last quarter.

Sustainable Development Goal	Target	Indices of achievement	Progress of achievements up to now		
			0% - 49%	50%- 74%	75%-100%
Zero poverty, end hunger in all its forms everywhere	Costs and affordability of nutritious food menus: Critical ways to strengthen decision-making by analyzing nutritional status and taking steps towards multi-pronged policy and system changes.	Research Report			✓
Achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Food Consumption Patterns of Urban Adolescents in Sri Lanka: Motives, Barriers and Implications for Healthy Eating Habits	Research Report Policy Brief			✓
	Agro-tourism as a Sustainable Livelihood Development Practice in Sri Lanka	Research Report Policy Brief			✓
	Progression of Agro-Based Start-ups: Designing Effective Interventions for Sustainable Entrepreneurship	Research Report Policy Brief			✓

Sustainable Development Goal	Target	Indices of achievement	Progress of achievements up to now		
			0% - 49%	50%- 74%	75%-100%
Achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Participatory Conservation and Productivity Improvement of Paddy-based Eco-system in Low Country Wet Zone	Research Report		✓	
	Contractual Agreements in Mango and Pineapple Farmgate	Research Report Policy Brief			✓
	An Exploration of Farmers' Preferences for Organic Fertilizer Applications in Paddy Cultivation	Research Report Policy Brief		✓	
	An Exploration of Farmers' Preferences for Organic Fertilizer Applications in Paddy Cultivation	Research Report Policy Brief			✓
	Promotion of Production and Application of Vermicomposting and Organic Liquid Fertilizers in Farming	Research Report Policy Brief			✓
	Study on the Use of Plastic Crates Provided to Minimize Post-Harvest Losses	Research Report		✓	
	Unlocking the Digital Potential: Challenges and Potential for the Advancement of Digital Agricultural Extension Services in the Agricultural Sector in Sri Lanka	Research Report		✓	
Calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Adapting to Change: Assessing Farmer Adherence to Early Forecasts for Climate Resilience in Sri Lankan Paddy Cultivation	Research Report Policy Brief			✓

Progress –Annual Action Plan 2024

Allocation –Rs. 30,000,000.00

The Physical & Financial progress as at end 31st Dec. 2024

No	Study Title	Financial (Rs. Mn)		Physical (%)	
		Target	Progress	Target	Progress
1	Unlocking the Digital Potential: Challenges and Strategies for E-Extension Advancement in Sri Lanka's Agricultural Landscape	0.8	0.502	70	60
2	Agritourist as a Sustainable Livelihood Development Practice in Sri Lanka	1.2	1.282	100	75
3	Progression of agro-based start-ups: designing effective interventions for sustainable entrepreneurship	1.68	1.71	100	75
4	Food Consumption Patterns and Behaviour among Urban Adolescents in Sri Lanka: Implications for Healthy Eating Habits.	1.1	1.145	100	75
5	Dedicated Economic Centers in Sri Lanka: Functionality and Sustainability	2.09	1.76	55	50
6	Contractual Agreements in Mango & Pineapple Value Chains	1.5	1.09	100	75
7	Beyond Fertilizers: A Comprehensive Look at Sustainable Nutrient Management for Enhanced Rice Production in Sri Lanka	1.52	1.331	100	75
8	Adapting to Change: Assessing Farmer Adherence to Early Forecasts for Climate Resilience in Sri Lankan Paddy Cultivation	1.2	1.138	100	75
9	Cost and Affordability of Nutritious Diets: An Approach to Strengthen Nutrition Situation Analysis and Decision Making towards Multi-Sectoral Policies and Systems Change	0.5	-	100	75
10	Participatory Conservation and Productivity Improvement of Paddy-based Ecosystem in Low Country Wet Zone	0.5	0.390	100	70
11	Promotion of production and application of vermi-compost and organic liquid fertilizers in farming	0.8	0.751	100	100
12	Use of Plastic crates in fruits and vegetables supply chains: An evaluation of its effectiveness	0.93	0.958	100	60
13	T- 476 Awareness program for rural youth communities on the opportunities available to develop as agri-entrepreneurs	1.2	1.094	100	100
14	T- 473Agri-Entrepreneurship Development Training Program (Second Phase)	0.2	0.193	100	100

No	Study Title	Financial (Rs. Mn)		Physical (%)	
		Target	Progress	Target	Progress
15	T-468/T- 469/T-470 Awareness programme on increasing household food security	1.4	1.64	100	100
16	T- 471/T-475 Training program on strengthening Farmer Organizations (FOs)	2.2	1.764	100	100
17	Seminar & Workshop	0.4	0.4	100	100
18	Institute publication	0.4	0.076	100	50
19	Media Work	1.644	1.393	100	100
20	Monitoring of Research & Training work	0.770	0.390	100	100
21	Assets –Equipment	8.0	5.7	100	80
	TOTAL	**30.0**	**24.55**		

Chapter 06:
Human Resource Profile

Staff status as at 31st December 2024

Status of the cadre as at 1st of December 2024				
	Status as at 2023.12.31	**Terminations, Resigning during the year**	**Appointments**	**Status as at 2024.12.31**
Director	1	1	1	1
Additional Director	-	-	-	-
Head of the Division	6	-	-	6
Research Staff	20	3	1	18
Administrative Staff	7	1	-	6
Senior Library Staff	1	-	-	1
Data Development Bank	-	-	-	-
Computer Unit	-	-	-	-
Publication Unit	5	2		3
Statistic Staff	12	-	1	13
Technical Staff	2	-	-	2
Clerical, Secretarial and similar grade Staff	34	2	-	32
Operational and similar grade	38	3	3	38
Total	**126**	**12**	**6**	**120**

Staff training

In the year 2024, the institute allocated Rs. 6 million from the Consolidated Fund. However, due to the economic situation in the country, the General Treasury restricted the training expenses of the year 2024. The amount spent on training during the year was Rs. 1,682,248.00

The following research officers were engaged in post-graduate studies:

1. Indika Edirisinghe, Research Officer - PhD, Putra University, Malaysia.
2. Utpala Jayasinghe, Research Officer - PhD, Tsukuba University, Japan.
3. Rifana Buhari, Research Officer - PhD, Western Sydney University, Australia.

4. Sagarika Hitihamu, Senior Research Officer - PhD, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.
5. Norika Iomi, Research Officer - PhD, Open University.
6. Rasika Wijesinghe, Research Officer - Postgraduate (Masters), University of Canada West, Canada.
7. Dinusha Ratnayake, Research Officer - Postgraduate (Master), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Participation in foreign training programs
Programs/Conferences/Workshops/Conferences/Meetings etc.

Dr. N. P. G. Samantha, Senior Research Officer - Participating as a member of a delegate team to visit India from 12 to 18 February 2024 organized by the High Commission of India.

S. P. Fernando, Research Officer - Participated in the "Food Security and Repletion of Post Production Loss for Belt and Road Countries under the Global Development Initiatives" session held in China from April 16 to May 01, 2024.

1. P. P. M. Wijesinghe, Senior Research Officer - Participated in the "Agricultural Standardization Co – Operation between China and South Asian Countries" session held in China from 12 to 27 May 2024.
2. K. A. Dissanayake and J. A. U. P. Jayasinghe, Research Officers - participated in the training program on "Capacity Development in the Plant Science Industry" organized by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOIKA) in South Korea from 08 to 21 June 2024.
3. D. T. P. S. Dharmawardena, Research Officer - participated in a training program on "Pesticides and their Waste Management for Food Crop Protection" sponsored by the Government of India (ITEC) from 22 August to 04 September 2024.
4. G. V. N. Ayomi, Research Officer - participated in a training program titled "Rural Tourism Towards Integrated Rural Development" sponsored by the Government of Malaysia from 09 to 17 October 2024.
5. Sagarika Athiyamu, Senior Research Officer - participated in a training program titled "Tropical Agrotourism Development and Planning for Developing Countries" sponsored by the Chinese Government from 01 to 14 November 2024.
6. Duminda Priyadarshana, Senior Research Officer - participated in the workshop on "Measurement Marking of Agricultural Machinery Models" organized by the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) in Pakistan from 11 to 14 November 2024.

Participation in local training programs

1. Chandrika Dahanayake, Assistant Registrar (Programs) participated in a training program titled "New Trends in Labor Law" conducted by the National Institute of Labor Studies on 21.08.2024.
2. The "Python & GIS" program for all research officers was held on 2024.02.26.
3. 06 sessions were held from June - December under the "Research Methodology" program for all research officers.
4. Mr. Saliya Indika, Mr. Janith Sudarshana, Mr. Wasantha Kumara, Mr. Chandana Rubasinghe, Mr. Mahesh Thilakaratne and Mr. Saman Pethaliyagoda participated in

the “Drivers' Skills Development” program conducted by the National Institute of Labour Studies on 2024.08.22 and 2024.08.23.

5. Mrs. B.C. Munasinghe and Mr. W.H.P. Yasaratne (Data Entry Officer) Mrs. K.A.S. Geethani (Administrative Officer), S.D. Mrs. Lalana Sriyani, Mrs. Nimeshi Aluvihare, Mrs. P.G.A.P. Dilhani and Mrs. Akarshani Senanayake (Management Assistant) participated on 03, 04 and 05.09.2024. for the “Administrative Officer Capacity Development” program conducted by the National Institute of Labour Studies
6. Mr. Teshan Dolamulla and Mr. Darshana Wijesinghe (Management Assistant) and Mrs. Radhika Kalupahana - Technical Assistant (Civil) participated in the “Administrative Officer Capacity Development” program conducted by the National Institute of Labour Studies for 10 days every Tuesday from 26.09.2024.

Chapter 07
Compliance Report

Requirement	Status of compliance	brief explanation in case of non-compliance	Corrective measures to prevent future incidents of non-compliance
1. Submission of Financial Statements			
1.1 Having forwarded the Financial Statements for the reviewed year on due date.	√		
2. Responding the Auditing			
2.1 Answers for audit queries having being forwarded on the date prescribed by the Auditor General.	√		
2.2 Mistakes pointed out in the audit paragraphs issued in previous years by the Auditor General, having being rectified.	√		
3. Planning			
3.1 Annual Action Plan of the institution having being prepared.	√		
3.2 Approval for the Action plan for the year under review being obtained on due date.	√		
3.3 Having obtained the Approval for the budget of the year under review on due date.	√		
3.4 Having obtained the approval for the Annual Procurement plan on due date.	√		
4. Control of charges			
4.1 Having assessed the properties on which charges are applied, once in every five years.			Steps are being taken to conduct assessments
4.2 Having a 70% percentage of the billed value of income being collected for the reviewed year within the same. 4.3 Having issued the warrants to recover the arrears charges.	√ Not applicable		

Requirement	Status of compliance	brief explanation in case of non-compliance	Corrective measures to prevent future incidents of non-compliance
5. Control of rents			
5.1 Having all the properties rented out annually (Meat stalls/ fish stalls/ public fair premises) being rented out within the reviewed year.	Not applicable		
5.2 Having entered into agreements in respect of all properties rented out annually	Not applicable		
5.3 Having charged the rental payments duly from the annually rented out properties.	Not applicable		
5.4 Having initiated legal actions to recover the due arrears payments.	Not applicable		
5.5 Having rented out the properties which were to be rented out on long term basis (Public market stalls)	Not applicable		
5.6 Having entered into agreements in respect of all properties which were to be rented out on long term basis.	Not applicable		
6. Administration of Business taxes and Trade licenses			
6.1 Having conducted a survey to collect business taxes and trade license fees.	Not applicable		
6.2 Cases having being filed against the business premises which has not obtained license.	Not applicable		
7. Audit and Management Committees			
7.1 Having conducted 04 sessions of Audit and Management Committees within the relevant year, at least.	✓		
8. Bank Accounts Management			
8.1 Keeping banking reconciliation statements ready for auditing having prepared and certified them on due dates.	√		
8.2 Dormant bank accounts from the reviewed year or earlier years having being settled.	√		
8.3 Actions being taken regarding balances disclosed by bank reconciliation statements and that should have been planned, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and having settled such balances within a period of one month.	√		
9. Assets Management			
9.1 All asses having being documented.	√		
9.2 Ensuring the safety of all assets.	√		
9.3 Having acquired all the assets.	√		
9.4 Board of Survey has been conducted as per Public Finance Circular No. 01/2020 and the relevant reports have been forwarded to Auditor General on due date.	√		

Requirement	Status of compliance	brief explanation in case of non-compliance	Corrective measures to prevent future incidents of non-compliance
9.5 Having implemented the recommendations within the time period prescribed in the Circular regarding the surpluses, deficiencies and other facts revealed through the Board of Survey.	√		
9.6 Disposal of the condemned goods as per F.R. 772			Branch is taking actions for disposal
10. Management of Vehicles			
10.1 Having prepared Daily Running Charts and Monthly summarized reports for vehicles in the pool and forwarded to Auditor General.	√		
10.2 Vehicles being disposed within a period less than 06 months following the condemnation.			Actions of disposals are to be taken.
10.3 Maintenance and updating of Vehicle log books.	√		
10.4 In respect of all vehicle accidents, the fuel consumption of such vehicles being re inspected as per the regulation number 103, 104,109 and 110 of Financial Regulations.	√		
10.5 Having re inspected the fuel consumption of vehicles as per the provisions of Paragraph No. 3.1 of the P.A. Circular No. 2016/30 of 29.12.2016.	√		
10.6 A Vehicle Repair Registry with updates being maintained in the institution.	√		
10.7 A registry of Institutional use of fuel being maintained.	√		
11. Staff Management			
11.1 Staff having being recruited and paid within the limits of the approved cadre.	√		
Duty lists in writing having been assigned to all members of the staff.	√		
11.2 All reports having being forwarded to the Management Services Department as per the MSD Circular No. 04/2027 of 20.09.2017	√		
12. Maintenance of books and documents with latest updates			
12.1 Register of lands and buildings	√		
12.2 Register of Fixed Assets	√		
12.3 Register of Contracts	-		
12.4 Register of Audit Inquiries	√		

Requirement	Status of compliance	brief explanation in case of non-compliance	Corrective measures to prevent future incidents of non-compliance
12.5 Register of Cheques and Money Orders	√		
12.6 Register of Inventories	√		
12.7 Register of Consumer Goods	√		
12.8 Register of damages and losses	Not applicable		
12.9 Register of counter foils	Not applicable		
12.10 Registry of Advances	√		
12.11 Registry of Industry / Business taxes	Not applicable		
12.12 Register of Debtors	√		
12.13 Register of creditors			Maintained on behalf of the project
13.14 Register of Tender Board decisions	√		
12.15 Registry of Street lamps	Not applicable		
12.16 Surveying book	Not applicable		
12.17 Road Register	Not applicable		
12.18 ඉඩම් කට්ටි බදු ලේඛනය land lot lease Register	Not applicable		
12.19 Register of Building Applications	Not applicable		
12.20 Register of compliance assessment	Not applicable		
13. Waste Management			
13.1 A Waste Management plan having being prepared in accordance with national policies	√		
13.2 Collection of garbage in separation within the council limits	√		
14. Environmental Activities			
14.1 No harm caused to the environment as a result of irregular dumping of garbage within the area.	√		
14.2 Measures being taken to control the environmental impacts caused by harmful waste materials released by the factories in the area.	Not Applicable		

Requirement		Status of compliance	brief explanation in case of non-compliance	Corrective measures to prevent future incidents of non-compliance
15.	**Provisional opportunities**			
15.1	Provisos having being prepared for functions which so required as per Section No. 126 of the Municipal Council Pradeshiya Sabha Ordinance.	Not Applicable		
15.2	Activities to be taken by the council with regard to the above provisos having being mentioned in the Annual Action Plan.	Not Applicable		
15.3	Provisions being allocated from the annual budget to implement the said activities.	Not Applicable		
16.	**Granting information to General Public**			
16.1	An Information Officer having being appointed as per the Right to Information Act and a Registry of giving information being duly maintained.	√		
16.2	Submission of information of the institution through its web site and availing the opportunity for the Public to express their censures and commendations through the web itself or other channels.	√		
16.3	Reports having being submitted twice a year and once a year as per Section No. 08 and 10 of the RTI Act.	√		
17.	**Approving of building plans**			
17.1	Maintenance of an updated registry to enlist all the building plans received to the council	Not Applicable		
17.2 17.3	Informing the relevant persons regarding the issues of the applications within 05 days Having submitted the application to the first meeting of the planning committee within a week after receiving applications.	Not Applicable Not Applicable		
17.4	Having approved more than a 80 % of building plans as the date (8 weeks) mentioned in the Citizens Charter.	Not Applicable		
18.	**Implementation of the Citizens Charter**			
18.1	Having prepared and implemented a Citizens / Clients Charter as per the P.A. Circular No. 05/2008 and 05/2008 (1)	Not Applicable		
18.2	Having prepared a methodology by the institution as per the Paragraph No. 2.3 f the above Circular to monitor and evaluate the processing and implementation of Citizens/ Clients Charter.	Not Applicable		

Requirement	Status of compliance	brief explanation in case of non-compliance	Corrective measures to prevent future incidents of non-compliance
19. Preparation of a Human Resource Development plan			
19.1 Having prepared a Human Resources Development Plan as per the annexed form 02 to the P.A. Circular No. 02/2018 of 24.01.2018			Being prepared
19.2 Having confirmed in the above-mentioned Human Resources Development Plan, that each member of the staff receives a training opportunity not less than 12 hours a year at least.		A period between 03-06 hours	
19.3 Having signed annual performance agreement for the entire staff based on the format stipulated in annex 01 of the above-mentioned Circular.		Has not signed	
19.4 Having appointed a senior officer assigned with the responsibility of preparing Human Resources Development Plan, development of Capacity Building Programme and implementing Skills Development Programme	√		
20. Establishment of an E- Provincial Government System			
20.1 Having availed the general public, the opportunity to submit application online as per the Provincial Government Circular No. 2018/e-Local Government-01 of 19.07.2018			Being prepared
20.2 Having facilitated the general public, the opportunity to make online payments.			Operative from 2023.
20.3 Having introduced front offices and consumer service centers to provide a consumer-friendly service.	Not Applicable		