CLIMATIC CONDITIONS DURING 1995/96 *MAHA* AND 1996 *YALA* SEASONS

The climatic data collected at the climatic centres of the NRMC for 1995/96 *Maha* and 1996 *Yala* season are given in Table 1 and 2, respectively.

The rainfall during the 1995/96 *Maha* season was lower than the average rainfall for the last 10 *Maha* seasons only at Vanathavillu, Aralaganvila, Girandurukotte and Bandarawela. However, other places received rainfall comparable to the last 10 seasons average rainfall. The rainfall distirbution was not condusive for the cultivation of rainfed crops in Maha Illuppallama, Vanthavillu, Batalagoda, Makandura and Peradeniya.

The direct adverse effects of the poor distribution on crop production is evidencd in these areas during the season. In Bandarawela and Girandurukotte areas there was a reduction in the total amount of rainfall, but the amount and distribution was adequate to meet the crop water requirements. In other areas, the distributiona and amount of rainfall did not affect the crop production. However, for dry and intermediate zones, the rainfall distribution and amount were not condusive for crop growth and production.

As far as realative humidity and temperature are concerned, there were not any siginificant difference, compared to previous years.

There wasn 't any significant increase in the total rainfall received during the 96 *Yala* season, compared to last 10 seasons average in dry areas. However, the total rainfall was significantly lower compared to last 10 years, mainly at Varathavillu. Actually, it was 62% lower. The rainfall distribution was adequate for ranfed crop production only at Makandura and Bombuwela regions.

The total evapotranpiration exceeded the total rainfall in all regions except in Makandura, Bombuwela, Sita Eliya and Bandarawela. This phenomenon was most siginificant in the dry zone where the evapotrainpiration exceeded rainfall by amomost 59 percent. This again shows the inadequacy of rainfall amount

and distribution for rainfed crops in all regions except for Makanuidra and Bombuwela regions. The reletive humidityand temperature and did not vary in any areas compared to the data of the previous year.

Table 1: Climatic data for 1995/96 *Maha* season

Station	Agro climetic zone	Total rainfall (mm)	Average rainfall last 10 years (mm)	Total evapo transpiration (mm)	Length of seasbn (weeks)
Maha Iiluppallama	DL_1	958	923	817	09
Angunakolapellessa	Dl_1	679	655	850	17
Aralaganwila	Dl_2	1144	1331	854	19
Vanathavillu	DL_3	670	830	660	05
Batalagoda	IL_1	798	1050	671	08
Makandura	IL_1	1057	1126	837	08
Girandurukotte	IL_2	1508	1810	691	22
Banadarawela	IU_3	881	1082	478	20
Bombuwela	WL_4	1624	1977	710	27
Peradeniya	Wm_2	1053	1080	NA	13
Sita Eliya	WU_3	1251	1248	468	28

Length of the season - No of continuous weeks during which the total rainfall exceeded ten mm. per week.

NA - not available

Source: NRMC, Peradeniya

Table 2: Climatic data for 1996 *Yala* season

Station	Agro climetic zone	Total rainfall (mm)	Average rainfall last 10 years (mm)	Total evapo transpiration (mm)	Length of season (weeks)
Maha Iliuppallama	DL_1	344.6	411.6	915.6	3
Angunakolapellessa	Dl_1	312.2	409.2	714.3	3
Aralaganwila	Dl_2	333.9	313.9	802.2	4
Vanathavillu	DL_3	294.5	783.9	737.8	-
Batalagoda	IL_1	492.2	760.8	513.8	3
Makandura	IL_1	702.5	980.3	681.1	17
Girandurukotte	IL_2	421.5	426.4	759.5	3
Banadarawela	IU_3	551.9	502.7	468.3	5
Bombuwela	WL_4	1001.9	1305.3	558.6	17
Peradeniya	Wm_2	668.1	779.6	NA	4
Sita Eliya	WU_3	811.3	800.8	471.8	3

Length of the season - No of continuous weeks during which the total rainfall exceeded ten mm. per week.

NA - not available

Source: NRMC, Peradeniya