

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 program me 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 Northern Province



Northern Province contributes significantly to the food production of the Country, About 167,000 farm families are engaged in food production activities, Most of the farm families had been affected during the prolonged 30 years' war. At present the farm families have gradually increased their food production activities.

Crops such as paddy, subsidiary food crops, fruit crops, vegetables are cultivated in the Province. There is great need to increase the food production within the Northern Province with environmentally friendly technologies to become self-sufficient in food. The farmers should be able to get adequate income from their farming activities by transforming their subsistence farming to commercial farming. The cost of cultivation has to be reduced by introducing appropriate farm machineries and technologies.

The productivity of crops should be increased with environmentally friendly technologies which will enable the farming families to increase the income from crop production activities. Crop cultivation can be increased to meet the Provincial and National food requirements. We are discussing processes which could harness the utility value of unused lands of absentee landlords with their approval. Many absentee landlords abroad have no objections to our Department of Agriculture utilizing such lands profitably on a contract basis. There are many people within our Province affected by malnutrition due to inadequate consumption of quality food. It is necessary to promote consumption of nutritive food. It is necessary to promote home garden programs to ensure the availability of quality vegetables and fruits throughout the year. It is our desire to promote use of organic fertilizers gradually doing away with chemical fertilizers.

The National Food Production Plan will give direction and target for increasing food production with environmental friendly technologies. It is essential to have joint efforts to achieve the intended objectives of the Plan. We of the Northern Province will wholeheartedly work together to achieve the goals of the Program Plan vis a vis the Northern Province and thereby the National Goals.

I wish all success to the Plan.

Justice C.V. Wigneswaran (Chief Minister - Northern Province)

Hon Minister's Message



Northern Province of Sri Lanka is endowed with nature's blessings. The five districts are bestowed with an abundance of natural resource to make agriculture the backbone of the economy. Rice is produced in excess of the local demand. During the rainy season, lush growth of hybrid rice and indigenous varieties such as Mottaikaruppan and Murunkan beautify the landscape. There is no scarcity for subsidiary food crops in the North. There is a big demand for crops such as onion, chillie, grapes and bananas in the Southern markets. However malnutrition due to lack of food prevails in this agricultural region. The three decades of war devastated and disrupted their normal life and made them refugees and economically impoverished unable to procure nutritive food.

Intensive agriculture is destroying the natural environment. Excessive use of water is depleting our underground water resources while the excess use of inorganic fertilizer is polluting the water sources. Plans should be implemented to enable everyone have access to sufficient nutritious food. We should ensure bring to a close further pollution of our soil and water ways. The three decades of war and undesirable changes in climate is causing agriculture to become an non profitable venture, We should free our farmers from the burden of debt and turn agriculture into a profitable endeavor. We should take the challenge to revive the agricultural sector. For this to happen cooperation and joint efforts of researchers, policy makers, officers of the Department of Agriculture, opportunities for marketing and the farmers themselves is needed. Combination of nine provinces is Sri Lanka. When the agricultural sector in the North reaches stability, it in turns reflects on the agricultural growth of the nation.

His Excellency the President has launched the National Food Production Programme. Let the great god nature bestow her blessings on this programme to strengthen the provincial agricultural sector and lead the nation towards sustainable growth in agriculture.

P. P. Ayngaranesan

Minister of Agriculture & Agrarian services, Animal Husbandry, Co-operative Development, Food Supply & Distribution, Water Supply, Irrigation and Environment,
Northern Province.



Agriculture is our wisest pursuit because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness.

- Letter from Thomas Jefferson to George Washington

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