

Evaluation of the performance of the fallow paddy cultivation programs in operation in the Western Province by the Department of Agrarian Development



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Serial No. -----	Content	Page No. -----
1.	Executive Summary	01
2.	Introduction	03
2.1	Background	03
2.2	Basic Information Related to Cultivating Fallow Paddy Fields	05
2.3	Authority for audit	09
2.4	The basis for Selecting the Audit Topic	09
2.5	Audit Objectives	09
2.6	Audit Approach	09
2.7	Scope of audit	10
2.8	Limitations of Scope	10
2.9	Audit Methodology	11
2.10	Audit Criteria	12
3.	Detailed audit Findings	13
3.1	Establishment Background and Preparation for Cultivation of fallow Paddy Fields	13
3.2	Implementation of Projects	20
3.3	Other programs Related to Cultivating Fallow Paddy Fields	23
3.4	Progress of Cultivating Fallow Paddy Fields	24
4.	Recommendations	26
	Annexure	28

1. **Executive Summary**

Ministry of Agriculture is the institution which implements the Parliamentary decisions related to Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian Development is the main agency associated with Agriculture at the regional level under that Ministry. The Department of Agrarian Development was established on 01 October 1957 with the objective of providing basic supply services for agricultural programs and is currently governed by the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 as amended by the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act No. 46 of 2011.

The Department of Agrarian Development, which is legally responsible for the protection of paddy lands in the country, has introduced provisions on the use of agricultural lands under Part II of the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act, No. 46 of 2000, as amended by the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2011 and action has been taken to issue relevant circulars in due course. The success of the programs implemented in 35 Agrarian Service Centers in the Western Province from 2015 to 2018 for the cultivation of fallow paddy fields with departmental allocations was considered in this audit.

The main objectives of this performance audit are to identify the factors contributing to the paddy fields to be fallowed in the Western Province and to evaluate the contribution made by the Department of Agrarian Development to re-cultivating fallow paddy fields and the process of resolving the relevant issues. The Department implements various programs for the re-cultivation of fallow paddy fields and carries out minor irrigation rehabilitation activities. Irrigation and water management issues are the main problem for paddy fields to be fallowed in the Western Province. The Western Province has a significant number of minor irrigation tanks that need to be rehabilitated and abandoned minor irrigation tanks and anicuts. Various programs were implemented in the Western Province to re-cultivate fallow paddy fields. It was observed that by the year 2018 there has been a significant reduction in the extent of fallow paddy fields as well as the area under cultivable land as compared to the year 2015.

Failure to maintain an up-to-date database of fallow paddy fields, non-completion of revision of paddy fields registers, non-implementation of solution proposals in the survey of fallow paddy fields, non-establishment of Land Bank, inconsistency of data on fallow paddy fields with statistics of Department of Census and Statistics, failure

to obtain efficient and effective services from officers due to poor human resource management, inability to provide the required service to the farmers on time, non-implementation of instructions and guidelines for cultivating fallow paddy fields, errors in irrigation construction, improper implementation of other programs related to cultivating fallow paddy fields, failure to measure the progress of the program in a timely manner, other factors related to paddy fields to be fallowed were not taken into consideration and non implementation of plans properly were observed here.

Planning, maintaining up-to-date information on paddy lands, identifying irrigation issues, identifying project priorities, control of contracts related to relevant projects, formulating policies in line with other national policies, coordinating and supervising institutions, revising paddy land register and full utilization of powers are being made as recommendations, through which action should be taken to increase the extent of paddy lands cultivated in the Western Province.

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

Paddy cultivation has a unique place in Sri Lankan agriculture. In addition to cultivating rice, the staple food of the people of this country, paddy lands can be described as a unique ecosystem. According to the data of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute in Sri Lanka in 2008, the total area under cultivated fields were 1,052,990 hectares and in 2017 it was 791,679 hectares. Paddy lands cultivated during the 10 years period have decreased by 261,311 hectares as a percentage of 25 per cent.

Decreased area of paddy fields means that the paddy fields are not cultivated. Failure to cultivate paddy fields systematically for 5 years can be considered as fallow paddy fields. According to the data of the Department of Agrarian Development in 2015 the extent of fallow paddy fields was 34,618 acres and by the year 2018 it was 23,277 acres. That is a 33 per cent reduction as a percentage. According to the 2016 fallow Paddy Fields Survey, the extent of fallow paddy fields in Sri Lanka is 148,658 acres and it was observed that 23 per cent of those fallow paddy fields were located in the Western Province.

According to the data from the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, paddy production was 197,435 metric tons in 2015 and 115,293 metric tons in 2018. Paddy production had fallen by 42 per cent during the 4 years.

There is a rapid decline in the area under cultivation and paddy cultivation should be developed locally and the land resources allocated for paddy cultivation should be utilized optimally.

Improving the productivity of paddy lands in Sri Lanka has been the legal responsibility of the Department of Agrarian Development from its inception and the mission of this Department is to take the Sri Lankan people to sustainable development by obtaining optimal productivity from all agricultural lands and to maintain the necessary institutional support, legal provision in a timely manner. It is also the responsibility of the Department to prepare and implement programs required to ensure the safety and conservation of all minor irrigation systems by increasing their productivity and managing them properly. According to the action plan for the year 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian Development have allocated Rs.3860 million for the minor irrigation rehabilitation and fallow

paddy cultivation programs. Also the Department of Agrarian Development implements various programs to re-cultivate fallow paddy lands.

The Department of Agrarian Services was established on October 1st of 1957 with the objective of providing necessary facilities to the farming community of Sri Lanka, abolishing the Food Department which had existed till then. This department which was empowered by the Paddy Land Act No. 01 of 1958 is now functioning under the name of Agrarian Development Department in terms of the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 and its amendments.

(a) Objectives of the Department

- i. Making provisions to ensure the utilization of agricultural lands in accordance with the State Agricultural Policies.
- ii. Making provisions to protect the cultivation rights of agricultural land owners, agricultural land owners, cultivators and Occupiers / tenant cultivators.
- iii. Preparation of regulations regarding the registration and functioning of farmer organizations and ensure the implementation of that those provisions of the Establishment of Agrarian Development Councils and Guidance supervision of the execution of power of them.
- iv. Preparation, amending, revising and maintaining registers of agricultural lands within each and every Agrarian Development Council areas of Authority Island wide.
- v. Making arrangements to solve problems of tenant cultivators and other farmer disputes related to community regarding the agricultural lands.
- vi. Implementation of the applicable to ensure the provisions productivity, protection conservation and management of minor irrigation systems and water resources. Taking legal actions against to the parties who violate the regulation of the Agrarian Development Act and State Agricultural Policies.
- vii. Rendering institutional, legal, supportive and management services to other institutions in executing of Government Agricultural and provisional Development projects.

- (b) The Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act No. 46 of 2011 (as amended) in the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 had introduced legal provisions for the active cultivation of paddy lands and timely circulars were issued regarding the active cultivation of paddy lands. (Annexure 01)

2.2 Basic Information Related to Cultivation of Fallow Paddy Fields

2.2.1 Introduction of Fallow Paddy Fields, Water Sources and Irrigation Systems in the Western Province

(a) Fallow Paddy Fields

The Department of Agrarian Development had identified paddy fields that had not been cultivated for five consecutive years as fallow paddy fields. According to the study report conducted by the Department of Agrarian Development to reduce the number of fallow paddy fields in Sri Lanka, the details of fallow paddy fields in the Western Province in the year 2015 are as follows.

District -----	Cultivate paddy fields ----- Lands (acres)	Fallow paddy fields (acres)			
		A ----- (Paddy can be grown)	B ----- (Other agricultural crops)	C ----- (Non- agricultural)	A+B+C ----- (acres)
Colombo	11,558	4,732	1,279	713	6,724
Gampaha	33,443	7,048	1,944	1,699	10,691
Kalutara	38,977	11,702	3,302	2,198	17,203
Western Province	83,978	23,482	6,525	4,610	34,618

(b) Water Source and Irrigation System

It is important to study the relationship between irrigation, water resources and fallow paddy fields in Sri Lanka. According to the water source, the paddy fields can be divided into two main parts namely, irrigated paddy fields and manawari paddy fields.

The details of minor irrigation, tanks, Anicuts, canals and the feeding acreage and the number of farming families in the Western Province are as follows.

Disrtricts -----	Minor irrigation -----			Anicuts -----			Canals -----		
	Number	Feeding acreage	Farmers families	Colombo	Gamp aha	Kalut ara	Colombo	Gamp aha	Kalut ara
Colombo	4	102	94	983	15,391	21,408	1,153	21,001	23,921
Gampaha	97	2,041	1,878	926	16,782	21,480	121	3,099	3,693
Kalutara	57	835	163	688	18,649	19,269	393	13,665	13,494
Western Province	158	2,978	2,135	2,597	50,822	62,157	1,667	37,765	41,108

Source - Resource Profile, Department of Agrarian Development

According to the water source, the distribution of fallow paddy fields in the Western Province is as follows and about 75 Per cent of the fallow paddy fields in the Western Province are under Manawari system.

District -----	Number of fallow paddy fields under the Great Irrigation Scheme ----- (acres)	Number of fallow paddy fields under minor irrigation system ----- (acres)	Number of fallow paddy fields under Manawari scheme ----- (acres)
Colombo	509	842	3,819
Gampaha	1,410	3,183	6,099
Kalutara	1,569	667	14,973
Western Province	3,488	4,692	24,891

Source - Water Management Division, Department of Agrarian Development

Following is the list of fallow paddy fields in the main river basins of the Western Province.

Major rivers -----	Number of fallow paddy lands (acres) -----			Total number of fallow paddy fields ----- (acres)
	Colombo	Gampaha	Kalutara	
Keleni river	4,083	2,282	-	6,365
Bolgoda river	2,641	-	6,388	9,029
Kalu ganga	-	-	6,208	6,208
Bentota river	-	-	4,607	5,824
Maha Oya	-	1,217	-	7,192
Attanagallu Oya	-	7,192	-	-
Total	6,724	10,691	17,203	34,618

Source - Water Management Division, Department of Agrarian Development

2.2.2 Cultivation of Fallow Paddy Fields

The Department of Agrarian Development had carried out various programs and projects for the cultivation of fallow paddy fields.

(a) Classification of Fallow Paddy Fields

Paddy fields identified as fallow paddy fields in the Grama Niladhari division level paddy fields prepared under the island wide paddy land list revision program implemented in the years 2015/2017 as A, B and C (A - Paddy can be cultivated, B - Other agricultural crops, C - Non-agricultural) Grama Niladhari Divisions had been classified.

(b) Survey of fallow Paddy Fields - 2016

The study surveyed all 148,658 acres of fallow paddy fields and 195,496 plots of land in Sri Lanka and proposed short, medium and long-term solutions to rehabilitate them.

- (c) Issuing circulars for effective cultivation of paddy fields which are not cultivated and not cultivated efficiently. (Annexure 02)
- (d) **Implementation of Minor Irrigation Rehabilitation and Infrastructure Programs**
Provisions have been provided by the Department of agrarian services and the Ministry of Agriculture for the rehabilitation of minor irrigation which help for cultivation of and follow Paddy fields. The Department of Agrarian Services has allocated Rs. 345,214,513 for 587 minor irrigation rehabilitation projects in the Western Province from 2015 to 2018 and only 457 projects were completed at a cost of Rs. 263,404,631.
- (e) **Implementation of the National Food Production War (2017 - 2020) Program**
His Excellency the President had declared the “National War on Food Production” and instructed the Agriculture sector and all its affiliated Government and Non-Governmental Organizations to implement an expeditious program with the contribution of the farming community as well as the private sector, realizing that it was in the national interest to re-cultivate about 130,000 acres of fallow paddy fields and a special program was launched to cultivate follow paddy fields. Accordingly, it was planned to return about 31,000 fallow paddy fields in the Western Province to paddy cultivation.
- (f) **Implementation of the National Program for Re-cultivation of fallow Paddy fields in line with the National Food Production Year - 2018**
According to Presidential Circular No. PS / SD / NFPU / 08/18 dated September 05, 2018, due to adverse weather conditions (drought and floods) in 2016 and 2017, agricultural activities in many parts of the world, including Sri Lanka have suffered severe setbacks. His Excellency the President has declared 2018 as the “National Year of Food Production” to find solutions and implement them to overcome this problem in Sri Lanka. The Department had implemented various programs in the 2018/2019 Maha season to achieve the above target. Accordingly, it was planned to return 67 per cent of the fallow paddy fields in the Western Province to paddy cultivation.

2.3 Authority for Audit

This performance audit was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154 (1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Sections 3 (1)(d), 5 (2), 12 (h) of the National Audit Act.

2.4 The basis for Selecting the Audit Topic

Although various projects and programmes had been carried out to re-cultivate the fallow paddy fields and substantial amount of money from the annual budget allocations of the Department and the allocations received from the Ministry of Agriculture had been spent for the purpose of rehabilitation of minor irrigations with the objective of cultivating fallow paddy fields, no any significant changes in the areas under paddy cultivation annually and minimization of the contribution made by the Western Province for paddy production.

2.5 Audit Objectives

- (a) Identifying the factors contributing to the desertification of paddy fields in the Western Province.
- (b) Evaluating the contribution made by the Department of Agrarian Development to re-cultivating fallow paddy fields and the process of providing solutions to the relevant problems.
- (c) Paying attention of the relevant parties for minimizing fallow paddy fields and making relevant recommendations.

2.6 Audit Approach

Used the system approach to assessing the performance of programmers for re-cultivating fallow paddy fields of the Development of Agrarian Development, which is legally responsible for the protection of paddy lands in the country.

2.7 Scope of Audit

- (a) Inspection of minor irrigation rehabilitations carried out for the cultivation of fallow paddy lands carried out by Agrarian Service Centers in the Western Province in the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 on departmental allocations.
- (b) Selection of 09 Agrarian Service Centers in Colombo District, 11 out of 20 Agrarian Service Centers in Kalutara District and 15 out of 26 Agrarian Service Centers in Gampaha District as a sample.
- (c) Obtain relevant information from the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Statistics, and Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute.
- (d) Examination of programs in the Western Province from the programs implemented by the Department of Agrarian Development for the cultivation of fallow paddy lands in the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- (e) Evaluate only the issues affecting the cultivation of fallow paddy lands in the Agrarian Service Centers selected as the sample.

2.8 Limitations of Scope

- (a) Inspection of the Progress of minor irrigation projects carried out by the Department of Agrarian Development for the cultivation of fallow paddy lands in the Western Province in the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 as it is a practically difficult task to inspect the minor irrigation projects carried out for the cultivation of all the fallow paddy lands in Sri Lanka.
- (b) Examining only the programs of the Western Province in the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 as it is practically difficult to check the performance of all the projects implemented by the Department of Agrarian Development in relation to the cultivation of fallow paddy lands.

- (c) Information obtained from the Department of Agrarian Development and District Offices and Agrarian Development Councils not being updated.
- (d) Selection of 09 Agrarian Service Centers in the Colombo District, 11 Agrarian Service Centers in the Kalutara District and 15 Agrarian Service Centers in the Gampaha District about 64 per cent of the Agrarian Service Centers in the Western Province as a sample and identifying the causes for fallow paddy fields.

2.9 Methodology

The following methodologies were followed in preparing this report.

(a) Examination of Books, Documents and Records.

- i. Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 and Circulars issued by the Department of Agrarian Development regarding paddy lands.
- ii. Information of the Department of Agriculture.
- iii. Information of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute.
- iv. Information from the Department of Census and Statistics.
- v. Reports of Central Bank of Sri Lanka (2018)
- vi. Information of Agrarian Committees

(b) Physical Examination

- i. Minor Irrigation Projects carried out in connection with the cultivation of fallow paddy lands in the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- ii. Issues raised by farmers regarding the cultivation of fallow paddy lands and fallow paddy lands.
- iii. Issues raised by Agricultural Research and Production Assistants related to Cultivation of fallow paddy lands.

(c) Other Tests

- i. Discussion with relevant parties.
- ii. Analysis of information obtained from the Internet and other sources.

2.10 Audit Criteria

- (a) Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 as amended by the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act No. 46 of 2011.
- (b) Circular No. 04/2016 dated 24.02.2016 - Paddy Land Register Revision Program 2015/16.
- (c) Circular No. 17/2017 dated 14.11.2017 - Amendment of the Agricultural Land Registry (Paddy) Program carried out in terms of Section 53 of the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 as amended by the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act No. 46 of 2011.
- (d) Circular No. 06/2018 dated 20.04.2018 – Register containing information pertaining to the fallow paddy lands identified under the Paddy Land Registration Revision Program 2015/2017.
- (e) Requirement to include a land which has not been included in any agricultural land register so far in the agricultural (land) land register and declare that any land is not an agricultural land as per the request of the owner as per Circular No. 23/2018 dated 26.11.2018.
- (f) Circular No. 26/2018 dated 03.12.2018 – (Information on “C” type fallow paddy fields identified under Circular No.06/2018)
- (g) Circular No. 17/2018 dated 01st August 2018 - Use of agricultural lands in accordance with agricultural policies.
- (h) Presidential Circular No. PS / SD / NFPU / 08/18 dated 05 September 2018 - National Food Production Year - 2018
- (i) Letter No.7/5/4/AP dated 22 September 2017 of the Commissioner General of Agrarian Development, National Food Production War, National Program for cultivation fallow Paddy Fields 2017/2018.
- (j) Targets and programs implemented by the Department of Agrarian Development.
- (k) Other programs implemented in the Western Province.
- (l) The future plan for the year 2019 - 2023.

3. Detailed Audit Findings

3.1 Establishment Background and Preparation for Cultivation of fallow Paddy Fields

3.1.1 Identification and Classification of Fallow Paddy Fields

(a) Maintain an up-to-date Database on Fallow Paddy Fields.

It was observed that the Department of Agrarian Development, the main regulatory body for agriculture, had not been maintained a basic database on the extent of paddy lands and fallow paddy lands in the Western Province. Also, the audit could not be satisfied with the accuracy of the information provided by the Department of Agrarian Development due to the following matters.

Districts	Total area of paddy lands (acres)				Extent of fallow paddy lands (acres)			
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	2018
Colombo	11,558	11,558	11,664	11,664	6,724	6,724	5,963	5,315
Gampaha	33,443	33,443	31,826	31,826	10,691	10,691	6,034	4,926
Kalutara	38,977	38,977	34,759	34,759	17,203	17,203	14,188	13,036
	<u>83,978</u>	<u>83,978</u>	<u>78,249</u>	<u>78,249</u>	<u>34,618</u>	<u>34,618</u>	<u>26,185</u>	<u>23,277</u>

Source - Department of Agrarian Development

- i. No change in the total extent of paddy lands and the total extent of fallow paddy lands in the years 2015-2016.
- ii. Extraordinary changes in the total extent of paddy land in 2017 and 2018 as compared to 2016.
- iii. There is a difference between the number of fallow paddy lands at the end of 2016 and the number of fallow paddy lands at the beginning of 2017.

iv. When providing data on fallow paddy lands in the years 2017 and 2018, the amount of fallow paddy lands which were re-cultivated in the relevant year is deducted from the previous year and the amount of fallow paddy lands newly added in those years is not taken into consideration.

Although it was not explained the reasons for the differences between the above, for audit it was difficult for the audit to conclude how true this was despite the decline in fallow paddy fields in recent years. As a result of that, the ability to make accurate management decisions based on available information and to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of programs is problematic.

(b) Revision of Paddy Land Registers

It was observed that the programme for revision of paddy land register which was implemented in 2016/2018 with the objective of identification & classification of paddy lands under sections 53(1)(2) and of the Agrarian Development Act no 46 of 2000 as amended by the Agrarian Development Act (amended) No 46 of 2011 had not been completed and certified as of 31st December 2019 for 55 Agrarian Service Centers in the Western Province. Therefore, the inability to accurately identify the extent of agricultural land, the amount of land to be taxed annually the inability to accurately identify the annual fertilizer requirement, the inability to accurately estimate the annual seed paddy requirement and the paddy yield itself reduce the ability to make accurate forecasts. This causes problems in measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the program. (Annexure 03)

(c) Survey of Fallow Paddy Lands

The objective was to conduct a survey of fallow paddy fields in Sri Lanka and to identify the necessary short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions and implement them. The survey was conducted by 2019 and none of the solutions proposed in the report had been implemented. Accordingly, the contribution of the survey could not be used effectively for the fallow paddy cultivation program.

3.1.2 Advice and Guidance on Cultivating Fallow Paddy Fields

- (a) The possession of agricultural lands will be transferred in accordance with Section 37 (1) (b) of the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act No. 46 of 2011 so that it can be cultivated in accordance with the provisions of the Agricultural Lands Act which have not been satisfactorily cultivated in terms of Section 37 (1) The Land Bank had not been established. As a result, it was not possible to provide agricultural land to farmers who could increase the productivity of agricultural land, to cultivate uncultivated agricultural land, to provide financial assistance to tenant farmers and paddy land owners, and to assist in raising funds.
- (b) It was observed that the Commissioner General had not appointed productivity committees as per section 29(1) of the Act for each administrative district or for different parts of the administrative district for the purpose of assisting in the identification of the, paddy lands which can be cultivated with paddy and other crops which provides adequate yield in accordance with Section 29 (2) of the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 as amended by the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act, No. 46 of 2011. As a result, it was not possible to identify paddy lands that could produce sufficient yields when cultivating paddy and paddy lands that could produce adequate yields when cultivating other agricultural crops.
- (c) Failure to establish Agrarian Development Councils in terms of Section 51 (1) of the Agrarian Development by Act No. 46 of 2011
- (d) In terms of section 84 (1) of the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 as amended by the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act No. 46 of 2011, waste matter shall not be released or caused to be released into paddy lands or water course and in terms of section 85 (1) of the Act, shall not dump any waste. There were instances where appropriate actions had not been taken and delays in taking action against those who violate the provisions of the Act in every district.

- (e) Failure to issue disqualification orders under the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act No. 46 of 2011 (as amended) in terms of Section 26 (1) of the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 as per Circular No. 17/2018 dated 01 August 2018 and related It was observed that the process was not properly monitored.
- (f) Although circulars have been issued by the Department of Agrarian Development for the cultivation of fallow paddy lands, no circular has been issued identifying specific issues regarding the Western Province where there are a large number of fallow paddy lands.
- (g) Failure to formulate regulations for the supervision and control of the farmer organization relevant to every minor irrigation work in the area under the control of the Farmer Organization in terms of section 81 (1) of the Agrarian Development Act, No. 46 of 2000, as amended by the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act, No. 46 of 2011.

According to the above observations, fallows due to the fact that the farmers are not interested in this task, do not take appropriate action against the farmers who do not act in accordance with the relevant requirements, the tendency of the farmers to cultivate fallow paddy lands is not adequate and the work to be done at the institutional level is not done properly, had caused to the unsatisfactory level of the effectiveness and efficiency of fallow paddy land cultivation program.

3.1.3 Human Resource Management

- (a) As at 31st December 2019, there are 80 vacancies for Agricultural Research and Production Assistants in the Western Province and 04 vacancies for Agrarian Development Officers. (Annexure 04)
- (b) Four Agrarian Development Officers and 154 Agricultural Research and Production Assistants are on acting duty and it was observed that those officers were unable to supervise and provide proper services to the farmers.

- (c) It was observed that the ground level officers who work with the farmers for the operation of land cultivation efficiently have not been adequately trained in this regard.
- (d) Although no paddy has been cultivated in the Agricultural Research and Production Assistant Division, the Agricultural Research and Production Assistants have been attached to the relevant division and in some divisions the extent of land is very small, there is no paddy cultivation and the extent of home gardening is limited. It was observed that due to the facts it was not possible to get an effective service from them.
- (e) Although the Department has carried out a large number of development projects, it was observed that there are vacancies for District Technical Officers and as a result there are delays in preparing estimates related to projects. (Annexure 05)

According to the above observations, due to the inability to obtain an efficient and effective service from the officers, the farmers were not able to provide the required services efficiently on time.

3.1.4 Future Plan

- (a) It was observed that a corporate plan had not been prepared for the years 2014-2018 and a corporate plan had been prepared for the years 2019-2023.
- (b) In that Strategic Corporate Plan (2019/2023) efficient land cultivation and protection of paddy lands has been identified as an objective for the management of fallow paddy lands in terms of 4.3.2 and the following weaknesses have been identified by the system quality analysis which affect the efficient cultivation of lands.
 - i. Failure to strengthen certain sections of the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000.
 - ii. Inefficiency of ground level officers.
 - iii. Poor functioning of farmer organizations.
 - iv. Lack of job description for officers.

- v. Lack of opportunity for creative ideas from ground level officials.
- vi. Lack of a formal method for measuring performance.
- vii. Lack of adequate training for officers in the field of agriculture.
- viii. Lack of accurate and up-to-date database.
- ix. Lack of proper monitoring system for implementation of policies and circulars.
- x. Long time for legal action and lack of authority of departmental officers as peace officers.
- xi. Minimum technical knowledge of farmers.
- xii. Negative attitudes of farmer organizations.
- xiii. Lack of representation of real farmers for posts in farmer' organizations.

Source - Future Plan (2019 - 2023), Department of Agrarian Development.

- (c) According to the aforesaid strategic plan, the cultivation of 100,000 acres of fallow paddy land by the 2023 had been identified as a strategy. Although it was planned to identify the fallow paddy lands and the updating of that information and preparation and publication of the fallow paddy database identified by the extensive survey by the end of the year 2019, it was observed that the database had not been prepared and published by 2019, although it was planned to be done.
- (d) It was observed that although it was planned to update the Agricultural Land Register by the end of 2019 in accordance with Sub-No. 1.1 under the Protection of the Rights of Land Owners, Farmers, Land Owners and Owners of Agricultural Lands in Sri Lanka as per Composite Plan 3.10.1, it was not updated in a timely manner.
- (e) It was also observed that although it was planned to install information systems on agricultural lands and their land owners, land owned farmers and occupants by the end of the year 2019 as per sub 2.1, it has not been done so.

- (f) Also, it was planned to start to revise the list of agricultural lands (paddy lands) under 3.10.1 (1.2) in the year 2021 and 04 years have elapsed for the revision program which was started in the year 2015/2016 but it has not been completed by the audit date. It was observed that there was no focus on the formulation of the strategic corporate plan.
- (g) Establishment of an information system on the extent of agricultural lands and preparation of valuation documents for agricultural lands under 03.10.01 (3.1) was planned to be completed by the end of the year 2019 but it was observed that this has not been done.

According to the above observations, the productivity of fallow paddy lands could not be measured efficiently and the plans could not be implemented properly.

3.1.5 Action Plan

- (a) In 2015, 2016 and 2017, provisions had been made for minor irrigation rehabilitation after identifying the re-cultivation fallow paddy fields under the separate expenditure subject (281-2-2-10-2502, 281-2-2-10-2507); It was observed that no separate expenditure subject and allocation was made in the Action Plan for the years 2018 and 2019.
- (b) It was observed that no allocation had been made for the Western Province under the subject of Expenditure on re-cultivation of fallow Paddy fields in the Year 2017 (281-2-2-10-2507).

According to the above observations, the program could not be implemented economically without providing the necessary funds to make progress in the cultivation of fallow paddy fields.

3.2 Implementation of Projects

3.2.1 Identify Specific Projects

- (a) It was observed that although priority documents were obtained by the Agrarian Service Centers for minor irrigation reconstruction at the beginning of the year, projects which were not included in those priority documents were identified and implemented.
- (b) Examination of the data in the possession of the Department of Agrarian Development shows that the area of minor irrigated and anicut fed areas in the Western Province is 53,810 acres and 51 per cent of those minor irrigation tanks and 5 per cent of the anicuts have been abandoned. (Annexure 06)
- (c) It was observed that the existing deficiencies in irrigation had not been rectified and identified in a timely manner as required to provide water for paddy cultivation when it was essential.
- (d) In allocating the budget allocations, these works were identified under one expenditure subject as fallow paddy fields and repair of minor irrigation. Accordingly, the cultivation of fallow paddy fields had not been identified separately in the Western Province. As those objectives were not identified separately, the priority given to the cultivation of fallow paddy fields was not sufficient. Therefore, the projects had not been implemented in such a way as to implement the fallow paddy cultivation program economically and to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of the program.

3.2.2 Project Planning

- (a) Out of the allocations made in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, Rs.78,742,969 were left and it was observed that the percentage of the provision ranged from 2 to 27 per cent. (Annexure 07)
- (b) It was observed that the extent of fallow paddy fields at the district level was not taken into consideration in allocating funds for irrigation rehabilitation for the purpose of cultivating fallow paddy fields.

- (c) At the beginning of the year, it was observed that there were differences between the projects identified and planned according to the action plan and the projects implemented. (Annexure 08)

According to the above observations, no action had been taken to implement the projects at maximum efficiency and to increase their productivity.

3.2.3 Failure to Start Projects

- (a) Ten projects which were planned to be implemented in the year 2018 with a released provision is Rs.9,846,129 and 11 projects with the released provision is Rs. 21,351,495 which were planned to be implemented in 2019 have not been implemented. (Annexure 09)
- (b) It was observed that 66 projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 44,625,000 for the years 2015, 2017 and 2018 alone had been abandoned without commencement in the relevant year. (Annexure 10)

According to the above observations, due to non-implementation of projects and abandonment of projects within the relevant time frame, the expected productivity of the relevant projects could not be achieved.

3.2.4 Slow Implementing Projects

It was observed that there are 54 projects worth Rs.52,453,400 not being able to complete the work within the planned time frame as per the action plan in 2015, 2017 and 2018 and it was observed that the irrigation repairs could not be completed on time due to adverse weather conditions as they would commence in the last months of the year (Annexure 11)

3.2.5 Inspection of Construction Quality

- (a) It was observed that the iron rods had escaped, the connection rods had been pulled and the concrete columns had come apart in the Unnarawa Cement Slice with an estimated cost of Rs. 2,201,306 and implemented under the provisions of the Ministry of Agriculture in the 2016, due to construction without proper standards.



- (b) Although Rs. 235,000 has been allocated for the Marathagahadeniya tank Reconstruction Project in the Nittambuwa Agrarian Services Division and repairs have been carried out to repair the mud sluice and the spill only due to lack of funds and as a result of that the farmers were unable to cultivate about 40 acres of paddy lands as the main sluice of the tank had not been constructed. Although the productivity could be achieved on completion of all the functions included in the irrigation system, the money spent on the entire process was spent without economy due to non construction of the sluice which is the main function of the system.
- (c) Although an amount of Rs.4,748,322 has been estimated and implemented for the reconstruction of Keselwathugoda tank in Yakkala Agrarian Services Division, as the project was not started within the planned time and the farmer organization which had been awarded the contract did not have sufficient financial position to fulfill the contract, the work worth Rs. 3,268,672 had not been carried out, As a result of that about 30 acres of paddy lands that have been cultivated so far are uncultivable.

3.3 Other Programs Related to Cultivating Fallow Paddy Fields

3.3.1 National Food Production War (2017-2020)

According to the National Food Production War, 31,000 acres of fallow paddy field in the Western Province were targeted for paddy cultivation. It was observed that due to improper planning and non-allocation of the necessary financial allocations, only 8,433 acres that is 27 percent fallow paddy field have been cultivated in the Western Province in 2017.

3.3.2 National Food Production Year (2018)

- (a) Under the National Food Production Year Program, 67 percent of the fallow paddy field that is 9,547 acres in the Western Province have been targeted for paddy cultivation but due to improper planning and non-allocation of necessary financial allocations for the fallow paddy field in the Western Province in the year 2018 it was observed that only 2,908 acres out of ,11 per cent acres had been cultivated.
- (b) Under the Food Production National Program, for the supply of seed paddy for cultivating fallow paddy lands during the 2018/2019 Maha season, Rs. 1,366,960 had been provided and the relevant observations are as follows.
 - i. It was decided to supply seed paddy for the fallow paddy re-cultivating project in Homagama, Kesbewa, Kahathuduwa Agrarian Service Areas in the Colombo District. It was observed that the sowing of fallow paddy lands in the relevant Agrarian Service Areas had been completed when the program was implemented. Due to the lack of proper coordination, and among farmers and delays in receiving seed paddy.
 - ii. Therefore, it was observed that it was decided to reimburse the cost of seed paddy for seed paddy sown subject to the recommendation of the Agrarian Development Officer and the recommendation of the Agricultural Research and Production Assistant Officer.

- iii. It was observed that Provisions provided by the Presidential Secretariat for the Colombo District under Expenditure 001-2-6-11-2507 were Rs. 1,366,960 out of which 21 percent that is Rs.280,010 seed paddy had been reimbursed for cost.
- iv. Accordingly, it was planned to cultivate 253 acres of fallow paddy field under the fallow paddy re-cultivating project and it was observed that only 31 percent or 80 acres had been cultivated during the 2018/2019 Maha season.

As per above observations, the efficiency and effectiveness of the above program could not be measured due to the inability to achieve the objectives of the above program which was implemented with regard to the replanting of fallow paddy fields.

3.4 Progress of Cultivating Fallow Paddy Fields

3.4.1 Re-cultivation of Fallow Paddy Field

- (a) As per the information provided by the Department of Agrarian Development, no fallow paddy lands have been cultivated in the Western Province in the years 2015 and 2016. In 2017, only 3,518 acres of fallow paddy lands were cultivated, which is 10 percent less than in 2015. In 2018, 4,915 acres of fallow paddy lands were cultivated, which was 14 percent less than in 2015. (Annexure 12)
- (b) However, according to the information obtained from the Department of Census and Statistics the Western Province, there were 9,694 acres of fallow paddy field in the year 2014 and according to the information of the Department of Agrarian Development there are 34,618 acres of fallow paddy field in the year 2015 and 255 percent of it was observed that the number had increased and the data were controversial.

There was a mismatch of the data between Department of Senses and Statistics and the Department of Agrarian Development regarding fallow paddy lands due to non maintenance of an update data base by inserting the data which are obtained from the ground level officers (APRA) and non completion of paddy land revision program within the specified time.

3.4.2 Progress in Paddy Production

It is noteworthy that paddy production in the Western Province in 2018 had declined by 40 percent compared to 2015 and paddy production had declined by 49 percent during the peak growing Maha season (Annexure 13).

3.4.3 Identification of Other Factors affecting Paddy fields to be Fallowed.

(a) Although there are about 1,360 minor irrigated areas in the Western Province, actions had not been taken to rehabilitate and de-silt the minor irrigation works which need to be repaired and rehabilitated and anicuts which are in inactive level to be rehabilitated as a matter of priority.

(Annexure 14)

(b) According to the information obtained from the Agricultural Research and Production Assistants and farmers in the Western Province, there are more than one reasons for the vacancy of paddy fields. It was observed that , attention and guidance was given for other problems. (Annexure 15)

(c) According to the information obtained from the Agrarian Development Officers, Agricultural Research and Production Assistants and farmers in the Western Province, it was observed that due to the lack of reconstruction rehabilitation of the essential minor irrigation and rain water management the cultivation activities could not be carried out properly and the fallow paddy lands could not be cultivated.

(d) According to the information obtained from the Agrarian Development Officers, Agricultural Research and Production Assistants and farmers in the Western Province, although there are a large number of fallow paddy lands under Manawari in the Western Province, due to improper rehabilitation and maintenance of essential minor irrigation, fallow lands are not cultivated by rain water management.

According to the above observations, due to the lack of follow-up process to identify the factors contributing to the of paddy fields to be fallowed and to take appropriate action, the related programs had not been implemented economically, efficiently and effectively.

4. Recommendations

- (a) Taking steps to maintain an accurate and up to date information system on paddy lands.
- (b) Agrarian Development Officers should identify irrigation problems with the assistance of Agrarian Organizations and Agricultural Research and Production Assistants. Priority should be given to economically viable reforms. For example, giving priority to the cultivation of the largest acreage.
- (c) Under the sub section 81(1), preparation of orders for the subordination of all minor irrigation industries within the jurisdiction of certain Agrarian Organization under the supervision and administration of the respective Agrarian Organization and prevention of the awarding of subcontracts, when the minor irrigation contracts are awarded to Farmer's Organizations.
- (d) Provision of all the necessary infrastructure facilities and preparation of the essential irrigation system properly so that water can be provided for paddy cultivation when it is essential.
- (e) Granting all subsequent maintenance work of minor irrigation renovations to the Agrarian Organizations and supervising the work properly by the Agricultural Research and Production Assistants.
- (f) Suitable coordination among all the institutions involved in the field of agriculture and take action and follow up on the decisions taken through the agricultural committees.
- (g) Taking action to establish a Land Bank under sub section 37 (1) of the Agrarian Development Act and handing over lands which are not cultivated satisfactorily to other parties after taking over them to the Land Bank in accordance with the provisions of the Act.
- (h) Carrying out minor irrigation rehabilitation projects whenever possible within the stipulated time periods in the action plan of the year.
- (i) Implementation of the powers of the Commissioner General of Agrarian Development absolutely in accordance with sections 84 and 85 of the act against those who discharge or cause discharging or allow discharge of waste into any irrigation, canal, waterway, irrigation reserve or paddy land.

- (j) Taking action to issue permits after obtaining recommendations from the relevant parties so as not to harm the cultivation activities of other farmers when granting permission for paddy land for any other purpose.
- (k) Obtaining accurate data on the extent of cultivable lands and fallow paddy lands after completing the revision of paddy land registers and encourage farmers and farmers' associations to utilize the uncultivated lands effectively.
- (l) Identifying the paddy lands accurately which are revealed as further conserved / protected during the revision of the paddy land registers and taking action to protect those lands.
- (m) Renovation of irrigation systems destroyed due to expressway development projects and obtaining reports regarding the impact of expressway development projects on irrigation and paddy fields at the Agrarian Services level before initiating such development projects.
- (n) Reconsideration of Domain Determination Criteria for Agricultural Research and Production Assistants.
- (o) Implementing a policy of collaborating with related institutions in line with other national policies as the historical significance of paddy cultivation and the economic, social, political and health impact of rice consumption in Sri Lanka is very high.

W.P.C. Wickramaratne

Auditor General

20 November 2020

Circulars issued from 1987 to 2018 for Cultivation of Paddy Lands

Circulars related to paddy lands issued from 1987 to 2018

1. Circular No. 302 dated 25.11.1987 - Granting permission to fill paddy lands.
2. Circular No. 04/2009 dated 19.05.2009 - Utilization of agricultural lands in accordance with the agricultural policies of the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000.
3. Circular No. 05/2009 dated 17.08.2009 - Issuing permits for gem mining in paddy lands.
4. Circular No. 14/2012 dated 29.11.2012 - Effective use of land by cultivating short term crops without causing any environmental damage to the fallow paddy lands in the wet zone.
5. Circular No. 15/2012 dated 12.12.2012 - Effective use of land by cultivating short term crops (semi annuals) and starting fresh water fishing industry without causing any environmental damage to the fallow paddy lands.
6. Circular No. 04/2016 dated 24.02.2016 - Paddy Land Register Revision Program 2015/16.
7. Circular No. 17/2017 dated 14.11.2017 - Amendment of the Agricultural Land Registry (Paddy) Act in accordance with Section 53 of the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 as amended by the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act No. 46 of 2011.
8. Circular No. 01/2018 dated 05.01.2018 - Opening of agricultural land documents for public inspection and accepting objections for amendment - 2018.

9. Circular No. 05/2018 dated 20.04.2018 - Inclusion of a land which has not yet been included in any agricultural land register include in the request of the owner.
10. Circular No. 06/2018 dated 20.04.2018 - 2015/2017 Preparation of a document containing information related to the fallow paddy lands identified under the Paddy Land Registration Revision Program.
11. Circular No. 23/2018 dated 26.11.2018 - Inclusion of a land which has not been included in any agricultural land register so far in the agricultural (land) register at the request of the owner and declaring that any land is not an agricultural land.
12. Circular No. 26/2018 dated 03.12.2018 - Reporting to the Head Office the information regarding the “C” type of fallow paddy lands identified under Circular 06/2018.

Circulars issued for Paddy Lands which are not Cultivated and not Cultivated Efficiently

Date of issued	Circular No.	Name of the Circular	Purpose
2018.04.20	06/2018	Preparation of a document containing information related to the fallow paddy lands identified under the Paddy Land Register Revision Program 2015/2017.	Preparing an information document related to the classification of fallow paddy lands and keeping it updated in the Agrarian Services Committee and advising to collect information on lands included in the classification of fallow paddy lands (Classification of fallow paddy lands A, B and C)
2018.08.01	17/2018	Use of agricultural lands in accordance with agricultural policies.	Provide arrangements for efficient and effective cultivation of uncultivated and non-cultivable paddy lands.
2018.08.27	19/2018	Improving the productivity of agricultural lands by granting permission to cultivate annual crops or perennial crops or other non-agricultural activities and other activities related to agriculture. Under sections 30 (3), 32 (1), 33 (1) and 34 (1) of the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 amended by the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act No. 46 of 2011 preventing environmental damage to fallow paddy lands.	Advise on the action to be taken in granting permission to use paddy lands for agricultural activities other than paddy cultivation with the objective of increasing the productivity of paddy lands so as not to jeopardize the huge environmental benefits that can be obtained from paddy lands.

2018.04.27	07/2018	Process of obtaining licenses for use or filling of paddy lands for other non-agricultural purposes under Sections 32 (1) and 33 (1) and 34 (1) of the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 as amended by the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act, No. 46 of 2011.	Applicable only to fallow paddy (B and C) paddy lands identified in the Agricultural (Paddy) Land Registration Revision Program 2015/2017 and the procedure to be followed in granting permission to use or fill a paddy land for any other purpose.
2019.02.20	24/2018	Granting permission to use paddy lands for the purpose of obtaining mineral resources from paddy lands (mining for gem mining) under Sections 32, 33, 34 and 36 of the Agrarian Development Act No. 46 of 2000 as amended by the Agrarian Development (Amendment) Act No. 46 of 2011	Steps to be taken while obtaining permission from the Department of Agrarian Development for obtaining mineral resources from paddy lands (mining for gem mining).
2018.12.03 2018.12.19	26/2018 26/2018 (Revised)	Reporting to the Head Office the information on “C” type fallow paddy fields identified under Circular 06/2018.	Summary of Current Progress in Vacant Paddy Fields in Category “C” Reporting to the Head Office in accordance with Form DAD / PLR / 2018/02
2018.06.12	14/2018	Use of agricultural lands in accordance with agricultural policies	

Paddy Land Register Revision Program

Districts	Number of Agrarian Service Centers for which paddy land register revision program has not been completed by 31st December 2019
Colombo	09
Gampaha	26
Kalutara	<u>20</u>
Total	<u>55</u>

Number of employees as at 31st December 2019

District	Agrarian Development Officers			Officers	
	Number of Agrarian Service Centers	Number of Officers Attached to Agrarian Service Centers	Number of vacancies	Number of Officers Attached to the Officers	Number of vacancies
Colombo	09	09	00	284	12
Gampaha	26	25	01	667	44
Kalutara	20	17	03	521	24
	55	51	04	1472	80

Number of employees of the Technical Service as at 06th August 2019

District	Technical Officer (Special)		Technical Officer		Technical Assistant	
	Cadre	Actual	Cadre	Actual	Cadre	Actual
Colombo	1	0	2	2	1	0
Gampaha	1	0	3	2	1	0
Kalutara	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>

Abandoned Minor Irrigation Tanks and Anicuts (Western Province)**Small tanks**

District	Small tanks in working condition		Abandoned minor tanks		Total number of tanks	
	Number of active small tanks	Feeding acreage	Number	Feeding acreage	Number	Feeding acreage
Colombo	4	102	0	0	4	102
Gampaha	51	1,223	46	818	97	2,041
Kalutara	1	120	56	715	57	835
Total	<u>56</u>	<u>1,455</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>1,533</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>2,978</u>

Source - Resource Profile - Department of Agrarian Development.

Anicuts

District	Functionng Anicuts Operational		Abandoned anicuts		Total anicuts	
	Number	Feeding acreage	Number	Feeding acreage	Number	Feeding acreage
Colombo	920	15,339	63	52	983	15,391
Gampaha	811	16,474	115	308	926	16,782
Kalutara	505	16,361	183	2,288	688	18,649
Total	<u>2,236</u>	<u>48,174</u>	<u>361</u>	<u>2,648</u>	<u>2,597</u>	<u>50,822</u>

Source - Resource Profile - Department of Agrarian Development

The balance of the annual allocation

Year	Vote No.	Provision (Rs.)	cost (Rs.)	The remaining Balance (Rs.)	Balance as a percentage of the provision (%)
2015	281-2-2-10-2502	29,955,620	24,980,348	4,975,272	17
2016	281-2-2-10-2502	60,684,000	53,581,278	7,102,722	12
2015	281-2-2-12-2502	9,000,000	8,781,268	218,732	2.4
2016	281-2-2-12-2502	6,356,538	5,600,338	756,200	11
2017	281-2-2-12-2506	144,098,262	117,932,157	26,166,105	18
2018	281-2-2-12-2506	145,120,094	105,596,156	39,523,938	27

Projects Planned and Implemented

Year	Project planned to be implemented at the beginning of the year according to the action plan		Project implemented during the year instead of the project planned	
	Name of the Project	Estimated amount Rs.	Name of the Project	Estimated amount Rs.
2018	Anicut Construction of Ella oya near the Red bridge	1,500,000	Construction of Pahalagama Yaya side wall Construction of Kaleliya Yaya side wall Construction of a new anicut on VileYaya	615,000 475,000 369,000
2018	Makulugahadeniya Anicut	735,000	Radathota anicut rehabilitation	735,000
2018	New excavation of Dehigasmulla canal and construction of inactive culverts	200,000	Construction of canals on both sides of Weliyadda Kotapitiya Yaya	200,000
	Godapara Gahadeniya yaya tractor Pannuma	1,000,000	Cutting of Iriyakeriya canal downstream canal and construction of side wall	1,000,000
2019	Construction of Weliovita Anicut Doors	889,000	Cutting a canal in the middle of Moratukanda estate	889,000
2019	Reconstruction of Lewwanduwa big anicut	2,064,000	Reconstruction of Duwawatta Heen Ela	2,064,000
2019	Mile canal and side wall of Medagama yaya	440,000	Wepella paddy field canal in Vidhagama yaya	440,000

Non-Operational Projects

	Year	District	Industry name	Released provision Rs.
1	2018	Gampaha	Reconstruction of the Kandawala anicut	1,159,254
2			Reconstruction of Wattegedara anicut	492,782
3			Reconstruction of Welilumbura anicut	278,377
4			Reconstruction of the Pethiyawala	1,156,435
5			Hendimahara Dummala Agare Tractor Jump	147,939
6			Monaragal Agara Main Canal and By Canal	338,943
7			Reconstruction of Horawala anicut	460,483
8			Reconstruction of Mahayaya canal	582,713
9			Reconstruction of Pillawatta tank	1,708,854
10			Reconstruction of Keselwathugoda tank	3,520,349
	Total			9,846,129
1	2019		Reconstruction of Kimbuladaluwa anicut	6,662,759
2			Construction of Mankada Maha Anicut at Biyanwila Yaya	4,545,743
3			Beraliyawala Anicut	591,970
4			Reconstruction of Gal anicut	4,891,910
5			Reconstruction of Bodhapeli anicut	1,442,500
6			Reconstruction of Mawladeniya or Radawana anicut and construction of side wall	1,138,153
7		Kalutara	Planking of planks at Pillahena anicut	46,688
8			Reconstruction of Uduwila anicut	337,778
9			The tributary of the Ingiwala canal	422,054
10			Reconstruction of Batawalakada canal	95,789
11			Walgamayawatta Agricultural Road	1,176,151
	Total			21,351,495

Annexure 10

Projects which have been prepared only Estimates

Projects for which only estimates have been prepared				
Year	Districts	Vote	Name of the Project	Total estimated cost (Rs.)
2015	Kalutara	281-2-2-10-2502	Reconstruction of Kandurugas canal	1,600,000
			Reconstruction of Kooduluwela Ovita canal	135,000
			Reconstruction of Karatta Ovita canal	500,000
2018	Gampaha	281-2-2-12-2506	Unnarawa Cement Anicut	310,000
			Reconstruction of Gonnagaha near the Ela Kumbawala	1,535,000
2017	Colombo	281-2-2-12-2506	Watawala Agricultural Road	1,000,000
			Kirimatta Agricultural Road	300,000
			Halwathura agricultural road	700,000
			Dodangahayaya Road	800,000
			Nugaweladeniya Paddy Agricultural Road	500,000
			Kekunagahakumbura Agricultural Road	500,000
			Meda Ela Agricultural Road	800,000
			Ihalagaha Cultivation Road	300,000
			Road to Kajugahadeniya	100,000
			Hagawila Yaya	488,000
			Iriyagahadeniya Depa Ela Yaya	516,000
			Mahalwarawa West Depa Ela	276,000
			Minuwandeniya Pita Ela	540,000
			Mukalana Yaya Ela in the Great Forest	526,000
Kohilaga Yaya Ela	535,000			
Hadigama Ela	286,000			
2017	Gampaha	281-2-2-12-2506	Muththotuwatta Agriculture	175,000
			Revocation Budugahadanda anicut	3,873,000
2017	Kalutara	281-2-2-12-	Mahawatta Yaya	500,000

2506	Bogahalanda Yaya	75,000
	Aswedduma Yaya	1,000,000
	Ninda kumbura	500,000
	Bandara gedarawila yaya	200,000
	Elsmor Yaya	500,000
	Athela Yaya	800,000
	Kadawatha Kumbura Yaya	400,000
	Nagahadeniya Yaya	400,000
	Kawal Wel Yaya	100,000
		1,700,000
	782A Paraigama South Elabada Ovita and Agricultural Road between Addara Yaya	5,000,000
	791 Agricultural road in the middle of the paddy field from Pannila anicut	
	Pelawatta Damani Ela Agricultural Road	
	Pahala Hewessa Linawattha Agricultural Road	
	Meegahathenna Hokandahena Agricultural Road	
	850 E Pelawatta West South Keenagasdeniya Dam Side wall of agricultural road	
	Side wall of Makalandawa Egodawatte road (Dangahawella)	
	Mahawela Yaya	500,000
	Gorekgaha Kumbura Agricultural Main Road	500,000
	Mallikagoda Road	500,000
	Pothupurana agricultural road	500,000
	Horagahawagura Agricultural Road	500,000
	Delgasmanana Agricultural Road	500,000
	Mahapannila Deniya Wela Road	500,000
	Amundara Road	500,000
	Annasi Ketiya Road	500,000
	From podujana Mawatha via Kekulama to Kalupahanagoda	500,000

		Development of the road leading to Kanuassa Yaya	250,000
		Development of Midigahawella Agricultural Road	500,000
		Development of Atayagoda Yaya access road	500,000
		Development of Ellagawa Estate Road	400,000
		Development of Embalakothe Road	400,000
		Development of Maguruwala Katukithula Yaya Agricultural Road	300,000
		Development of Walavitiyakanda Agricultural Road	400,000
		Development of Diganna Thennapitiya paddy field agricultural road	250,000
		Development of Dawatahena Paddy fields Agricultural Road near Wathurana Temple	400,000
		Development of Dawatahena Paddy Field Agricultural Road near the house of Mr. Nimal Abeysekera	400,000
		Morapitiya Ambegoda Welgamgoda Hachchigoda Paddy field Road Development	400,000
		Development of Sevanagaldeniya Agricultural Road	400,000
		Development of Gilma Road from Ambegoda Road to Minikandala	400,000
			5,000,000
		Clearing the Akubasawela canal near Pussella and repairing the side walls (Horana)	1,425,000
		Construction of a small anicut at the Kiranthidiya Dam and preparation of the outlet (Matugama)	500,000
		Construction of a bridge across the canal that enters the Kottayahena Muththettuwa paddy field (Madurawala)	230,000
			44,625,000

Project not completed on the due date

Year	District	Vote No.	Project Name	Total estimated cost Rs.
2015	Kalutara	281-2-2-12-2502	Reconstruction of Udawawella canal	550,000
			Reconstruction of Hungamayaya canal	675,000
			Reconstruction of Korosduwa foot canal	200,000
2018	Colombo	281-2-2-12-2506	Kirimatta Yaya canal cutting and new anicut	549,000
			Kahahena Mechanical Anicut	1,457,500
			Cleaning of canals in Welipillawa yaya	1,235,500
			Eriya Keta Ela Pahalawela Kadaduwa	1,851,000
			Nuge anicut i	4,684,000
			Nuge anicut ii	1,875,500
			Halbarawa Yaya Tractor Pannuma	422,000
			Tractor Pannuma at Pollatthawila yaya	211,000
			Construction of side wall at Pollattawila Yaya	608,000
Cut the canal out of the kelaheera yaya and the middle canal	585,500			
2018	Gampaha	281-2-2-12-2506	Renovation of Kandawala Anicut	1,992,000
			Gonahena main anicut	1,884,000
			Construction of Kekunagaha Mukalana Anicuts 1 and 2	923,000
			Reconstruction of welikumbura anicut	525,000
			Pethiyanwala Anicut	1,553,000
			Thiththapaththara Ela	233,000
			Reconstruction of upper and lower canals of Hendimahara Dummala Agara and construction of a tractor Pannuma	482,000
			Development of Monaragal Agara main canal and by canals with a new anicut	586,000

			Obtaining an iron pipe through Uruwal Oya to carry water to Wilekumbura	199,000
			Reconstruction of Horawala anicut and canal cutting	898,500
			Reconstruction of Mahayaya canal and construction of side wall	1,070,000
			Agricultural road leading to Batapotha Ihala Yaya cemetery	125,000
			Construction of a tractor jump on the part of the Dolagatha Yaya	129,000
			Peellawaththa Wewa	2,200,000
			Ullapala Halullagara Wewa	2,675,000
			Marathagahadeniya Wewa	2,565,000
			Construction of Pahalagama Yaya side wall	615,000
			Construction of a new anicut at Vilayaya	369,000
			The canal that draws water from the Unuhamuwa anicut	637,000
Colomb o	කොළඹ	281-2-2-12-2506	Development of Medeniya Yaya Canal	810,000
			Development of Barawa Canal	936,000
			Development of Hungawila Yaya Canal	848,500
			Development of Bogahayaya Canal	313,000
			Meegoda Goda Kumbura Anicut	1,033,000
			Eriyagaha Yaya Ela	400,000
			Medadeniya Meda Ela	533,800
			Construction of canal dams in Dedigama paddy field	441,300
			Ariddagahayaya Central Canal	640,800
			Amaragoda Yaya Meda Ela and Anicut	1,015,800
			Indigas Ovita Pita Ela	305,000
			Mahakumbura ela	406,200
			Pragathi Mawatha side wall	400,000
			Nawalamulla Yaya	400,600
			Katuatta Ela	1,287,500
			Angamuwa Ela	1,466,900
			Horakandawila yaya	298,500
Meddawila Yaya Ela and Tractor Pannuma	234,000			

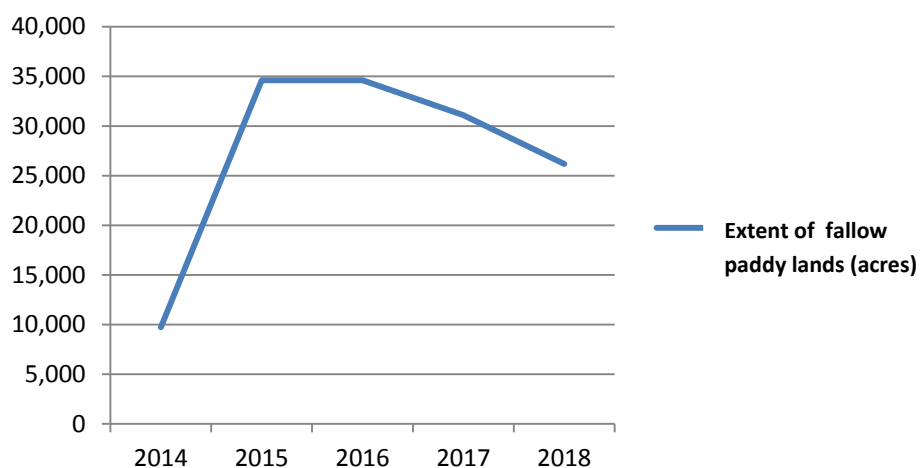
			Batadombagaha kumbura ela	526,000
2017	Kalutara	281-2-2-12-2506	Reconstruction of Polgodawela anicut	3,492,000
			Construction of side wall from Demodarawatta bridge to Saumyagama road	1,100,000
			Repair of Tuththiripitiya canal and Galkumbura anicut	1,000,000
Total				52,453,400

Number of fallow paddy fields in the Western Province (acres)

Districts	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Colombo	844	6,724	6,724	6,454	5,963
Gampaha	2,955	10,691	10,691	8,366	6,034
Kalutara	5,895	17,203	17,203	16,280	14,188
Western Province	<u>9,694</u>	<u>34,618</u>	<u>34,618</u>	<u>31,100</u>	<u>26,185</u>

Source - 2014 - Department of Census and Statistics, 2015 - 2018 - Department of Agrarian Development

Extent of Fallow Paddy Lands (acres)

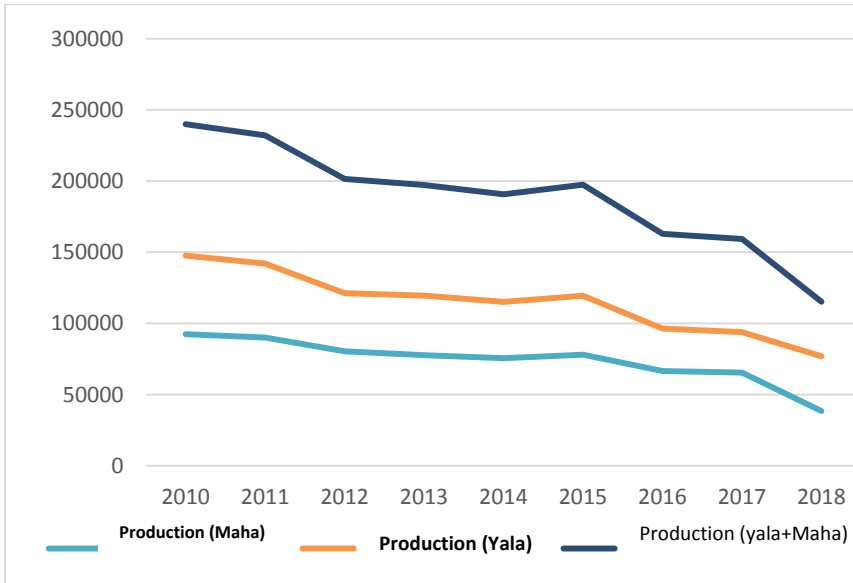


Annexure13

Area of cultivated land and progress of paddy production

	Extent of cultivable land (Ha)	Extent of cultivated land (Maha) (Ha)	Extent of cultivated land (Yala) (Ha)	Extent of cultivated land (Maha+Yala) (Ha)	production (Maha) (Metric tons)	production (Yala) (Metric tons)	production (Maha+ Yala) (Metric tons)
2010	37,236	32,667	22,509	55,176	92,412	147,588	240,000
2011	37,952	32,716	19,338	52,054	90,006	142,060	232,066
2012	39,532	29,101	11,713	40,814	80,346	121,160	201,506
2013	35,821	28,876	12,976	41,852	77,673	119,525	197,198
2014	35,980	27,155	12,428	39,583	75,563	115,146	190,709
2015	36,685	27,658	13,697	41,355	78,040	119,395	197,435
2016	36,858	24,621	5,104	29,725	66,583	96,308	162,891
2017	36,859	19,012	9,513	28,525	65,384	93,909	159,293
2018	-	24,915	13,516	38,431	38,431	76,862	115,293

Source - Hector Kobebekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute



No.of Tanks, canals and anicuts to be renovated

Districts	Number of tanks, canals and anicuts to be renovated
Colombo	404
Gampaha	615
Kalutara	341
Total	<u>1,360</u>

Other causes of fallow lands

- i. Weather and climate issues.
- ii. Problems due to lack of access roads.
- iii. Fear of rat fever in farmers.
- iv. Impact of Paddy Cultivation on Rust / Quality / Salinity as well as Sandy Soils and Paddy Fields.
- v. Animal Damage (Mice / Wandering Cattle / Insect Pest)
- vi. Impact of development projects and highways.
- vii. Not cultivating all the farmers at once.
- viii. Seawater / Mixing
- ix. Increase in production cost of paddy cultivation.
- x. Lack of manpower (rising labor costs and unavailability of labor on time) and lack of people to cultivate or look after the paddy fields.
- xi. Land Disputes / Judicial Procedures / Land Rights Issues (Legal issues)
- xii. Sewage discharge and collection to irrigation / paddy fields.
- xiii. Decreased area of cultivated land due to personal difficulties. (Illnesses of farmers / Employment of farmers in other occupations / Inadequate family income)
- xiv. Willingness to use paddy lands for other purposes.
- xv. Lack of significant paddy harvest and low income
- xvi. Presence of paddy fields in low lying areas.
- xvii. Social Attitudes (Lack of inclination of the youth towards paddy cultivation)
- xviii. Urbanization and increasing employment opportunities.