

Message of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture



The Ministry of Agriculture as a part of its frequent effort at building prosperous agricultural economy has now launched food production National programme. Accordingly attention of the Ministry has been concentrated on expanding the food production capacity under this 03 year Food Production National Programme. I highly consider it a privilege given for myself to contribute towards success of this programme in my capacity as the Minister of Agriculture which covers province, district and division in the island, and firmly believe that this process go ahead every uninterruptedly until the country is self sufficient in locally cultivated food productions. I wish every success for the programme.

Food production National Programme is not an undertaking of a one party. All provinces should make their maximum contribution in this regard. The success of the programme depends on the degree of collective effort.

Under this 03 year Programme, the crop cultivation should be streamlined. It is very important to implement this cultivation programme based on ecological factors and having identified suitable crops for each area. Further where it is necessary to strengthen mutual understanding and co-operation through accurate inter provincial communication towards achieving the national targets.

The National food production programme will be helpful to develop agricultural sector in Sri Lanka while empowering the farmer community and I firmly believe that every provincial council has to play a very important role in this national endeavor and it is only then that the expectation of the Ministry could be fully achieved.

Duminda Dissanayake (M.P)
Minister of Agriculture

Message of the Hon. State Minister of Agriculture



Ours is an island state having natural resources of excellent nature. Using those resources, the people in Sri Lanka mainly the rural people are engaged in agriculture as their main livelihood with the industrial revolution, many countries in the world commenced various industries with low attention being paid to agriculture, As a result, the problem of food security have to be discussed at global forums with the objective of addressing this issue through various global conventions.

In this global situation, we have to take suitable measures to minimize the risk of food security. Accordingly in keeping with the concept of His Excellency the president and under the instructions and guidance of the Hon. Prime Minister, and with the mediation of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Presidential office and the Ministry of Agriculture, The 03 year food production National Programme was launched the objective of making the country self sufficient in locally cultivated food crop such as Chilli, Big onion, Potato, Maize, Cowpea, Kurakkan etc. By 2018 in this exercise the government will help the farmer community by providing scientific knowledge, infrastructure facilities and other agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizer required for food crop cultivation with the institution coming under its purview.

I wish for the farmer community to have all courage & strength to make this national endeavor a good success,

Wasantha Aluwihare (M.P)
State Minister of Agriculture

Message from the Hon Chief Minister of Eastern Province



It gives me a great pleasure to forward a message as the Chief Minister, Eastern Province to the National Food Production Programme Report for the years 2016-2018 of the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

Eastern Province consists of three districts namely Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee. The province has an area of 94,000 km² and a population of 1.55 Mn. Natural endowments of the province are the strength for development of agriculture sector in the region. Major sector for economic development of the Eastern Province is agriculture which includes crops, livestock and fisheries. The pace of economic growth of the sector until the emergence of conflict in 1983 was satisfactory. The conflict over two decades had tremendous impact on agricultural growth in the province and country as well.

The Eastern Province has been primarily agriculture based economy. The Agriculture sector is the cornerstone in the Eastern Province's economy with more than 60 % of the total population particularly 80% of the population living in rural areas depending on it for their livelihoods. Eastern Province is commonly called as the "Granary of Sri Lanka". It contributes towards 25% of national paddy production.

Department of Agriculture, Eastern province has reached another landmark of increasing supplementary food crop production such as maize, cowpea, green gram, ground nut under the Province Specific Development Grant (PSDG) to save the foreign exchange spent on import of such food crops.

The information contained in this report reveals the targets extent, production and productivity of paddy, other field crops, vegetables and fruits for six seasons from Maha 2015/2015 to Yala 2018.

I am confident that this National Food Production Program, a national drive to increase food production initiated by His Excellency the President will be a successful and fruitful program bringing in immense benefits to the country.

Naseer Ahamed (Eng.)
Chief Minister, Eastern Province

Hon Minister's Message



The agricultural sector is the backbone of Eastern Province economy and the means of livelihood for the most of our rural population. Sustained agricultural growth is critical for uplifting the living standards of our people as well as generating rapid economic growth. Worldwide there is growing concern and alarm by Governments' concerning food security; rising food prices; food price volatility, declining production levels due to climate change, rising demand because of economic and population growth in developing countries and pressure on food supplies due to various factors

The Government's far reaching goal for the agricultural sector is to create a food secure nation. Food security was defined as a situation "where all people at all times have access to sufficient safe, nutritious food to a healthy and active life." In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Production and Development, Irrigation, Cooperatives and Fisheries of Eastern Province has developed an action plan for 2016 – 2018 in adherence to the national policy which focuses on the pursuit of increasing the country's food security.

My Ministry recognizes that the concept of food security is defined as including physical, social and economic access to food that meets people's dietary needs, as such has extended its highest priority towards implementation of the "National Food Production Program" in Eastern Province.

This National Food Production Program was developed in collaboration with Central and Provincial Ministries and other State Agencies and Institutions' based on the principles of reduction the food import bill, creation of sustainable and long term productive employment and increased food security.

This is a call to all citizens of this country to be part of the revolution emphasizing the need to grow locally, nourish our people, and sustain our economy. I wish to take this opportunity reaffirm the commitment of my ministry in active participation in this national drive for food production and wish to record my appreciation to His Excellency the President Maithripala Sirisena and Hon Duminda Dissanayaka M.P Minister of Agriculture for the assistance and support extended by them for the implementation of this program in Eastern Province.

K.Thurarasasingam (Attorney at Law) M.P.C

Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, Animal Production and Development, Fisheries, Co-operative Development, Food Supply and Distribution, Eastern Province



I would rather be on my farm, than be emperor of the world

- George Washington / US President

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