

FUNCTIONAL LINKAGES BETWEEN
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

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Research will be of little or no avail unless the farmers are informed of the various results in a manner they could understand and adopt. With this end in view, the Agricultural Research Station, Maha-Illuppallama, spearheaded a farmer oriented research campaign to disseminate the information already available in research in a number of locations, and around Maha Illuppallama, Bombuwela, Paranthan, Bandarawela, Mannar through the Cropping Systems net work programme with the support of the Education and Training and Extension Divisions. These projects are in progress and they have been further strengthened. It is very likely that some of these programmes will be incorporated with the Adaptive Research net-work of the EARP. In the past, linkage between research and extension existed only for rice in the form of Field Trials and Extension field trials but such links did not exist for other groups of crops. However, in recent years, the Research Division has stepped up research on other crops. National Co-ordinated Research Programmes are now in operation for ten groups of crops with different RRCs participating, namely -

- (1) Rice - in cooperation with USAID/IRRI
- (2) Cropping System - IDRC of Canada
- (3) Coarse grains - IDRC of Canada
- (4) Grain legumes - IDRC of Canada
- (5) Root & Tuber - IDRC & International Potato Centre.
- (6) Soya Bean - UNDP/UNICEF/CARE
- (7) Vegetables - Vegetable cultivars from Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre.
- (8) Oil seeds and Fibre
- (9) Condiments and Fruits
- (10) Dry Farming Project - CIDA of Canada.

New improved varieties and cultural practices are expected to be forth coming during the next five years for both paddy and other field crops. From the view points of conception, infrastructure and knowledge accumulation on a broad front, Sri Lanka's Agricultural Research on paddy and other field crops is now in a much stronger position to provide technical support to extension. However, further strengthening is necessary.

Seven of the eight RRC are functioning and the eight would come into operation in Yala 1980. RRCs will be responsible for planning, executing and supervising the adaptive research programme. Adaptive research will be conducted in farmer's fields as a link between research and extension. The activities will include field trials on new varieties, improved cultural practices and use of inputs for all field crops as these technologies emerge from research conducted by RRCs and their sub-stations. The existing Mini-kit and production kit trials for rice would be incorporated into the new programme.

24 Adaptive Research Units will be established to cover most of the 22 AERs and all districts, and would be manned by a total of 52 E.OO. and 17 Research Assistants. Each unit will have basic simple facilities for the staff, whose job is to supervise trial plots laid out in farmers fields. The Adaptive Research Units (ARU) would be supervised by eight mobile teams based in and back stopped by the eight RRCs. Each mobile team would consist of, an average of 4, R.OO. Disciplines of the team members would vary with major agro-climatic zones.

Annual plans for adaptive research would be prepared by RRCs in consultation with D.A.E.Os. Close dialogue among officers engaged in research, adaptive research, extension and training would be fostered by the Regional Technical Working groups headed by the officers in charge of RRCs. DAEOs in the region, A.Os of RTCs, their respective Senior Technical Staff concerned and Senior Subject Matter Specialists in the region would meet as often as necessary to discuss such matters with AER as -

- (a) Farmers responses to adaptive research and demonstrations;
- (b) Results of adaptive research and field demonstrations of the season just ending and plans for the next season;
- (c) Priority crops and priority extension messages for the next season.
- (d) Up-grading of extension and training materials.

The essence of the T. & V. Extension System is to make all village extension officers work effectively. The quality of information passed out to farmers by KVSS is the key to the system's success. The existing training and extension material, therefore, need to be up-graded on a continuous basis by joint efforts of Training, Extension and Research branches of the Department of Agriculture.

Initially the S.M.SS. attached to the RTC would have to obtain all existing information from the RRC for each of the selected crops and up-date the existing or prepare new training material which would be used by SMOO to train AII and KVSS. Hence there should be a close functional linkage between the SMSS of the RTCs and ROO of the RRCs.

The RTCs will have to get the help of the ROO as resource personnel for training programmes which require their direct involvement. The R.OO. will have to take a major role in the training programmes of the RTC.

Research information whenever possible will be presented in some of the information bulletins such as the 'KRUSHI' for the benefit of the Extension and Training Personnel of the Department of Agriculture.

The RTCs should assist in organizing field days and demonstrations to popularise new research innovations with the cooperation of the R.OO from the respective RRCs.

These demonstrations and field days can be conducted in the RTC farms as well as outside in the farmers' fields.

SUMMARY

The functional linkages between Research and Education and Training Institutions can be -

- (1) Regional Technical working Group.
- (2) Updating of Training material.
- (3) Participation in Agriculture training programmes
- (4) Publications of research information
- (5) Demonstration and field days.