

## RURAL SEED PADDY FARMS

### (Secondary Seed Farms)

The Scheme of Secondary Seed Farms was initiated by the Department of Agriculture in Maha 1980/81. The main features of this scheme are as follows.

#### OBJECTIVES:

1. Pure seed of new improved varieties will be readily available to all farmers at village level.
2. Poor farmers will have access to good seed paddy.
3. Guarantee of direct farmer participation in a programme of immediate mutual benefit to all.
4. Cheap supply of seed avoiding costly long distance seed transportation (cheaper to Government and farmers alike).
5. Secondary seed farms located in large tract/yayas will demonstrate better production techniques. Adhere to cultivation seasons and thereby eliminate yield losses from pests and diseases and bad weather.
6. Secondary seed farms will serve as a centre of activity of farmers and officials alike.
7. A major input of the farmer will be met by involving the farmer, farmer institution and village level officer K.V.S./C.O. etc.

## PLAN OF OPERATION;

1. The Agrarian Service Committee under the guidance of the A.I. will name the variety/varieties of seed required for the establishment of Secondary Seed Farms on the basis of the needs of the different paddy yayas under its area of authority.
2. Select the farmers preferably with experience as seed farmers and register them as seed growers for each tract. Provide registered seed obtained from the Department of Agriculture. (In general the programme envisages to supply 200 bushels in Maha and 100 bushels in yala to each A.S.C.).
3. The A.S.C. with the assistance of the local staff at Divisional and village level will get the farmers to raise the seed crops, monitor the scheme and provide assistance to the seed growers.
4. Arrangements will be made by the A.S.C. officials after harvest for the distribution of the seed paddy through sale or exchange among farmers. The seed will be cleared and dried by the seed growers. This seed will not be bought by the Government.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS:

1. The K.V.S. will be responsible for the selection of the seed farmers who will be registered with the A.S.C. of the area.
2. The extension officers (A.II and K.V.SS) will supervise the farmers and provide technical know-how on seed growing, fertilizing, harvesting and processing of seed; conduct demonstrations, field days, etc. under the T & V system.
3. The D.OO with the assistance of the C.OO will provide the needed inputs and services and see that they are made available at the required time.

4. A list of farmers producing this class of commercial seed will be provided to the C.OO by the A.S.C. officials.
5. The C.OO will be responsible for the lateral spread of the commercial seed. It will be their duty to publicise and encourage the farmer to obtain the seed paddy in exchange or on credit payable in kind (eg. 1 bushel to 1½ bushels).

This scheme of Rural Secondary Seed Farms will be implemented in the districts by the Assistant Director of Agriculture (Extension) with the assistance of the Department of Agrarian Services and the Agricultural Development Authority.

MERITS OF INDIGENOUS LEAFY VEGETABLE  
CULTIVATION IN COLOMBO SUBURB

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Colombo suburb is the only region in the country- in which indigenous- leafy vegetables are cultivated on a large scale. The lands where they cultivate leafy vegetables are situated in low lying areas. The vegetables are being distributed daily to major cities of the country. There are 5 major types of leafy vegetables-, namely *Alteranthera triandra* (Mukunuwenna or Ponnankani), *Ameranthus-oleraceus* (sudu thampala or keera), *Basella alba* (Nivithi or pasali), *Ipomoea aquatica* (kankun), *Boerhaavea diffusa* (sarana or sarana). Main reasons for the cultivation of these local vegetables are the availability of trans-porting and marketing facilities, good consumer preference, non suitability of the land for other crops and the ability of these crops to withstand intermittent floods and thrive well under low level management.