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HARTI in “Sustain Lanka” Exhibition 2017

“Sustain Lanka” exhibition a stepping stone to achieve sustainable development of Sri Lanka concluded successfully broadening the knowledge of the general public about living life in a sustainable manner. This was organized in parallel to the three-year plan “A toxin free nation” of President Maithripala Sirisena and in accordance with the sustainable development goals declared by the United Nations. The event inaugurated on 31st March 2017 under the patronage of President Maithripala Sirisena ended on 4th April, at BMICH. A large crowd thronged the exhibition premises exploring the products and new knowledge that encouraged a sustainable lifestyle. (contd... page 02)



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A major attraction was picking up themes for each day of the exhibition reflecting the UN sustainable development goals. The themes assigned were: quality of life, sustainable livelihoods, a space for the environment, a sound foundation and a quality society.

“Sustain Lanka” was a combined effort of state organizations, non-governmental organizations, small scale entrepreneurs, private firms, community based organizations, school children, researchers and the youth. A series of events related to sustainable development such as “Gemi Ranga Madala”, cookery programmes and health clinics underlying the toxin free concept supporting programmes for green entrepreneurs, new knowledge generation and showcasing of new products were held. The stalls were arranged by respective ministries and various institutions in an attractive and informative manner projecting their vision and methods to achieve those goals.

HARTI as a pioneer institution in the field of agrarian and rural development research was also part of the event and had its stall created in an informative and elaborative manner to showcase its research findings in the form of research reports and other publications. The interested parties were informed of the ongoing research projects and training programmes. In addition, visitors had the opportunity to purchase HARTI publications at the stall.

“Sustain Lanka” exhibition successfully concluded leaving many valuable traces behind while offering Sri Lankans a novel experience in the field of sustainable development.

Photo: President Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Nimal Siripala de Silva, State Minister of Agriculture Wasantha Aluwihare and Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture D.V. Bandulasena visiting the HARTI stall. HARTI officers are also in the picture.

Consumption Pattern and Consumer Preference for Different Rice Varieties in Selected Districts in Sri Lanka

With the rapid surge in the number of people affected by non-communicable diseases, today the public has become more health conscious and is greatly concerned over the food they consume. In this context, there is an increasing trend of testing various rice varieties by the consumers.

Investigating consumer buying behaviour and preference for different rice varieties was the main objective while identifying consumption patterns and buying behaviour for different rice varieties and factors influencing the preference for rice were the specific objectives of this study. The study was conducted on 600 consumers in six districts: Gampaha, Colombo, Moneragala, Ratnapura, Matale and Jaffna. Ms. Roshini Rambukwella, Senior Research Officer of HARTI was the coordinator of this study. Mr. W.H.D. Priyadarshana, Senior Research Officer and Mr. Nalaka Wijesooriya – Research Officer were the co-researchers. The report has been published.

Government Intervention in Paddy Marketing in Sri Lanka: Purchasing and Post Stock Management Issues

Government intervention in paddy/rice marketing system in order to stabilize the market is common in most situations. The Paddy Marketing Board steps in at such times and the foremost objectives of government intervention are to offer a certified price for paddy and enable consumers to purchase rice at a reasonable price.

The study was conducted with the objective of reviewing the overall situation and identifying the current issues of the government intervention in paddy marketing. Mr. W.A.N. Wijesooriya, Research Officer, was the coordinator of this study. Ms. R.P. Vidanapathirana and Mr. W.H.D. Priyadarshana - Senior Research Officers and Ms. P.A.J. Champika – Research Officer were the co-researchers.

The study was based on secondary data and key informant interviews and the research report of this study has been published.

Hybrid seeds play a prominent role in vegetable cultivation in Sri Lanka. Farmers consider various factors when selecting seeds for cultivation. There is an opportunity for farmers to purchase both local and imported seeds and the main intention of commercial level farmers is to obtain a higher income through a higher yield.

This study attempted to examine the determinants of farmer preference for selection of seeds and the varieties which they were interested in (local or imported). Comparing cost and benefits of cultivating imported varieties against local varieties and suggesting strategies for strengthening vegetable seed supply sector in Sri Lanka were



Hybrid Seeds and Vegetable Cultivation in Sri Lanka: Local Vs Imported

the objectives. Research Officers of Agricultural Resource Management Division, Mr. Prasanna Wijesinghe coordinated the study while Ms. Rasika Wijesinghe was the co-researcher.

This study consists of the most important findings in relation to hybrid seeds and vegetable cultivation in Sri Lanka and the report will be published soon.

Evaluation of Agro-entrepreneurship Development Programme

Farmer Business School (FBS) and 'Krushi Seva Piyasa' (KSP) are major programmes that have been introduced by the Agro Entrepreneurship Division of the Department of Agriculture. FBS is an educational programme of learning from action which helps transform the subsistence farms into business ventures. KSP was established as a business centre providing agricultural input and technology.

The main objective of the study is to evaluate the above two concepts of agro entrepreneurship approaches and revealing the facts through generating knowledge and forwarding policy recommendations of building successful and sustainable agro entrepreneurs.

This study was conducted through a selected sample from the Districts of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kurunegala, Badulla, Moneragala, Kandy, Matale, Puttlam, Kegalle, Gampaha and Colombo. Out of 120 agro entrepreneur farmers in business schools 74 were selected for the study. Ten KSP were studied. Research Fellow, R.L.N. Jayatissa was the coordinator of this study.



Science Policy Dialogue

Science policy dialogue organized for disseminating the findings of the project "Capacity Development of Agrarian Research-Policy-Technology Personnel in Sri Lanka on Global Change and Sustainability" was held on 20th June 2017 in Narayanasami Hall in Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute with the participation of a large number of experts related to the field including the representatives of the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research. The dialogue commenced following the opening speech of the Secretary of State Ministry of Agriculture Mr. D.V. Bandulasena. Financial patronage for the project was extended by the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research.

Dr. Prasanthi Gunawardena, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayawardenepura and Dr. P.M. Dunusinghe, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Economics, University of Colombo chaired the first Technical Session. Findings were presented by S. Epasinghe and Susila Lurdu, Senior Research Officers/HARTI and Chinthaka Jayasooriya, Prasanna Wijesinghe and Rasika Wijesinghe, Research Officers/HARTI. The study mainly focused on the cultivation methods related to sugarcane, onion, groundnut, green gram and maize.



Project Leader Ms. Renuka Weerakkody, Research Fellow/HARTI presented a brief summary of the project. Time was allocated for an extensive dialogue and exchanging new ideas after the research findings and recommendations were presented. The event became more engaging and productive with queries and comments of the participants. Finally, the website www.apnsustainabilityknowledge.com, of the project was also launched.

Photo (Top): Director of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute Mr. Haputhanthri Dharmasena addressing the gathering. Secretary of the State Ministry of Agriculture Mr. D.V. Bandulasena is also presented.

Below: A section of the participants who attended the Science Policy Dialogue.



Workshop on Power of Positive Attitude

The Human Resource and Institutional Development Division of HARTI organized a special programme for the staff to inculcate and develop their positive attitude with the objective of increasing their efficiency and productivity. The programme held on May 24th 2017 at the institute was conducted by Mr. Mohan Palliyaguru, a renowned motivational trainer in Sri Lanka.

Training Programme on Empowering Farmer Women

Among the training programmes conducted by the Human Resource and Institutional Development Division, the programme that targeted farmer women was significant in terms of the number of programmes and participants.

A total of 540 farmer women from the agrarian development divisions in the Moneragala districts were trained through the training programmes held in Etimale, Siyabalanduwa, Bibila, Thanamalwila, Sewanagala and Moneragala areas. Further, assistance of the Agricultural Instructors and Subject Officers was received for this.

Around 400 farmer women participated in the programmes organized in Alugolla, Dambulla, Galewela and Dewahuwa areas in Matara district from 29th May to 1st June, 2017.

Mr. S.M.A. Samarakoon, Senior Research Officer, Head of Human Resource and Institutional Development Division, Mr. H.M.J.K. Herath and Mr. P.C.J. De Silva, Senior Research Officers and Mr. Sangeeth Prasad Fernando, Research Officer contributed as resource persons.





Training Programme on Empowering Farmer Organizations

Several training programmes on empowering farmer organization leaders were held in Moneragala and Matale districts. These programmes were organized in Alugolla, Dambulla, Galewela, Dewahuwa, Laggala, Hunu Keta Ela and Pallepola areas covering seven agrarian development divisions in Matale district. About 360 leaders of farmer organizations were trained through the programmes held in Buttala, Dambagalla, Aluthwewa and Madagama in Moneragala district. Head of Human Resource and Institutional Development Division, Mr. S.M.A. Samarakoon and Mr. H.M.J.K. Herath, Senior Research Officers of HARTI coordinated this programme.

Seminar on Management and Conservation of Agricultural Heritage Sites for countries along the Belt and Road in 2017 was held in China with the participation of seven countries including Sri Lanka from 09th to 29th June 2017. Seven staff members of HARTI, C.J. De Silva – Senior Research Officer, S.A.C.U. Senanayake – Senior Information and Publication Officer, Jeewani Nanayakkara – Assistant Account, Lasanthika Herath – Librarian, J.C.K.B. Lionel – Statistical Officer, Danushi Perera – Accounts Officer and H.M.S. Jayaratne – Statistical Officer participated. Egypt, Ethiopia, Seychelles, Papua New Guinea and Cambodia were the other participant countries. Six locations were arranged for field visits in Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Hebei provinces in China.

China Study Tour of HARTI Staff Members



Photo: The participants who attended the seminar

New Year Festival 2017



New Year Festival- 2017 organized by the Welfare Society of HARTI was held on the 25th of April at the institute premises. HARTI staff and their family members participated. Traditional *avrudu* games such as breaking pots, placing the eye on the elephant, bun eating competition and tug-o-war entertained the participants while strengthening the unity.



Commemoration of International Vesak Festival

In parallel to the Bauddhaloka Vesak Zone, HARTI organized several events to commemorate the International Vesak festival. With the collective effort of the Welfare Society and the HARTI staff, a *kadala dansala*, Vesak lantern competition and a *Dhamma deshana* were organized to mark this event.



Donations for Flood Victims

HARTI initiated two programmes to provide relief to victims of flash floods, in collaboration of the Welfare Society and the General Employees Union. One programme focused on the flood victims of Kaduwela Divisional Secretariat by distributing 500 lunch packets while the other targeted 14 employees in the institute affected by the floods and they were offered a bag containing dry rations.

