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#### HISTORY OF RICE IPC ACTIVITIES IN SRI LANKA

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Integrated Pest Control (IPC) in rice has come to be well known by the officers of the Department of Agriculture. It is recognized by the Department as the most desirable approach to pest control in rice. Encouraged by the success of this approach in rice the department is even considering to extend IPC to vegetables and other field crops.

At a time when IPC in rice is gathering momentum it is pertinent to take a brief look at the history of activities that lead the department to the present phase. There had been many officers in the department who initiated this series of activities with much foresight. It is only but right that their role in this field of activity be not forgotten. Therefore, this is to present a chronological sketch of activities that lead to the present level of achievement.

1978 March 20-24: Dr. H E Fernando, Entomologist, attended a conference in Bangkok on Regional Rice IPC Project.

1980 May 4-11: US AID IPC Mission visited Sri Lanka, and had extensive consultations with Dr. H. E. Fernando and other scientists. Members of the Mission consisted of Prof. E E Ortman, Prof. R L Kohls, Mr. J. D Paschke, Mr. T.K. White, and Mr J.L. Waling.

1980 June 10: A research proposal prepared by Mr. I D R Peries, RO on IPC Pilot Project submitted by the Department to Mr. Michael J.Watt, FAO Senior Plant Protection Adviser, Peradeniya.

1980 July 8: Dr. John A Lowe, Regional Co-ordinator for FAO Rice IPC Project visited Sri Lanka. He held extensive discussions with Dr.N de Alwis, Mr. M J Watt, Mr.I D R Peries and others on the IPC Pilot Project proposal.

Appointment of Dr N de Alwis as the Sri Lanka National Programme Leader (NPL) for Rice IPC Project in Sri Lanka, with Mr C B Karandawela as Joint Programme Leader (JPL)/Extension and Mr. IDR Peris as JPL/Research.

1980 October : Dr N de Alwis, NPL attended an IPC meeting in Bangkok.

1980 October 28: Mr. G. Laurent, FAO Resident Representative wrote to inform that FAO would not be able to fund the IPC Pilot Project.

1980 November 4: Mr.M J Watt wrote to Mr. Laurent on pilot project suggesting Australian assistance.

1981 May 4: Dr. John A Lowe wrote on IPC Pilot Project suggesting modifications.

1981 August 2: Dr. J A Lowe visited Sri Lanka. Identified working groups for IPC activities:-

- a. Pest surveillance and forecasting  
- Mr. Y Elikewela
- b. Natural enemy identifications  
- Mr. I D R Peries
- c. IPC field demonstrations  
- Mr. C B Karandawela.

- (d) Pesticide integration and utilization: Mr. Y. Elikewela
- (e) Stable plant resistances: Mr. S. Sivasubramaniam.
- (f) Environmental Effort: Mr. N. de Alwis
- 1981 August 2: Dr. N. de Alwis, NFL, offered half-time services of four KVSS to Mr. IDR Peries for IPC field work in Kegalle.
- 1981 September 7-11: Working Group meeting on Pest Surveillance and Forecasting attended by Mr. Y. Elikewela.
- 1981 Maha 1981/82: Mr. IDR Peries started his field work in Kegalle District with assistance from the 4 KVSS (half-time).
- 1981 October 5-8: Training the KVSS on IPC field work. Trainers: Dr. S. de S. Seneviratne, Mr. C. M. Bandaranayake, Mr. C. B. Karandawela, Mr. V. Velmurugu, Mr. K. D. M. Joseph, Mr. Amaratunga, and several other entomology researchers.
- 1982 January 13 - February 23: Dr. M. G. K. Nayar, FAO, Consultant visited Sri Lanka and conducted trainings on pest surveillance and management. He suggested a set of economic threshold levels (ETL) for rice and vegetable pests.
- 1982 Yala 1982: Weekly monitoring of IPC fields continued in Kegalle District.
- 1982 Three officers from the Department underwent 4 month training on IPC in the Philippines. They are: Mr. D. A. M. Maheepala, S. M. O. (PP)/Gampaha; Mr. D. P. N. M. Edirisinghe, S. M. O. (PP)/Kurunegala; and Mr. P. M. Wijeratne Banda, R. O. (Ento)/M. I.
- 1982 August 24-27: Dr. Peter van Rijn, FAO Rice weed consultant visited Sri Lanka along with Dr. J. A. Lowe.
- 1982 Maha 1982/83: IPC field work continued in Kegalle District.
- 1983 January 4: Changes made in the Working Groups
- a. Pest Surveillance and forecasting
    - Mr. D. P. N. M. Edirisinghe
  - b. Natural Enemy identification
    - Mr. S. Kandaiah

- c. I.P.C. Field demonstration  
- Mr. D.A.M. Maheepala
- d. Pesticide integration - Mr. I.D.R. Peries
- f. Environmental impact- Mr. H.M. de Alwis

1983 January 13 : I.P.C. Pilot Project proposal sent to the Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority of Sri Lanka (NARESA) for funding; not successful.

1983. Yield 1963 : IPC Field work continued to Kegalle District.

1983 July 14-16: FAO Rice IPC Review Mission (Headed by Dr. D.F. Waterhouse) visited Sri Lanka.

1983 August: IPC Kegalle work concluded.

1984 June : Dr.P.C. Matteson assumes duty in Sri Lanka as the FAO Rice IPC office. This is part of the FAO Inter-Country Programme where fundings and projects are managed by FAO. It is not an aid programme where funds are channelled through Sri Lanka Government.

1984 December 12: Changes made in the Sri Lanka Rice IPC programme.

- a. Deputy Director of Agriculture (Extension)  
- Co-National Programme, Leader.
- b. Deputy Director of Agriculture (Research)  
- Co-National Prog. Leader.
- c. Deputy Director of Agriculture (Ed. & Tr),  
- Co-National Prog. Leader.
- d. Deputy Director of Research)(C.A.R.I),  
- Co-National Prog. Leader.
- e. Mr. I.D.E. Peries, J.P.L. (Research)
- f. Mr. H.E. Senanayake, J.P.L. (Extension)

1984 Todate: Rice IPC activities continued and and conducted vigorously under the aegis of aegis of the FAO Inter-Country Programme.

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