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Contract Seed Production Program
of the Dept. of Agriculture (DOA)
Sri Lanka

O.P.K. Chandrasiri
Sri Lanka Country Profile
Special Reference to Agriculture

Total land area sq.km. 65610
Population 2004 ‘000 19462
Provinces 9
Districts 22
Labor force 2004 48.8%
Unemployment rate 8.5%
Employment by sector 2004 (Ag) 34.1%
Contribution to GDP 2004 (Ag.Li.Fi) 19%
Per capita GDP at market price 2004 1031 US$
Literacy rate 2002 91.8%
Life expectancy 2002 (5Y&above) 91.4 Y
(Central Bank of Sri Lanka-Socio Economic Data book)

Climate & Agro - ecological regions

- Rainfall follows a bi-modal pattern
- Northeast monsoon - October to January
- Southeast monsoon - May to September
- Two cropping seasons
  - Yala & Maha
Mission of DOA:

Achieve Excellence in Agriculture for National Prosperity

Director General

Directors (10)

RRDI - Rice Research and Development Institute
FCRDI - Field Crops Research and Development Institute
HORDI - Horticulture Crop Research and Development Institute
NBG - National Botanic Gardens
SCPPC - Seed Certification and Plant Protection Centre
SPMDC – Seed & Planting Material Development Centre
ETD - Extension and Training Division
SEPC - Socio Economics and Planning Centre
Ad. - Administration Division
Fin. - Finance Division

MEC - Ministry of Agric.
Seed & Planting Material Development Centre - SPMDC

Mission
Assure timely Availability of Quality Seed & Planting Material at Competitive Prices

Seed Program Evolution
Organized program started by DOA – 1950’s
DOA – Sole supplier up to late 1980’s
Private sector involved in production & supply from 1990
National Seed Policy (NSP)

Govt. introduced NSP in 1996

Objective was to establish viable seed enterprises for easy access for high quality seed

With the new developments new policy being formulated – 2005

As a result the national seed program becomes a multi institutional function involving the public & private sectors

Seed Multiplication Program of DOA

Parental material

Breeders’ Seed

Foundation Seed

Registered Seed

Certified Seed (I & II)

Responsibility of breeder (RRDI, FCRDI, HORDI)

Seed Production Farms of DOA (SPMDC)

Basic Seed

Through Contract
Types of Certified Seed Produce under Contract

**Paddy**
- 3 different age groups – 3m, 3.5m, 4-4.5m
- 23 varieties

**Other Field Crops**
- 9 crops, 31 varieties
  - Green gram, black gram, Chilli, Cowpea, Sesame
  - Ground nut, Finger Millot, Maize, Soybean

**Vegetables**
- 17 Crops, 42 Varieties
  - Beans, Bitter gourd, Brinjal, Bushitavo, Capsicum
  - Cucumber, Luffa, Mae, Okra, Snake gourd, Pumpkin
  - Radish, Amaranthus, Winged bean, Spinach, Melon
Contract Seed Production Procedure

- Selection of growers & basic training (informal agreement)
- Issuing of Registered/Basic seed on payment
- Registration of seed crops for Certification by Seed Certification Service (SCS) regional officers
- Training (Jointly-SPMD, SCS & Extension staff)
- Preliminary & Final Field Inspections (SCS) – Accept/Reject
- Issuing of new bags by regional ADA (SPMD)
- Sampling of seed lots at grower’s premises (A-sample)

Selection Criteria

- Reliability, knowledge, resourcefulness, willingness to cooperate
- Adequate land area (Seed Certification requirement)
  - Paddy – 1 ac (0.4 ha) min
  - OFC – 0.5 ac
  - Veg – 0.25 ac
- Distance from the regional AD office (20 km radius)
- Accessibility
- Facilities available for processing, drying & storage etc.
Procedure cont..

- Transport of accepted seed lots (on A-Test Results) to DOA farm/processing unit
- Payments to seed growers (based on % inert indicated in A-Report)
- Machine processing of different lots & varieties separately & bagging (1 bu/2 bu)
- Sampling (B-Sample) of processed seed lots by SCS officers
- Labeling & sealing of accepted seed lots (B-Report) by SCS officers
- Lot release (Distribution/Sale/Storage)

Problems Associated with Contract Program

- Difficulty in finding suitable/reliable growers
- Unexpected rains during harvesting period
  - difficulty in drying of seed lots (12%-Paddy)
  - reluctance of growers to re-dry of rejected lots
- Seed quality related problems
- Inadequate funds (on time)
- Inadequate staff
- Infrastructure problems (transport/processing)
- Un-attractive Seed purchasing price
- Tendency of growers to keep some seed with them/piracy
In 2002 Contract Certified program was stopped with a view to increase private sector participation (Policy)

With the new policy— (2005), DOA re commenced Contract Certified Seed Paddy Production

### Production & Supply of Certified seed Paddy (bu)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOA (10%)</td>
<td>93561</td>
<td>38537</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial /Inter provincial (19%)</td>
<td>63756</td>
<td>141854</td>
<td>132537</td>
<td>154054</td>
<td>123050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahaweli (7%)</td>
<td>52244</td>
<td>31561</td>
<td>69756</td>
<td>40390</td>
<td>48488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-operatives (14%)</td>
<td>95122</td>
<td>99561</td>
<td>104488</td>
<td>76078</td>
<td>93812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agrarian Services/Farmers/farmer Organizations (30%)</td>
<td>150439</td>
<td>245854</td>
<td>241561</td>
<td>257205</td>
<td>223765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private companies (20%)</td>
<td>98829</td>
<td>79805</td>
<td>190390</td>
<td>159415</td>
<td>132110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>553951</td>
<td>637171</td>
<td>738732</td>
<td>687141</td>
<td>723229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% as a total requirement</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1bu = 20.5 kg</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Total seed requirement/annum - 4.4 m. bu.
Conclusions

- Sri Lanka has great potential for sustainable competitive contract farming
- Cultivators expect proper contract systems
- It needs consistent policies
- Finance facilities, infrastructure, market facilities must be improved
- Trade agreements, insurance schemas, government interventions may be crucial
- Knowledge and experienced of officers would also be essential