Information Communication Technology Status in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP)
Sri Lankan National Agricultural Research System (NARS)

Sri Lankan National Agricultural Research System (NARS) consists of 12 main research institutes / departments that operate under six ministries:

- Ministry of Agriculture Livestock,
- Plantation Industries,
- Environment and Natural Resources,
- Fisheries and Ocean Resources,
- Tertiary Education & Training and
- Cooperatives
Sri Lankan National Agricultural Research System (NARS) Continue ……………..

- E-mail and Internet facilities are available at most institutes of Sri Lanka National Agricultural Research System (SLNARS).
- These services are based on dial up connections.
- Most of the institutes have set up web sites giving information on their objectives, services and staff particulars.
- At remote locations e-communications are difficult.
The Lanka Educational, Academic and Research Network (LEARN)

The Lanka Educational, Academic and Research Network (LEARN) connects educational, research and development institutes within the country.

The LEARN project commenced in 1990. The first service provided was LEARN mail, the first e-mail service in Sri Lanka, which was operated by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

This service provided educational and R & D institutions with dial-up e-mail service.
The Ministry of Internal and International Commerce and Food initiated TradenetSL (Computerised Trade Information Network in May 1995), at the Sri Lanka Export Development Board.

The main function of TradenetSL was the dissemination of trade information through electronic means to users who are two folds. Local users consist of Exporters, Business people, Government policy makers and Decision makers. Foreign users are Buyers and Investors.
TradeNetS has now developed a range of e-commerce services in a very professional manner with the establishment of the Cyber Trader.

The services provided by Cyber Trader include:

- Trade Information
- Business Advisory
- Business Promotion
- Business Travel/Meetings
- Internet and Email
- E-Commerce Centers- outside the city
Department of Meteorology
(www.meteo.slt.lk)

The following data can be retrieved from URL

- Weather forecasts
- Astronomical information
- Weather data for last 24 hours
- Latest satellite imagery
- Climatological means
- Weather products
SLNARS available - WEBSITES

- Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP)  [www.slcarp.lk](http://www.slcarp.lk)
- Department of Agriculture (DOA) -  [www.agridept.gov.lk](http://www.agridept.gov.lk)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)  [www.nsf.ac.lk](http://www.nsf.ac.lk)
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)  [www.iwmi.cgiar.org](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org)
- National Aquatic Resources Agency (NARA)  ([www.nara.ac.lk](http://www.nara.ac.lk))
Available –WEBSITES Continue…

• Most of institutions in NARS plans to build up in-house databases computerizing their resources and disseminate these information through the web server.

• Financial constraints, demand of the users requirements on ICM & ICT (Provision of equipment, Internet Lease line, full text of articles, etc.) cannot be met, and

• Lack of human resources, it is difficult to provide the service in effectively, efficiently and on time.
The following information are available at CARP web site:

- National Agricultural Research Policy 2003-2010
- Contract Research Application & Award Application
- CARP Newsletter (latest issue)
- List of journals in AGRINET member libraries
- List of journals in TEEAL database

CARP has planned add:

- CARP databases (Electronic Bibliographic)
- A database on Scientific personnel in NARS
This is a large web site, contains the information on activities of the Department of Agriculture and particulars of its staff and technical information on crops and related fields. Under each crop it provides information on varieties, pests and diseases and controlling methods, etc. Research Institute and Regional Centers of DOA and their activities, services are also available at this site.

These Institutes are:

- Horticultural Crop Research and Development Institute (HORDI),
- Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI),
- Field Crops Research and Development Institute (FCRDI),
- Regional Agricultural Research and Development Centers (RARDC),
- Agricultural Research Stations (ARS),
- Adaptive Research Units (ARU).
The Specialized Centers:

- Plant Genetic Resources Center (PGRC),
- Farm Machonery Research and Training Center (FMRC),
- Natural Resources Management Center (NMRC),
- Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG),
- Plant Quarantine Unit (PQU),
- Food Research Unit (FRU),
NSF has build up several on line databases which are included information related to science & Technology in Sri Lanka.

- *Sri Lanka Science Index database*
- *On going research in Science & Technology in Sri Lanka*
- *Natural Resources Database*
- *Union List of Periodicals in Science & Technology Libraries in SL*
- *Sri Lanka Scientific & Technical Information Network (SLSTINET)* (contains the postal address, e-mail address, Telephone Nos. and the name of contact person)
IWMI library offers several on-line resources and services through website. These include:

- **IWMI Library database**
  
  This database contains more than 28,000 citations relevant integrated water management,

- **Link to on-line databases**
  
  Provides a brief description of the database and a direct link to the relevant web site.

- Some databases provide free access.

- **Links to leading journals**
National Aquatic Resources Agency (NARA) (www.nara.ac.lk)

This web site contains NARA activities, services, about their projects, staff, Research division and current news. In addition to that it provide us NARA Journal contents with abstracts.
Information Management at CARP

The Following services are provided by the SLCARP

- **Agricultural Database System (ADS)**
- GIS database of Agriculture
- Provision of Data Management know how to SLNARS
- **Database on Information for Research Managers (INFORM)**
- **TEEAL, CD-ROM and Internet Search Service**
- **Provision of Subject Specialized Bibliographies**
  (Electronic Bibliographic databases)
  
  • **National Agriculture Bibliography of Sri Lanka,**
  • **Subject Specialized Bibliographies (Mango, Papaw, Pineapple, Goat, Organic Farming, Drought)**
CARP Library & AGRINET

Focal point - Agricultural Information Network (AGRINET)

- Promote sharing and development of resources
- NARS Institutions
- Agricultural Faculties of the Universities
New project

Establishment of a National Agricultural Information Network among Department of Agriculture research Stations, Universities, District/Provincial Offices, other agriculture related departments and finally with Govijana Kendraya and establishment of quick information dissemination mechanism to grassroot level farmers/general public.
Human Resources Development
(Agricultural Information Management)

Trainings provided:

- INFORM database management
- Universities
- ICAR / FAO training for Information technologies
Existing ICT Strategies/Planning

- Build a versatile electronic library
- Link databases to CARP web site.
- Update TEEAL CD-ROM database
- Update ADS
- Provide clientele data products on request
- Identify further requirements of ADS
- Provision of data management know-how
Conclusion

Each Institutions of NARS has to build up its own web site giving information on its research findings, services and resources available with them for the benefit of the information seekers are in the world.

Institutions of NARS have to build up their in-house databases using the common database to facilitate and exchange data among themselves.
Thank you