ABOUT THE

COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKA

A Publication of the
Coconut Research Institute,
Lunuwila, Sri Lanka 2012

Published by:

Coconut Research Institute

Editorial Board:

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Photographs:

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Secretarial Assistance and Type Setting:

Ms. H M A Herath
Ms. D Tharanga Dilani

Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka
Bandirippuwa Estate, Lunuwila,
Sri Lanka.

THE COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

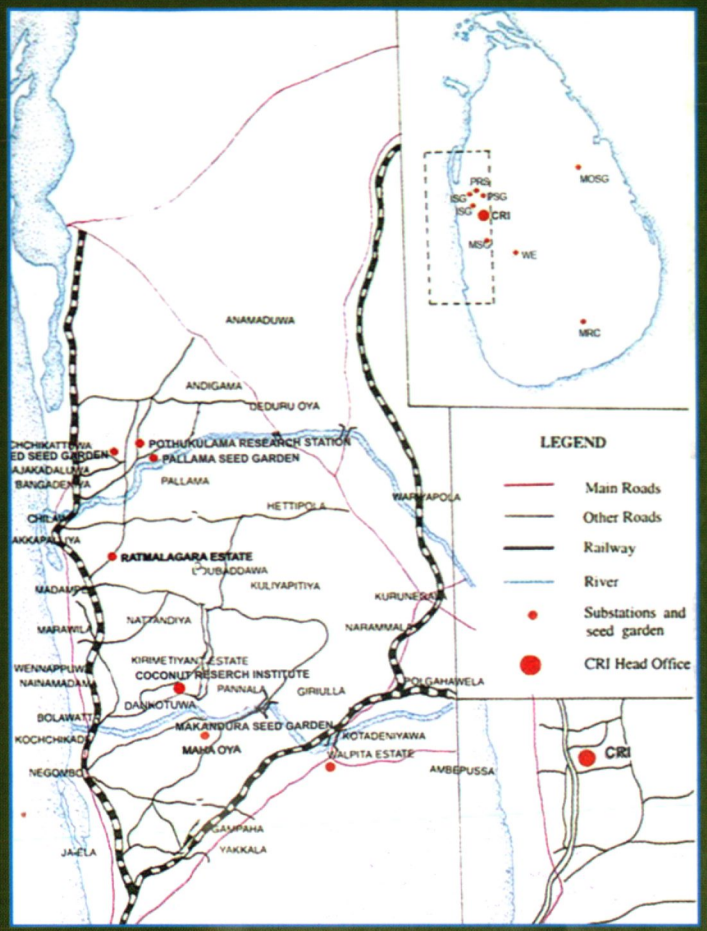
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Coconut Research Institute was founded in 1929 as the Coconut Research Scheme under the Coconut Research Ordinance No.29 of 1928.

The scheme established its headquarters in Bandirippuwa Estate, Lunuwila and began its research activities with three divisions; Genetics, Chemistry and Soil Chemistry. With the enactment of the Coconut Research Act No. 37 in 1950, it was upgraded and re-named as the Coconut Research Institute of Ceylon. Under the Coconut Development Act No. 46 promulgated in 1971, the Coconut Research Board was set up in 1972 with the responsibility of managing the Coconut Research Institute.

The Chairman and the Board Management is vested with the responsibility of laying down policies, with the approval of the Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development.

Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka (CRISL) is the first institute established in the world solely dedicated for the development of coconut.



LOCATION

The administrative headquarters and the main laboratories of the institute are located in 140 ha of land at Bandirippuwa Estate, Lunuwila. It is about 50 km from the capital city of Colombo and 25 km from the Bandaranayake International Airport, Katunayake. CRISL can be reached from Colombo via Kochchikade and Dankotuwa along the Kuliyapitiya road.

The CRISL has estates, which are used for mass production of improved coconut varieties and research purposes around the country. Another 400 ha land at Poonarin will be acquired to establish a seed garden to cater to the needs of the Eastern and Northern provinces.

TELEPHONE/EMAIL

Chairman	+94 (0)31 - 2255497, 077 7349350 chairman@cri.gov.lk, gunasenah@yahoo.com
Director	+94 (0)31 - 2255890, 071 8078555 dir@cri.gov.lk
Additional Director	+94 (0)31 - 2257687, 077 7143539 addldir@cri.gov.lk, priyanthiefernando@yahoo.co.uk
Deputy Director	+94- (0)31 - 22557616, 077 9801354 ddr@cri.gov.lk, ejayamanne@gmail.com
General	+94- (0)31 - 2257419, +94- (0)31 - 2253795, +94- (0)31 - 2255300 +94- (0)31 - 2255583, +94- (0)31 - 2256893
Fax	+94- (0)31 - 2257391
Hot line for technology information	+94 (0)31- 2257688
Website	www.cri.gov.lk

FUNDS

The Institute is financed mainly by the consolidated fund and additionally by international donor agencies such as International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Biodiversity International, Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT), International Centre for Research and Agroforestry ((ICRAF), World Forestry Centre (WFC)) etc.

OUR VISION AND MISSION

"Our Vision is to be the centre of excellence in coconut research, technology development and technology transfer in the region"

Our Mission is to generate knowledge and technology through excellence in research towards increasing productivity and profitability of coconut"

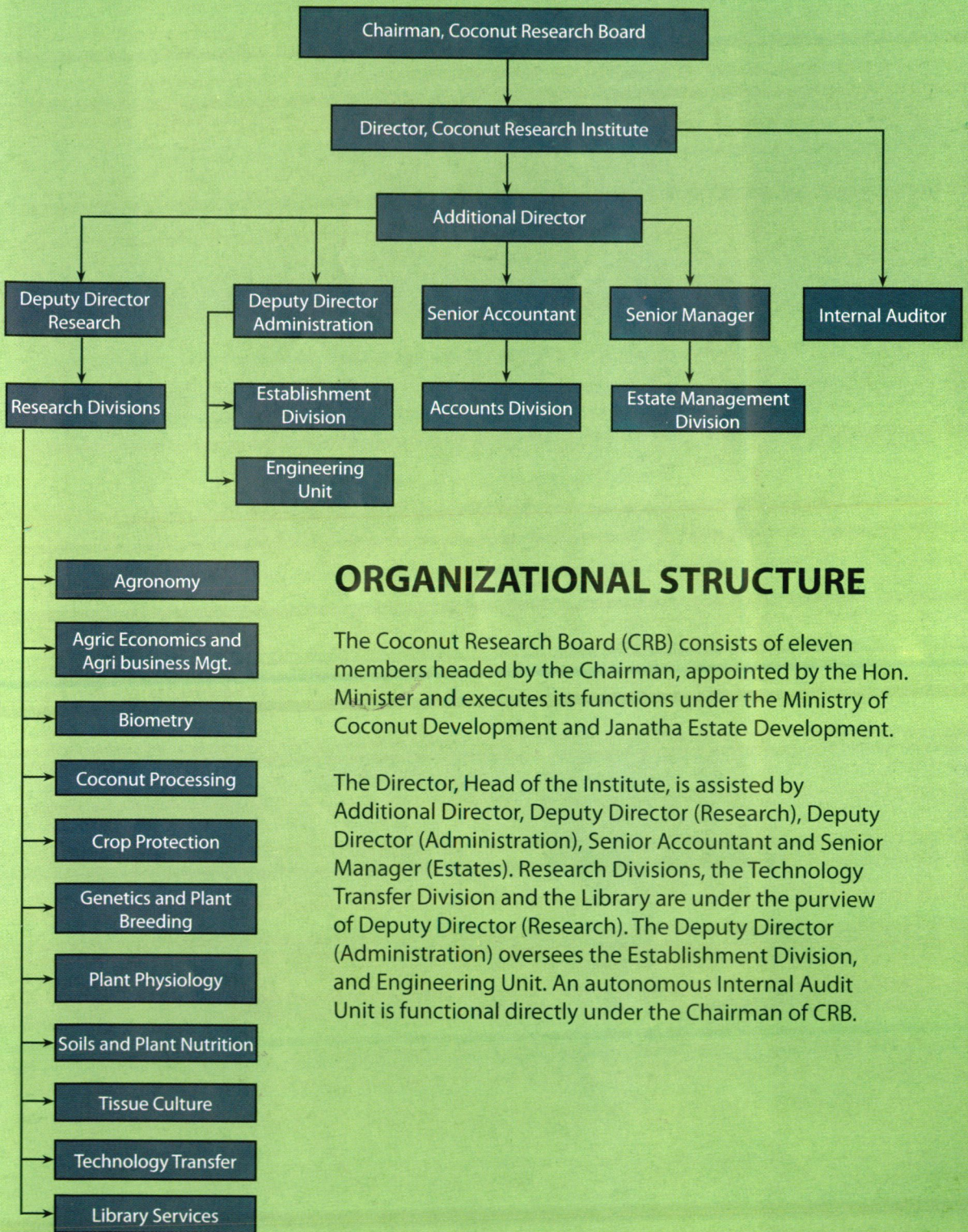
OUR VALUES

- *Our values are the cornerstone of our institute. Our honesty and integrity in decision making from the office to ground create a strong and unique corporate culture*
- *We are greatly dedicated to the development of the coconut industry, we move with an urgency and sense of purpose*
- *We earn respect and support from our stakeholders through trust, commitment and integrity*
- *We respond to the needs of our stakeholders, utilizing vast resource of collective knowledge and skills available among us and the community*
- *We are forward looking and thinking strategically to pursue opportunities to shape the future of the coconut industry*

VISITORS

Prior arrangements to visit the CRISL facilities and Technology Park can be made by contacting the Director.
Guest house facilities are available for visitors on advanced booking. Auditorium of CRISL has a seating capacity of 200 with audio-visual facilities. This is also available for outside organizations on payment. Visitors are welcome during week-days between 08.30 a.m to 04.15 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Coconut Research Board (CRB) consists of eleven members headed by the Chairman, appointed by the Hon. Minister and executes its functions under the Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development.

The Director, Head of the Institute, is assisted by Additional Director, Deputy Director (Research), Deputy Director (Administration), Senior Accountant and Senior Manager (Estates). Research Divisions, the Technology Transfer Division and the Library are under the purview of Deputy Director (Research). The Deputy Director (Administration) oversees the Establishment Division, and Engineering Unit. An autonomous Internal Audit Unit is functional directly under the Chairman of CRB.

OUR MANDATE

1. *Conduct and further scientific research on growth and cultivation of coconut palm. Growing other crops and engage in animal husbandry in coconut plantations and prevent and manage diseases and pests*
2. *Conduct and further scientific research on processing and utilization of coconut products and value addition*
3. *Establish and maintain pilot plants for processing of coconut products and fabricate coconut processing equipment*
4. *Establish and maintain institutes' seed gardens and experimental stations*
5. *Train advisory and extension workers to assist the coconut industry*
6. *Guide and advise coconut industry on all matters of a technical nature.*

RESEARCH FACILITIES

The research divisions of the institute are housed in a 30,000 sq.ft laboratory building complex, and fully equipped with modern facilities. The institute manages three genetic resource centers totaling an extent of 881 ha, which are used for mass production of seed coconuts of improved coconut cultivars.

Annually, about 1.5 million seed nuts are produced for the national coconut planting programmme by these centers.

The institute also maintains research sub stations in different agro-ecological regions for conducting field experiments and some of these serve as repositories for *ex situ* conservation of local and exotic coconut germplasm.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

1. CROP IMPROVEMENT

Breeding coconuts for early flowering, short stature, high yield, tolerance to abiotic stresses and pests and diseases, developing resistant varieties for Weligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease, collecting and conserving indigenous and exotic coconut germplasm, improving embryo culture technology for safe germplasm, characterizing coconut germplasm by morphological and molecular methods, developing efficient protocol for clonal propagation of elite coconut palms and producing double haploid coconuts to enhance breeding and mapping the coconut genome for marker aided selection in coconut breeding

2. CROP PRODUCTION

Assessing nutrient values in coconut growing soils, introducing locally available low cost, organic sources for nutrients for soil quality improvement, recommending site specific improved fertilizer mixtures, developing cost effective irrigation and fertigation systems, studying rain water harvesting techniques, developing integrated farming systems for improving productivity profitability and soil quality in coconut lands, developing soil moisture conservation packages for increasing the coconut yields, managing weeds in coconut lands and introducing sustainable farming systems through coconut agroforestry for mitigating climate change impacts

3. CROP PROTECTION

Developing methods to manage pests and diseases with emphasis on eco-friendly IPM strategies, carrying out security research for combating probable introduction of new pests and diseases and studying disorders of coconut of unknown etiology

4. COCONUT PROCESSING

Developing and improving kernel based products and adding value, making products from nut water, fresh kernel and milk, improving the fermenting process of coconut toddy and shelf-life of tender coconuts for export purposes and developing technologies for accelerating the coconut coir-retting process and making new coir based products, shell products (charcoal and activated carbon)

5. AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND AGRI-BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Studies on coconut sector, policy issues, land fragmentation, poverty alleviation with agro-forestry interventions, maintaining socio-economic databases and conducting consumer and diagnostic surveys

6. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Developing effective electronic technology transfer methodologies, producing audio and video technology transfer material, conducting training for trainers, crop clinics, field days, seminars and workshops and farmer field schools, under taking mass media programmmes and exhibitions to educate public and school children and maintaining the coconut technology park for demonstration of proven technologies

7. LIBRARY SERVICES

CRI maintains a library to provide information to scientists, plantation managers, growers and processors. The library has a collection of about 5000 books, periodicals, research journals and e-journals of esteemed research disciplines with inter library loan facilities. The library is also used extensively by university students

OUR SERVICES

Conducting stakeholder consultations with coconut growers and processors at regular intervals Undertaking development activities specified in the National Coconut Sector Development Plan (2011-2016), "Kapruka Navodaya" of the Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development

Disseminating proven technologies for coconut growers and processors through institute-industry linkages for scaling up technologies for commercialization

Mass producing seed nuts of improved coconut cultivars; CRIC60, CRIC65, CRISL98 and Kapruwana and selecting mother palms as a source for seed nuts for supplying seed nuts required for the National Coconut Planting Programme

Implementing strategies for Management of Weligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease collaboratively with Coconut Cultivation Board and Matara District Secretariat and maintaining the barrier of 3 x 86 km outer zone of the disease affected area to prevent spread of the disease

Mass producing predatory mites, parasitoids, fungi and other biological control agents for managing coconut mite, coconut caterpillar and black beetle

Producing and disbursing pheromones for trapping Red Weevil and Black Beetle

Carrying out soil and leaf nutrient analyses for differential fertilizer recommendations (DFR) and site-specific recommendations for growers

Disseminating novel technologies on coconut based products for prospective entrepreneurs and cottage industries

Certifying coconut seedlings raised by nurseries of the CCB and registered private coconut nurseries

Conducting land suitability surveys to identify new lands for expanding coconut cultivation into non-traditional coconut growing areas

Assessing ground water availability in coconut growing areas

Disseminating technology for tender coconut processing as a natural beverage

Providing quality assessments for coconut based products

Introducing sustainable coconut farming systems using low cost environmental friendly inputs

Motivating farmers for adopting integrated farming systems for enhancing profitability of coconut lands

Supplying *in vitro* propagated *dikiri* coconut plants to interested growers

Maintaining databases of climate and agro-meteorological parameters

Testing and authorizing certificates for various products of coconut (coir pith, fertilizer, water, soil and leaf) for export requirements

Maintaining Museum and Coconut Technology Park at the Head Quarters of the CRISL for technology dissemination

Conducting training programs for trainers and stakeholders on coconut technologies

Participating in various exhibitions and conducting crop clinics at "Kapruka Purawara" programmes

COCONUT TECHNOLOGY PARK DEMONSTRATES PROVEN COCONUT TECHNOLOGIES

Coconut Technology Park was established in 2009 at the premises of the Coconut Research Institute, Lunuwila with direct access from the Colombo - Kuliyapitiya road for demonstrating proven coconut technologies on coconut cultivation and processing. This centre serves as one-stop educational, training and information center for coconut growers, processors, entrepreneurs, traders, students and the general public. The visitors could purchase planting materials, variety of inputs, estate tools, coconut based products, publications, media materials etc. Coconut Technology Park is opened for public from 7.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. on week days and 7.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. on Saturdays.

PUBLICATIONS

COCOS:
Peer reviewed journal of the CRISL
(also available on line, (www.sljol.info)

Annual Reports of the CRISL:
Yearly progress of research activities carried out at CRISL

Technology Update:
Brief notes on research findings relevant to growers and processors
(Sinhala, Tamil and English)

Occasional Publications Series:
Technical reviews on various aspects of coconut

Flash Cards:
Provides technical information for growers and processors as attractive posters

Advisory Video Documentaries in CDs:
Provide technical information for growers and processors

Interactive Multimedia CD:
Provide interactive and user friendly technical information for growers and processors

Advisory Circulars:
Produced regularly to update coconut technologies

SALIENT RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

Released improved coconut varieties; CRIC60, CRIC65, CRISL 98 and Kapruwana

Identified Sri Lanka Green Dwarf as tolerant to Weligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease

Developed protocols for production of coconut dihaploids

Established the World's first isolated coconut seed garden for mass production of CRIC60 and CRIC65 by directed natural pollination

Introduced differential fertilizer recommendation (DFR) based on leaf nutrient analysis for site specific applications

Introduced Eppawela Rock Phosphate (ERP) in place of imported phosphate sources for adult coconut plantations in Wet and Intermediate Zones

Introduced four drippers for irrigation and fertigation of coconut palms

Introduced different types of locally available organic packages to supply nutrients for coconut palms

Produced land suitability maps for coconut cultivation in the coconut triangle and the Southern Province

Developed packages for intercropping and animal husbandry with coconut in different agro-ecological zones

Established Coconut-Gliricidia model for bio-energy production and coconut-buffalo model for bio gas production in coconut lands

Developed effective biological control methods for coconut mite, coconut leaf miner, coconut caterpillar and black beetle and pheromone traps for red weevil and black beetle

Introduced technologies for prolonged shelf-life of tender coconuts for facilitating exports for overseas destination

Developed an electronic device for detection of red weevil infested palms

Developed a wide range of coconut products; paste, milk, powder for bakery products etc.

Developed/ fabricated processes /machinery for production of virgin coconut oil, white oil,white copra, vinegar production, heat recovery, retting etc.,

RECENT AWARDS

Eight awards for successful completion of the COGENT sponsored project "Poverty alleviation by coconut based interventions" (2000-2003) conducted simultaneously in eight APPC countries

Gold medal for best scientific innovation, "Development of protocols for production of coconut dihaploids" 2nd Plantation Crop Symposium held at BMICH, Colombo in 2008

Presidential award for the best scientific innovation in 2007 for improving the copra drying process

PATENTS

1. Long storable coconut paste as an alternative for highly perishable coconut milk (2006). Patent No. 1338

2. Coconut milk extracting machine (2002). Patent No. 12731

COCONUT RESEARCH BOARD

Chairman

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Past President, Coconut Grower's Association

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Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Coconut Development and
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Dr. H A J Gunathilaka, BSc (Agric, P'deniya, PhD (Wales, UK)

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PhD (Queensland, Aus)

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Soils and Plant Nutrition
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Agriculture Economics and Agribusiness Mgt.
Dr. I M S K Idirisinghe, BSc (Agric. P'deniya), MSc (P'deniya), PhD (Thomas Bata, CZ)

Coconut Processing Research
Dr. J M M A Jayasundara, C.Chem, (I.Chem, Colombo), MSc (P'deniya), PhD (Ballarat, Aus)

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Principal Research Officers

Dr. N P A D Nainanayake, BSc (Bio.Sci., Colombo),
MPhil (P'deniya), PhD (Essex, UK)

Dr. S A C N Perera, BSc (Agric, P'deniya), PhD (Birmingham,UK)

Dr. N S Aratchige, BSc (Agric,P'deniya, PhD (Amsterdam, N'land)

Senior Research Officers

Dr. D M D I Wijebandara, BSc (Bio.Sci., P'deniya), MPhil (P'deniya), PhD (Bangalore, India)

Ms. L L W C Yalegama, BSc (App.Sci., SJP),
MSc (Maharashtra, India)

Dr. P I P Perera, BSc (Agric, P'deniya), PhD (P'deniya)

Dr. M A D W S Madurapperuma, BSc (Agric, P'deniya),
Mphil (P'deniya), PhD (P'deniya)

Dr. H D D Bandupriya, BSc (Bio.Sci., Colombo),
PhD (Reading, UK)

Dr. C S Herath, BSc (Agric, P'deniya), MSc (P'deniya),
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Research Officers

Ms. P M E K Pathiraja, BSc (P'deniya)

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Msc (P'deniya)

Ms. H M I K Herath, Bsc (Agric, P'deniya), MSc (P'deniya)

Ms. K P Waidyaratne, BSc (Agric, P'deniya), MPhil (P'deniya)

Ms. H A E Samaranayake, BSc (App.Sci., SJP)

Technology Transfer Officers

Ms. W G R Subhathma, BSc (Agric, P'deniya), MSc (Ruh)

Mr. K M R T Wijekoon, BSc (App.Sci.,SJP), MSc (P'deniya)

Ms. H D N H Fonseka, BSc (Agric, P'deniya), MSc (P'deniya)

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Mr. A D N T Kumara, BSc (Agric, Ruh), MSc (Ruh)

Ms. N I Suwandaratne, BSc (Agric, P'deniya)

Mr. R Marasinghe, BSc (Nat. Sci., OU), MSc (P'deniya)

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Mr. E M T Bandaranayaka, BSc (Agric. P'deniya), MSc (Agric. P'deniya)

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Mr. J R K Asanka, BSc (Eng, Moratuwa)

Ms. J A K M Fernando, BSc (Eng, P'deniya)

Librarian

Ms. P D U C Dharmapala, BLE (Colombo), MSc (K'niya)

Experimental Officers

Mr. D P Panditharatne

Ms. P H A P Siriwardhana, BSc (Agric, P'deniya)

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Ms. C P A Kurundukumbura, BSc (Agric, P'deniya)

Ms. N H R M de Silva, BSc (Bio.Sci., P'deniya)

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Mr. G R A Dharmasena, BSc (Bio.Sci., K'niya)

Mr. H A Abeysoma

Mr. K A S Chandrasiri

Mr. M J I Costa

Mr. L R S Silva

Mr. E S Santha

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Acting Deputy Director (Administration)
Dr. H A J Gunathilaka, BSc (Agric, P'deniya, PhD (Weles, UK)

Acting Senior Manager (Estates)
Dr. R P B S H S Senaratne, BSc (Agric, P'deniya), MSc (P'deniya), PhD (P'deniya)

Assistant Director (Administration)
Ms. H D Mangalika, BA (Attorney at Law)

Accountant
Mr. R M U Chandranath, BSc (Mgt., SJP)

Resident Engineer
Mr. K N A S Perera, NDT (Moratuwa)

Internal Auditor
Mr. P W A Fernando, BA (Com, Colombo)

Administrative Officers
Ms. P C A Fernando
Mr. A S Nanayakkara

Procurement Officer
Mr. M C H N Fernando, BLE (Colombo)

Works Superintendent
Mr. A L D K Amarasinghe NDT (Moratuwa)

Seed and Seedling Certification Officer
Mr. L M S R Jayathilaka, BSc (Bio.Sci., P'deniya), MSc (P'deniya)

Secretary to Chairman
Ms. S Z Suhair

Secretary to Director
Ms. M P Premaratne

Secretary to DD(R)
Ms. H M A Herath

COLLABORATIONS

International

International Center for Research in Agro-forestry, (ICRAF) (World Agro-forestry Center), Nairobi, Kenya and Regional Office in South Asia, New Delhi, India
International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA)
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Asia Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), Jakarta, Indonesia
Biodiversity International, Rome, Italy, Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT)

Local

Faculties of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, University of Ruhuna, University of Sabaragamuwa

Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

SUB STATIONS

Seeds Gardens

Genetic Resources Centre/Isolated Seed Garden (ISG), Ambakelle (Puttalam District, NWP)
Established in 1954 for mass production of the improved coconut cultivars CRI 60 and CRIC65
Total extent: 456.2 ha Agroclimatic zone: Intermediate zone low country (IL3)
Contact: Mr. Harold Upali, Superintendent 94 (0)32 3329408

Genetic Resources Centre/Maduru Oya Seed Garden (MOSG), Bogaswewa (Polonnaruwa District, NCP)
Established in 1984 for mass production of the improved coconut cultivar, CRIC 60 for Mahaweli Systems A, B and C
Total extent: 85 ha Agroclimatic zone: Dry zone low country (DL1c)
Contact: Mr. D P Panditharatne, OIC. 94 (0)27 3279344

Genetic Resources Centre/Pallama Seed Garden, Pallama (Puttalam District, NWP)
Established in 1998 for mass production of the improved cultivar, CRISL 98
Total extent: 252 ha Agroclimatic zone: Intermediate zone low country (IL3)
Contact: Mr. D M I S K Dewameththa, Assistant Superintendent, 94 (0) 32 3329720

Field Research Stations

Bandirippuwa Research Station (BRS), Bandirippuwa, Lunuwila (Puttalam District, NWP)
Established in 1931 for conducting field experiments on coconut and intercropping
Total extent: 148.1 ha Agroclimatic zone: Intermediate zone low country (IL1a)
Contact: Mr. R M U Rathnayaka , Superintendent, 94 (0) 31 2257419

Ratmalagara Research Station (RRS), Madampe (Kurunegala District, NWP)
Established in 1938 for conducting field experiments on coconut and intercropping
Total extent: 110.48 ha Agroclimatic zone: Intermediate zone low country (IL1a)
Contact: Mr. G B A Wijesekera, Superintendent, 94 (0) 32 2240084

Walpita Research Station (WRS), Walpita (Gampaha District, WP)
Established in 1935 for conducting field experiments on intercropping with field crops
Total extent: 110.48 ha Agroclimatic Zone: Wet zone low country (WL3)
Contact: Superintendent, 94 (0) 33 2272870

Pottukulama Research Station (PRS), Pallama (Puttalam District, NWP)
Established in 1940 for conducting field experiments on coconut and intercropping
Total extent: 81.73 ha Agroclimatic zone: Intermediate zone low country (IL3)
Contact: Mr. T M P A K Tillekeratne, Assistant Superintendent, 94 (0) 32 5670125

Makandura Research Station (MRS), Makandura (Kurengala District, NWP)
Established in 1983 for conducting field experiments and demonstrating agroforestry models
Total extent: 58.20 ha Agroclimatic zone: Intermediate zone low country (IL1a)
Contact: Mr. D P S K Hettiarachchi, Superintendent, 94 (0) 31 2299139

Dunkannawa Research Station (DRS), Nattandiya (Puttalam District, NWP)
Established in 2002 for conducting field experiments on coconut
Total extent: 10.4 ha Agroclimatic zone: Intermediate zone low country (IL1a)
Contact: Mr. R M U Ratnayaka, Actg. Superintendent, 94 (0) 32 3325033

Middeniya Research Centre (MRC), Middeniya (Hambantota District, SP)
Established in 2004 for conducting field experiments on coconut
Total extent: 30.35 ha Agroclimatic zone: Intermediate zone low country (IL1b)
Contact: Superintendent, 94 (0) 47 5675049

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