



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

2023

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PERADENIYA
SRI LANKA

**Published
by
Department of Agriculture
Peradeniya
Sri Lanka
2024**

This report was compiled by the Progress Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of the Department of Agriculture and printed at the Agriculture Publication Unit, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

All rights reserved. Except for quotations of short passages for purposes of criticism or review, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in retrieval systems, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of the Director General of Agriculture. Such permission however will not be unreasonably withheld for using this publication for non-commercial purposes. The DOASL does not require any payment for the non-commercial use of its published work and hopes that this copyright declaration will not preclude the *bona fide* use of its research findings in agricultural research and development.

Annual Performance Report for the year 2023

Name of the Institution: Department of Agriculture

Expenditure Head No.: 285

Contents

Chapter 01 - Institutional Profile/ Executive Summary	1
Chapter 02 - Progress and the Future Outlook.....	14
Chapter 03 - Overall Financial Performance for the Year ended 31 st December 2023.....	31
Chapter 04 - Performance Indicators	41
Chapter 05 - Performance of the Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).....	50
Chapter 06 - Human Resource Profile	51
Chapter 07 - Compliance Report	54
Annexures	60

Chapter 01 - Institutional Profile/ Executive Summary

1.1. Introduction

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) functions under the Ministry of Agriculture and the DOA is one of the largest government departments with a high profile community of agricultural professionals and technical staff with a network of units situated island wide.

The objectives of the DOA are focused on increasing productivity and production of the food crop sector in a sustainable manner along with the green agriculture concept for the purpose of enhancing the income and living condition of the farmer and making safe agricultural produce available at affordable prices to the consumer.

The management structure of DOA, the main stakeholder in regulating the agriculture sector of Sri Lanka consists of four crop research institutes; Rice Research & Development Institute, Field Crop Research & Development Institute, Horticultural Crop Research & Development Institute, Fruit Research & Development Institute and six technical service centers; Seed Certification and Plant Protection Centre, Seed and Planting Material Development Center, Extension and Training Centre, National Agricultural Information & Communication Centre, Socio Economics and Planning Center, Natural Resource Management Center and the Progress Monitoring and Evaluation Unit to regulate the progress of the Department together with three support service divisions; Engineering Division, Finance Division, Administration Division.

1.2. Vision, Mission, Objectives of the Institution

Vision: Achieve excellence in agriculture for national prosperity.

Mission: Development and dissemination of improved agricultural technology and providing related services to all stakeholders with emphasis on farmers, to achieve an equitable and sustainable agricultural development and to ensure food and nutritional security for the nation.

Objectives:

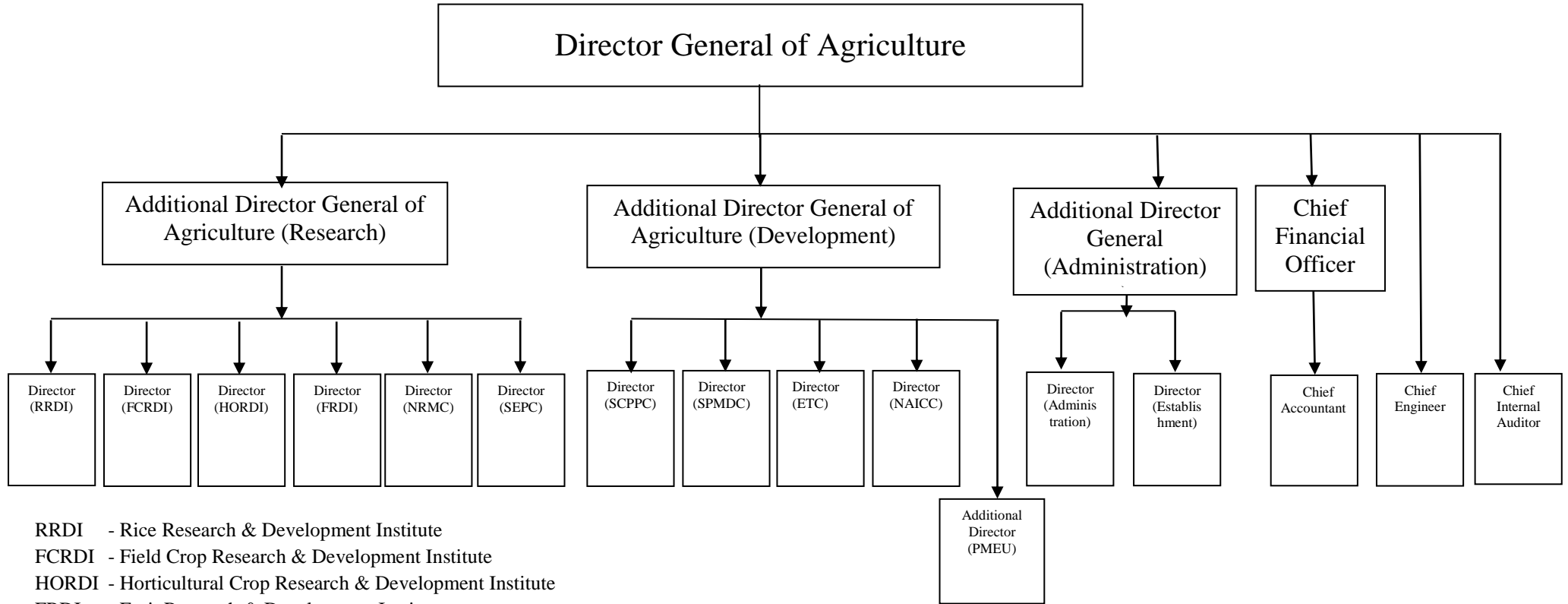
- To enhance production potential of food crop farming.
- To ensure sustainable and ecofriendly farming.
- To improve labour and land efficiency.
- To empower all stakeholders in agriculture.
- To develop capacity of human resource in agriculture.
- To assure availability of quality seeds and planting materials for stakeholders.
- To ensure the quality standards of seeds & planting materials and agricultural produce.
- To optimize the use of land and water resources.
- To facilitate planning, policy decisions and policy directives.
- To protect country's flora from harmful alien species.
- To facilitate export of healthy plants and plant products to increase export earnings of agricultural produce.
- To safeguard the public and environment from harmful effects of pesticides.
- To ensure sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources.

1.3. Key Functions

- Development of appropriate new varieties and agricultural technologies through agricultural research with the aim of improving the production potential of vegetables, fruits, paddy and other field crops.
- Introduction and dissemination of advanced agricultural technologies to the farmer community using various agricultural extension methods.
- Ensuring availability of quality seeds to stakeholders through production, certification and distribution of seeds and planting materials of food crops including vegetables, fruits, paddy and other field crops using standard methods.
- Conservation of plant genetic resources in order to ensure sustainable utilization.
- Ensuring optimal use of land and water resources to increase production and productivity.
- Taking measures to protect local plants from invasive exotic plant species.
- Facilitate exportation of healthy plants and plant products in order to increase foreign exchange through agricultural products.

- Taking measures to protect the public and the environment from the adverse effects of pesticides.
- Implementation of Seed Act, Soil Conservation Act, Plant Protection Act, Tree Felling Control Act and Pesticides Control Act.
- Taking measures to ensure sustainable and eco-friendly agriculture.
- Conducting National Vocational Training (NVQ) level 5 and 6 diploma courses in agriculture in order to develop the tertiary skilled middle management level human resources required for the agricultural sector through agricultural education and conducting training programs to develop the capacity of farmers and officers.

1.4. Organizational Chart



- RRDI - Rice Research & Development Institute
- FCRDI - Field Crop Research & Development Institute
- HORDI - Horticultural Crop Research & Development Institute
- FRDI - Fruit Research & Development Institute
- NRMC - Natural Resources Management Centre
- SEPC - Socio Economic & Planning Centre
- SPMDC - Seed & Planting Material Development Centre
- SCPPC - Seed Certification & Plant Protection Centre
- ETC - Extension & Training Centre
- NAICC - National Agriculture Information and Communication Centre
- PMEU - Progress Monitoring & Evaluation Unit

1.5. Main Divisions of the Department

1.5.1 Office of the Director General of Agriculture

1.5.2 Office of the Additional Director General of Agriculture (Research) -
Peradeniya

1.5.3 Office of the Additional Director General of Agriculture (Development) -
Peradeniya

1.5.4 Office of the Additional Director General (Administration) - Peradeniya

1.5.5 Office of the Chief Financial Officer - Peradeniya

1.5.6 Rice Research & Development Institute - Batalagoda

1.5.6.1 Regional Rice Research & Development Centre - Bombuwala

1.5.6.2 Rice Research Station - Ambalantota

1.5.6.3 Rice Research Station - Bentota

1.5.6.4 Rice Research Station - Labuduwa

1.5.6.5 Rice Research Station - Samanthurai

1.5.6.6 Rice Research Station - Paranthan

1.5.6.7 Rice Research Station - Murunkan

1.5.7 Field Crop Research & Development Institute - Mahailuppallama

1.5.7.1 Grain Legume and Oil Crop Research & Development Centre -
Angunakolapelessa

1.5.7.2 Regional Agricultural Research & Development Centre - Aralaganwila

1.5.7.3 Regional Agricultural Research & Development Centre - Kilinochchi

1.5.7.4 Regional Agricultural Research Centre - Karadiyanaru

1.5.7.5 Agriculture Research Station - Vavuniya

1.5.7.6 Agriculture Research Station - Thirunelvely

1.5.7.7 Agriculture Research Station - Telijjawila

1.5.7.8 Agriculture Research Station - Weerawila

1.5.7.9 Farm Mechanization Research Centre - Mahailuppallama

1.5.8 Horticultural Crop Research & Development Institute - Gannoruwa

1.5.8.1 Regional Agricultural Research & Development Centre - Bandarawela

1.5.8.2 Agriculture Research Station- Sita Eliya

1.5.8.3 Agriculture Research Station - Girandurukotte

- 1.5.8.4 Food Research Unit - Gannoruwa
- 1.5.8.5 Horticulture Research Station - Kalpitiya
- 1.5.8.6 Horticulture Research Farm - Gannoruwa
- 1.5.8.7 Adaptive Research Unit - Wagolla
- 1.5.8.8 Adaptive Research Unit - Thibbatumulla
- 1.5.8.9 Adaptive Research Unit - Wariyapola
- 1.5.8.10 Adaptive Research Unit - Thabbowa

- 1.5.9 Fruit Research & Development Institute - Horana
 - 1.5.9.1 Sustainable Agriculture Research & Development Centre - Makandura
 - 1.5.9.2 Fruit Crop Research & Development Station - Gannoruwa
 - 1.5.9.3 Plant Virus Indexing Centre - Homagama
 - 1.5.9.4 Agriculture Research Station - Maduruketiya
 - 1.5.9.5 Agriculture Research Station - Muthukandiya
 - 1.5.9.6 Agriculture Research Station - Rahangala
 - 1.5.9.7 Fruit Crop Research Farm – Eraminigolla
 - 1.5.9.8 Citrus Research Station – Bibile
 - 1.5.9.9 National Fruit Varieties Conservation Centre - Kundasale

- 1.5.10 Natural Resources Management Centre - Peradeniya
 - 1.5.10.1 Natural Resources Knowledge Management Centre - Kundasale
 - 1.5.10.2 Natural Resources Management & Soil Conservation Demonstration Centre - Kundasale

- 1.5.11 Socio Economics & Planning Centre - Peradeniya

- 1.5.12 Extension & Training Centre - Peradeniya
 - 1.5.12.1 In-service Training Institute - Angunakolapelasssa
 - 1.5.12.2 In-service Training Institute - Gannoruwa
 - 1.5.12.3 In-service Training Institute - Hansayapalama
 - 1.5.12.4 Farm Mechanization Training Centre - Anuradhapura
 - 1.5.12.5 District Agriculture Training Center - Addalachenai
 - 1.5.12.6 District Agriculture Training Center - Wavinna
 - 1.5.12.7 District Agriculture Training Center - Polonnaruwa

- 1.5.12.8 District Agriculture Training Center - Weerawila
- 1.5.12.9 School of Agriculture - Angunakolapelessa
- 1.5.12.10 School of Agriculture - Karapincha
- 1.5.12.11 School of Agriculture - Kundasale
- 1.5.12.12 School of Agriculture - Pelwehera
- 1.5.12.13 School of Agriculture - Vavunia
- 1.5.12.14 School of Agriculture - Anuradhapura
- 1.5.12.15 School of Agriculture - Labuduwa
- 1.5.12.16 School of Agriculture - Palamunai
- 1.5.12.17 School of Agriculture - Paranthan
- 1.5.12.18 School of Agriculture - Wariyapola
- 1.5.12.19 Horticultural Crop Training & Development Institute - Bibile
- 1.5.12.20 Deputy Director of Agriculture (Inter Province) Office - Ampara
- 1.5.12.21 Deputy Director of Agriculture (Inter Province) Office - Anuradhapura
- 1.5.12.22 Deputy Director of Agriculture (Inter Province) Office - Hambantota
- 1.5.12.23 Deputy Director of Agriculture (Inter Province) Office - Hasalaka
- 1.5.12.24 Deputy Director of Agriculture (Inter Province) Office - Monaragala
- 1.5.12.25 Deputy Director of Agriculture (Inter Province) Office - Polonnaruwa
- 1.5.12.26 Bee Development Unit - Bindunuwewa, Bandarawela
- 1.5.12.27 Young Farmers Club Headquarters - Peradeniya
- 1.5.12.28 Division of Agribusiness Development - Gannoruwa
- 1.5.12.29 Economic Centre - Dambulla

1.5.13 National Agriculture Information & Communication Centre - Gannoruwa

- 1.5.13.1 Agriculture Publication Unit - Gannoruwa
- 1.5.13.2 Agriculture Publication Distribution Unit - Peradeniya
- 1.5.13.3 Farm Broadcasting Service - Colombo
- 1.5.13.4 Farm Broadcasting Service - Kandy
- 1.5.13.5 Farm Broadcasting Service - Anuradhapura
- 1.5.13.6 Farm Broadcasting Service - Matara
- 1.5.13.7 Farm Broadcasting Service - Thirunelvely
- 1.5.13.8 Agro Technology Park - Gannoruwa
- 1.5.13.9 Agro Technology Park - Bata atha
- 1.5.13.10 Central Agriculture Library - Gannoruwa

1.5.13.11 Eco Friendly Agriculture Unit - Diyagama

1.5.14 Seed & Planting Material Development Centre - Peradeniya

- 1.5.14.1 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Aluththarama
- 1.5.14.2 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Ampara
- 1.5.14.3 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Bata atha
- 1.5.14.4 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Narahenpita
- 1.5.14.5 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Kantale
- 1.5.14.6 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Kilinochchi
- 1.5.14.7 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Kundasale
- 1.5.14.8 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Mahailuppallama
- 1.5.14.9 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Nikaweratiya
- 1.5.14.10 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Seetha Eliya
- 1.5.14.11 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Pelwehera
- 1.5.14.12 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Polonnaruwa
- 1.5.14.13 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Telijjawila
- 1.5.14.14 Deputy Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Vavuniya
- 1.5.14.15 Assistant Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Karadiyanaru
- 1.5.14.16 Assistant Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Murunkan
- 1.5.14.17 Assistant Director (SPMDC)'s Office - Jaffna
- 1.5.14.18 Government Seed Farm - Aluththarama
- 1.5.14.19 Government Seed Farm - Ambalantota
- 1.5.14.20 Government Seed Farm - Ambepussa
- 1.5.14.21 Government Seed Farm - Mahailuppallama
- 1.5.14.22 Government Seed Farm - Kantale
- 1.5.14.23 Government Seed Farm - Middeniya
- 1.5.14.24 Government Seed Farm - Polonnaruwa
- 1.5.14.25 Government Seed Farm - Malwatta, Ampara
- 1.5.14.26 Government Seed Farm - Murunkan
- 1.5.14.27 Government Seed Farm - Karadiyanaru
- 1.5.14.28 Government Seed Farm - Paranthan
- 1.5.14.29 Government Seed Farm - Kundasale
- 1.5.14.30 Government Seed Farm - Meepilimana
- 1.5.14.31 Government Seed Farm - Rahangala

- 1.5.14.32 Government Seed Farm - Udaradella
- 1.5.14.33 Government Seed Farm - Seetha Eliya
- 1.5.14.34 Government Seed Farm - Bata atha
- 1.5.14.35 Government Seed Farm - Kandapola
- 1.5.14.36 Government Seed Farm - Piduruthalagala
- 1.5.14.37 Government Seed Farm - Walpita
- 1.5.14.38 Government Seed Farm - Ulpothagama
- 1.5.14.39 Government Seed Farm - Bandaragama
- 1.5.14.40 Government Seed Farm - Telijjawila
- 1.5.14.41 Government Seed Farm - Pelwehera
- 1.5.14.42 Government Seed Farm - Inginimitiya
- 1.5.14.43 Government Seed Farm - Weerapana
- 1.5.14.44 Government Seed Farm - Eluwankulama
- 1.5.14.45 Fruit Research Farm - Ambatenna
- 1.5.14.46 Seed Sales Centre - Colombo 07
- 1.5.14.47 Vegetable Seed Sales Centre - Gannoruwa
- 1.5.14.48 Bean Seed Unit - Rikillagaskada
- 1.5.14.49 Seed Sales Centre - Matara
- 1.5.14.50 Seed Sales Centre - Mahailuppallama
- 1.5.14.51 Seed Sales Centre - Batalagoda
- 1.5.14.52 Seed Sales Centre - Wagolla
- 1.5.14.53 Seed Sales Centre - Maduruketiya
- 1.5.14.54 Seed Sales Centre - Bandarawela
- 1.5.14.55 Seed Sales Centre - Paranthan
- 1.5.14.56 Seed Sales Centre - Polonnaruwa
- 1.5.14.57 Seed Sales Centre - Aluththarama
- 1.5.14.58 Seed Sales Centre - Ambalantota
- 1.5.14.59 Seed Sales Centre - Kundasale
- 1.5.14.60 Seed Sales Centre - Nikaweratiya
- 1.5.14.61 Seed Sales Centre - Bata atha
- 1.5.14.62 Seed Sales Centre - Gannoruwa
- 1.5.14.63 Seed Sales Centre – Attanagalla
- 1.5.14.64 Seed Sales Centre - Maduruketiya
- 1.5.14.65 Seed Potato Store - Seetha Eliya

- 1.5.14.66 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Ambepussa
 - 1.5.14.67 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Walpita
 - 1.5.14.68 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Colombo 05
 - 1.5.14.69 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Pasyala
 - 1.5.14.70 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Battaramulla
 - 1.5.14.71 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Ampara
 - 1.5.14.72 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Karadiyanaru
 - 1.5.14.73 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Inginimitiya
 - 1.5.14.74 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Yatiyana
 - 1.5.14.75 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Pelwehera
 - 1.5.14.76 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Telijjawila
 - 1.5.14.77 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Kaltota
 - 1.5.14.78 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Weerapana
 - 1.5.14.79 Seed & Planting Material Sales Centre - Puttlam
 - 1.5.14.80 Subsidiary Field Crop Seed Store - Rahangala
-
- 1.5.15 Seed Certification & Plant Protection Centre - Gannoruwa
 - 1.5.15.1 Seed Certification Service - Gannoruwa
 - 1.5.15.1.1 Seed Certification Service - Aluththarama
 - 1.5.15.1.2 Seed Certification Service - Bata atha
 - 1.5.15.1.3 Seed Certification Service - Mahailuppallama
 - 1.5.15.1.4 Seed Certification Service - Nikaweratiya
 - 1.5.15.1.5 Seed Certification Service - Pelwehera
 - 1.5.15.1.6 Seed Certification Service - Polonnaruwa
 - 1.5.15.1.7 Seed Certification Service - Bibila
 - 1.5.15.1.8 Seed Certification Service - Hingurakgoda
 - 1.5.15.1.9 Seed Certification Service - Kantala
 - 1.5.15.1.10 Seed Certification Service - Kundasale
 - 1.5.15.1.11 Seed Certification Service - Seetha Eliya
 - 1.5.15.1.12 Seed Certification Service - Ampara
 - 1.5.15.1.13 Seed Certification Service - Batalagoda
 - 1.5.15.1.14 Seed Certification Service - Baticaloa
 - 1.5.15.1.15 Seed Certification Service - Colombo
 - 1.5.15.1.16 Seed Certification Service - Labuduwa

- 1.5.15.1.17 Seed Certification Service - Murunkan
- 1.5.15.1.18 Seed Certification Service - Pelmadulla
- 1.5.15.1.19 Seed Certification Service - Rikillagaskada
- 1.5.15.1.20 Seed Certification Service - Vavuniya
- 1.5.15.1.21 Seed Certification Service - Matara
- 1.5.15.1.22 Seed Certification Service - Matugama
- 1.5.15.1.23 Seed Certification Service - Jaffna
- 1.5.15.1.24 Seed Certification Service - Paranthan
- 1.5.15.1.25 Seed Testing Laboratory - Peradeniya
- 1.5.15.1.26 Seed Testing Laboratory - Mahailuppallama
- 1.5.15.1.27 Seed Testing Laboratory - Aluththarama
- 1.5.15.1.28 Seed Testing Laboratory - Bata atha
- 1.5.15.1.29 Seed Testing Laboratory - Paranthan
- 1.5.15.1.30 Post Control Field I - Gannoruwa
- 1.5.15.1.31 Post Control Field II - Gannoruwa
- 1.5.15.1.32 Post Control Field - Seetha Eliya
- 1.5.15.1.33 Post Control Field - Mahailuppallama
- 1.5.15.1.34 Post Control Field - Karadiyanaru
- 1.5.15.1.35 Post Control Field & Seed Museum - Bata atha
- 1.5.15.1.36 Seed Health Unit - Gannoruwa
- 1.5.15.2. Plant Protection Service - Gannoruwa
 - 1.5.15.2.1 Plant Protection Unit - Mahailuppallama
 - 1.5.15.2.2 Deputy Director's Office / Western Province - Horana
- 1.5.15.3 Office of the Registrar of Pesticides - Peradeniya
- 1.5.15.4 Plant Genetic Resources Centre - Gannoruwa
- 1.5.15.5 National Plant Quarantine Service - Katunayake
 - 1.5.15.5.1 Plant Quarantine Unit - Air Port, Katunayake
 - 1.5.15.5.2 Plant Quarantine Unit - Air Port, Mattala
 - 1.5.15.5.3 Plant Quarantine Unit - Sea Port, Colombo
 - 1.5.15.5.4 Plant Quarantine Unit - Sea Port, Hambantota
 - 1.5.15.5.5 Plant Quarantine Unit - Air Port, Jaffna
 - 1.5.15.5.6 Plant Quarantine Unit - Central Mail Exchange
 - 1.5.15.5.7 Plant Quarantine Unit – Ratmalana

1.5.16 Administration Division - Peradeniya

1.5.17 Establishment Division - Peradeniya

1.5.18 Engineering Division – Peradeniya

1.5.18.1 Regional Engineering Workshop - Kundasale

1.5.18.2 Regional Engineering Workshop - Polonnaruwa

1.5.18.3 Regional Engineering Workshop - Angunakolapelessa

1.5.18.4 Regional Engineering Workshop - Seetha Eliya

1.5.19 Finance Division - Peradeniya

1.5.20 Internal Audit Division - Peradeniya

1.5.21 Progress Monitoring & Evaluation Unit - Peradeniya

1.6 Institutions/ Funds coming under the Department

None

1.7. Details of the Foreign Funded Projects

Name of the Project	Donor Agency	Estimated Cost (Rs. Mn.)	Duration
1. Stress- tolerant, high yielding rice varieties suitable for AFACI member counties and germplasm utilization for value addition (GUVA)	AFACI	12.672	2022 - 2024
2. Establishment of prevention network for migratory pests in Asian region	AFACI	3.86	2019 - 2022
3. Development of vegetable breeding technology in Asia	AFACI	9.436	2020 - 2023
4. Development of high quality big onion production model villages in Dry Zone of Sri Lanka	KOPIA	6.089	2021 - 2023
5. Development of mandarin model village for commercial production in Sri Lanka	KOPIA	3.742	2021 - 2023
6. Development of production and utilization technology for income increase of mushroom farmers	KOPIA	9.359	2017 - 2023

Name of the Project	Donor Agency	Estimated Cost (Rs. Mn.)	Duration
7. Development and dissemination of agriculture products processing technology	AFACI	1.011	2019 - 2023
8. Characterizing efficacy of Nucleo polyhedron viruses (NPV) in controlling cutworm, <i>Helicoverpa</i> spp, in food crops of Sri Lanka	USDA	1.193	2020 - 2023
9. Asia pesticide residue mitigation through the promotion of bio-pesticides	APAARI	1.278	2021 - 2023
10. Assessment of atmospheric nitrogen pollution sources, impacts on environmental sustainability, human health and remedial measures in three unique pollution regions in Sri Lanka	IAEA	0.486	2019 - 2023
11. Identification of sources and transport of agro-contaminants in hilly agricultural watersheds in the declared conservation area of Sri Lanka.	IAEA	0.883	2018 - 2023
12. Development of the Soil Atlas of Asia and National Soil Information Systems	AFACI	9.753	2019 - 2023
13. Consortium for scaling up climate smart agriculture in South Asia	SDF	6.548	2022 - 2024
14. The South Asia Agriculture Adaptation Atlas: Interconnections between climate risks, practices, technologies and policies	BISA	1.061	2023 - 2024
15. Asia regional FAW and BPH diagnostics and monitoring and surveillance programme	AFACI	0.661	2023 - 2026
16. Plant wise Permanent Crop Clinic programme	CABI	3.206	2022 - 2024
17. Livelihood enhancement of the small farmer in SAARC region through small scale agro business focusing on value chain development	SDF	4.484	2018 - 2023
18. Improvement of rural agricultural technology extension system in Asia (RATES)	AFACI	4.280	2023 - 2025

Chapter 02 - Progress and the Future Outlook

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Rice

- In breeding of rice varieties resistant to iron toxicity, a method using a liquid growth medium in a greenhouse was identified to select the degree of resistance of varieties in a short period of time.
- Research has confirmed that the amount of phosphorus fertilizer to be applied to paddy cultivation can be reduced by using bio-fertilizers produced using a natural fungus in the soil. Trials are being conducted in the Dry Zone.
- Twenty-one improved rice progenies were screened for adaptability in different agro-climatic zones of the country over three seasons and three varieties were selected for adaptability trials.
- Bg16-2022, a rice variety tested in large-scale varietal adaptability trials, was selected for submission to the Variety Release Committee.
- Experiments are being carried out to identify weeds in paddy fields and *in-situ* application of herbicides using drone technology.

Other Field Crops

- The following new varieties were recommended for general cultivation.
 - MI Hp 1 - First open pollinated variety of hot pepper (*Capsicum chinense*) recommended for general cultivation. It shows moderate resistance to chilli leaf curl complex and viruses and gives an average yield of 20 - 25 t/ha.
 - ANKM1 - Mustard variety suitable for cultivation in Dry and Intermediate Zones. This variety gives an average yield of about 800 kg/ha and matures in 90-100 days.
- Research revealed that damping off disease of onion and chilli could be effectively controlled by seed treatment using *Trichoderma* based bio pesticide at the rate of 5 g/ kg of seeds.
- Application of mixture with *Trichoderma* to onion bulbs was found to control onion bulb rot and anthracnose at early stages effectively.
- A long-term experiment revealed that the land productivity can be improved by three interrelated principles of conservation agriculture; minimal land preparation, continuous soil cover and crop rotation with legumes. Soybean performed better with conservation agriculture practices while horse gram performed similarly in both conservation and conventional agriculture systems. A significant yield increase (around 43 %) in finger

millet was observed in the conservation agriculture system compared to the conventional system.

- It was found that large seeded groundnut variety Lanka Jumbo cultivated in raised beds in *Maha* season produced more yield (around 16 %) than in the ridge and furrow system. The addition of 200 kg/ha Gypsum at the time of flowering increased the yield over the synthetic fertilizer recommendation by 17%.
- Trials of pigeon pea intercropped with maize, groundnut and black gram suggested that the land productivity could be increased with groundnut in both the *Yala* and the *Maha* seasons and with black gram in the *Yala* season. The maize grown with pigeon pea was productive in both seasons as well. However, the pigeon pea yield was reduced to a great extent due to the shading effect and the rapid growth habit of maize crop.
- It was revealed that the use of anti-transpirants (Kaolin and Salicylic acid) had no effect on the growth and yield performance of maize under negative moisture stressed conditions.
- The combined application of compost : mineral fertilizer (1 : 1) resulted in the highest Leaf Area Index (LAI) of 1.2 and a grain yield of 2.8 t/ ha in Rhizobium-inoculated soybeans in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka.
- A prototype of solar powered auto-mated irrigation controlling unit was successfully tested in field with solar powered water pumping based micro irrigation system.
- Designing and development of the initial prototype of a 4W tractor coupled OFC Seeder aiming to introduce in to large-scale maize farming, has been successfully completed.
- Development and trial run of an initial prototype of 2W tractor attached bund trimmer were successfully completed.

Horticultural Crops

Vegetables

- The following new vegetable varieties were recommended.
 - GKOKHY- 03, GKOKHY- 04: Two new high yielding hybrid varieties of okra suitable for cultivation all over the island.
 - Rankavadi (TJ01): A new variety of cassava suitable for industrial use.
- The following vegetable varieties were conditionally recommended.
 - Hybrid brinjal (HORDI EGH-04): A high yielding variety suitable for cultivation throughout the island with high yield.
 - Cucumber (HORDI CU- 04): A high yielding variety suitable for cultivation throughout the island.

- As a remedy for the shortage of planting material, a major problem in sweet potato cultivation, a technology was generated to produce, preserve and use the inedible, small tubers as planting material for the next season.
- In order to control the whitefly in coconut plantations which spread like an epidemic situation all over the island, the whitefly parasite (*Encarsia gaudeloupea*) was identified and released as a sustainable solution under the Plant Protection Act No. 35 in collaboration with the Plant Protection Service. This is currently being multiplied under a developed technology and distributed free of charge to coconut growers all over the island and during the year, 248,350 of these parasites were released.
- Contributed to quality vegetable production through setting maximum residue limits and pre-harvest timing for recommended pesticides of brinjal and chilli crops.
- Encouraged entrepreneurs to release quality food to the market through issuing 151 laboratory test reports after analyzing the quality of products produced by entrepreneurs and new entrepreneurs engaged in the food sector.
- 396 entrepreneurship training programs related to vegetable post-harvest technology were conducted, and by this, new entrepreneurs were created and support was provided to boost the local economy.

Fruits

- Following new varieties were released for general cultivation.
 - Angunukolapalessa Mango 1 (Royal Red) - A mango variety having a medium fruit size with an average fruit weight of around 250 g and a yield of 50 - 55 kg/ tree at 7 years.
 - Angunukolapalessa Mango 2 (Honey Ball) - A mango variety having a small fruit size with an average fruit weight of around 140 g and a yield of 30 - 35 kg/ tree at 7 years.
 - Angunukolapalessa Mango 3 (Yellow Ivory) - A mango variety having a medium fruit size with orange yellow flesh colour and an average fruit weight of around 360 g. This variety gives a yield of 30 - 35 kg/ tree at 7 years.
 - Angunukolapalessa Mango 4 (Green Raw) - A mango variety having a medium fruit size with strong orange flesh colour and an average fruit weight of around 390 g. This mango variety gives a yield of around 70 kg/ tree at 7 years.
 - Angunukolapalessa Tangerine 1 (Ceylon Baby) - A tangerine variety having a small fruit size with strong orange yellow flesh colour and an average fruit weight of 80 - 100 g. This tangerine variety gives a yield of 40 - 50 kg/ tree at 7 years.
 - Angunukolapalessa Pomelo 1 (Ruby Seedless) - A pomelo variety having a large fruit size and a yield of 100 - 120 kg/ tree at 7 years.

- Two new varieties of pomegranate namely Lanka Red and Malee Pink and 2 new varieties of peach were recommended.
- Soil application of 10g of Calcium nitrate per plant at 2 weeks interval reduced the yellow Sigatoka disease of Cavendish banana plants at early stages of infection and application of Azoxystrobin 250 g/L SC at 14 day interval effectively suppressed the disease.
- A pheromone product called Cosmogel was identified to control the banana corm weevil.
- Production of tissue cultured banana plants for commercial distribution is underway and about 3,000 banana plants were distributed among farmers. Over 2,000 new multiplying cultures of Rath kesel, Embon and Embul banana have been produced.
- Sectioning of leaf buds of pineapple crown was found as the most suitable method to produce large number of plants with high uniformity and sectioning as discs from immature and semi mature areas of the pineapple stem was identified as the best sectioning method to produce large set of uniform plantlets in one batch.
- Application of 2.5 g of *Trichoderma asperellum* and *Trichoderma harzianum* in 1:1 ratio with 2.5 g of organic matter (1 cow dung: 1 compost: 1 well decomposed poultry manure) was found to be a successful treatment with the highest recovery rate for wilt affected guava.
- Application of Sodium meta bisulphite was found to be effective in controlling *Colletotrichum gleosporioides* causing anthracnose and *Phomopsis psidiae* causing styler end rot disease in guava.
- A management package was identified to control root knot nematodes in guava.
- Application of 2.5g/ L aliquots of *Trichoderma asperellum* and *Bacillus subtilis* encapsulated compound at was found to be effective in controlling *Botryodiplodea theobromae* which causes stem end rot disease of avocado.
- Tests revealed that application of 2.5g/ L aliquots of *Bacillus subtilis* encapsulated compound was effective in controlling *Colletotrichum gleosporioides* causing anthracnose disease of avocado.
- Foliar spraying of copper hydroxide at 21 day intervals from flowering to fruit set was found to control avocado scab disease.
- Potential plant leaf extracts for suppressing *Colletotrichum* species causing anthracnose of mango and avocado were identified. Neem leaf extract and ‘Maduruthala’ showed the highest antifungal potential.
- Foliar spraying of Azoxystrobin 200 and Ciproconazole 80 SC at a concentration of 1 ml/ L at a rate of 600 ml/ ha at 14 days interval was found to be effective in controlling powdery mildew of rambutan.
- Research revealed that papaya ring spot virus can be controlled by ‘sarana’, bouganvillea, neem and ‘hendirikka’ extracts up to 5 weeks after planting, and by neem and

'hendirikka' extracts up to 7 weeks after planting. Growth retardation was observed with 'sarana' extract.

- A new potyvirus with 66% similarity to East African Passiflora distortion virus was identified in passion fruit.
- Successfully completed micro propagation of exotic breadfruit varieties Puu puu and Ma aflu and local germplasm.
- A tissue culture protocol was developed for the production of planting material from Rahangala and Ragala pear varieties.

Natural Resource Management

- "Inventory of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Technologies and Practices in Sri Lanka" was published in 2023.
- Agro meteorological advisories were issued monthly to reduce the impact of climate change on agricultural production in the country based on the weather forecasts provided by the Sri Lanka Meteorological Department, including the technical advice given by the Agro Meteorological Advisory Committee consisting of officers with specialized knowledge for plantation crops, the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation Department, Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority and the Department of Agrarian Development.
- National Agro Meteorological Data Monitoring Network was successfully maintained and a new Agro Meteorological Unit was established at Pelwehera Seed and Planting Material Centre.
- Mapping of Sri Lanka's agricultural potential for fruits such as Mango, Banana, Durian, Mangosteen, Pomegranate and Rambutan was completed.
- Completed soil analysis based land suitability assessment, mapping and region wise crop recommendation reports for Moragahakanda New Special Organic Zone (3,410 ha).
- Prepared soil conservation plans, rainwater drainage plans, land development maps and engineering maps for the development works carried out in sensitive areas covered by the Soil Conservation Act.

Socio Economics & Planning

- Released the Cost and Returns of Crop Production for 2022/23 Maha season as a web publication. Field data collection surveys have been completed for 2023 Yala season.
- Ten crop forecast reports (five per season) were prepared during 2023, covering the latter part of 2022/23 Maha and 2023 Yala season observe and monitor the monthly cultivation progress of paddy, other field crops and vegetables.

- AgStat Volume XX containing data for the year 2022 has been compiled and web publication is in progress.
- Crop budget preparation for approximately twenty fruit crops has been finalized.
- 218 crop cut surveys were conducted for 11 selected crops covering the entire island and training of Master trainers was conducted. Field demonstrations have been conducted at district level in collaboration with Provincial Departments of Agriculture. Video guides and training methodology for other field crop cut surveys have been produced for reference.
- Crop cut surveys were conducted in conjunction with farmer interviews to identify the causes of yellowing, reveal the impact on paddy yield, and assess the effectiveness of the control measures recommended by the department.

Agricultural Extension & Training

- To disseminate technology on paddy cultivation,
- Subsidy was provided as Rs. 10,000 per ha for proper land preparation in 150 ha.
- Supplied the most suitable paddy varieties for the areas.
- Encouraged farmers to use parachute technology by sharing the part of cost of trays.
- Subsidies were provided to promote green gram cultivation on bunds to produce green manure on site as well as to produce seeds for third season cultivation.
- Demonstration and crop promotion programs were conducted as follows to increase the production and productivity of other field crops.
- Supplied green gram seeds free of charge for 173 ha to expand the cultivation to new areas.
- Established 16 green gram seed producing cluster villages (25 ha each).
- Promoted high density cultivation in paddy fields by providing subsidy for seeds covering 1,623 ha (Rs. 21,000/ ac) and providing local hybrid seeds free of charge for 322 ha for high density demonstrations.
- Local hybrid seeds were provided free of charge to increase production in 2,386 ha of lands.
- Parental line seeds were provided for 115 ha and subsidy were provided for proper land preparation of 150 ha to increase local hybrid seed production.
- 342 kg of MICHHY1 hybrid chilli seeds were provided free of charge and 30 drip irrigation systems were supplied under 25% farmer contribution to promote local chilli hybrids among the farmers.
- 150,000 grow bags were provided free of charge to promote chilli at home garden level.

- Fifty five (55) demonstrations were conducted to increase farmer awareness on high yielding technology packages for big onion.
- Provided transport cost for vernalization of 69,950 kg mother bulbs for seed production of big onion and provided polythene for rain shelters for 100 number of 100 m² seed production demonstration units.
- Supplied 23,746 kg of seeds and inoculum free of charge to introduce soya cultivation in 475 ha and 7,620 kg of registered soya seeds were provided for 152 ha under 50% farmer contribution for seed production.
- Provided 30 cowpea threshers to farmer societies to promote mechanization.
- 79 kg of red onion true seeds were provided to promote self seed production.
- Quality black gram seeds were provided free of charge for demonstrations in 539 ha to promote self seed production and 792 demonstrations were conducted to popularize new high yielding and virus resistant black gram varieties (MIBG 3, MIBG 4) free of charge.
- 420,000 number of G₀ potato tubers, 36.4 mt of basic seeds and 720 plastic crates were provided to increase seed potato production in farmer fields.
- 730 kg of seed potato of heat tolerant Red La soda variety were distributed among farmers in Jaffna.
- Monthly Agricultural problem solving meetings were held every month to solve agricultural technical problems at field level.
- Awarded medals and certificates for successful extension programs of the Department of Agriculture and Provincial Departments of Agriculture.
- Infrastructure development in 11 Schools of Agricultural was conducted to improve academic facilities.
- Diploma certificates were awarded to 482 students of 2018/2020 Higher National Diploma in Agriculture Technology (NVQ 6) and 2019/2020 National Diploma in Agriculture Technology (NVQ 5) batches.
- Conversion of 4,106 farms for SL-GAP and GAP B certification is in progress and 3,175 entry level certificates have been issued.
- GAP certificates were issued to 943 fruit, vegetable and paddy farms.
- Certificates of 182 farms were renewed under the SL-GAP program and 42 GAP model villages were established throughout the island during the year.
- Conducted 54 women agri entrepreneurship development programs.
- Established 12 farmer groups with 313 farmers practicing market oriented agriculture following the Small Scale Entrepreneurs Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) approach in horticultural crops in Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura and Badulla districts.

Agricultural Information & Communication

- 157 TV programs were aired during the year and in addition, 34 video programs on food safety were telecasted, 33 special video programs, 29 TV commercial short messages were produced and 281 YouTube short messages were uploaded.
- 1,495 radio programs and 860 short messages on agriculture were produced in both Sinhala and Tamil languages.
- Web Radio (www.krushiradio.lk) and Krushi Radio Facebook pages were continued.
- Designed and published 30,011 copies of books and other publications, 122,400 copies of leaflets, 6,865 posters, 336,000 copies of seed labels and earned Rs. 1,688,514 through sale of publications.
- Agricultural publications amounting to Rs.2,885,402 have been issued to sales centers of other departments for sale to the general public.
- Updated DOA, ASDA, Krushi Lanka Gateway websites and mobile technology applications for agriculture (Crop forecast, SL Paddy fertilizer, Krushi advisor and 1920 Call Center System, Pest surveillance data collection App, Krushi TV App) were updated and maintained.
- Soil test record management system (Phase I), Asset management system, Agriculture School management system (Phase I & II), Financial database, Overtime management system, Plant Protection Service system, Online application for import of pesticides, Online status tracking system for pesticides, Database of record keeping system, Fruit stakeholder database, Internal annual transfer application and Progress monitoring system for Schools of Agriculture (Stage 3 NVQ 5 and 6 students) were developed and managed.
- Developed Tropical Agriculture website incorporating all Tropical Agriculture magazines.
- Income earned through 109,999 domestic visitors and 953 foreign visitors to Gannoruwa and Batata Agro Technology Parks amounted to Rs. 3.9 million.
- 76,557 queries were answered through the 1920 Farmer Advisory Service, 185 by post and 451 by e-mail. Text messages on crop cultivation were sent to 157,718 farmers registered for SMS service.
- Launched 'Asidisi Agriculture Cooperative' WhatsApp group with over 500 members at present.
- Established and maintained an e-library (Krushi e-library) for obtaining agricultural information.

Seed & Planting Material Development

- The registered seed paddy production in government seed farms during 2022/23 Maha and 2023 Yala seasons was 73,685 bu and 53,440 bu respectively and the annual registered seed paddy production of the farms was 127,125 bu.
- 7,209 bus of registered seed paddy were produced through the contract seed production program. Thus, the total registered seed rice production in 2023 was 134,334 bu which is about 83% of the total national registered seed paddy requirement.
- Purchased 46,307 bu of registered, certified and commercial seed paddy under the contract growing program.
- In 2023, the Department of Agriculture has released 171,860 bu of quality certified seed paddy. (72,182 bu for 2023Yala and 99,678 bu for 2023/24 Maha)
- Production of hybrid maize parental lines has been initiated to increase the supply of maize hybrid seeds. 4,423 kg of hybrid parental seeds were produced in government seed farms.
- 16,877 kg of foundation seeds and 89,880 kg of registered seeds of other food crops were produced in government seed farms and under contract growing system.
- 301 mt of other field crop seeds have been issued for Yala 2023. 352 mt of other field crop seeds have been issued for the 2023/24 Maha season including germination tested seeds accounting for an annual supply of 653 mt of other field crop seeds in 2023.
- Multiplied seeds of 26 varieties of 12 vegetable crops and produced basic seeds using breeder seeds. Accordingly, basic seed production of both Yala and Maha seasons was 3,395 kg and standard seed production was 4,567.5 kg. 26,752.3 kg was produced under contract seed production. This production surpassed the contract seed production targets for the year.
- Hybrid seed production was conducted in Polonnaruwa, Kundasale, Aluthtarama, Rahangala, Ambepussa, Bata atha farms and 116.06 kg of seeds of 5 varieties of 5 hybrid vegetable crops recommended by the Department of Agriculture were produced.
- The awareness among farmers and the sale of seeds was improved through sales promotion programs and agricultural educational exhibitions conducted throughout the year 2023 by the offices of the Deputy Director of Agriculture.
- A new poly tunnel complex was established to supply pre basic seed potato to farmers to increase self-seed production. Total basic and certified seed potato production in government seed farms was 345.65 mt and 280.76 mt respectively while 1,303,910 No. of mini tubers (G₀) and 19.9 mt of and G₁ seed potato have been produced.
- During the year 2023, 291.76 mt of certified seed potato and 1,496,751 mini tubers of Granola variety were supplied.

- 30% of the country's seed potato requirement could be fulfilled through multiplication of the total quantity of seed potato supplied by the seed production farms.
- About 853,811 grafted plants and rooted cuttings were produced and 633,111 plants have been issued.
- Produced and supplied seeds of four types of mushroom namely Abaloni, American Oyster, HORDI Curly and Bhutan Oyster under the mushroom seed production programme. During the year, 20,988 number of mushroom seed packs (200 g packs) were produced and 21,258 seed packs were supplied.
- It has been possible to achieve the above goals while facing high input prices and bad weather conditions in the year 2023 and exceeding the seed sales income beyond 2 billion rupees and the maintenance of the farm system profitably is a special achievement.

Seed Certification and Plant Protection

Certification of seeds and planting material

- 13,873 mt of seed paddy, 1,237 mt of other field crop seeds, 70 mt of vegetable seeds, 816 mt of seed potato and 2,133,730 G₀ mini tubers were certified through field testing and laboratory testing for production of basic seeds required for the National Seed Production Programme.
- 294 public and private sector nurseries were registered and the quality of 761,347 grafted fruit plants certified.
- The quality of 392 fruit mother plants with suitable varietal characteristics for obtaining shoots for grafting was certified.
- Quality of 603 kg of seeds of vegetables recommended by the Department of Agriculture and hybrid chilli and 74,938 kg of hybrid maize seeds (MI Maize Hy 4 and 5) were certified.
- Seed and planting material certification facilities were provided to 13,378 seed producers of Mahaweli Authority, semi-government organizations, private organizations, non-governmental organizations and over 150 farmer societies in all 09 provinces.
- Arrangements were made to provide 06 sales outlets in Gannoruwa Agricultural Technical Park for private nursery owners to open up the market for quality planting materials and to develop nursery owners as entrepreneurs.
- Under the Seed Act No. 22 of 2003, 1,282 seed handlers were registered as qualified to handle quality seeds and 1,374 registration renewals were made.
- 6,500 active seed handlers registered under the Seed Act No. 22 of 2003 were monitored.
- The seed producers have been instructed to apply labels in accordance with the Seed Act to the seed packets of all types and sizes of seeds available for sale in the market and to

use safe triple aluminum covers for seed packing. By 2023, 2,724 labels have been approved to create consumer confidence in seeds.

- A QR code has been introduced for identification and tracking of seeds and planting materials of seed handlers registered under the Seed Act.
- Investigated 25 complaints received under the Seed Act regarding seeds and planting material and the seed consumers were protected by directing the dealers of seeds and planting material to pay compensation of Rs. 875,000 to the aggrieved parties of 04 complaints.
- 2,635 government officials and seed producers and fruit nursery owners were trained and made aware on certified seed production of paddy, vegetables, fruits and other field crops.
- In order to identify the novelty of new varieties before release, a total of 32 Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) tests were conducted for vegetables, other field crops and fruits. Hybridity tests have been conducted for 08 hybrid varieties recommended by the Department of Agriculture.
- The income earned through providing services through Seed Certification Service exceeded Rs.10 million.
- 926 farms were audited to ensure the status of vegetable, fruit and paddy farms following Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), out of which 826 farms were certified as GAP farms.

Plant protection

- Whitefly control was carried out in coconut plantations in various districts throughout Sri Lanka (Gampaha, Colombo, Katunayake, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Batticaloa).
- Control of Lepidoptera (moths) pest in brinjal, okra, cabbage crops was conducted using yellow bulbs.
- Under the pest surveillance program, a new software was introduced to collect the data required to control 6 main pests of paddy cultivation in several selected districts throughout Sri Lanka. (Data being received.)
- Implementation of pest surveillance program and data acquisition was done covering major maize growing districts to control Fall armyworm.
- For districts where mainly fruit crops and Cucurbitaceae vegetables are grown, awareness programs about fruit and melon fly were conducted and necessary arrangements were made to obtain samples.
- An action plan has been prepared to control alien invasive plant species in Western, North Central, Central provinces covering the entire island and awareness programmes were conducted.

- 173 new officers were trained and appointed as Authorized officers covering the entire island under the Plant Protection Act.
- About 43 officers in Matale district were trained as new plant doctors under the permanent crop clinic programme. Several training programmes were conducted in collaboration with CABI.
- Insects were released in Polpithigama - Kumbukgate, Parakrama Samudraya, Kuliapitiya, Sigiriya and Siyambalanduwa areas for biological control of *Salvinia* and *Water hyacinth* and training programmes on control of invasive plants were conducted for 445 officers in Polonnaruwa, Pallepola, Anuradhapura and Kandy areas.

Conservation of plant genetic resources

- For the ongoing work of exploring, collecting, conserving, evaluating and documenting the inherent genetic diversity of food crops and related species, 295 samples of crops and their wild relatives were collected through field survey operations and in collaboration with various research institutes. Along with 329 new samples were conserved during 2023, total number of samples in the gene bank was 17,211 at the end of the year
- A collection of 400 *in vitro* conserved samples were maintained in slow growth media. It includes 120 types of sweet potato, 25 types of potatoes, 210 types of local yams, 24 types of innala and 21 types of banana.
- 292 samples representing various crops were distributed on request by research scientists, farmers and universities with the aim of actively contributing to the sustainable management and use of plant genetic resources for the benefit of agricultural research and food security.

Plant quarantine

- Necessary arrangements have been made for establishment of a plant quarantine unit within the Kankasanthurei port and quarantine activities are being carried out.
- The trial of electronic phytosanitary certificates (e-phyto) for import and export with 36 countries including the 27 countries of the European Union has been successfully completed and the process is underway.
- Automation of services of the Plant Quarantine Service (Plant Quarantine Information and Management System - PQIMS) was introduced under the KOICA project and further analysis was done to improve the system.
- Simplification and harmonization of applications and forms used for phytosanitary procedures were completed with the support of the European Union and the International Trade Center. This will be implemented in 2024.

- Preparation of Standard of Phytosanitary Procedures (SOP) has been completed under the KOICA project.
- E-payment system has been implemented successfully at the Bandaranaike International Airport and the Colombo Sea Port quarantine units to facilitate payments related to Plant Quarantine Service through electronic methods.

CHALLENGES

- Use of fertilizer for paddy cultivation was decreased during 2022/23 Maha and 2023 Yala seasons as well, due to relatively high fertilizer prices. And due to several factors such as nematode damage, sudden change in weather conditions, the yellowing of the rice in the paddy fields throughout the country in the 2022/23 Maha season reduced the yield.
- Due to rising fuel prices, farmers have to bear high costs for harvesting and land preparation, making rice cultivation unprofitable.
- Low agricultural production due to underutilization of land capable of growing additional food crops, inadequate farm mechanization, soil degradation and water quality degradation.
- Inadequate use of recommended improved technologies at rural level due to slow transfer of knowledge to rural level.
- Poor communication between institutions and officials involved in agricultural activities at grass root level and low priority given to new extension tools and approaches adversely affecting agricultural extension.
- Reduced price and profit to the farmer due to high cost of production and lack of direct connection to an organized market network.
- Absence of agricultural input supply mechanism at the rural level and poor organization of the rural farming community.
- Inadequate processing facilities and agro-industries related to other field crops.
- Problematic trade policies on food imports discouraging local agricultural producers.
- Inadequacy of germplasm to be utilized for crop improvement programmes.
- Fluctuating market input prices negatively affecting the seed prices, making it a challenge to maintain farms profitably.
- Inadequacy of Sri Lanka Agriculture Service and other trained staff to carry out research and extension activities under various fields.
- Limitations in hiring contract workers due to low wages.
- Lack of Farm Managers/Assistant Farm Managers for seed farm sub-units making it difficult to run them effectively.

- Damage to research fields and other development fields by wild animals (wild boars, peacocks, monkeys, porcupines, wild elephants and toque macaque etc.).
- Illegal entry of toxic pesticides into the country hindering production of high quality food.
- Changing climatic conditions adversely effecting agricultural productivity.
- In view of the prevailing situation in the country, due to the high cost of inputs (fuel, electricity, agrochemicals, fertilizers etc.), the increase in the cost of seed production and the increase in the price of certified seeds, the increase in the amount of informally sold seeds that are not quality certified.
- With the economic crisis, declining demand for fruit plants has resulted in reduced production and labeling of fruit plants and reluctance to register under the Seed Act.
- Inadequate transport facilities for officers and increase in fuel prices hampered field monitoring and directly affected production.
- Insufficient new agricultural technical knowledge received by officials due to the limitation of training opportunities locally and abroad for the development of skills on new technical methods.
- Challenges to the Pesticides Control Act No. 33 of 1980 due to circulation of illegal pesticides as a result of inappropriate agricultural policies carried out during 2021/22.
- Due to the delay in the appointment of Assistant Registrars of Pesticide required for the implementation of the Pesticide Control Act No. 33 of 1980 and the lack of priority given by some provincial council officials to the activities of the central government, there are problems in the implementation of the Pesticide Control Act throughout the island.
- Due to the lack of Information and Communication Technology Officers or knowledgeable trained personnel in the Plant Quarantine Service and affiliated units and lack of adequate provisions for internet facilities and maintenance, there are problems in carrying out quarantine activities efficiently.
- Inadequacy of certified fields required for export of vegetables and fruits.
- Low number of fruit and vegetable pack houses that meet international standards.

FUTURE GOALS

- Enhance sustainable production and productivity through improved varieties and related technologies to achieve self-sufficiency in paddy, other field crops, fruit and vegetable crops.
- Breeding of rice varieties resistant to extreme environmental conditions (drought, saline soil, resistant to iron poisoning, increased temperature etc.).

- Increasing quality seed production to meet the national requirement by generating technologies for the production of quality planting material of improved paddy, other field crops and vegetable varieties.
- Integrating the government and private seed supply sectors to supply 25% of the seed requirement of paddy, other field crop certification, 50% of the national seed requirement of vegetable seeds, 50% of the national seed requirement of potato seeds as basic seeds and pre-basic seeds and delivering 1.5 million successful transplants annually.
- Determining the hybridity percentage of the hybrid varieties and perform the tasks efficiently through the use of molecular detection.
- Introducing an online payment system (E-Payment System) to efficiently charge the revenue generated by the seed certification service.
- According to the concept of Zero Document, the services performed by the seed certification service are performed in a fully automated (fully automated digitalized) environment to provide an efficient service and thereby register seed fields, issue certificates, issue seed act registration certificates, recommend, approve Introducing mechanisms for making seed laboratory reports, registration of fruit nurseries and issuance of certificates in a fully digital environment.
- To correctly identify registered seed handlers under the Seed Act and arrange to use QR code, color code (Color Code) for seeds that have passed the seed testing laboratory and include places and telephone numbers where the quantity of certified seeds, quantities of fruit plants can be obtained, etc. Introducing methods to obtain On time Data and preparing guidelines for training on certified seed production (TOT).
- Efficient production of seeds and planting materials by monitoring and certifying tissue nurseries of fruit plants and potato plants as well as setting criteria for orange and jackfruit high grade plants.
- To reduce the time taken for the SL-GAP certification process, setting up a system for obtaining audit reports, checklists and photos through online system and starting SL-GAP certification for mushrooms.
- To introduce appropriate new techniques for soil nutrient management for sustainable agricultural development.
- Contribute to reducing various environmental problems related to agriculture by carrying out quality tests of agricultural inputs and developing related laboratories.
- Contribute to increase productivity of sustainable crop production by developing integrated eco-friendly pest and disease management strategies.
- Establishing a National Center for Multiplication and Distribution of Bio controllers to promote eco-friendly disease and pest control.

- Updating the mobile software for the pests of paddy cultivation covering the whole island, using the mobile software to obtain data related to the Fall Armyworm infestation and implementing staff training programs at the district level to identify the fruit fly and melon fly species.
- Construction of a new herbarium and marking the locations of alien invasive plant species throughout Sri Lanka and preserving samples of those species in the herbarium.
- Training and designation of officers as authorized officers under the Plant Protection Act.
- Development of effective agricultural mechanization technologies suited to the socio-economic and field conditions of different regions of Sri Lanka to facilitate crop production.
- Facilitate widespread adoption of technological innovations by establishing strong linkages between research and extension staff.
- Generation of technologies to reduce post-harvest losses and development of value addition technologies.
- Enhancing value chain development through private-public partnerships.
- Working to raise the local economy by creating entrepreneurs in the food production sector.
- Research and generate agro-technologies to boost the local economy by researching advanced technologies such as precision agriculture, data analytics and sensor technologies to optimize cropping, yield forecasting, and streamline supply chains.
- Minimize large fluctuations in prices of agricultural products by focusing on growing climate-resilient crops, taking into account factors such as temperature variability, water scarcity and extreme weather events.
- Establishment of an inspection unit within the Sri Lanka Customs premises for inspection and regulation of pesticide quality, survey of laboratory analysis capabilities to ensure quality of all pesticides, issuance of pesticide registration certificates, issuance of import permits, and development of an online system for collection of fees. Recruiting and appointing a team of specially trained authorized officers for pesticide field regulatory work.
- Conservation of genetic resources at maximum capacity of gene bank at Plant Genetic Resources Centre.
- Optimizing utilization of conserved germplasm for agricultural research and production processes.
- Facilitating the import and export of agricultural products by further improving laboratory facilities at airport entry plant quarantine points.
- In order to facilitate international trade related to agriculture, work to remove phytosanitary restrictions on the export of mangoes, submit facts to obtain impermanence

for dangerous pests, establish phytosanitary units in three post offices, conduct pest surveillance and export potential. Experiment and improve the preparation of a formal program for the regulation of vapor heat treatment standards and pre-shipment treatment standards for available fruits.

- Contribute to the expansion of soil and water conservation activities in the field by modernizing the Soil Conservation Knowledge Center as a high-level knowledge distribution unit and conducting research on water management and soil conservation.
- Issuing agro-climate advisories once a month targeting crops for the two main seasons and monthly and directing farmers for regular crop cultivation by issuing agro-weather advisories based on short and medium term forecasts.
- Carry out necessary activities to amend the Soil Conservation Act and undertake soil conservation at the demonstration level in agricultural fields under the implementation of the Soil Conservation Act.
- Mapping the agro-climatic zones taking into account recent weather conditions, investigating climate change and classifying climate risk zones, preparing the national soil information system and preparing the agricultural climate adaptation map of South Asia.
- Development of agricultural school facilities to desired level and enhancement of quality of Higher National Diploma in Agricultural Production Technology (HNDAPT) and National Diploma in Agricultural Production Technology (NDAPT) courses through timely revised curricula.
- Promote entrepreneurship, introduce innovations in agribusiness and generate medium scale agribusiness and encourage commercialization of agriculture.
- To carry out media promotion activities aimed at food security in the country, to strengthen 1920 agricultural advisory services and to establish sub-units of 1920 call centers in every research center to increase the efficiency of services, to maintain "Agricultural Adviser" mobile application covering all food crops and Updating and establishing a full-time agriculture radio channel (Krushi FM).



.....
Head of Institution
K.N.S. Ranatunga
Director General of Agriculture
2024.05. **K.N.S. Ranatunga**
Director General of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Peradeniya.

Chapter 03 - Overall Financial Performance for the Year ended 31st December 2023

3.1 Statement of Financial Performance

ACA -F

Statement of Financial Performance for the period ended 31st December 2023

Rs.

Budget (Current Year)	Note	Actual		
		Current Year	Previous Year	
- Revenue Receipts				
- Income Tax	1			ACA-1
- Taxes on Domestic Goods & Services	2			
- Taxes on International Trade	3			
775,000,000	4	884,822,691	783,736,614	
775,000,000		884,822,691	783,736,614	
- Non Revenue Receipts				
- Treasury Imprests		6,753,993,000	5,899,885,000	ACA-3
- Deposits		572,763,415	568,669,851	ACA-4
- Advance Accounts		1,469,251,913	1,348,571,573	ACA-
- Other Receipts		-	-	5/5(a)
Total Non Revenue Receipts (B)		8,796,008,329	7,817,126,424	
Total Non Revenue Receipts & Non Revenue Receipts		9,680,831,019	8,600,863,038	
- C = (A)+(B)				
Remittances to Treasury (D)		-	-	
Net Revenue Receipts & Non Revenue Receipts		9,680,831,019	8,600,863,038	
E = (C)-(D)				
Less: Expenditure				
Recurrent Expenditure				
5,410,314,000		4,738,031,078	4,755,679,461	ACA-2(ii)
739,700,000	5	569,979,387	343,103,700	
169,000,000	6	131,997,181	39,968,491	
	7			
- Interest payments	8	-	-	
- Other Recurrent Expenditure	9	-	-	
6,319,014,000		5,440,007,646	5,138,751,652	
Total Recurrent Expenditure (F)				

Capital Expenditure					
396,000,000	Rehabilitation & improvement of Capital Assets	10	302,540,572	114,090,918	ACA-2(ii)
269,000,000	Acquisition of Capital Assets	11	179,624,636	68,415,711	
-	Capital Transfers	12	33,500,000	-	
-	Acquisition of Financial Assets	13	-	-	
15,000,000	Capacity Building	14	5,940,426	5,222,295	
2,700,500,000	Other Capital Expenditure	15	2,076,915,799	1,079,292,720	
3,380,500,000	Total Capital Expenditure (G)		2,598,521,433	1,267,021,644	
	Deposit Payments		496,664,804	564,801,191	ACA-4
	Advance Payments		1,494,483,201	1,294,318,401	ACA-5/5(a)
	Payments to other General Ledger Accounts		-	-	
	Main Ledger Expenditure (H)		1,991,148,005	1,859,119,592	
	Total Expenditure I = (F+G+H)		10,029,677,084	8,264,892,888	
	Imprest Balance as at 31st December 2022 J= (E-I)		(348,846,065)	335,970,150	
	Balance as per Closing Statement		(348,846,065)	335,970,150	ACA-7
	Closing balance as at 31st December		(348,846,065)	335,970,150	ACA-3

3.2 Statement of Financial Position




ACA-P

Statement of Financial Position As at 31st December 2023

	Note	Actual	
		Current Year Rs.	Previous Year Rs.
<u>Non Financial Assets</u>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	ACA- 6	29,340,698,362	27,595,423,028
<u>Financial Assets</u>			
Advance Accounts	ACA-5/5(a)	525,555,870	508,881,530
Cash & Cash Equivalents	ACA-3	-	-
Total Assets		29,866,254,232	28,104,304,558

<u>Net Assets/Equity</u>			
Net Worth to Treasury		(120,442,340)	(61,018,069)
Property, Plant & Equipment Reserve		29,340,698,362	27,595,423,028
Rent and Work Advance Reserve	ACA-5(b)	-	-
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Deposits Accounts	ACA-4	645,998,210	569,899,599
Imprest Balance	ACA-3	-	-
Total Liabilities		29,866,254,232	28,104,304,558

Detail Accounting Statements in above ACA format Nos. 1 to 7 presented in pages from 4 to 56 and Notes to accounts presented in pages from 57 to 127 have been prepared in complying with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles whereas most appropriate Accounting Policies are used as disclosed in the Notes to the Financial Statements and hereby certify that figures in these Financial Statements, Notes to accounts and other relevant accounts were reconciled with the Treasury Books of Accounts and found to in agreement.

		
Chief Accounting Officer Janaka Dharmakeerthi Secretary (Ministry of Agriculture & Plantation Industries) 2024.05.	Accounting Officer K.N.S. Ranatunga Director General of Agriculture 2024.05 K.N.S. Ranatunga Director General of Agriculture Department of Agriculture Peradeniya.	Chief Accountant K.S.D. Dissanayake 2024.05. 28 K.S.D. Dissanayake Chief Accountant Department of Agriculture Peradeniya
Janaka Dharmakeerthi Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries No.80/5, "Govijana Mandiraya", Rajamalwatta Lane, Battaramulla.		

3.3 Statement of Cash Flows

ACA-C

Statement of Cash Flows for the Period ended 31st December 2023

	Current Year Rs.	Actual Previous Year Rs.
<u>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</u>		
Total Tax Receipts	-	-
Fees, Fines, Penalties and Licenses	884,822,691	783,736,614
Profit	-	-
Non-Revenue Receipts	-	-
Revenue collected for other revenue heads	702,670,035	581,853,505
Imprest Receipts	6,753,993,000	5,899,885,000
Advance recovery	1,465,065,715	1,353,819,707
Deposit receipts	572,763,415	568,669,851
Total Cash generated from Operations (a)	10,379,314,856	9,187,964,676

<u>Less - Cash disbursed for:</u>		
Personal Emoluments & Operating Payments	7,705,087,972	6,290,490,644
Subsidies & Transfer Payments	131,997,181	39,968,491
Expenditure on Other Votes	384,650,446	931,318,012
Finance Costs - Imprest Settlement to Treasury	-	-
Advance payments	1,482,285,817	1,294,005,289
Deposit payments	496,664,804	564,801,191
Total Cash disbursed for Operations (b)	10,200,686,220	9,120,583,626
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES (c) = (a)-(b)	178,628,636	67,381,050
<u>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</u>		
Interest	-	-
Dividends	-	-
Divestiture Proceeds & Sale of Physical Assets	-	-
Recoveries from On Lending	-	-
Total Cash generated from Investing Activities (d)	-	-
<u>Less - Cash disbursed for:</u>		
Purchases or Construction of Physical Assets & Acquisition of Other Investment	178,628,636	67,381,050
Total Cash disbursed for Investing Activities (e)	178,628,636	67,381,050
Net cash flow from investing activities (f)=(d)-(e)	(178,628,636)	(67,381,050)
Net cash flows from operating & investment activities (g)=(c) + (f)	0	0
<u>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</u>		
Local Borrowings	-	-
Foreign Borrowings	-	-
Grants Received	-	-
Deposits received	-	-
Total Cash generated from Financing Activities (h)	-	-
<u>Less - Cash disbursed for:</u>		
Repayment of Local Borrowings	-	-
Repayment of Foreign Borrowings	-	-
Deposit payments	-	-
Total Cash disbursed for Financing Activities (i)	-	-

Net cash flow from Financing Activities (J)=(h)-(i)	-	-
Net Movement in Cash (k) = (g) -(j)	-	
Opening Cash Balance as at 01st January	-	
Closing Cash Balance as at 31st December	-	

3.4 Notes to the Financial Statements

None.

3.5 Performance of the Revenue Collection

Rs. ,000

Revenue Code	Description of the Revenue Code	Revenue Estimate		Collected Revenue	
		Original	Final	Amount (Rs.)	as a % of Final Revenue Estimate
20.03.02.18	Departmental sales & fees	610,000.00	775,000.00	884,822.69	114
20.03.99.00	Sales fees & other receipts	100,000.00	100,000.00	437,869.42	438
20.02.01.01	Rent of Government buildings and houses	36,000.00	36,000.00	36,302.63	101
20.06.02.01	Sale of capital assets (Vehicles)	10,000.00	10,000.00	12,090.37	121
20.06.02.02	Sale of capital assets (Others)	2,000.00	2,200.00	614.38	279
20.02.02.99	Interest/ others	27,000.00	27,000.00	27,481.48	102

3.6 Performance of the Utilization of Allocation

Rs. ,000

Type of Allocation	Allocation		Actual Expenditure	Allocation Utilization as a % of Final Allocation
	Original	Final		
Recurrent	6,319,014.00	6,319,014.00	5,440,007.65	86.09
Capital	3,380,500.00	3,390,500.00	2,598,521.43	76.64

3.7 In terms of F.R.208 grant of allocations for expenditure to this Department as an agent of the other Ministries/ Departments

Rs. ,000

Serial No.	Allocation Received from Which Ministry/ Department	Purpose of the Allocation	Allocation		Actual Final Expenditure	Allocation Utilization as a % of Final Allocation
			Original	Final		
1	118-02-03-020-2509 FR – S4	Upgrading laboratory facilities & development of bio fertilizers for sustainable agriculture	4,072.18	4,072.18	1,616.21	39.68
2	118-02-03-068-2509	Increase quality seed production by using protected Agriculture technology	50,000.00	50,000.00	49,655.24	99.31
3	118-02-03-020-2509 EX – S2	Hela Bojun Development	32,000.00	32,000.00	29,341.65	91.69
4	118-02-03-020-2509 FC – S1	Training of officers on formalization of green agriculture	51.90	51.90	51.90	100.00
5	118-02-03-020-2509 FC – S1	Increase the production and productivity of Maize cultivation for Yala season in 2023	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,858.58	32.65
6	118-02-03-020-2509 EN – S4	Upgrading laboratory facilities & development of bio fertilizers for sustainable agriculture	20,337.82	20,337.82	13,160.94	64.71
7	118-02-03-020-2509 SC – S5	Quality assurance of seed & planting materials	12,000.00	12,000.00	11,287.86	94
8	118-02-03-020-2509 SC – S6	Diversity analysis & in-vitro conservation of plant genetic resources	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,766.05	88

9	118-02-03-020-2509 SC – S7	Promotion of fresh fruits & vegetables exportation through field certification	300.00	300.00	50.91	16.97
10	118-02-03-020-2509 HO – S8	Assurance of safety in rice with lead and lead accumulation in different rice varieties	1,751.00	1,751.00	1,623.50	92.71
11	118-02-03-020-2509 HO – S 9	Assurance of food safety related to the plant origin of the agriculture produces in selected 3 districts of Colombo, Matale and Puttalam	5,440.00	5,440.00	5,426.94	99.75
12	118-02-03-020-2509 HO – S 10	Determination of Mancozeb residues in leafy vegetables through determination of Manganese content	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,940.21	98.80
13	118-02-03-020-2509 HO – S11	Development of central and regional laboratory facilities to promote the site specific fertilizer management for input use efficiency and environmental sustainability	19,928.00	19,928.00	16,932.29	84.96
14	118-02-03-020-2509 SP – S13	Introducing renewable energy system & improvement of infrastructure facilities for quality seed & planting material production	97,500.00	97,500.00	95,710.34	98

15	118-02-03-020-2509 SP – S14	Improvement of micro-irrigation facilities for quality seed & planting material production	51,500.00	51,500.00	41,335.75	80.26
16	118-02-03-020-2509 SP – S15	‘Nekathata pelayak’ National Tree Planting Programme	500.00	500.00	500.00	100
17	118-02-03-020-2509 EX – S16	Annual Crop Production Program 2023/24	473.40	473.40	473.09	99.93
18	118-02-03-020-2509 FC-S17	Development of selected innovations according to the recommendations of expert	701.21	701.21	316.04	45.07
19	118-02-03-020-2509 IT – S17	Development of selected innovations according to the recommendations of expert	851.13	851.13	806.52	94.75
20	118-02-03-020-2509 FR – S12	Establishment of sustainable irrigation systems in National Fruit Varieties Conservation Centre, Kundasale	4,300.00	4,300.00	4,295.41	99.89
21	118-02-03-020-2202 EX – S1	Increase the production and productivity of Maize cultivation for Yala season in 2023	97,000.00	97,000.00	96,062.09	99.03
22	118-02-03-042-2509(13)	Pilot project on promotion and marketing of bread fruit cultivation	187.50	187.50	172.71	92.11

23	118-02-03-020-2509 RR – S17	Development of selected innovations according to the recommendations of expert	36.00	36.00		
24	118-02-03-020-2509 EN– S17	Development of selected innovations according to the recommendations of expert	5.86	5.86		
25	118-02-03-020-2509 FMRC – SP9	2022 loan waiver for introductory agricultural machinery course	6.65	6.65		
26	118-02-03-020-2509 EN – S11	Development of central and regional laboratory facilities to promote the site specific fertilizer management for input use efficiency and environmental sustainability	72.00	72.00		

3.8 Performance of the Reporting of Non-Financial Assets

Rs. ,000

Assets Code	Code Description	Balance as per Board of Survey Report as at 31.12.2023	Balance as per financial Position Report as at 31.12.2023	Yet to be Accounted	Reporting Progress as a %
9151	Building and Structures		7,449,189.46		
9152	Machinery and Equipment		2,892,431.36		
9153	Land		18,859,325.91		

9154	Intangible Assets		-		
9155	Biological Assets		-		
9160	Work in Progress		139,751.63		
9180	Lease Assets		-		

3.9 Auditor General's Report

Annexure II

Chapter 04 - Performance indicators

4.1 Performance indicators of the Institute (Based on the Action Plan)

4.1.1 Rice Research & Development Institute

Specific Indicators	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	90-100%	75-89%	50-74%
1.No. of bulk populations, yield trials and preliminary yield trials established	✓		
2.Amount of breeder seeds of recommended rice varieties produced	✓		
3.No. of biotechnology related trials conducted for increasing abiotic & biotic stress tolerant rice lines	✓		
4.No. of agronomic trials conducted to improve rice yield and quality and related technology packages	✓		
5.No. of trials conducted on soil and water management in rice cultivation	✓		
6.No. of trials on entomology conducted to enhance protection rice crop from pest damages	✓		
7.No. of pathology trials conducted to improve the resistance to various rice diseases	✓		
8.No. of trials conducted on weed management in rice cultivation	✓		
9.No. of experiments conducted on grain quality improvement	✓		
10.Extent of lands cultivated for paddy seed production	✓		
11. No. of training programmes conducted for field officers, farmers and students	✓		

4.1.2 Field Crop Research & Development Institute

Specific indicators	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	90-100%	75 - 89%	50 - 74%
1.No. of varieties of other field crops developed	✓		
2.No. of vegetable and fruit crops/ varieties developed and identified which are suitable for the Dry Zone	✓		

3.No. of biotechnology tools effectively used in crop improvement	✓		
4.No. of technologies developed to control pests, diseases and weeds in other field crops	✓		
5.No. of agronomic management technologies developed to enhance the crop productivity in the Dry Zone	✓		
6.No. of soil management technologies developed for the Dry Zone	✓		
7.No. of research conducted to enhance the water productivity in the Dry Zone	✓		
8.No. of studies conducted on climate change on productivity of other field crops	✓		
9.No. of effective agricultural mechanization technologies developed which are compatible with the socio economic and field conditions prevailing in different parts of Sri Lanka	✓		
10. Amount of breeder seeds/ planting materials of the recommended other field crop varieties and the Dry Zone vegetables/ fruits produced	✓		
11. No. of agricultural technologies disseminated to stakeholders	✓		

4.1.3 Horticultural Crop Research & Development Institute

Specific Indicators	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	90-100%	75-89%	50-74%
1.No. of high yielding varieties of vegetables, root & tuber crops developed	✓		
2.No. of best agronomic practices identified to increase productivity of crop varieties	✓		
3.No. of environment friendly pest & disease management techniques developed for vegetable growing systems	✓		
4.Number of soil and fertilizer quality tests conducted	✓		
5.Amount of nuclear seed materials produced	✓		
6.No. of developed technologies disseminated effectively		✓	
7.No. of value added vegetable products available		✓	
8.No. of pre/ postharvest management practices improved		✓	
9.No. of management packages developed for organic vegetable production	✓		

10. Analysis of food contaminants/ No. of food and water samples analyzed to ensure food safety	✓		
11. No. of research projects conducted	✓		
12. No. of pesticides for which toxicological studies have been conducted to calculate LC50 (lethal dose) for insect species	✓		
13. No. of biological control agents released	✓		
14. No. of training, awareness workshops conducted for field officers, farmers and students	✓		
15. No. of students provided with training opportunities by the institute	✓		

4.1.4 Fruit Research & Development Institute

Specific indicators	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	90-100%	75- 89%	50- 74%
1.No. of released varieties of fruit crops		✓	
2.No. of promising agronomic technologies to increase fruit productivity	✓		
3.No. of developed technologies to control pest and diseases	✓		
4.No. of technologies developed for soil nutrient management	✓		
5.No. of developed planting material production technologies	✓		
6.No. of post-harvest and value addition technologies developed	✓		
7. Amount of breeder seeds and planting materials produced		✓	
8. No. of training programs conducted	✓		
9. No. of research/ performance reports/ progress reports submitted	✓		
10. No. of training programmes held with the participation of resource persons		✓	

4.1.5 Natural Resources Management Centre

Specific Indicators	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	90-100%	75-89%	50-74%
1.No. of research projects conducted	✓		
2.No. of agro-met advisories delivered	✓		
3.Number of requests for agro meteorological data issued by the agro meteorological division	✓		
4.Number of soil samples analyzed	✓		
5.Number of land use plans and land suitability maps prepared	✓		
6.Number of new agro meteorological stations established and agro meteorological stations maintained	✓		
7. Number of Environment Impact Assessments (EIAs) attended	✓		
8. Number of soil conservation demonstrations established	✓		
9. Number of water supply system plans and estimates evaluated	✓		
10. Number of Agricultural Advisory Zones mapped	✓		
11. Number of road side boards installed to promote Soil Conservation Act	✓		
12. Number of technical training programs conducted	✓		
13. Number of television and radio programs prepared related to soil and water management and agro-meteorological advisory	✓		
14. Number of government officials of the agriculture sector trained on GPS/GIS technology	✓		
15. Number of short-term agro meteorological information notification messages delivered	✓		

4.1.6 Socio Economic & Planning Centre

Specific Indicators	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	90-100%	75-89%	50-74%
1.No. of technical notes prepared	✓		
2.No. of publications (AgStat, COC, Crop Forecasts, Crop Watch etc.) issued	✓		

3.No. of workshops conducted/ attended	✓		
4. No. of web applications/platform developed/updated	✓		
5. No. of situational reports* submitted	✓		

* Situational reports are provided based on urgent requests/timely need.

4.1.7 Extension & Training Centre

Specific Indicators	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	90-100%	75-89%	50-74%
1. No. of field days conducted	✓		
2. No. of demonstrations conducted	✓		
3. No. of crop clinics conducted	✓		
4. No. of training classes conducted for farmers			✓
5. No. of registered students for NVQ 6 course (2019/20)	✓		
6. No. of registered students for NVQ 5 course (2019/20)	✓		
7. No. of students awarded with Diploma	✓		
8. No. of awareness programs conducted for Diploma courses	✓		
9. No. of monitoring visits for audit system in Agriculture Schools	✓		
10. No. of Training programs conducted for extension officers of DOA			✓
11. No. of training programs conducted for farmers & entrepreneurs		✓	
12. No. of training programs conducted for other local government officers			✓
13. Number of students passed out from NVQ 4 course			✓
14. No. of provincial technical working groups (PTWG/MTWG) conducted			✓
15. No. of pre - seasonal training programs conducted	✓		
16. Number of training programs conducted for University students/ Diploma Institutes and School students	✓		
17. No. of tests conducted for NVQ 6 (6 months & End of the year)	✓		

18. Number of tests conducted for NVQ 5 (6 months & End of the year)	✓		
19. No. of skill based assessments for Higher National Diploma programs	✓		
20. No. of efficiency bar exams conducted for employees in DOA	✓		
21. No. of trainings conducted for potential entrepreneurs		✓	
22. No. of opportunities for supporting small & medium scale farmers to sell their value-added products through GAP stalls	✓		

4.1.8 National Agriculture Information & Communication Centre

Specific Indicators	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	90-100%	75 - 89%	50 - 74%
1. Number of radio programs/ year	✓		
2. Number of video programs/ year	✓		
3. Number of print media/ year	✓		
4. Number of 1920 Farmer Advisory services provided	✓		
5. Number of ICT activities conducted	✓		
6. Number of visitors to Agro Technology Parks	✓		
7. Number of trainings for school students		✓	

4.1.9 Seed & Planting Material Development Centre

Specific Indicators	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	90-100%	75-89%	50-74%
1. Amount of Foundation seed paddy produced in farms		✓	
2. Amount of Registered seed paddy produced in farms			✓
3. Amount of Registered & Certified seed paddy produced under contract growing	✓		
4. Amount of Foundation & Registered OFC seeds produced in farms *			
5. Amount of Registered & Certified OFC seeds produced under contract growing	✓		

6. Amount of Basic vegetable seeds produced in farms *			
7. Amount of Standard vegetable seeds produced in farms *			
8. Amount of Hybrid vegetable seeds produced in farms *			
9. Amount of Standard vegetable seeds produced under contract growing	✓		
10. Amount of Pre foundation seed Potato (G ₀) produced in poly tunnels (nos.) *			
11. Amount of Foundation seed Potato (G ₁) produced in poly tunnels (mt.)		✓	
12. Amount of Foundation seed Potato (G ₁ , G ₂ & G ₃) produced in farms		✓	
13. Amount of Certified seed Potato (C ₁ & C ₂) produced in farms	✓		
14. No. of grafted plants produced in farms			✓
15. No. of seedlings produced in farms *			
16. No. of rooted cuttings produced in farms			✓
17. No. of suckers produced in farms	✓		
18. No. of vegetable pots produced in farms	✓		

* Progress is less than 50%

4.1.10 Seed Certification & Plant Protection Centre

Specific Indicator	Actual output as a percentage(%) of the expected out put		
	90-100%	75-89%	50-74%
Seed Certification Service			
1. Amount of Breeder seeds certified - Paddy	✓		
2. Amount of Breeder seeds certified - OFC		✓	
3. Amount of Breeder seeds certified - Vegetables			✓
4. Amount of seeds of other classes (Basic, Standard, Foundation, Registration and certified) recommended - Seed paddy		✓	
5. Amount of seeds of other classes (Basic, Standard, Foundation, Registration and certified) recommended – OFC			✓
6. Amount of seeds of other classes (Basic, Standard, Foundation, Registration and certified) recommended – Vegetables			✓
7. Amount of seed potato certified		✓	

8.No. of nurseries registered		✓	
9.No. of fruit plants labeled		✓	
10. No. of mother plants certified			✓
11. No. of DUS tests conducted	✓		
12. No. of samples tested as grow out trials in post control fields		✓	
13. No. of samples tested for germination, moisture, purity in seed testing laboratories			✓
14. No. of samples tested for seed borne pathogens	✓		
15. No. of samples tested as C samples			✓
16. No. of lot breaks conducted			✓
17. No. of denominations conducted			✓
18. No. of seed handlers registered	✓		
19. No of seed handler registrations renewed	✓		
20. No. of inquiries inspected	✓		
21. No. of labels approved	✓		
22. No. of premises inspected	✓		
23. No. of GAP farms certified		✓	
24. No. of trainings conducted		✓	
Plant Protection Service			
1. No. of authorized officers newly appointed under Plant Protection Act No. 35 of 1999	✓		
2. No. of farmers and officers trained under IPM, PCCP, IAS and rodent management		✓	
3. No. of biological control agents released		✓	
4.No. of programs conducted under pest outbreak management, termite management and pest management in historically important places	✓		
5. No. of weedicides and termiticides tested			✓
Office of the Registrar of Pesticides			
1. No. of pesticides evaluated	✓		
2. No. of awareness programmes conducted on assurance of safe use and judicious marketing of pesticides & collection & compilation of pesticides related data	✓		

3. No. of compliance monitoring (Product quality & residues in environmental compartments & action against violation of the control of pesticides act No. 33 of 1980) programmes conducted	✓		
4. No. of participations as technical experts/ members/ resource personnel in intra & inter-departmental organization meetings	✓		
Plant Genetic Resources Centre			
1.No. of germplasm samples collected through explorations and from research institutes	✓		
2.No. of seed samples distributed			✓
3.No. of germplasm characterized		✓	
4.No. of accessions multiplied and submitted for conservation	✓		
5. No. of molecular research conducted	✓		
6. No. of data in the data base	✓		
National Plant Quarantine Service			
1. No. of pest free certificates issued for export of quality plants and plant products	✓		
2. No. of imported plant and plant products fulfilling plant quarantine import requirements of the country	✓		
3. No. of research conducted which are related to quarantine	✓		
4. No. of trainings and awareness programs conducted for stakeholders		✓	
5. No. of trainings workshops and awareness programs conducted for quarantine officers	✓		

Chapter 05 - Performance of the Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

5.1 Identified respective Sustainable Developments Goals

Goal/ Objective	Programme	Sustainable Developme nt Target No.	Sustainable Developme nt Indicator No.	Progress of achieving sustainable development		
				0 - 49 %	50 - 74 %	75 - 100 %
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	01. Implementation of Green agriculture concept	2.4	2.4.1			✓
	02. Research to enhance crop productivity	2.3	2.3.1			✓
			2.3.2			
	03. Implementing Agri Technological extension programs	2.3	2.3.1			✓
			2.3.2			
04. Production and popularization of high quality seeds	2.3	2.3.1 2.3.2		✓		
05. Conservation & utilization of genetic resources	2.5	2.5.1			✓	

5.2 Briefly explain the achievements and challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals

Achievements and challenges of Sustainable Development Goals are explained in Chapter 02.

Chapter 06 - Human Resource Profile

06.1 Cadre Management

Category	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre	Vacancies / (Excess)**
Senior	1,050	354	696
Tertiary	208	90	118
Secondary	3,644	3,093	551
Primary	7,296	5,866	1,430

06.2 **Briefly state how the shortage or excess in human resources has been affected to the performance of the institute

The Department of Agriculture consists of 260 institutions spread across Sri Lanka and the number of posts is 102. The total number of vacancies is 2795. Vacancies in all posts have a huge impact on the performance of the department.

Considering the vacancies of senior level positions, there are a large number of vacancies in the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service, and the reason is that the vacancies cannot be filled within 9 years. In other words, in 2015, the Treasury approved the recruitment of 310 vacancies. But due to a fundamental rights petition filed by the Sri Lanka Agricultural Advisory Association regarding recruitment on a limited basis, the recruitment could not be done until March 2021.

After the completion of the legal process, everything was planned for the recruitment, the recruitment examination was gazetted and the necessary payments were made to the Sri Lanka Examination Department, but the recruitment had to be postponed again according to the National Budget Circular 3/2022. But as per the recommendations of the Recruitment Review Committee chaired by the Prime Minister's Secretary, the recruitment was done after obtaining the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers for the essential recruitments. Accordingly, the interview for the recruitment of 148 on limited basis and 162 on open basis for the posts of Assistant Director of Agriculture (Agricultural Research, Agricultural Development) has been conducted from 28.01.2024 to 03.02.2024 and the recruitment is being done immediately. Approval has been requested from the Department of Management Services to fill 449 vacancies as on 30.06.2023.

Most of the vacancies in the tertiary level positions are Agricultural Instructor (Special Grade) and Research Assistant (Special Grade), and the recommendations related to filling vacancies for the years 2015-2021 for Agricultural Instructor (Special) based on work experience and merit are referred to the Public Service Commission for approval. Most of the promoted officers are retired officers. Shortage of officers cannot be avoided until all the vacancies are filled.

Approval has been given by the Public Service Commission Secretary's letter No. PSC/PRO/7/2027/2023 and dated 09.02.2024 to fill 48 vacancies based on experience and merit from 2015 to 2019 for promotion based on examination results.

Although there are vacancies related to the recruitment of Research Assistant (Special Grade), there are further vacancies as there are no qualified officers to be promoted to the Special Grade.

Most of the vacancies at the secondary level are in the posts of Agricultural Instructor and Research Assistant. The examination related to the recruitment of 110 Agriculture Instructor Vacancies and 30 Research Assistant Vacancies on limited basis has been held on 12.08.2023. Recruitment is to be done after the examination results are released by the examination department. Approval has been requested from the Department of Management Services on 07.09.2023 to fill the remaining vacancies.

The vacancies in the Combined Service are filled by the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government and for that the MISCO data system is updated.

Also, Public Administration Circular dated 18.09.2019 titled "Making permanent appointments for employees recruited on temporary, casual, substitute, contract or relief basis" issued in accordance with Public Administration Circular 25/2014 dated 12.11.2014 in primary level positions. With the issuance of 29/2019 EC/WDR/PRE/INQ of the EC/WDR/PRE/INQ of the related Election Commission Chairman and the instruction sheet dated 30.09.2019, the work of confirming the contract labor employees working under this department who have met the qualifications as per the provisions of the relevant circular was started.

However, while the confirmation work is being carried out, Treasury Secretary's letter No. DMS/Policy/Recruitments dated 2019.11.20 has informed that all recruitments suspended due to the 2019 presidential election should be temporarily suspended until further review and notification. Then it was decided to postpone the appointments to government posts and the confirmation of contract labor employees on the basis of government policies.

However, since there are 1270 workers employed on contract basis who are qualified for permanent service in this department, to the request made on 16.02.2023 bearing my number DOA/Admn/1/14/4/1 to give priority to the employees who are working on that contract basis while completing the vacancies in the primary service category, as informed by the Prime Minister's Secretary PMO/SEC/01/09 in his letter dated 27.02.2023, a Cabinet Memorandum was prepared and forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture to take a policy decision and in response to the Cabinet Office No. cabinet memo /23/1102/612/ 033 and the Cabinet decision dated 05.07.2023 has been given.

According to the decision of the said Cabinet, there are a significant number of employees employed on temporary, casual, substitute and contract basis, and that it is not possible to recruit all those employees in the government service on a permanent basis in the limited financial space available at present:therefore,it has been informed that after further discussions on this matter, a general policy decision will be taken in the future.

06.3 Human Resource Development

Annexure I

Chapter 07 - Compliance Report

No.	Applicable Requirement	Compliance Status (Complied/ Not Complied)	Brief explanation for Non Compliance	Corrective actions proposed to avoid non-compliance in future
1	The following Financial statements/ accounts have been submitted on due date			
1.1	Annual financial statements	Complied		
1.2	Advance to public officers account	Complied		
1.3	Trading and Manufacturing Advance Accounts (Commercial Advance Accounts)	Complied		
1.4	Stores Advance Accounts	Not complied		
1.5	Special Advance Accounts	Not complied		
1.6	Others	Not complied		
2	Maintenance of books and registers (FR445)			
2.1	Fixed assets register has been maintained and update in terms of Public Administration Circular 267/2018	Complied		
2.2	Personal emoluments register/ Personal emolument cards has been maintained and update	Complied		
2.3	Register of Audit queries has been maintained and update	Complied		
2.4	Register of Internal Audit reports has been maintained and update	Complied		
2.5	All the monthly account summaries (CIGAS) are prepared and submitted to the Treasury on due date	Complied		
2.6	Register for cheques and money orders has been maintained and update	Complied		
2.7	Inventory register has been maintained and update	Complied		
2.8	Stocks Register has been maintained and update	Complied		
2.9	Register of Losses has been maintained and update	Complied		
2.10	Commitment Register has been maintained and update	Complied		
2.11	Register of Counterfoil Books (GA – N20) has been maintained and update	Complied		
3	Delegation of functions for financial control (FR 135)			
3.1	The financial authority has been delegated within the institute	Complied		
3.2	The delegation of financial authority has been communicated within the institute	Complied		

3.3	The authority has been delegated in such manner so as to pass each transaction through two or more officers	Complied		
3.4	The controls has been adhered to by the Accountants in terms of State Account Circular 171/2004 dated 11.05.2014 in using the Government Payroll Software Package	Complied		
4	Preparation of Annual Plans			
4.1	The annual action plan has been prepared	Complied		
4.2	The annual procurement plan has been prepared	Complied		
4.3	The annual Internal Audit plan has been prepared	Complied		
4.4	The annual estimate has been prepared and submitted to the NBD on due date	Complied		
4.5	The annual cash flow has been submitted to the Treasury Operations Department on time	Complied		
5	Audit queries			
5.1	All the audit queries has been replied within the specified time by the Auditor General	Complied		
6	Internal Audit			
6.1	The internal audit plan has been prepared at the beginning of the year after consulting the Auditor General in 134(2)) DMA/1-2019	Complied		
6/2	All the internal audit reports has been replied within one month	Complied		
6.3	Copies of all the internal audit reports has been submitted to the Management Audit Department in terms of Sub-section 40(4) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018	Complied		
6.4	All the copies of internal audit reports has been submitted to the Auditor General in terms of Financial Regulation 134(3)	Complied		

7	Audit and Management Committee			
7.1	Minimum 04 meetings of the Audit And Management Committee has been held during the year as per the DMA Circular 1-2019	Complied		
8	Asset Management			
8.1	The information about purchases of assets and disposals was submitted to the Comptroller General's Office in terms of Paragraph 07 of the Asset Management Circular No. 01/2017	Complied		
8.2	A suitable liaison officer was appointed to coordinate the implementation of the provisions of the circular and the details of the nominated officer was sent to the Comptroller General's Office in terms of Paragraph 13 of the aforesaid circular	Complied		
8.3	The boards of survey was conducted and the relevant reports submitted to the Auditor General on due date in terms of Public Finance Circular No. 05/2016	Complied		
8.4	The excesses and deficits that were disclosed through the board of survey and other relating recommendations, actions were carried out during the period specified in the circular	Complied		
8.5	The disposal of condemn articles had been carried out in terms of FR 772	Complied		
9	Vehicle Management			
9.1	The daily running charts and monthly summaries of the pool vehicles had been prepared and submitted to the Auditor General on due date	Complied		
9.2	The condemned vehicles had been disposed of within a period of less than 6 months after condemning	Complied		
9.3	The vehicle logbooks had been maintained and updated	Complied		
9.4	The action has been taken in terms of F.R. 103, 104, 109 and 110 with regard to every vehicle accident	Complied		
9.5	The fuel consumption of vehicles has been re-tested in terms of Circular No.30/2016 of 29.12.2016 the provisions of Paragraph 3.1 of the Public Administration	Complied		

9.6	The absolute ownership of the leased vehicle log books has been transferred after the lease term	Complied		
10	Management of Bank Accounts			
10.1	The bank reconciliation statements had been prepared, got certified and made ready for audit by the due date	Complied		
10.2	The dormant accounts that had existed in the year under review or since previous years settled	Complied		
10.3	The action had been taken in terms of Financial Regulations regarding balances that had been bank reconciliation statements and for which adjustments had to be made, and had those balances been settled within one month reconciliation statements and for which adjustments had to be made, and had those balances been settled within one month disclosed through	Complied		
11	Utilization of Provisions			
11.1	The provisions allocated had been spent without exceeding the limit	Complied		
11.2	The liabilities not exceeding the provisions that remained at the end	Complied		
12	Advances to Public Officers Account			
12.1	The limits had been complied with	Complied		
12.2	A time analysis had been carried out on the loans in arrears	Complied		
12.3	The loan balances in arrears for over one year had been settled	Complied		
13	General Deposit Accounts			
13.1	The action had been taken as per F.R.571 in relation to disposal of lapsed deposits	Complied		
13.2	The control register for general deposits had been updated and maintained	Complied		
14	Imprest Account			
14.1	The balance in the cash book at the end of the year under review remitted to TOD	Complied		
14.2	The ad-hoc sub imprests issued as per F.R. 371 settled within one month from the completion of the task	Complied		
14.3	The ad-hoc sub imprests had not been issued exceeding the limit approved as per F.R. 371	Complied		

14.4	The balance of the imprest account had been reconciled with the Treasury books monthly	Complied		
15	Revenue Account			
15.1	The refunds from the revenue had been made in terms of the regulations	Complied		
15.2	The revenue collection had been directly credited to the revenue account without credited to the deposit account	Complied		
15.3	Returns of arrears of revenue forward to the Auditor General in terms of FR 176	Complied		
16	Human Resource Management			
16.1	The staff had been paid within the approved cadre	Not complied	Recruitment in the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service has not been carried out since 2015 due to a legal matter and the inability to make new recruitments for several years due to policy decisions taken by the government from time to time by temporarily suspending recruitment.	The necessary tasks have been performed at the departmental level.
16.2	All members of the staff have been issued a duty list in writing	Complied		
16.3	All reports have been submitted to MSD in terms of their circular no.04/2017 dated 20.09.2017	Complied		
17	Provision of information to the public			
17.1	An information officer has been appointed and a proper register of information is maintained and updated in terms of Right To Information Act and Regulation	Complied		

17.2	Information about the institution to the public have been provided by Website or alternative measures and has it been facilitated to appreciate /allegation to public against the public authority by this website or alternative measures	Complied		
17.3	Bi- Annual and Annual reports have been submitted as per section 08 and10 of the RTI Act	Complied		
18	Implementing Citizens Charter			
18.1	A citizens charter/ Citizens client's charter has been formulated and implemented	Complied		
18.2	A methodology has been devised by the Institution in order to monitor and assess the formulation and the implementation of Citizens Charter / Citizens client's charter as per paragraph 2.3 of the circular	Complied		
19	Preparation of the Human Resource Plan			
19.1	A human resource plan has been prepared in terms of the format in Annexure 02 of the Public Administration Circular No.02/2018 dated 24.01.2018.	Complied		
19.2	A minimum training opportunity of not less than 12 hours per year for each member of the staff has been ensured in the aforesaid Human Resource Plan	Complied		
19.3	Annual performance agreements have been signed for the entire staff based on the format in Annexure 01 of the aforesaid Circular	Complied		
19.4	A senior officer was appointed and assigned the responsibility of preparing the human resource development plan, organizing capacity building programs and conducting skill development programs as per paragraph No.6.5 of the aforesaid Circular	Complied		
20	Responses Audit Paras			
20.1	The shortcomings pointed out in the audit paragraphs issued by the Auditor General for the previous years have been rectified	Complied		

Note:- The facts from 16.2 to 19.4 in the table have been stated with respect to the Administration Division.

Annexures

06.3 Human Resource Development

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
Overseas Trainings						
1. Agri-entrepreneurship and supply chain management (ITEC)	03	16.01.2023 to 24.02.2023		2,591.87	Abroad	Knowledge on supply chain management
2. BTSF Regional workshop on the use of TRACES system	02	16.01.2023 to 19.01.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on the use of TRACES system
3. International training program on Seed production & quality evaluation	01	12.02.2023 to 23.02.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on seed production & quality evaluation
4. JICA KCCP - Vegetable production technology for livelihood improvement of small scale farmers	01	27.02.2023 to 13.10.2023		2,311.14	Abroad	Knowledge on vegetable production technology for small scale farmers
5. ITEC Training Program: Specialized training in Internet of things applications in agriculture	04	23.02.2023 to 22.03.2023		1,621.60	Abroad	Knowledge on Internet of things applications in agriculture
6. Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) 9 th Annual meeting	01	27.02.2023 to 01.03.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on testing of agricultural machinery

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
7. Face-to-face orientation workshop for members of the Chemical review committee	01	06.03.2023 to 08.03.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on chemical review
8. Asia-Pacific regional meeting in preparation for the 2023 meeting on the Conference of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	01	14.03.2023 to 16.03.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm Convention
9. The 18 th working session of the inter-governmental technical panel on soils. Global Soil Partnership	01	21.03.2023 to 23.03.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on soil technology
10. EU-India region dialogues on sustainable food systems: From production to consumption	02	27.03.2023 to 28.03.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on sustainable food systems
11. ITEC Scholarship scheme: Specialized training program in internet working design & LAN-WAN administration	01	27.03.2023 to 19.05.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on LAN-WAN administration
12. 17 th session of the commission on phytosanitary measures	01	27.03.2023 to 31.03.2023			Abroad	Technical knowledge sharing on phytosanitary measures
13. Bio pesticide regulatory workshop	01	03.04.2023 to 05.04.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on regulation of bio pesticides
14. Kickoff workshop on the development of Rural Agricultural Technology Extension System in Asia (RATES)	01	24.04.2023 to 28.04.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on rural agricultural technology extension systems

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
15. BISA-Inception workshop of the project titled South Asia climate adaptation atlas for agriculture	05	25.04.2023 to 27.04.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on climate adaptation atlas for agriculture
16. Plant quarantine invitational training under the project modernization of National Plant Quarantine Service In Sri Lanka	07	24.04.2023 to 19.06.2023			Abroad	Knowledge related to plant quarantine
17. Hydromet & early warning joint training exercise 11	01	01.05.2023 to 09.05.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on hydrometeorology & early warning
18. Eleventh meeting of the conference of the parties to the Rotterdam convention	01	01.05.2023 to 12.05.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on Rotterdam convention
19. APAARI -STDF project training course on Good laboratory practices	02	01.05.2023 to 05.05.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on good laboratory practices
20. KORAA short- term training (rice): Rice post-production to market training course	02	08.05.2023 to 12.05.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on rice post-production to market
21. Training course on technology of grain and oil food processing for managers in developing countries	03	17.05.2023 to 13.06.2023			Abroad	Training on technology of grain and oil food processing
22. 2023 AFACI - World Veg-FFTC workshop and training course on "Innovation & approaches on vegetable breeding technology in Asia"	01	16.05.2023 to 26.05.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on innovation & approaches on vegetable breeding technology

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
23. APPPC surveillance workshop on pest free areas, pest free places of production and pest free production sites	01	22.05.2023 to 26.05.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on pest free production
24. Practical plant quarantine techniques for export of agricultural products treatment (for disinfestation of fruit flies)	01	11.05.2023 to 09.09.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on plant quarantine techniques for export of agricultural products
25. Training course on Juncao technology for developing country	02	15.05.2023 to 29.06.2023			Abroad	Training on Juncao technology
26. Plant quarantine invitation training for high level officials	02	10.06.2023 to 17.06.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on plant quarantine
27. BTSF training activities on Food safety crisis preparedness (ONO-EU)	01	12.06.2023 to 16.06.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on food safety crisis preparedness
28. APPPC workshop on Systems approach for the management of fruit flies on Mango	01	19.06.2023 to 23.06.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on management of fruit flies on Mango
29. Exposure visit: Consortium for scaling-up climate smart agriculture in South Asia (C-SUCSES) project SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC)	01	12.06.2023 to 16.06.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on climate smart agriculture
30. Workshop on the FAO pesticide registration toolkit	03	10.07.2023 to 14.07.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on FAO pesticide registration toolkit

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
31. 10 th East Asia Federation of Ecological Society (EAFES) international congress	01	17.07.2023 to 20.07.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on ecology
32. International workshop on the application of the royal sustainable highland development model in an unsettled and unpredictable VUCA world	02	19.07.2023 to 23.07.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on sustainable agriculture
33. ITEC scholarship scheme: Techniques in mass production, quality control of bio fertilizer & microbial bio-pesticides	01	27.07.2023 to 09.08.2023			Abroad	Training on mass production, quality control of bio fertilizer & microbial bio-pesticides
34. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) training workshop for C-SUCSES project	03	25.07.2023 to 28.07.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on climate smart agriculture
35. Seminar on testing technology of agro products quality and safety for ASEAN, BRICKS, Language-Mekong, & CICA countries	03	05.07.2023 to 25.07.2023			Abroad	Technical training on testing technology of agro products quality and safety
36. Blended training of trainers on climate field school understanding and practicing of climate information to support agricultural activities for food	01	09.07.2023 to 18.07.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on climate information to support agricultural activities
37. Training programme on double haploid technology for tropical maize improvement	02	21.08.2023 to 25.08.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on double haploid technology for tropical maize
38. Training course on grain loss reduction and benefit increase for developing countries	01	02.08.2023 to 29.08.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on grain loss reduction and benefit increase

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
39. Training course on tropical fruit production and processing techniques in developing countries	04	08.08.2023 to 02.09.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on tropical fruit production and processing techniques
40. IAEA regional training course on mutation by speed breeding (MBYS) for abiotic stress tolerance	01	07.08.2023 to 18.08.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on mutation by speed breeding
41. JICA- Market oriented agriculture promotion for Asian countries (planning & management)	02	28.08.2023 to 08.09.2023 11.09.2023 to 15.09.2023	61.32		Abroad	Knowledge on market oriented agriculture promotion
42. 2023 AFACI project evaluation workshop on soil	01	07.08.2023 to 11.08.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on soil
43. Sixth training of trainers of the Asian and Pacific network for testing of agriculture machinery	02	07.08.2023 to 11.08.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on testing of agricultural machinery
44. AFACI projects evaluation workshop on SHR	02	04.09.2023 to 09.09.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on hazard reduction
45. AFACI project planning workshop	01	11.09.2023 to 15.09.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on AFACI project

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
46. 2023 IPPC - APPPC regional workshop	01	04.09.2023 to 08.09.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on plant protection
47. Postgraduate program under SLCARP – Ph.D. in Plant Breeding	01	09.09.2023 to 09.12.2023		7,252.49	Abroad	Technical knowledge on plant breeding
48. International study tour for policymakers - Organic agriculture	02	04.09.2023 to 13.09.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on cyber security
49. International training course on the security of radioactive material in use and storage	01	25.09.2023 to 29.09.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on security of radioactive material in use and storage
50. Knowledge co-creation programme: Training course on agricultural policy	01	02.10.2023 to 14.10.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on agricultural policy
51. Ph.D. In environmental remediation	01	04.09.2023 to 03.03.2027			Abroad	Technical knowledge on environmental remediation
52. 2023 KORRA short term training programme on vegetable & evaluation on Korean tomato variety "Red light"	01	01.10.2023 to 10.10.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on vegetable evaluation
53. Wrap-up workshop of the IPPC global project on "Strengthening the capacity of developing contacting parties to implement the IPPC and its standards under the FAO-China South-South Cooperation programmes" and strategic planning group (SPG) meeting of the commission on phytosanitary measures (CPM)	02	10.10.2023 to 13.10.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on plant protection

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
54. Invitational training on GPA & value chain under the modernization of plant quarantine service project	11	08.10.2023 to 21.10.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on GPA & value chain
55. 19th meeting of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC-19)	01	03.10.2023 to 06.10.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on agrochemicals
56. Invitational training on plant quarantine information management systems under the modernization of plant quarantine service project (manager level)	05	16.10.2023 to 23.10.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on plant quarantine information management systems
57. IAEA mid-term project review meeting (Enhancing crop production and quality through mutation by speed breeding)	01	16.10.2023 to 20.10.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on enhancing crop production and quality through mutation
58. Invitational training on plant quarantine information management systems under the modernization of plant quarantine service project (working level)	05	25.10.2023 to 01.11.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on plant quarantine information management systems
59. Advance technical training course on phyto sanitary measures for contracting parties under the framework of the FAO China South - South cooperation programme	01	30.10.2023 to 10.11.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on phytosanitary measures
60. JICA knowledge co-creation programme SDG global leader program for 2023 "Ph.D. in plant breeding"	01	01.10.2023 to 30.09.2026 01.10.2026 to 31.03.2027		22,187.21	Abroad	Knowledge sharing on plant breeding
61. South research coordination meeting on multiple isotopic fingerprints to identify sources and transport of agro-contaminants	01	09.10.2023 to 12.10.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on sources and transport of agro-contaminants

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
62. Seminar on animal feed formula extension for developing countries	01	18.10.2023 to 31.10.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on animal feed formula
63. 27 th annual meeting of the Council for Partnership on Rice Research in Asia (CORRA)	01	01.11.2023 to 02.11.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on rice research
64. 10 th session of the governing body of the international treaty on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture	01	18.11.2023 to 24.11.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on plant genetic resources for food & agriculture
65. 19 th session of the governing council of the CSAM : 10 th regional forum on sustainable agricultural mechanization Asia and Pacific	01	28.11.2023 to 30.11.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on mechanization of agriculture
66. JICA knowledge co-creation program: training course on promotion of food value chain for community based agri-business	01	12.11.2023 to 09.12.2023			Abroad	Knowledge promotion of food value chain
67. SAARC regional training on "Contemporary and strategic issues in agri business management focusing value chain development'	01	27.11.2023 to 29.11.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on agri business management focusing value chain development
68. Symposium on green prevention and control technology of agricultural major pests in China - South and South East Asia	01	25.11.2023 to 30.11.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on green prevention and control technology of agricultural major pests
69. Better training for safer food "BTSF workshop on EU controls on food and feed of non-animal origin'	04	20.11.2023 to 24.11.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on EU controls on food and feed
70. FAO regional workshop on "Pesticide residue risk assessment and the establishment of maximum residue limits in Asia	01	20.11.2023 to 24.11.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on pesticide residue risk assessment and the establishment of maximum residue limits

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
71. ITEC training courses " Certificate course in fertilizer technology"	02	27.11.2023 to 08.12.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on in fertilizer technology
72. Workshop on "Concretizing actions towards agri food systems transformation in Southern Asia"	01	06.12.2023 to 08.12.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on agri food systems transformation
73. Study tour to China for improving production and commercialization of priority fruit value chains in Sri Lanka	03	05.12.2023 to 15.12.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on commercialization of priority fruit value chains
74. International roundtable meeting on "Millets for global food security"	01	12.12.2023 to 14.12.2023			Abroad	Knowledge Millets
75. Kick-off workshop on the Asia regional FAW and BPH diagnostics and monitoring and surveillance program (PMP+)	02	04.12.2023 to 06.12.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on diagnostics, monitoring and surveillance of FAW and BPH
76. 10 th annual meeting of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM)	01	06.12.2023 to 08.12.2023			Abroad	Knowledge on testing of agricultural machinery
77. ACASA annual project review and planning meeting	05	12.12.2023 to 14.12.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on climate adaptation
78. AARDO International training program on "Agricultural engineering technologies for enhancing productivity and profitability in the agricultural sector"	01	06.12.2023 to 15.12.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on agricultural engineering technologies
79. IPPC Regional workshop for sustainable prevention and management of banana pests and diseases in Asia under the framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SCC) program	01	18.12.2023 to 19.12.2023			Abroad	Knowledge sharing on sustainable prevention and management of banana pests and diseases

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
Foreign Trainings (Online)						
80. 16 th session of the coordinating committee for North America and the South West Pacific	01	30.01.2023 to 03.02.2023			Online	Knowledge sharing
81. International training programme on millets for global food security	03	13.02.2023 to 16.02.2023			Online	Knowledge on millets
82. AARDO international webinar on eco system restoration for sustainable development	04	27.02.2023			Online	Knowledge on eco system restoration
83. IOMC webinar on existing indicators on chemicals and waste management	01	16.02.2023			Online	Knowledge on indicators on chemicals and waste management
84. Sufficiency economy to a green circular economy and sustainable development	01	13.03.2023 to 31.03.2023			Online	Knowledge on sufficiency economy
85. The application of a parabolic greenhouse solar dryer together with raw material preparation	01	24.04.2023 to 05.05.2023			Online	Knowledge on parabolic greenhouse solar dryer
86. Food security -Agriculture and food waste utilization for food product development	01	15.05.2023 to 26.05.2023			Online	Knowledge on food waste utilization for food product development
87. Value added and quality improvement of agriculture products by fermentation technology	03	01.05.2023 to 21.05.2023			Online	Knowledge on quality improvement of agriculture products by fermentation technology

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
88. Virtual meeting between the EC and third counties on next steps concerning the implementation of commission delegated regulations (EU)	01	08.06.2023			Online	Knowledge on implementation of commission delegated regulations
89. AARDO - MARDI international online training programme on "Agri bio-technology for food security and sustainable future"	04	24.07.2023 to 28.07.2023			Online	Knowledge on agri bio-technology for food security
90. Virtual regional multi - stakeholder consultation towards the development of a voluntary code of conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture	01	21.09.2023			Online	Knowledge on sustainable use of plastics in agriculture
91. Workshop on agricultural innovations for climate resilience	01	12.09.2023 to 14.09.2023			Online	Knowledge on agricultural innovations for climate resilience
92. International conference on climate -smart agriculture	01	08.11.2023 to 10.11.2023			Online	Knowledge on climate -smart agriculture
93. JICA knowledge co-creation program training course on promotion of food value chain for community based agri-business	01	01.11.2023 to 10.11.2023			Online	Knowledge on promotion of food value chain for community based agri-business
94. Webinar on modern methods of analysis of residues and contaminants in food	38	20.12.2023			Online	Knowledge on modern methods of analysis of residues and contaminants in food

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
Postgraduate Programmes in Local Universities						
95. M.A. in Applied Economics	01	11.02.2023 to 03.02.2024	125		Local	Knowledge on Applied Economics
96. MSc in Accounting and Finance	01	06.01.2024 to 31.12.2025	259.2		Local	Knowledge on Accounting and Finance
Degree Programmes in Local Universities						
97. B.Sc.(Agriculture)	02	19.06.2023 to 18.06.2027 11.02.2023 to 03.02.2024			Local	Knowledge on agriculture
Other Local Trainings						
98. Modernization of Plant Quarantine Service in Sri Lanka: Local Practical Training for Plant Quarantine Authorized Officers of Sri Lanka (KOICA Project)	12	30.01.2023 to 10.02.2023			Local	Knowledge on plant quarantine
99. Good Agricultural Practices, Value Chain and Agriculture Cooperative Training of Trainers (KOICA Project)	30	10.07.2023 to 12.07.2023			Local	Knowledge on Good Agricultural Practices, Value chain and agricultural cooperation
100.KOICA practical training on plant quarantine operations	10	24.07.2023 to 09.08.2023			Local	Practical training on plant quarantine operations

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
101.KOICA practical training on Entomology (Insect pests)	10	24.07.2023 to 09.08.2023			Local	Knowledge on Entomology
102.KOICA practical training on Pathology (Bacteria & Virus)	10	24.07.2023 to 09.08.2023			Local	Knowledge on bacteria and virus
103. KOICA practical training on Pathology (Fungi)	10	24.07.2023 to 09.08.2023			Local	Knowledge on fungi
104. KOICA practical training on plant quarantine treatment	10	24.07.2023 to 09.08.2023			Local	Knowledge on plant quarantine treatment
105. Plant Quarantine Information Management System (PQIMS) for Plant Quarantine Officers: PQIMS Operation Practitioner Course (IT)	50	11.09.2023 to 21.09.2023			Local	Knowledge on PQIMS operation
106.Plant Quarantine Information Management System (PQIMS) for Plant Quarantine Officers: PQIMS Application System Practitioner Course	50	28.08.2023 to 07.09.2023			Local	Knowledge on PQIMS operation
107. Certificate Course on household and structural pest control and pesticide use	02	07.01.2023to 07.15.2023	90		Local	Knowledge on household and structural pest control and pesticide use
108. Geospatial Information Technology Course	02	17.07.2023to 21.07.2023	29.9		Local	Knowledge on geospatial information technology

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
109. Course on Structural designing	01	15.07.2023to 19.08.2023	15		Local	Knowledge on structural designing
110. Training on Digital Technologies for Disaster Risk Management	02	23.05.2023to 25.05.2023			Local	Knowledge on digital technologies for disaster risk management
111. SEARO JEE facilitation workshop	02	02.08.2023to 03.08.2023			Local	Knowledge on joint external evaluation
112. Seminar on Tropical fruit cultivation and processing technologies for Sri Lanka	06	25.09.2023to 29.09.2023			Local	Knowledge on tropical fruit cultivation & processing technology
113. Two –day training on Developing future leaders for agricultural policy formulation and effective implementation	12	23.11.2023 to 24.11.2023			Local	Knowledge on agricultural policy formulation and effective implementation
114. FAO-China South –South Cooperation (SSC) programme regional workshop on mango pest and disease management	25	21.12.2023 to 22.12.2023			Local	Knowledge on mango pest and disease management
115. Knowledge management programs for the year 2023	24	31.01.2023			Local	Development of knowledge and attitudes related to food safety and nutrition
116. Training programs for the officials transferred to the Department of Agriculture	34	17.01.2023 to 20.01.2023			Local	Providing information about the department
117. Official language training program as per Public Administration Circular 18/2020 (Primary Level)	94	14.03.2023 to 25.07.2023	75		Local	Proper second language training for officers

Annexure I

Name of the Program	No. of staff trained	Duration of the program	Total Investment (Rs'000)		Nature of the Program (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
			Local	Foreign		
118. Official language training program as per Public Administration Circular 18/2020 (Secondary Level – Group A)	96	16.03.2023 to 01.07.2023	112.5		Local	Proper second language training for officers
119. Official language training program as per Public Administration Circular 18/2020 (Secondary Level – Group B)	91	17.03.2023 to 25.06.2023	112.5		Local	Proper second language training for officers
120. Communication skills promotion training program for junior staff	52	27.03.2023 to 28.03.2023	111.2		Local	Creating a workforce with excellent communication skills
121. Training program in Office procedures	83	06.10.2023			Local	Knowledge on perform duties correctly and properly
122. Training program on Leave of absence of government officials	60	08.12.2023			Local	Solving the problems of the officers regarding leave
123. Basic life support training program	160	18.09.2023	21.725		Local	Knowledge on how to act in an emergency

1. Head 285 - Department of Agriculture

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Head – 285 Department of Agriculture for the year ended 31 December 2023 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023 and the statement of financial performance and cash flow statement for the year then ended was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with provisions of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018. The summary report containing my comments and observations on the financial statements of the Department of Agriculture was issued to the Accounting Officer on 22 May 2024 in terms of Section 11(1) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018. The Annual Detailed Management Audit Report relevant to the Department was issued to the Accounting Officer on 15 May 2023 in terms of Section 11(2) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018. This report is presented to Parliament in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to be read in conjunction with Section 10 of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in paragraph 1.6 of this report, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Department of Agriculture as at 31 December 2023, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

My opinion is qualified based on the matters described in paragraph 1.6 of this report. I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). My responsibility for the financial statements is further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities Section. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

1.3 Responsibilities of the Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting Officer for the Financial Statements

The Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and provisions in Section 38 of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018 and for the determination of the internal control that is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As per Section 16(1) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018, the Department is required to maintain proper books and records of all its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities to enable the preparation of annual and periodic financial statements.

In terms of Sub-section 38(1)(c) of the National Audit Act, the Accounting Officer shall ensure that an effective internal control system for the financial control exists in the Department and carry out periodic reviews to monitor the effectiveness of such systems and accordingly make any alterations as required for such systems to be effectively carried out.

1.4 Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue an auditor's summary report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate and its materiality depends on the influence on economic decisions taken by users on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Appropriate audit procedures were designed and performed to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement in financial statements whether due to fraud or errors in providing a basis for the expressed audit opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- An understanding of internal control relevant to the audit was obtained in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal control.

- Evaluate the structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements including disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accounting Officer regarding, among other matters significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

1.5. Report on Other Legal Requirements

I express the following matters in terms of Section 6 (1) (d) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

- (a) The financial statements are consistent with the preceding year,
- (b) The recommendations made by me on the financial statements of the preceding year had been implemented.

1.6 Opinion on Financial Statements

1.6.1 Income

As of December 31 of the year under review, the ground rent received from *Hela Bojunhal* entrepreneurs Rs. 31,500 was not accounted: the ground rent due from *07 Bojunhal* entrepreneurs for a period of 1 to 4 years had not been identified and accounted for.

1.6.2 Capital Expenditure

Machinery and equipment worth Rs. 4,053,541 and Rs. 10,305,475 buildings and constructions purchased under Research and Development head during the year under review, were not accounted for under non-financial assets.

1.6.4 Advance payments

The following observations are made

- (a) According to the financial performance statement (ACA-F) for the year under review, the advance receipts amounted to Rs. 1,469,251,913 and the advance payments totaled Rs. 1,494,483,201. However, the treasury notes indicate that the advance receipts were Rs. 1,477,808,861 and the advance payments were Rs. 1,485,926,253. Consequently, there was an under-accounting of Rs. 8,556,948 for both advance receipts and advance payments.

- (b) The balance of Rs. 40,899,996 as of December 31 of the year under review, pertaining to two closed commercial advance accounts under the Department of Agriculture, was not shown in the statement of financial condition.

1.6.5 The balance of the imprest balance statement

As per the Treasury computer printed notes, the balance of the Imprest Balance Statement (ACA-F) as on the last date of the year under review was Rs. 331,732,169 but it was shown in the financial statements as Rs.348,846,065.

1.6.6 Non-Financial Assets

The following observations are made:

- (a) According to the department's records as of the last day of the year under review, the total value of property, plant, and equipment was presented as Rs. 15,088,842,880. However, in the statement of non-financial assets (ACA 06), it was accounted for as Rs. 29,340,698,361. This discrepancy of Rs. 14,251,855,481 was observed.
- (b) According to the documents submitted, 1,634 non-financial assets comprising 1,235 buildings and construction units, 28 pieces of transport equipment, and 371 plots of land had not been valued and accounted for as of December 31 of the year under review.
- (c) During the year under review, proceeds from the sale of capital assets amounting to Rs. 12,704,753 were recorded as income in the financial statements. However, no adjustments were made to reflect the gain or loss on the disposal of these assets, nor was the cost of disposal recognized and removed from the non-financial assets.

1.6.7 Commercial Advance Account

The following observations are made:

A debtor balance of Rs. 136,010, which had accrued in previous years and the year under review, was included in the debtor balance of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Nikaveratiya as of December 31 of the year under review.

- (a) According to the books of the Karadianaru Seed Marketing Center, an amount of Rs. 50,400 due from the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Batticaloa was not shown in the statement of financial position as of December 31 of the year under review.
- (b) During revaluation of the assets, the amount of accumulated depreciation that had been depreciated up to that point has been removed from the depreciation reserve account, but the accumulated depreciation up to that point was Rs. 10,694,231 had been withdrawn from the Depreciation Reserve Fund.
- (c) During the transfer of fixed assets between units under the Farm Maintenance and Seed Sales Advance Account, the receiving unit accounted for the accumulated depreciation of those assets and recalculated the depreciation as if they were new assets.

- (e) The Seed and Planting Material Center procured 70 tarpaulin sheets and 60 insect-resistant nets valued at Rs. 24,862,162 and these were subsequently allocated to the Gannoruwa Vegetable Seed Center, which further distributed them to 34 sub-units. However, during the accounting process, it was discovered that a depreciation amount totaling Rs. 1,256,218 was erroneously overcalculated. This occurred due to the misinterpretation of these items as new purchases by both the Gannoruwa Vegetable Seed Center and its 34 sub-units.
- (f) The accumulated depreciation of four farms was reduced by a total of Rs. 357,867, while in one farm an increase of Rs. 1,643,595 adjusted in accumulated depreciation.
- (g) Eight power sprayers (DBL-IBL) valued at Rs. 142,400, included in the machinery of the Seed Production Farm Batatha, were incorrectly stated as Rs. 1,424,400. Consequently, the machinery was overvalued by Rs. 1,282,000.
- (h) A debtor balance of Rs.48,000 belonging to Gannoruwa Vegetable Seed Center is not shown in the financial statements and settled during the year under review. A debit balance of Rs. 110,625 was shown as a further debit balance in the financial statements.

2. Financial review

2.1 Imprest Management

The variance between planned imprest and requested imprest in accordance with Financial Regulation 367(a) ranged from 39 percent to 187 percent.

2.2 Revenue Management

Due to not preparing the income estimates correctly and logically, the income estimate prepared for Rs.610,000,000 in the year under review was revised to Rs.775,000,000 during the year and the income of Rs.884,822,691 was collected during the year. This resulted in the income exceeding the initial estimate by 44 percent and surpassing the revised estimate by 14 percent.

2.3 Exceeding Limits

Despite strict instructions for departments to adhere to the prescribed limits in accordance with Finance Regulations 503(2) to prevent overruns and underruns, an issue arose with the Agricultural Farm Maintenance and Seed Sale Advance Account. For the year 2023, the permanent labor salary, amounting to Rs. 11,989,882, was not properly accounted for as expenses in the farm maintenance and seed sales advance account. As a result, the account, which had a maximum debit balance limit of Rs. 950,000,000, was exceeded by Rs. 11,859,129.

2.4 Entering into Liabilities and Obligations

The following observations are made:

- (a) According to paragraph 03 of the Public Accounts Circular No. 255/2017 dated April 27, 2017, it is not permissible to enter into liabilities and obligations beyond the allocation limits set for each expenditure subject. However, for the expenditure subject 285-2-3—2001-11, the incurred amount exceeded the allocation limit by Rs. 1,270,445.
- (b) According to note (iv) on liabilities presented with the financial statements, the balance of liabilities as of December 31, 2023, was Rs. 163,688,502. However, according to the Treasury Computer Printed Notes (SA 92), the balance was Rs. 93,333,499.
- (c) For the reviewed year, liabilities amounting to Rs. 620,845, which were paid on seven occasions in 2024 within the development and project account sections, were not disclosed in note (iv) on liabilities in the financial statement.

2.5 Certifications to be Made by the Accounting Officer

According to the provisions of Section 38 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the Enumeration Officer should have made assurances regarding the following matters but did not do so:

The Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting Officer are required to ensure that the department maintains an effective internal control system for financial control. They must periodically review the effectiveness of this system and implement necessary changes to enhance its effectiveness. These reviews should be documented in writing, and a copy should be submitted to the Auditor General. However, no statements indicating that such reviews were conducted were submitted to the audit.

2.6 Non-compliance with laws, rules and regulations

The following observations are made

	Reference to laws, rules and regulations -----	Value (Rs.) -----	Non-compliance -----
(a)	Section 224 of the Government Land Ordinance No. 08 of 1947	-	The ownership of 1,954 hectares of land belonging to 10 units of the department has not yet been transferred.
(b)	Establishment Code of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Sections 3.1 and 5.3 of Chapter XLVIII of Section II	1,918,128	More than a year has passed since the misuse of funds was revealed at the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Seeds) office, Aluththarama, yet no further action has been taken to address this issue.
(c)	Financial Regulations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka		
i.	F.R 177 (1)	1,509,218	In 29 instances, the daily income collected by the <i>Bindunuwewa</i> Bee Development Unit was banked after a delay ranging from 4 days to 20 days.
ii.	F.R 237 (අ)	36,500	The Bidunuwewa Bee Development Center though not yet received the goods that were ordered, 02 vouchers were sent to the head office for payment, accompanied by notes indicating that the goods had been received.
iii.	F.R 753(2)	-	Since 2014, the Extension and Training Division has issued 345 receipt orders for equipment and materials, but they have not been brought in.

(d) Failure to adhere to other circular provisions and regulations.

Public Service Commission
Procedural Rules
published in Special
Gazette No. 2310/29
dated 14 December
2022

- i. Rule 244 of Chapter XVIII of Section I - As of September 30, 2023, 34 officers of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service and 547 officers of the Sri Lanka Technical Service have been employed at the same service station for periods ranging from 5 to 31 years without receiving any transfers.
- ii. Rule 251 of Chapter XVIII of Section I - There was no annual transfer procedure in place for special grade posts within the Sri Lanka Technical Service.

(e) Non-compliance with internal orders of the organization

Department of Agriculture Order No. 9/2014 No. Ad/6/2/5/1 dated July 02, 2014

- 23 permanent and contract workers from three seed potato production farms have left the farm between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., without completing their required duty hours.

2.7 Managing Bank Accounts

The following observations are made:

- (a) Sixty-one checks totaling Rs. 2,965,402 related to three bank accounts had not been settled, despite their validity period having expired as per F.R. 396.
- (b). According to the Bank Reconciliation Statement prepared as of December 31, 2023, by the offices of the Assistant Director of Agriculture (Seeds) in Vavuniya and Karadianaru, unrecognized receipts amounting to Rs. 736,462,632 and unidentified payments totaling Rs. 737,993,227 were not submitted with the necessary annexures.

2.8 Deposits

In accordance with F.R 571(1), a list of expired deposits must be prepared at the end of every half-year. This requirement has not been met.

3 Operational review

3.1 Performance

3.1.1 Failure to obtain the desired output level

The following observations are made

- (a) Although Government Seed Production Farm, Polonnaruwa has planned to produce 33,562 kg of additional food crops spending Rs.5,226,734 in the last 06 seasons, only 5,979 kg of it could be produced. It was 18 percent of the expected production. Further Rs.811,156 had been spent for 05 types of crops on 11 occasions in the last 05 seasons, none of the production had been obtained.
- (b) In the sample test done to the vegetable seeds received at Vegetable Seed Center, Gannoruwa, the seeds received in the last 04 seasons were 5,413 kg of seeds and out of which 2,894 kg of seeds had been removed as poor germination seeds. Accordingly, out of the 57 lots examined as a sample, 43 lots was removed as germination weak seeds, which was between 15 percent and 100 percent of the amount of seeds received.
- (c) Although it was planned to produce 247,500 kg of seed potatoes during the last three seasons spending Rs. 26,659,785 by the Government Seed Potato Production Farm, Piduruthalagala, only 97,638 500 kg of seed potatoes could be produced and it was low as 39 percent of the target production.

3.1.2 Failure to obtain the desired output level

From 2012 to 2017, without formal technical assessment, 05 electric fences that were built spending Rs. 93,518,508 in 05 seed potato production farms in Nuwara Eliya, 03 electric fences valued Rs. 67,245,266 were not actively used and have been abandoned for a period of 01 to 07 years.

3.1.3 Projects that have not progressed even though funds have been released

Although 10 big onion seed production projects had been implemented spending Rs. 337,170,792 during the last 8 years and according to the data of the Department of Census and Statistics Local big onion seed production was 98,900 MT in the year 2014 and it was decreased up to 15,840 MT in the year 2022 by 83,060 MT alias 84 percent.

3.2. Foreign Funded projects

Although Rs. 203.9 million had been spent under the project of KOPIA within the 05 years from 2015 to 2020 for the improvement of the production and cultivation techniques of big onion seeds in Sri Lanka, this project in Hambantota district had been completely failed according to the sample test.

3.3 Procurement

Deputy Director (Seeds) office, Polonnaruwa with the objective of working within the procurement limit of which approved Rs. 800,000, has made procurements of Rs. 11,659,563 separately in 06 occasions without complying with section 2.14.1 of the procurement guidelines code.

3.4 Asset Management

The following observations are made

- (a) 22 types of goods purchased at a cost of Rs. 4,145,559 in the years 2016, 2020, 2021 and 2022 for the usage of the project of Good Agricultural Practices implemented by Extension and Training Division and Fruits and Vegetable Supply Centre of Thelulla, Monaragala were stored idle at the Agri Business Development Unit, Gannoruwa on the last day of the reviewed year without handing over for the targeted functions.
- (b) The equipment cost of Rs. 486,576 purchased in December 2021 for the installation of the electrical circuit in the mechanical section of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Seeds), Polonnaruwa was stored idle in the warehouse of the office for a period of 02 years without being used for the related tasks.
- (c) The materials worth Rs.941,750 purchased in 2014 for fixing 02 extra wire lines for the electric fence built in the year 2012 at Government Seed Potato Production Farm, Piduruthalagala remained unused for over 5 years.
- (d) 04 inventory items valued Rs. 310,000 belonging to Vegetable Seed Center, Gannoruwa had been removed from the usage and left idle for a period of 09 to 25 years.

3.5 Transactions in the Form of Financial Irregularities

The following observations are made

- (a) Seed Production Farm, Polonnaruwa had awarded a contract to an outside party for processing seed paddy for Yala season 2023 for a sum of Rs.720,000. According to the inspection conducted on October 13, 2023, 04 contract workers of the farm who marked present on that day had been engaged in the processing of the seed paddy type of BG 360 C of the contract of processing seed paddy that had been offered to an external party which had been checked that day and had committed irregularity.

- (b) It was revealed at the audit that a contract laborer had been engaged for the construction work of the personnel house of the Deputy Director of the Section on 23rd August 2023 by using the equipment of Agriculture Publication Unit, Gannoruwa and providing transport facilities by the government vehicle bearing No. PD-6144 belonging to that office.
- (c) Although 02 sand cubes, 01 rubble cube, 3400 bricks etc. materials and labour for 57 days were not provided, Rs. 346,850 had been paid for the construction of a toilet system in the Government Seed Production Farm, Ambalantota in the year under review.
- (d) Materials valued Rs. 1,021,376 from and out of materials and labour valued Rs. 2,144,688 purchased in the year under review for the repair of the roof of the Circuit Bungalow of Government Seed Production Farm, Ambalantota had been entered in the inventory as issued without being used and as well the material had not been utilized for more than half of the roof, a sum of Rs. 379,375 which was estimated for the complete repair of the roof had been paid for labour.
- (e) Although 10 solar-powered street lamps were not constructed at a cost of Rs.690,140 for the illumination of the premises of Government Seed Production Farm, Ambalantota, the Farm Manager and the Mechanical Engineers of the Seed and Planting Material Development Center had submitted paying vouchers on 31 December 2023 entering notes that the related constructions were done and they are correct and to the point of expected level.
- (f) Although Rs. 324,425 was paid to a Private Institute on 29th December 2023, for fixing roller door for the Seed Processing Unit No. 02 of Government Seed Production Farm, Ambalantota, relevant roller door was not supplied or installed to the farm to the date of 18th January 2024.
- (g) JCB machine No. RS 0459 has been used from March 2023 to carry out various activities at the Government Seed Production Farm, Ambalantota and an amount of Rs. 1,120,000 was paid for that and according to the payment documents, it has mentioned the machine hours worked as 8720 – 9118.2 . But when checking the working hour meter of the JCB machine on 17th January 2024, the total hours worked up to that time was 7184.1 hours which made the audit problematic regarding the correctness of time worked and mentioned in the vouchers submitted.
- (h) 32 cement bags purchased for the activities of Rice Research Institute, Bombuwala had been taken for personal use by two officers employed in the institute by mentioning notes that they were issued for the works of the institute.

3.6 Losses and Damages

The following observations are made.

- (a) As of the closing date of the year under review, there were 437 cases of losses and damages, valued at Rs. 106,934,291, that originated from 1976 and have not been finalized according to Financial Regulations 104. According to the declaration of losses and omissions in the Financial Statements (Note (i)), 11 of these cases did not have their values recognized. Additionally, there were 2 cases, valued at Rs. 47,938,490, which had not undergone the required measures due to prolonged delays in inquiries as stipulated by Financial Regulations 104 (3). These cases were not disclosed in the financial statements according to a sample test conducted.
- (b) A full report done as per Financial Regulations 104 (4) and had not been submitted in respect of 5,699 kg vegetable seeds valued Rs. 44,332,526 failed due to poor germination percentage in the period of 10 years from the year 2013 to 2023 at Vegetable Seed Center, Gannoruwa.
- (c) A stock of 8752 kg of vegetable seeds is further retained in the stores of Vegetable Seed Center, Gannoruwa for which measures were not taken to remove from the entries by obtaining removal order from Director General of Agriculture and Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture to whom vested powers mentioned in Financial Regulations 108 for obtaining removal order by General 285 reports prepared related to damages of Rs. 13,188,887 finalized as per Financial Regulations 109 (1).
- (d) Although 50 years have passed for the investigations of the deficiencies valued Rs. 52,325, revealed by the F.R.104 (3) report for one deficiency identified in the inventory items of a tourist bungalow keeper of the farm and two deficiencies identified when handing over goods of warehouse of the Government Seed Production Farm, Sita Eliya during the period from 1975, the investigation into the deficiencies has not been completed.

3.7 Management Weaknesses

The following observations are made

- (a) Irregularities in the source and method of obtaining primary data used by the Department of Agriculture for crop forecast reports and advance notices issued every 02 weeks based on the area of production for 30 types of crops including paddy, vegetables and supplementary food crops. Due to irregularities and weaknesses in supervision, the accuracy of relevant forecast reports and advance notices was problematic during the audit.

- (b) 400 mobile phones valued Rs. 15,200,000 donated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the months of November and December 2019 for the emergency response project on false armyworm damage without entering in the inventories in accordance with the Section 751 and 753 of Financial Regulations.
- (c) Although 1 -12 years have passed after issuing 1867 kg of seeds valued Rs. 5,826,554 to various Government Institutions on 41 occasions on credit basis with a payment period of 02 weeks during the period from the year 2011 to the year 2023 upon the approval of the Director of Vegetable Seed and Planting Material Center, Gannoruwa, actions have not been taken to recover this amount of loan.
- (d) Although the Office of the Deputy Director (Seeds) publishes weekly the prices to be based on selling consumer potatoes and other vegetables produced by Seed Potato Production Farms, Nuwara Eliya based on the market price, 02 seed potato farms did not comply with it and were selling below and above the approved price.

4. Sustainable development

Although the department had identified 03 sustainable development goals and related indicators, the development plan prepared to be achieved the related goals by the year 2030 or the progress of the identified indicators had not been presented to the audit.

5. Human Resource Management

The following observations are made.

- (a) When comparing the approved staff with the actual staff of the Department, there were vacancies in 2795 posts. Among them, there were vacancies in 696 posts out of 1050 posts of approved senior level officers. Further, although 1632 related posts had been approved in the Technology Service, there were 557 vacancies in them.
- (b) Although there were vacancies for 425 Agricultural Advisors as at the last day of the year under review, 06 Agricultural Advisors were attached to Bee Development Centre, Bidunuwewa without assigning adequate duties.
- (c) According to the Cadre Details of Bee Development Centre, Bidunuwewa by the end of the year under review, approval has been given to 04 Assistant Directors of Agriculture, no necessity of 04 Assistant Directors of Agriculture observed by the audit for this center.

H.A. Ananda
Senior Assistant Auditor
For Auditor General