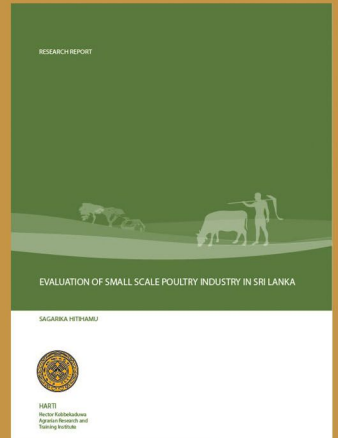


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International Forum on “Strengthening Food Safety Standards”



International Forum on “Strengthening Food Safety Standards”, collaboratively organized by Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Asian Productivity Organization (APO) and Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) was held on 05th – 08th March 2018 at the institute premises.

The primary objective of this International Forum was to exchange knowledge, emerging trends and experiences among Senior Officers such as Production Managers, Advisors, Executives of small and medium scale food processing management on food safety standards in the face of climatic changes. Further, it aimed at presenting recommendations to formulate strategies to counter the challenges with regard to food safety management in the global market.

The inaugural ceremony was held at the Mahinda Silva Auditorium of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute amidst the distinguished presence of State Minister of Agriculture Hon Wasantha Aluwihare, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Mr. B. Wijyaratne, Former Director, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute Mr. K. W. E. Karalliyadda, Director General of CIRDAP Mr. Tevita G. Boseiwaqa Taginavulau, Programme Officer of APO Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain, Secretary of State Ministry of Agriculture Mr. D. V. Bandulasena, Additonal Director of National Productivity Secretariat Mr. J. A. D. Roshan and Heads of the institutions affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture. Twenty-six



A moment captured at the conference

experts in food security representing 16 countries (Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Italy, Iran, Poland, Vietnam, Mongolia, Taiwan, Fiji, Nepal, the Philippines) and 14 prominent persons in the field of food representing Sri Lanka attended. Six foreign and three local resource persons contributed to the success of the programme. Mrs. Sagarika Hitihamu, Senior Research Officer, Agricultural Policy and Project Evaluation Division (APPE) was the chief coordinator of HARTI for the programme.

Published Research Reports of the First Quarter of 2018

In the first quarter of year 2018, HARTI published four research reports. These reports were directed to the relevant sectors responsible for policymaking and to scholars attached to the field. Details of these research reports are presented below.

Published Research Reports	Co-ordinators
Evaluation Small Scale Poultry in Sri Lanka (ER – 210)	Sagarika Hitihamu
தமிழ் மொழிப்பெயர்ப்பு ஆராய்ச்சி அறிக்கை:- பனை வள தொழில்: வடக்கு கிழக்கு மாகாணங்களில், பங்குதாரர்களின் சமூக-பொருளாதார நிலை மற்றும் பிரச்சினைகள்	R.L.N. Jayatissa, Sri Vijendran and A.M. Nilushini Translated by S.J. Francis
Vulnerability of Rain-fed Farmers to Drought and Potential Strategies to Enhance Resilience Capacity (ER-211)	H.J.C. Jayasooriya
Farmer Perception and Demand for Pesticide in Rice Cultivation of Sri Lanka	T.P. Munaweera J.A.U.P. Jayasinghe
Hybrid Seeds and Vegetable Cultivation in Sri Lanka : Local vs Imported	Prasanna Wijesinghe Rasika Wijesinghe
Prospects and Constraints of Off Season Big Onion Production Programme in Hambantota District	P.A. Jayamini Champika

Vulnerability of Rain-fed Farmers to Drought and Potential Strategies to Enhance Resilience Capacity

Climate change has had devastating effects on the agricultural field on many fronts. Dwindling quantity and quality of production is a daunting challenge emerged in this context.

A study was conducted to understand the level of vulnerability of rain-fed farmers to drought conditions and to identify ways in which to improve their resilient capacity. Data was collected focusing on six districts: Kurunegala, Puttalam, Moneragala, Badulla, Killinochchi and Mullaitivu which have farming lands mainly under rain-fed conditions. Based on the findings the study recommends setting up of new structures to collect rain water while improving the capacity of existing structures. Adopting new technological methods to enhance resilience capacity against drought conditions and educating the farming community on drought adaptation strategies including perennial crop cultivation are also among the suggestions.

The research was coordinated by Research Officer Mr. H. J. C. Jayasooriya of the Environment and Water Resource Management Division, HARTI.

Farmer Perception and Demand for Pesticide in Rice Cultivation of Sri Lanka



Pesticide misuse in agriculture warrants prompt attention of all quarters considering the scale of agriculture related environmental and health problems arisen and the threat posed to sustainability of future agriculture. Farmers' attitudes on pesticides and adverse results of errant usage could play a vital role in devising strategies to regulate pesticide usage. Therefore, the study was designed to assess pesticide usage and farmer perception on pesticides in the rice sector by analysing economic and non-economic determinants of adoption and level of pesticide use by paddy farmers in Sri Lanka. Data was collected from selected areas in Anuradhapura, Ampara and Kurunegala districts from 240 randomly selected rice farmers.

The results reveal that many socio-economic factors influence the determination of pesticide usage of rice farmers. Lack of knowledge, flawed attitudes and negligence are among them. Creating awareness and providing adequate training in pesticide usage would prove a step in the right direction in overcoming this situation.

The study was conducted by Research Officers Mrs. T. P. Munaweera and Ms. J. A. U. P. Jayasinghe of the Environment and Water Resource Management Division, HARTI.



Climate Change Vulnerability of Selected Crop Production System in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka

Akin to many other sectors affected by the recent global phenomena of climate change, food production has also been severely battered by the same. Developing countries are the worst hit, thus studying about climate change vulnerability of various crop productive systems is vital in preparing more robust plans and policies on climate change adaptation. This project attempts to determine sensitivity, ability to expose and adaptive capacity of selected crop production systems in the dry zone of Sri Lanka to climate change.

Both primary and secondary data used in this study was centred on Anuradhapura, Hambantota and Moneragala districts and the dry zone of the Matale district. The study initiated in September, 2017 will conclude by April 2019. The project is coordinated by Senior Research Officer Mrs. G. G. de L. W. Samarasinha. Co-researchers are Senior Research Officers Mr. W. H. A. Shantha, Mr. M. A. C. S. Bandara, Research Officers Mrs. T. P. Munaweera, Mrs. R. M. M. H. K. Rambodagedara, Mr. H. J. C. Jayasooriya and Ms. N. M. Dias of the Environment and Water Resource Management Division, HARTI.



Absorption of Agriculture Graduates and Diploma Holders into the Agricultural Sector of Sri Lanka

State patronage for agriculture education in Sri Lanka has been phenomenal with the underlying objective of attaining development of the country. This research was conducted to identify the level of absorption of agriculture graduates and diploma holders into the agricultural sector and the problems and challenges encountered by them in entering and engaging in the agriculture related occupations in the Sri Lankan labour market. A total of 607 students graduated from the agriculture faculties of Sri Lankan state universities and from agrarian schools affiliated to the Department of Agriculture from 2012 to 2015 were in the sample.

The study found that most of the agrarian graduates and diploma holders are engaged in agriculture related occupations and assisting the development of the local agricultural sector. But, less availability of employment opportunities in the public sector and mundane and rough nature of the job are the major stumbling blocks discovered. Most of the agrarian diploma holders are in the Agriculture Extension Service of Sri Lanka. Having to cover a wide area and conveyance issues are the key challenges for them.

Participation of young graduates and diploma holders in the agriculture sector can be increased by introducing new trends and technology to the field on par with job market requirements. The study was coordinated by Research Officer Mrs. M. H. K. Rambodagedara and Research Officer Ms. U. P. Jayasinghe was the co-researcher.

Documentary



A documentary produced by the Publication Unit of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute based on the research study: "Identified Issues of Other Field Crops and Solutions" by Additional Director, Mr. R. L. N. Jayatissa was screened at the Mahinda Silva Auditorium of the institute on 10th May 2018. State Minister of Agriculture Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare and Former

Director of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Mr. K. W. E. Karalliyadda were also in the audience. The main purpose of the documentary titled "Agriculture and Farm Women Entrepreneurship in Jaffna" was to motivate the relevant stakeholders by identifying their issues and special situations based on this study.



HARTI New Year Festival – A Display of Unity

New Year Festival for the year 2018 organized by the Welfare Society of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute was held on 26th April 2018 at the institute premises on grand scale. The annual event that consisted of many traditional Avrudu games was aimed at fostering



Tug-o-war

employee cooperation and unity. The event was attended by HARTI employees as well as foreign nationals.



Awarding Prizes

Commmemoration of International Vesak Festival

A *Dhamma Deshana*, *dansela* and a Vesak lantern competition were organized by the Welfare Society of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute to mark the blissful event of Vesak. The Vesak lantern competition was held on 27th April 2018 among the divisions of the Institute. A *Dhamma Deshana* by Ven. Kelaniye Ajitha Thera held on 02nd May 2018 added a spiritual tinge to the occasion. In addition, a manioc *dansela* was held at the institute entrance for the public with the generous contribution of the employees and the Welfare Society.



Laying the groundwork



Starchy delights for all

Workshops



Workshop on Application of Agri-business Concepts and Marketing Extension

A workshop on ‘Application of Agri-business Concepts and Marketing Extension’ held on 08th – 10th December 2017 at Narayanasamy Conference Hall, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) became a window of opportunity for the agricultural undergraduates to learn how to apply agri-business concepts in subsistence agricultural sector, particularly in supply chain and marketing sector in Sri Lanka.

The core participants were the second year students in Agri-business and Business Accounting at the Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna. State Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare was the chief guest at the inauguration.

Apart from the lectures that were held to brief on the concepts and basic theoretical knowledge, a few field visits were also arranged to provide a hands-on experience to the participants.

Published Periodicals - 2018



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