

All District Secretaries
All Provincial Secretaries of Agriculture
Director General of Agriculture
Director General of Agrarian Development

Food Production National Programme 2016 – 2018

Home Gardening Promotion Programme (Food Crops)

The three – year food production national programme 2016 – 2018 is implemented mainly with the objective of achieving food security while opening up of avenues to have sustainable source of income to the farmer community. Under this programme more concentration has been laid on the promotion of home gardening. The target is to develop one million home gardens.

02. This home gardening development programme is helpful for creating an attractive environment in accordance with basic agricultural and landscaping principles whereby it is expected to achieve the following objectives.

1. Fulfilling the family's food and nutritious requirement as far as possible within their home garden itself.
2. Improving the family's food consumption pattern.
3. Introducing modern technology to increase the productivity of lands.
4. Minimizing the cost on food expenditure of the family.
5. Maintaining food and ecological safety through promotion of environmental friendly cultivation methods.
6. Encouraging youth to undertake home gardening.
7. Improving mental and physical health of family members.

2.1 Types of home gardens expecting to be established

1. Establishment of Model home gardening villages.
 2. Development of **rural, semi urban and urban** home gardens.
 3. School – based home gardening development.
 4. Home gardening development in office premises.
 5. Home gardening development in premises belonging to three forces, civil security brigade and prisons.
 6. Development of home garden premises of official quarters / private residences of public representatives.
 7. Home garden development in selected housing units selected by voluntary organizations.
- In this it is essential to demonstrate at least the following 05 technologies within a home garden.
- Compost production and use.
 - Land and land use methods/ Edible landscaping
 - Crop selection and cropping patterns

- Various cultivation methods and hydroponic cultures.
- Environmental friendly diseases and pest controlling methods.
- Time saving and labour saving technologies
- Minimization of post harvest losses and processing technologies.
- Water conservation structures

2.1.1. Establishment of model home garden villages

- As the first the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian Development should jointly select a village representing every district. Subsequently preparing a plan for edible landscape which include every household in the village whereby establishing a model home garden with landscaping as an essential component.
- Establishment of model home gardens will be helpful for demonstrating the importance of landscaping and the same could be used as a training model for promoting home gardens in future.

2.1.2. Establishment of urban, semi urban and rural level model home gardens

- The committee consisting of Agriculture Instructor, Grama Niladari, Agriculture Research and Production Assistant, Samurdhi officer, Divineguma Development officer and rural community leaders should select 25 beneficiaries (including Samurdhi beneficiaries) at each Grama Niladari Division level who are interested in developing their respective home gardens. Subsequently those home gardens should be developed as model home gardens where by encouraging people in the area towards engaging in developing their home gardens.
- In this plan or layout will be prepared for all home gardens for landscaping through crop cultivation. The required knowledge and training will be provided to the needy and as an encouragement, it is expected to provide every home gardener with seed and fruit plant package which included 6 kinds of vegetable seeds and a fruit plant as an encouragement.

2.1.3. Establishment of school – based home gardens

- It is expected to establish school based home garden models by selecting 50 schools in each district in 2016. Under this programme school premise not yet cultivated in a productive manner can be used for vegetable cultivation whereby it is possible to encourage school children to undertake home gardening in their household premises. In this manner their parents too may be encouraged to grow vegetable and fruit in the home gardens.
- Under this programme, it is expected to provide the respective schools with agricultural inputs including seeds and planting materials to the value of Rs. 5000.00 each depending on the requirement. The list of schools selected by the Department of Education at district level for establishing home garden models should be submitted to the provincial Department of Agriculture / Department of Agrarian Development through Agriculture Instructor or Agriculture Research and Production Assistant.

- The Agriculture Instructor and the Agriculture Research and Production Assistant in the area where the respective school is located are responsible for supervising those school home gardens the progress of which should be reported to the Deputy District Director of Agriculture / District Deputy/ Asst. Commissioner of Agrarian Development.

2.1.4 Home gardening in office premises (Green Office)

- It is expected to develop home gardens in office premises located in every district. Crop varieties and cultivation methods should be selected in consideration of the space available in the premises. The necessary training will be provided by the Department of Agriculture.
- It is essential to develop all Agrarian Service centers island - wide as model home gardens. Similarly through the establishment of model home gardens in the premises of District Secretariats, Divisional Secretariats, Statutory Boards and Corporations People should be encouraged to establish and develop home gardens.

2.1.5. Utilization of army camp premises and Prison premises for home gardening

- It has been planned to select 150 units for developing home gardening in army camps and prison premises. Seeds and planting material will be made available depending on the requirement.

2.1.6. Development of home gardens in official quarters/ Private residences of public representatives

- Action should be taken to establish model home gardens of public representatives in each district.

2.1.7. Development of home gardening in housing units selected by voluntary organizations

- Home gardens should be established in the premises of housing units selected by each voluntary organization by obtain their contribution.

3. Financial Provisions

Home gardening development programme to be implemented in 2016 under the Food Production National Programme will cost at least Rs. 80.0 Mn. Provisions required for establishing home gardens / home garden models, carrying out training / awareness programmes and for providing inputs will be made available directly to the Department of Agriculture / Provincial Department of Agriculture and to the Department of Agrarian Development.

4. Functions assigned to each officer

4.1 Agriculture Research and Production Assistant

- Selecting beneficiaries and conducting awareness programmes.
- Taking action to ensure the participation of home gardeners in awareness programmes.
- Provide technological support required for preparing home gardens.
- Prepare a plan for developing home gardens through landscaping with the assistance of the Agriculture Instructor.
- Displaying lists of names of beneficiary home gardeners in the office.

- Organizing inauguration ceremonies within the respective Division.
- Successful implementation of this programme by obtaining the assistance of officers serving within the division though maintaining proper Coordination with them.
- Ensure the timely availability of seed pouches, vegetable plants and other planting materials.
- Monitoring and follow up of home gardens.
- Progress reporting.

4.2 Agriculture Instructor

- Assisting to the Agriculture Research and Production Assistant in selecting beneficiary home gardeners.
- Prepare a home gardening plan for landscaping through food crop cultivation with the participation of home gardener selected and the Agriculture Research and Production Assistant.
- Provide technological support and extension services to home gardeners to ensure the success of their home gardens.
- Coordinating the distribution of vegetable seeds, fruit plants and planting materials to home gardeners.
- Conducting training programme regarding the prevention of a nursery (vegetable) in one of the home gardens selected within the ARPA Division and supervision of such nurseries up to distribution of plants to beneficiaries
- Assisting in the supervision and follow up of home gardens within his commend area.
- Ensure the quality of seeds and planting materials which are being distributed among home gardeners.
- To make arrangement for proper management of home gardens after planting.
- Supervision, follow up and progress reporting.

4.3 Agrarian Development Divisional Officer

- Directing, Supervising, guiding and progress reporting with regard to field level programmes.
- Guiding Agriculture Research and Production Assistants to ensure successful implementation of this programme.
- Coordination of input provision to home gardeners.
- Inspection and follow up of sustainable home gardens within the Division.
- Coordination of resource persons required for implementing education awareness programmes.
- Review of the progress at official meetings and reporting progress to supervisors.
- Ensuring the successful implementation of this programmes by maintaining proper coordination with all officials serving divisions.

5. Supervision

- A committee shall be appointed consisting of Divisional level officers including Agrarian Development Divisional Officer, Agriculture Instructor and Coconut Development Officer for divisional level supervision of this programme. The Divisional Secretary should function as its Chairman. This committee is responsible for ensuring successful and productive implementation of the programme by remaining problems identified through follow up activities.
- Taking suitable measures to make this programme a success and issuing necessary instructions to relevant officers.
- Having discussion with the officers in charge of the relevant subjects with regard to the sustainability and progress of the home gardening programme at the Divisional Agricultural Committee and taking action to solve those problems.
- As this programme is implemented jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian Development, the Agrarian Development Divisional Officers and Agriculture Instructors are responsible for divisional level suppression of the same.
- Implementing, directing and supervision of this programme at district level will be the responsibility of Deputy Directors of Agriculture and Agrarian Development Deputy / Asst. Commissioners.

6. Publicity

- Giving publicity to the programme will be done through printed and electronic media including leading newspapers, television, radio and its responsibility is fell upon the Department of Agriculture, Presidential Task Force, Ministry of Agriculture and other line ministries. In addition to awareness campaigns will be carried out at Grama Niladari division Level by distributing advertisements, technical leaflets, and posters through Agriculture Research and Production Assistants under the supervision of the Department of Agrarian Development and Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation Methodology

Monitoring and evaluation of this project will be carried out,

7.1 Through District Secretariats

- Inspecting the home gardens by Development Officers Serving in Divisional Secretariats attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and submission of monthly reports thereof to the District Secretary.
- Submitting monthly progress reports by District Director of Agriculture to the Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Ministry.

7.2 Through the Dept. of Agrarian Development

- Inspecting the home gardens by Development Officers serving attached to Agrarian Service Centers and submission of monthly reports thereof to the District Deputy/ Asst. Commissioner of Agrarian Development who is responsibility for submitting a monthly report thereof to the Commissioner General of Agrarian Development with a copy to the Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Ministry Agriculture.

- Formats for evaluation of home gardens and progress reporting will be issued to Development Officers, submission of which should be made after having recommendations of the supervising officers.

8. Progress Review Meetings

1. It is necessary to appreciate officials who are committed towards the successful implementation of the programme having frequent discussion over problems faced by divisional and field officers in carrying out their duties. Deputy District Director of Agriculture or Agrarian Development Deputy/ Asst. Commissioners should take suitable measures in this regard.
2. The Divisional Secretary is responsible for educating all field officers on the implementation of the programme at Divisional Agricultural Committee meetings while guiding and directing the staff. Periodical progress should also be reported to the District Committee.
3. Deputy Director of Agriculture and Agrarian Development Deputy/ Asst. Commissioners should review the progress of the programme at their monthly meetings.
4. The progress should also be discussed at District Agricultural Committees and divisional agricultural committees.

9. Submission of Progress Reports

- Agriculture Research and Production Assistants who being the ground level officers responsible for implementing this programme should report the progress to Agrarian Development Divisional Officers and Agriculture Instructors whose responsibility is to certify and submit the same to Deputy / Asst. District Commissioner and Deputy District Directors of agriculture before 25th of every month.
- Progress at the Divisional level should be submitted to Deputy District Directors of Agriculture by Agricultural Instructors before 30th of every month.
- District level progress should be reported to the Agriculture Services division of this ministry before 5th of every month.

10. Home Gardening Competitions

- With the objective of encouraging home gardeners and officials involved in this exercise a home gardening competition is to be held at district and National level and the winners will be rewarded.
- Similar arrangements will be made to assess the role to be played by Agriculture Research and Production Assistants, Agrarian Development Divisional Officers and Agriculture Instructors in public and award certificates in appreciation of their exceptional contribution to make this national endeavor a good success.
- The necessary guidance and instructions will be issued in due course.

B. Wijayarathne

Secretary Ministry of Agriculture

Copies to:-

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Secretary to the President | } | For kind
Information |
| 2. Secretary, Priminister's Office | | |
| 3. Cabinet Secretary | | |
| 4. Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration | } | For kind
Information and
provide necessary
guidance for
relevant institutes |
| 5. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs | | |
| 6. Secretary, Ministry of Defence | | |
| 7. Secretary, Ministry of Education | | |
| 8. Secretary, Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms | | |
| 9. Secretary, Social empowerment and Welfare | | |
| 10. Secretary, Provincial Councils and Local Government | | |
| 11. All Provisional Chief Sectaries | | |