



Agrarian Newsletter



CIRDAP – HARTI Collaborative Training Programme on Implementing and Evaluating Projects



State Minister of Agriculture addressing the gathering

A training programme targeting agriculture officers on project management was organized in collaboration with Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) and Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). The programme was held on September 03, 2018 at the institute premises.

Thirty officers representing Ministry of Agriculture, Provincial Agricultural Departments and Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute participated while the resource persons constituted core trainers, local and foreign nationals.

The inaugural ceremony was held under the patronage of State Minister of Agriculture Hon Wasantha Aluwihare who held that the success of the high-cost state driven programmes directly lie in the hands of the officers of agriculture sector. The Minister further invited all participants to reap the maximum benefits from the programme.

The programme was organized by Human Resources and Institutional Development Division (HRID) of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute.

Research News - Completed Studies**Quality and Safety Issues in Fruit and Vegetable Supply Chains in Sri Lanka: A Review**

Fruits and vegetables make a significant contribution to food security, nutrition, poverty reduction and in generating economic development of a country. Many of the stakeholders such as farmers, collectors and traders associated with fruit and vegetable chain lack basic knowledge of the factors leading to compromising the quality and safety of fresh produce during harvesting and post-harvesting. Therefore, ensuring safety and quality of fruit and vegetable supply chain has become a controversial and challenging issue.

The study was conducted with the objectives of reviewing the issues related to post-harvest losses, current measures to minimize and overcome post-harvest losses in fruit and vegetable supply chains, reviewing the safety issues related to food adulteration and identifying the institutional level measures to minimize quality and safety issues in fruit and vegetable supply chains in the country and reviewing success lessons and strategies developed by other countries of Asia and the Asia-Pacific region to mitigate quality and safety related issues in fruit and vegetable supply chains.

This review highlighted that the quality and safety of fruits and vegetables produced in Sri Lanka suffer from errant pesticide and fertilizer use, poor methods and practices from the production stage to post-harvest measures and there is minimal intervention at the production to ensure quality and safety. It provides valuable insights to pesticide usage in Sri Lanka and identifies problematic areas related to food safety in the country.

Based on the findings the study recommends formulating a national policy to minimize post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables and through which the government is prompted to take initiatives and allocate resources to improve post-harvest handling conditions, thereby, improving socio-economic status of the stakeholders. Importance of educating and training farmers on safe application of pesticides and efficient spray technology to prevent contamination in fields, assuring food safety and having documented comprehensive national food safety policy and a plan of action involving all stakeholders from farm to fork are highlighted here and continuing research to develop practical test-kits to identify chemicals, pesticides, additives, preservatives, toxic elements at all stages from farm to table is also recommended.

The research was coordinated by Senior Research Officer Ms. Ruvini Vidanapathirana and Senior Research Officer Ms. Roshini Rambukwella, Research Officers Ms. P. A. J. Champika and Mr. W. A. N. Wijesooriya were the co-researchers of the Marketing Food Policy and Agri-business Division of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute.

Study on Lessons to be Learnt from Ancient Sri Lankan Water Management: Techniques for the Development of Integrated Water Resource Management Concept



The study was conducted with the main objective of identifying good water management practices prevailed in ancient irrigation systems which can be used in developing Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) concept for Sri Lanka. Other specific objectives were identifying specific features of

ancient water management practices in Sri Lanka which contributed to the sustainability of ancient irrigation systems, assessing the compliance of ancient water management practices with the principles of IWRM concept and making recommendations to integrate good practices of ancient irrigation systems for the development of IWRM concept for the country.

The study found that the traits of ancient Sri Lankan water management techniques consisted of major principles of IWRM concepts in different aspects, tank cascade system of Sri Lanka was well adapted to the climatic conditions of the dry zone, the land use pattern of tank cascade systems used water efficiently and effectively, tank cascade system structures have ensured both gradual flow of water to the system throughout the year and the quality of water and water management and governance practices were closely connected with participatory approach.

The study recommends to replicate regulations on ownership and maintenance obligations in the ancient irrigation system considering an appropriate way to the present context and integrate the then natural and human systems in the irrigation system to develop IWRM concept within the present context which can be a good strategy to address the issues such as wild animal attacks and depletion of surface and ground-water tables in terms of quality and quantity.

The study was coordinated by Research Officer Ms. J. A. U. P. Jayasinghe and the co-researcher was Research Officer Ms. M. H. K. Rambodagedara of Environment and Water Resources Management Division of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute.

Ongoing Studies

Status and Empowerment Needs of SITHAMU Women Farmers' Organizations



The study was conducted with the main objective of providing guidance for policy formulation towards structural and functional diversity of SITHAMU Women Farmers' Organization for the empowerment of farm women in Sri Lanka. Other specific objectives were, classifying of SITHAMU

Women Farmers' Organization into five categories: rational, stable, ordinary, unstable and idle based on the structure and functions, ascertaining weaknesses that constrain Women Farmers' Organizations achieving set objectives anticipated by the Ministry of Agriculture, reviewing the progress of entrepreneurship development component and determining factors affecting women's entrepreneurial decisions and proposing required interventions for the success of organizations in general and entrepreneurship development component in particular.

Data used in this study were from Agriculture Service Centres of Kandy, Jaffna, Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Moneragala and Kurunegala districts.

The project is coordinated by Research Officer Ms. Rifana Buhary. Principal Researcher is Research Fellow Ms. Renuka Weerakkody and co-researchers are Research Officers Ms. Thushara Dharmawardhana, Ms. Dinusha Rathnayake and Mr. Amal Dissanayake of the Agricultural Resource Management Division (ARM) of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute.



Factors Determining Fruit Cultivation in Home Gardens in Sri Lanka



The Food Production National Programme (FNP) 2016-2018 considers fruit crop development and home gardening as important sectors. Socio-economic research conducted on home garden fruit cultivation is limited and adoption

of tree cultivation varies across households. The general perception of society towards fruit cultivation in home gardens is obscure and critically important for formulating policies and programmes aimed at promoting home garden fruit cultivation. Hence, this study was conducted covering all three climatic zones of Sri Lanka (Dry Zone, Wet Zone, Intermediate Zone) to identify socio-economic factors determining home garden fruit cultivation and evaluate the government intervention on promoting home garden fruit cultivation.

The main objectives of this study are identifying determinants of home garden fruit cultivation so as to formulate strategies to expand fruit cultivation in home gardens, discussing the degree of success of current home garden fruit cultivation programme under FNP 2016-2018 to formulate the recommendations in order to strengthen the programme.

The study was conducted in 17 districts covering 1517 of households. The study was coordinated by Research Officer Ms. U.D. R. Udari and Research Fellow Dr. W. A. R. Wickramasinghe and Research officer Ms. Dilini Perera were the co-researchers of Agricultural Policy and Project Evaluation Division of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute.

Unveiling of Geoffrey Manning Bawa Plaque

A plaque carrying biographical and professional information of the great architect of Sri Lanka late *Deshamanya* Geoffrey Bawa was unveiled at the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute recently. The design of the institute is one of many architectural marvels of the genius and the plaque is installed in memory of his great service to the institute and the nation.

Bawa plaque is a concept of Former Director, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute Mr. K. W. E. Karalliyadda. The plaque was officially unveiled by Former Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Mr. B. Wijayaratne and Director, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute Mr. Karunadasa Udage.

Tablets to Improve the Efficiency of Data Collection Process



Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) received a stock of tablet computers on October 15, 2018 to collect data more efficiently under the project: “Building the Basis for Implementing the Save and Grow Approach – Regional Strategies on Sustainable and Climate Resilient Intensification of Cropping Systems” of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN).

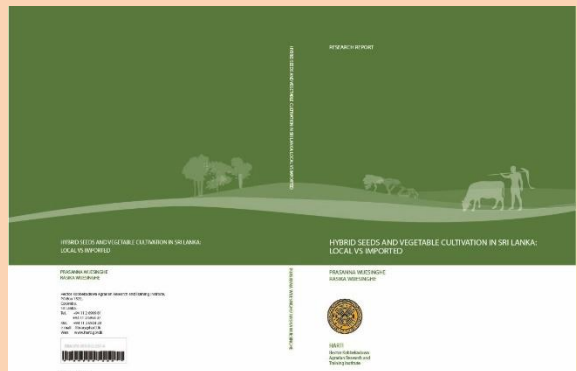
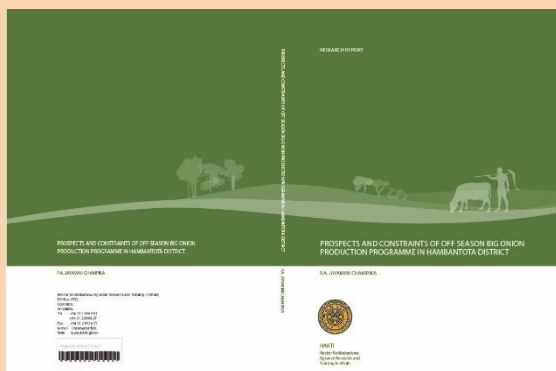
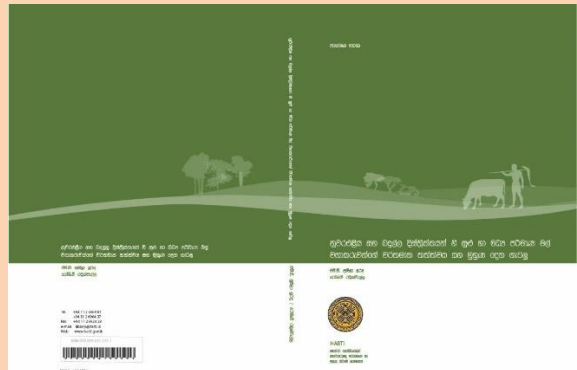
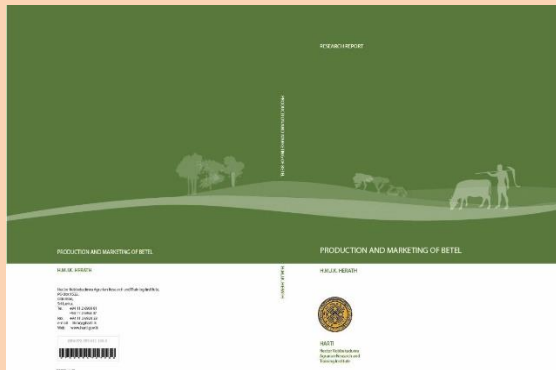
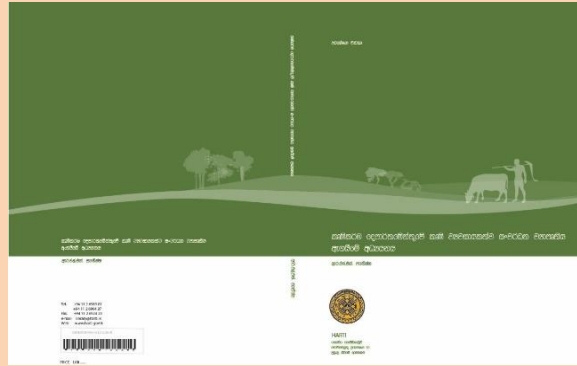
HARTI is the service provider of this project conducted in collaboration with FAO. This donation was made in accordance with the agreement made between the two institutions in this particular project.

Assistant Representative (Programme) of FAO to Sri Lanka Dr. Dharmassree Wijeratne officially handed over the computers to the Director of HARTI Mr. Karunadasa Udage.

The move would greatly facilitate the statistical staff and field enumerators in digitizing the data collection process, editing questionnaire, coding data and data processing in an efficient manner.

A training programme on the use and application of tablet computers in data collecting and processing will be held for statistical staff and enumerators of the institute.

New Publications



HARTI NEWSLETTER is a quarterly publication published by the Publication Unit of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute. It reports new findings and policy issues pertaining to research and action programmes of the Institute and other organizations concerned with agrarian development.

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