

CULTIVATION OF OTHER FOOD CROPS
IN PADDY FIELDS IN THE MEDA SEASON
UNDER MINOR TANK IRRIGATION

In Anuradhapura district during the 1982 Meda Season (January-April) Other Field Crops were grown under 19 small tanks. The objectives of this Programme were :

1. To improve income and productivity from Paddy fields.
2. To make efficient use of tank water that remained at the end of Maha Season.
3. To maximise food production from available water.
4. To promote cultivation of pulses to improve nutritive quality of farmers diets.
5. To improve soil fertility, facilitate weed control and reduce rice pest and disease incidence.

For this programme after calculating the amount of water available in the tank, the extent of land to be cultivated is determined. It is advisable to start tillage operations during the end of December or first part of January. To facilitate irrigation and drainage the entire cultivated area must be treated as one unit. If the soil is dry irrigate once before seeding. During early stages cowpea, green-gram, and soya-bean must be irrigated once in 8-10 days. When the crop is over one month irrigate at 12-14 days intervals. The more suited crops for this programme are cowpea, green-gram, and soya-beans, chillies and vegetable may also be grown.