National Agriculture Policy (NAP)

Preamble

Agriculture plays an "absolute" central role, and is a mainstay of the socio-economy of a developing nation such as Sri Lanka. The sector facilitates safeguarding food and nutrition security, and contributes significantly to employment, economic growth and export earnings, while ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources of the country. The contribution of agriculture sector (primary production) of Sri Lanka to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP; at constant market prices) is about 7.0% and 21.7% of the total exports. It involves 23.73% of the national labor force and occupies nearly 45% of the total land area in the current context. However, the indisputable contribution of the agriculture sector to shape up the socio-economy and the environment of the nation is hard to value.

The relative importance of agriculture sector (primary production) of a country is expected to be diminished overtime as the process of structural transformation is in place. Even though Sri Lanka is an island gifted with rich and diverse natural resources and located in a strategically important geographical position, this sector still needs immediate to long-term attention and care to strengthen its' contribution to the overall economy. The challenges are in fact multi-criterion, but closely associated, including low agricultural productivity and poor management of resources such as land, water and soils, low farm incomes, weak farm-market linkages, and lack of investments on knowledge, technology and information dissemination, etc. The agriculture sector of the country remains predominantly a state-funded, lavishly subsidized- and characterized by a growth without equity. Furthermore, Sri Lanka is too heavily dependent on imported inputs and technology for agriculture, in addition to new and emerging external threats including high vulnerability to impacts of climate change and changing global market conditions.

Even though considerable development measures introduced by different governments over the past to strengthen the agriculture sector it has become an unaffordable business with less profit, and also inappropriate agricultural practices have also posed a significant threat to the environment and human health. To capture the present global opportunities in the sector and also to address challenges faced in food security amid COVID-19 pandemic, a clear and visionary set of policy directives are imperative.

A National Policy on Agriculture (NAP) should comprise a results-based implementation, tracked by evidence-based monitoring and evaluation to eliminate those prevailing and likely threats and weaknesses the sector now faces. Formulation of NAP follows a comprehensive and systematic process through a transparent and well-coordinated mechanism adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture. The process explicitly takes into account of the elements identified in the National Policy framework "*Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour*" approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. A panel of experts appointed for the purpose of drafting the NAP has worked extensively on this subject, followed by nationwide consultations with the farmers and other key stakeholders in the agri-food system, academia and researchers (those independent and from designated institutions), civil society, development organizations and private sector, and the media.

It is believed that this endeavour shall support achieving the overall goal of policy setting, i.e., sustainable transformation of agriculture sector in Sri Lanka to a modernized agricultural sector that protects the stakeholders across the supply/value chain and those interest of poor and marginal farmers, in particular. The NAP is formulated under 10 Thematic Areas, ensuring overall benefits reach the society, economy and environment.

Country Profile

The economy of Sri Lanka was adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic since the second quarter of 2020. Growth recovered in the second half, however, showed resilience under a larger second wave of infections beginning in October 2020. Inflation edged up, but the current account deficit narrowed. The Department and Census of Statistics (DCS) of Sri Lanka reported that the GDP of Sri Lanka in 2019 was Sri Lanka Rupees (SLR) 9,883,550 million, which was SLR 9,530,606 million in 2020, thus contracting the GDP growth rate to 3.6%, from a positive growth of 2.3% shown in 2019. For the first time in the history, all three major economic sectors of the country namely, agriculture, industry and services, reported negative growth in 2020 by 2.4%, 6.9% and 1.5%, respectively. The country profile of Sri Lanka is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Sri Lanka at a glance

Geographical location	Island nation in the Indian Ocean located between northern latitude 5^0 55'and 9^0 51' and the longitude of 79^0 41' to 81^0 53'
Land Area	Total land 65,610 km^2 and inland water 2,905 km^2
Coastline	1,340 km^2
Administrative Capital	Sri Jayewardene Pura Kotte
Business Capital	Colombo
Continent	Asia
Population	21.9 million (2020)
Official Languages	Sinhala and Tamil
Climate	Tropical: weather: hot and humid throughout the year, the country is divided into three climatic zones namely, Wet Zone (WZ; average annual rainfall >2,500 mm), Intermediate Zone (IZ; average annual rainfall 1,750-2,500 mm) and Dry Zones (DZ; average annual rainfall <1,750) with a moderate average annual average temperature of 27 °C
Agro-climate	The country is divided into seven agro-climatic zones and 46 agro-ecological regions (AERs)
Gross Domestic Product	Approx.: USD 80 billion
Contribution of economic sectors to GDP	Agriculture 7.0%, Industry 25.5%, Services 58.7%, Tax less subsidies 9.6% (2020; at 2010 constant prices)
Performance in Agriculture Activities	*Positive growth*: Growing of cereals (except rice) 41.3%, freshwater fishing 12.7%, growing of vegetables 10.1%, growing of fruits 6.2%, growing of rice 5.7%, growing of rubber 4.6%, and growing of spices 3.3% *Negative* growth: Marine fishing 21.7%, growing of Oleaginous crops including coconut 10.2%, Forestry and logging 8.1%, growing of tea 7.1%, and animal production 4.9%
Labour force in agriculture	23.73% of labour force (2020)

The global economic growth is expected to rebound in 2021 as cross-country activities recover, vaccinations allowed, and further relaxation of border controls, while tourism will need to be re-thought in the wake of COVID-19. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) forecasts a significant rebound in Sri Lanka's economy as domestic and global economic activity strengthens and vaccination campaigns gather momentum domestically and abroad. The ADB projects Sri Lanka's economic growth to rise to 4.1% in 2021 with a moderate growth of 3.6% in 2022.

Main Segments of focus:

The NAP mainly focuses on two segments as given below:

1. Food and feed crops
2. Sustainable Food Security with improved food Quality

Thrust areas Addressed:

Eight (8) thrust areas were identified through extensive consultation to be addressed by the NAP as given below:

1. Crop production and productivity improvement
2. Self-sufficiency and independence in basic food & feed requirements
3. Planned resource use
4. Market competitiveness
5. Climate resilience
6. Minimize all risks and uncertainties
7. Mainstreaming gender and youth in agriculture
8. Maintaining center- periphery relationships

The vision and mission statement of the NAP, agreed by the stakeholders are presented below:

Vision:

Sustainable food security to achieve national prosperity

Mission Statement:

The mission is to Create a socially-acceptable, sustainable and eco- friendly food system in Sri Lanka through a globally competitive agricultural production, processing and marketing mechanism while safeguarding the interest of producers and protecting the interest of consumers

Policy Scope:

The NAP was developed in compliance with the objectives of the Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour, and to make a paradigm shift from subsistence agriculture to a demand-driven, entrepreneurial and export-oriented agriculture with import substitution, while uplifting living & social standards of the farming community with a special focus on youth in an eco-friendly agricultural environment. Accordingly, the NAP will aim at achieving twelve (12) observable and measurable Policy Goals as stated below, agreed upon by the stakeholders.

Policy Goals:

The NAP targets to achieve following policy goals by 2030:

1) Double the resource-productivity (compared to 2020 estimates) by adhering to sustainable and eco-friendly agriculture practices
2) Double the economic profitability of farmers/agri-producers (compared to estimates of 2020)
3) Increase the contribution of the Agri-Food System upto 15% of the National Economy
4) Increase the adoption of technology developed locally along the agri-food value chain, by a minimum of 50% from the present status
5) Increase the high quality and high yielding seed and planting material production locally by 50% of the national requirement
6) Increase the eco - friendly inputs application in crop production upto 100% of the requirement
7) Supply safe and quality food and feed in compliance with food and feed control regulations of the country
8) Establish a government-regulated food and feed control system supporting certification, standardization, and other logistics
9) Establish farmer/agri-producer groups with Agri-entrepreneurship capacity, coupled with efficient market systems
10) Establish a constituted role and mandatory participation of farmers/agri-producers in the process of decision-making
11) Build an agri-food system in Sri Lanka that is resilient to climatic and other disasters
12) Establish a system of transparent, accountable, responsible and participatory governance is established for decision making

13) Thematic Areas and Policy Statements
(Statements are in bold letters)

The ten (10) thematic areas and fifteen (15) policy statements agreed upon by the stakeholders under each thematic area are presented below.

(1) *Thematic Area*: Crop Production & Productivity

1. **Improve production and productivity of food and feed crops through a well-organized agricultural production system while harnessing the agro-ecological potential and strengthening the food system**

(2) *Thematic Area*: Input Management

2. **Strengthen delivery and management operations of physical inputs for their judicious use**

3. **Improve productivity and sustainability of arable lands through optimum use of inputs and far-sighted management while safeguarding farming community and the environment**

4. **Enhance rational use of irrigation water through participatory management to improve the irrigation water use efficiency**

(3) *Thematic Area*: Advanced Technologies

5. **Encourage development and adoption of appropriate innovations and technologies during pre- and post-harvest management for sustainable agricultural production**

(4) *Thematic Area*: Food Safety & Quality Management

6. **Improve access to safe and high-quality food and feed based on national and international standards to safeguard human and animal health**

(5) *Thematic Area*: Eco-friendly Operations

7. **Support sustainability in agriculture development through conservation and utilization of natural resources while safeguarding ecosystem services**

(6) *Thematic Area*: Agri-Entrepreneurship and Markets

8. **Foster strategic collaboration among the value chain actors, especially focusing on value added products, targeting domestic and international markets**

9. **Streamline and explore the domestic and international market systems with appropriate logistic services in compliance with national and international standards**

(7) *Thematic Area*: Producer Empowerment

10. Strengthen partnerships and mentorship programmes for farming and rural community to acquire agricultural expertise and make appropriate decisions to become economically independent

11. Empower youth and women in agriculture with support for mechanization, access to modern technologies, and productivity-based incentive systems

(8) *Thematic Area*: Climate resilience & other risk management

12. Promote adoption of appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures to increase climate-resilience of the agriculture systems

13. Strengthen food systems by connecting urban and rural communities to tackle climate shocks and other disasters

(9) *Thematic Area*: Knowledge Management and Agricultural Extension

14. Constitute a centrally-controlled information development and dissemination system to manage research, development and extension systems, and recruitment related to the agriculture sector

(10) *Thematic Area*: Governance and Operations Management

15. Strengthen institutional coordination mechanism for project implementation, monitoring and evaluation at national and local government levels with wider stakeholder participation for sustainable agricultural development

The policy actions identified by the stakeholders under each policy statements are presented here-in-after.

Policy Statements and Policy Actions
(*Note*: Lead agency/ies are in bold letters)

Thematic Area (1)	**Crop Production & Productivity**		Policy Goals to be Achieved	Link to SDGs	Responsible Agencies[1]
Policy Statement	**1.**	**Improve production and productivity of food and feed crops through a well-organized agricultural production system while harnessing the agro-ecological potential and strengthening the food system**	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15	**DOA, DAD, DAPH**, AAIB, SLCARP, HARTI, NFS, CFC, CCFC, NLDB, MLEL PC & DS/GA DOI, **MASL**, DOM DWLC Farmer Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector, International Research Institutes, Development partners
Policy Actions	1.1.	Prepare, approve and adopt guidelines for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for all crops and farming systems, while identifying relevant indicators, for all crops and farming systems			
	1.2.	Adopt need-based Crop Prioritization (national and provincial needs, environmental concerns/agro-ecology, productivity, return to investment, export) and Crop Zoning			
	1.3.	Introduce measures to minimize temporal variation in productivity with appropriate varieties, production technologies and Agro-met Advisories (AMAs) based on climate forecasting			
	1.4.	Adopt measures to produce more with less inputs (enhance input/land productivity) using appropriate technology provided at affordable prices			
	1.5.	Adopt Precision Agriculture systems (e.g., new technologies for higher fertilizer use efficiency, soil test-based fertilizer application) to enhance productivity and minimize negative impacts to ecosystem			
	1.6.	Support adoption of novel and appropriate technology/mechanization			
	1.7.	Encourage and strengthen Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) interventions focusing on the food systems			
	1.8.	Facilitate new technology generation and adoption (e.g., varieties, production packages, etc.)			
	1.9.	Manage wildlife, based on the carrying capacity of ecosystems (sustainable management – minimizing impacts on agriculture and natural ecosystems), and minimize their impact through scientifically-valid population control of animals			
	1.10.	Improve productivity of existing farm units (with assured financial assistance to smallholders)			
	1.11.	Introduce low-interest loan schemes (credit) to facilitate agricultural production and productivity			
	1.12.	Establish private-public-producer partnerships (PPPP) for machinery use			
	1.13.	Promote cropping systems and cropping patterns that provide higher returns to the investment			
	1.14.	Promote and support systematic home gardening			
	1.15.	Promote different production technologies (e.g., vertical farming, family farming, rooftop gardening,			

[1] See acronyms at the end of the Tables

	community gardens), especially focusing on urban and peri-urban food systems and metro agriculture			
	1.16. Develop and implement a national cropping plan for priority crops in consultation with all key stakeholders			

Thematic Area (2)	**Input Management**	Policy Goals to be Achieved	Link to SDGs	Responsible Agencies
Policy Statement	**2. Strengthen delivery and management operations of physical inputs for their judicious use**	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 15	**DOA,** DAD, HARTI, NFS, CFC, CCFC, PC & DS/GA Private sector, Development partners
Policy Actions	2.1. Allocation of an adequate budget to carry out operations of seed certification process			
	2.2. Timely supply and/or production of quality inputs including seeds and planting material, at affordable prices			
	2.3. Establish a mechanism through PPP to ensure availability of quality seed and planting material on timely basis.			
	2.4. Decentralize and strengthen seed certification process at provincial level			
	2.5. Establish regional level supply/service/renting machinery centers through PPP			
	2.6. Establish village seed banks for conservation and sustainable utilization of traditional germplasm			
	2.7. Promote private sector investment for local production of agricultural machinery and further improvement of agricultural tools in Sri Lanka			
	2.8. Establish a mechanism to certify machinery and other agricultural inputs to be used in Sri Lanka (e.g., a central regulatory entity for agriculture inputs)			
	2.9. Establish a mechanism/system for production of fertilizer, stimulants, and soil conditioners, and plant protection technologies to meet the national needs			
	2.10. Take periodic measures to establish, re-visit, assess and recommend measures to strengthen the standardization procedure for fertilizer			
	2.11. Enforce a regulatory framework for organic/bio fertilizer production			
	2.12. Provide authority to FOs, FPOs and FPCs to initiate actions for access of such technologies and adoption (adopt a cluster approach in accessing and using technology)			
	2.13 Strengthen the mechanism involved in fertilizer import/production and distribution of quality-assured fertilizer (Institutional Mechanism)			
	2.14 Establish a mechanism to provide organized skilled-labour supply and contract farming			
	2.15 Enforce regulations strictly in import, production and use of agricultural inputs			

Policy Statement	**3**	**Improve productivity and sustainability of arable Lands through optimum use of inputs and far-sighted management while safeguarding farming community and the environment**	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 15	**DOA**, **DAPH**, DAD, SLCARP, HARTI, NFS, CFC, CCFC, NLDB, MLEL, NADSA, HADABIMA PC & DS/GA DOI, **MASL**, DOM Farmer Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector, International Research Institutes, Development partners
Policy Actions	3.1.	Promote adoption of seeds and planting material of local origin			
	3.2.	Adopt measures to optimize the use of fertilizer with a view to obtain higher productivity			
	3.3.	Introduce and adopt new and appropriate technologies for increase nutrient use efficiency (NUE) and fertilizer use efficiency (FUE)			
	3.4.	Adopt a productivity-based and priority-based incentive mechanism to support application of plant nutrients			
	3.5.	Introduce incentive-based mechanism for gradual replacement of fertilizer subsidy from all sectors			
	3.6.	Enforce regulatory measures to safeguard ecosystem services			
	3.7.	Adopt a prescription-based sale and use of pesticides – with the involvement of Agrarian Service Centers and Farmer Cooperatives or establishment of Kiosks			
	3.8.	Establish a system to promote integrated pest/weed management approaches to facilitate multiple use of plant protection technologies			
	3.9.	Introduce and promote adoption of novel and appropriate eco-friendly pest/weed control techniques (including bio-pesticides/botanicals/predator mites, etc.)			
	3.10.	Develop and implement plans to increase the extent of land with organic ameliorations by providing an appropriate incentive package			
	3.11.	Introduce and increase the use of Precision agriculture systems (e.g., new technologies for higher fertilizer use efficiency, soil test-based fertilizer application) to enhance productivity and minimize negative impacts to ecosystem			
	3.12.	Conduct Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs for agricultural extension officers and ARPAs on latest developments on use of eco-friendly agricultural production and management techniques			
	3.13.	Adopt measures to minimize abandoned lands from agricultural production			
	3.14.	Implement a social audit system as a mandatory activity in all incentive-based projects and programmes in agriculture			
	3.15.	Establish agro-industrial zones using farmer cluster approach with agribusiness ventures and appropriate economic incentives			
	3.16.	Provide economic incentives based on cluster approach			
Policy Statement	**4.**	**Enhance rational use of irrigation water through participatory management to improve the irrigation water use efficiency**	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15	**DOA**, DAD, SLCARP, HARTI
Policy Actions	4.1.	Take appropriate regulatory measures to avoid excessive use of ground water			

	4.2. Promote rainwater harvesting for agricultural purposes			PC & DS/GA **DOI, MASL**, DOM Farmer Organizations, Universities, Private sector, International Research Institutes, Development partners
	4.3. Adopt water-saving technologies such as drip-irrigation, to enhance irrigation water productivity in agro-ecosystems where applicable			
	4.4. Adopt soil and water conservations measures to control soil erosion and land degradation			
	4.5. Adopt catchment management practices by an effective implementation of the Soil Conservation Act			
	4.6. Adopt third season cultivation in paddy fields using residual moisture			
	4.7. Rehabilitate reservoirs and irrigation systems with the support of line agencies to ensure efficient irrigation water supply to agricultural lands			
	4.8. Integrate activities to ensure fish farming in reservoirs take place in collaboration and coordination of all related local associations/societies			

Thematic Area (3)	**Advanced Technologies**	Policy Goals to be Achieved	Link to SDGs	Responsible Agencies
Policy Statement	**5. Encourage development and adoption of appropriate innovations and technologies during pre- and post-harvest management for sustainable agricultural production**	1, 2, 3, 4,	1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15	**DOA, NIPHM, DAPH**, PMB, NFPB, SLCARP PC & DS/GA DI, **MASL**, DOM Farmer Organizations, Universities, Private sector, Development partners
Policy Actions	5.1. Establish a formal and a well-coordinated mechanism to effectively engage all stakeholders for technology development			
	5.2. Provide financial and institutional support to develop cost-effective technology using locally-available resources			
	5.3. Upgrade the system of crop production forecasting with the support of national and international development partners			
	5.4. Promote adoption of technologies targeting value addition for perishables			
	5.5. Adopt correct harvest and pre-harvest technologies, including packaging, to improve postharvest quality			
	5.6. Strengthen technology transfer mechanisms through appropriate mechanisms			
	5.7. Re-visit and restructure existing authoritative body responsible for agriculture research to focus on establishing an Agriculture Research and Development/Extension Council			

	5.8. Adopt mechanisms to promote use of ICT-based agriculture			
	5.9. Introduce proven and appropriate technology into the sector through field validation			
	5.10. Link to 3.11 above			

Thematic Area (4)	**Food Safety & Quality Management**	Policy Goals to be Achieved	Link to SDGs	Responsible Agencies
Policy Statement	**6. Improve access to safe and high-quality food and feed based on national and international standards to safeguard human and animal health**	5, 6	1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15	**FCAU, SLSI** **DOA, DAPH,** SLCARP, HARTI, NFS, MASL PC & DS/GA Farmer Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector, International Research Institutes, Development partners
Policy Actions	6.1. Develop and adopt regulations to ensure food and feed safety in both locally produced and imported food products (in consultation and collaboration with the Ministry of Health)			
	6.2. Incentivize adoption of GAP/Organic agriculture /Ecological agriculture			
	6.3. Establish state of the art laboratories to monitor food and feed standards (quality control) with robust testing systems			
	6.4. Develop and strictly adopt food safety standards (with the support of the Ministry of health and SLSI)			
	6.5. Adopt standard process control measures for food product quality (with the support of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Science & Technology/SLSI and other line agencies)			
	6.6. Adopt a stringent labeling system for food products, especially focusing on nutritive and safety aspects, considering the social value system			
	6.7. Revisit village fair/farmers market system while promoting smallholder market access, eco-friendly farm products, and local sourcing of food in providing good quality, standard food products to consumers			
	6.8. Encourage the use of non-traditional food resources			

Thematic Area (5)	**Eco-friendly Operations**	Policy Goals to be Achieved	Link to SDGs	Responsible Agencies

Policy Statement	**7. Support sustainability in agriculture development through conservation and utilization of natural resources while safeguarding ecosystem services**	1, 2, 5, 6	1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15	**DOA, DAD**, DAPH, SLCARP, HARTI PC & DS/GA DOI, **MASL** Farmer Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector, Development partners
Policy Actions	7.1. Introduce and adopt eco-friendly agricultural practices across agro-ecosystems to support environmental conservation			
	7.2. Ensure availability of locally improved seed and planting material through the establishment of focused breeding programs using traditional germplasm			
	7.3. Establish village seeds banks for germplasm conservation and sustainable utilization of traditional germplasm especially focusing on organic agriculture			
	7.4. Introduce and adopt modern eco-friendly input management techniques (including soil-test based fertilizer application, organic matter application, use of bio-pesticides/botanicals/predators for pests and disease control) to enhance productivity of arable land and safeguard ecosystem services			
	7.5. Adopt a mechanism to have a mandatory involvement of multinational agencies in promoting eco-friendly agricultural activities in Sri Lanka			
	7.6. Adopt stringent measures of plant quarantine by strengthening facilities at the NPQS and enforcing related regulations			
	7.7. Adopt a well-organized surveillance system for early-warning of new pest emergence and pest resurgence			
	7.8. Take appropriate measures to increase the use of renewable energy in agriculture – e.g., financial incentives to access solar-energy and wind powered technology/battery-powered technology for irrigation, temperature and RH-controlled -storage systems) and use of biogas			
	7.9. Promote farming systems with crop-animal integration where possible			
	7.10. Adopt mechanisms to ensure conformity of agricultural practices to the environmental standards and safeguards, including conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity of the country			

Thematic Area (6)	**Agri-Entrepreneurship and Markets**	Policy Goals to be Achieved	Link to SDGs	Responsible Agencies
Policy Statement	**8. Foster strategic collaboration among the value chain actors, especially focusing on value added products, targeting domestic and International markets**	3, 4, 7	1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15	**DOA**, **NIPHM, DAPH**, DAD, PMB, SLCARP, HARTI, NFS, CFC, CCFC, NLDB, MLEL,
Policy Actions	8.1. Establish an effective Agriculture Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) – a systems approach, including national and export market information/intelligence, climate/weather information through environmental impact analysis and economic and financial analysis			
	8.2. Establish a market-oriented production system			

	8.3. Establish a marketing network through the Agrarian Service Centers and the DECs			NADSA
	8.4. Establish a market mechanism to ensure higher returns and profits to producers who follow GAP			PC & DS/GA
	8.5. Adopt a minimum price for staple crop products			MASL
	8.6. Provide seed-funds and enhance management capacity of farmer producer organizations with a view to reducing input costs, maximizing profits, strengthening farmer producer organizations as economic units			Farmer Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector, International Research Institutes, Development partners
	8.7. Identify niche markets to promote products originated from traditional germplasm			
	8.8. Build capacity of the FOs/FPOs, SMEs and existing market players on value addition focusing on local and export markets (district level farmer federations)			
	8.9. Create and strengthen value chains of priority crops to connect farmers to numerous markets through involvement of agripreneurs			
	8.10. Establish a target-based supply chain management system for registered market players			
	8.11. Develop and adopt regulatory measures to implement standards for fresh and value-added products			
	8.12. Introduce and adopt appropriate and modern technologies to develop competitive value-added food products			
	8.13. Provide support to strengthen infrastructure for value addition of agricultural produce (appropriate structures linking small producers and large-scale entrepreneurs)			
	8.14. Adopt a well-planned demand-oriented cultivation system targeting the markets to avoid seasonal gluts with special attention to perishable crops			
	8.15. Introduce and adopt measures to strengthen inter-institutional linkages providing agro-based employment and more value addition opportunities (agro-based industries)			
	8.16. Ensure availability of credit facilities for agricultural produce across the value chain			
	8.17. Strengthen processing ventures through Farmer Producer Organizations, FOs and Farmer Federations			
	8.18. Establish regional-level common processing facilities			
Policy Statement	**9. Streamline and explore the domestic and international market systems with appropriate logistic services in compliance with national and international standards**	3, 4, 7	1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15	**EDB, PMB, CAA**,
Policy Actions	9.1. Take appropriate measures to strengthen logistics management through PPP (e.g., product transport systems, product unloading systems, etc.)			DOA, DAPH, SLCARP, HARTI
	9.2. Introduce and adopt mechanisms and technology for traceability (e.g., Blockchain systems)			MASL
	9.3. Adopt warehouse receipting system for durables (e.g., grain crops) by encouraging PPP,			Farmer
	9.4. Establish temperature- and RH-controlled storage and cold chain facilities for perishables through PPP			
	9.5. Adopt systems to promote branding at farm-gate level to support marketing of agricultural produce and products			

	9.6. Strengthen District Economic Centers (DECs) as regulated market-oriented service providers, including logistics			Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector

Thematic Area (7)	**Producer Empowerment**	Policy Goals to be Achieved	Link to SDGs	Responsible Agencies
Policy Statement	**10. Strengthen partnerships and mentorship programmes for farming and rural community to acquire agricultural expertise and make appropriate decisions to become economically independent**	7, 8	1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	**DOA**, **NIPHM, DAPH,** DAD, PMB, SLCARP, HARTI, NLDB, MLEL, NADSA PC & DS/GA MASL Farmer Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector, International Research Institutes, Development partners
Policy Actions	10.1. Establish farmer producer organizations leading to a farmer federation to build capacity on bargaining power, etc. and to transform such organizations as empowered social enterprises to handle agri-businesses.			
	10.2. Create awareness among farming community on cost: benefit, advantages/disadvantages of locally produced seeds and other inputs			
	10.3. Establish farmer-oriented banking system (e.g., Farmers' Bank) for dedicated support for agricultural operations and ventures			
	10.4. Re-orient and strengthen the development bank system to support and develop actors in the agriculture value chain			
	10.5. Establish a mechanism to register and recognize fulltime farmers as agri-entrepreneurs to support organized operations in agriculture			
	10.6. Establish a strong network of Agrarian Centers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), FOs, Cooperatives, Farmer Companies, etc.			
	10.7. Establish agro-industrial zones using farmer-cluster approach with agribusiness ventures through private-public-partnership (PPP)			
	10.8. Establish a mechanism to ensure farmers access new technology at affordable price to reduce cost of production and enhance resource productivity and profit			
	10.9. Establish an agricultural product procuring and distribution system (e.g., registered agents; auction system) through the engagement of FOs/FPOs to enhance marketability of farmer produce and increase farm-gate prices for fresh and value-added agricultural products			
	10.10. Establish a mechanism to fully utilize agriculture diploma holders and agriculture graduates in the			

	national development agenda, especially in the field of agriculture, and agri-business at various levels and establish a continuous learning platform for farmers			
Policy Statement	**11. Empower youth and women in agriculture with support for mechanization, access to modern technologies, and productivity-based incentive systems**	1, 2, 3, 4, 7	1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	**DOA**, **DAPH** DAD, AAIB, SLCARP, HARTI, NLDB, MLEL, NADSA PC & DS/GA **MASL** Farmer Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector, International Research Institutes, Development partners
Policy Actions	11.1. Support gender-based development in agriculture including capacity building for employment and change management			
	11.2. Take appropriate measures to incentivize youth engagement in agriculture such as adoption of modern technologies and digitalization and access to finance			
	11.3. Link to 1.5 above			
	11.4. Link to 1.6 above			
	11.5. Link to 1.8 above			
	11.6. Link to 2.12 above			
	11.7. Link to 5.2 above			
	11.8. Link to 6.2 above			
	11.9. Link to 7.4 above			
	11.10. Link to 10.7 above			

Thematic Area (8)	**Climate Resilience & Other Risk Management**	Policy Goals to be Achieved	Link to SDGs	Responsible Agencies
Policy Statement	**12. Promote adoption of appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures to increase climate-resilience of the agriculture systems**	9	1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	**DOA**, **DAPH**, DAD, NIPHM, PMB, SLCARP, HARTI, NFS, CFC, CCFC, NLDB, MLEL,
Policy Actions	12.1. Design and adopt weather index-based climate risk management tools			
	12.2. Establish a seasonal Agro-met Advisory (AMA) issuing mechanism with a minimum lead time of one month before the start of each season in collaboration with the Department of Meteorology and other relevant line agencies			

	12.3. Adhere to the actions related to agriculture identified in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)			NADSA PC & DS/GA DOM, DI, MASL Farmer Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector, International Research Institutes, Development partners
	12.4. Continue and further strengthen breeding programmes and technological development to support climate resilient agriculture for abiotic and biotic stresses			
	12.5. Propose and adopt financial incentives to use renewable energy in agriculture			
	12.6. Take measures to discourage burning of crop biomass and encourage transforming them into compost			
	12.7. Link to 1.3 above			
	12.8. Link to 1.7 above			
	12.9. Link to 8.1 above			
Policy Statement	**13. Strengthen food systems by connecting urban and rural communities to tackle climate shocks and other disasters**	9	1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15	**DOA, DAPH**, DAD, NIPHM, PMB, SLCARP, HARTI, NFS, CFC, CCFC, NLDB, MLEL, NADSA PC & DS/GA MASL Farmer Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector,
Policy Actions	13.1. Adopt crisis management mechanisms to meet the food demand under special situations especially in city regions			
	13.2. Identify and strengthen critical nodes of the city region food system to strengthen the connectivity between the rural and urban communities			
	13.3. Establish an inter-ministerial core group including central, provincial and district level administration to support city region food systems			
	13.4. Link to 12.1 above			
	13.5. Link to 12.2 above			
	13.6. Link to 12.3 above			
	13.7. Link to 12.4 above			

				International Research Institutes, Development partners

Thematic Area (9)	**Knowledge Management and Agricultural Extension**	Policy Goals to be Achieved	Link to SDGs	Responsible Agencies
Policy Statement	**14. Constitute a centrally-controlled information development and dissemination system to manage research, development and extension systems, and recruitment related to the agriculture sector**	1, 2, 4, 8	1, 2, 4, 12, 13, 14, 15	**DOA, DAD, DAPH**, PMB, SLCARP, HARTI, NFS, NLDB, MLEL, NADSA
Policy Actions	14.1. Establish a demand-driven agriculture research program in aching national development goals			
	14.2. Provide appropriate incentives (financial & physical) to promote R&D for technology development			
	14.3. Invest on research and development to produce hybrids and high yielding varieties of priority crops through private-public partnership			
	14.4. Facilitate and strengthen agriculture education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels			PC & DS/GA
	14.5. Establish real-time agriculture data base with continuous updating and easy public access			MASL DI, DOM
	14.6. Incorporate agriculture progressively as a compulsory subject at least until GCE O/L examination (KSA)			
	14.7. Incorporate more skills development in ancient agriculture technologies and modern on a need-based approach to the agriculture curricular in diploma and undergraduate levels			Farmer Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector, International Research Institutes, Development partners
	14.8. Adopt a market oriented agricultural extension system			
	14.9. Strengthen PPP to ensure effective information dissemination to the producers			
	14.10. Establish a centrally coordinated agriculture extension system with a stronger link between the DOA, PDOA, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka and Private Sector extension setup			
	14.11. Re-visit the grass root level extension modalities including the fresh recruitment of extension officers at grass root level/village level. With minimum qualification of NVQ level 4			
	14.12. Create awareness and promote adoption of novel technologies – use of mobile/data-tabs technologies for information dissemination and real-time feedback (For AIs, ARPAs, Presidents of Farmer Committees at ASCs)			
	14.13. Provide advisory and advocacy to support evidence-based decision making of farmers			

	14.14. Institute a market-oriented agriculture extension system (involvement of FO, DECs)			
	14.15. Adopt an efficient system for dissemination of market information			
	14.16. Build knowledge on judicious use of fertilizer and pesticides			
	14.17. Conduct knowledge building programs targeting of officers in the extension system			
	14.18. Develop and adopt recruitment criteria to agriculture related employment opportunities through a competency-based scheme (best-fit models)			
	14.19. Develop and establish a mechanism to increase the involvement of skilled labour in agriculture			
	14.20. Conduct outreach programs with a view to build knowledge among producers on novel and appropriate technologies			
	14.21. Develop a mechanism for progressive allocation of finances for agriculture research based on country priorities.			
	14.22. Develop and implement training programs to minimize occupational hazards in using agricultural technologies			
	14.23. Adopt farmer field schools (FFS) approach as a means of effective information dissemination			
	14.24. Link to 5.6 above			
	14.25. Link to 11.1 above			
	14.26. Link to 11.2 above			

Thematic Area (10)	**Governance and Operations Management**	Policy Goals to be Achieved	Link to SDGs	Responsible Agencies
Policy Statement	**15. Strengthen institutional coordination mechanism for project implementation, monitoring and evaluation at national and local government levels with wider stakeholder participation for sustainable agricultural development**	10	1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17	DOA, DAD, NIPHM, PMB, DAPH, SLCARP, HARTI, NFS, CFC, CCFC, NLDB, MLEL, NADSA PC & DS/GA DI, DOM, MASL
Policy Actions	15.1. Establish a policy implementation, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) committee/national policy management body (with a TOR) including linkages with provincial and local government set up			
	15.2. Establish an effective coordination mechanism among line agencies of Ministries to ensure compliance with the agriculture policy and enhance consumer and producer profitability			
	15.3. Adopt a stable taxation and fiscal policy system to provide price support to the producers and consumers			
	15.4. Regulate imports based on annual/seasonal production targets			
	15.5. Re-define mandatory functions of line agencies to complement each other and to support implementation of the agriculture policy and rational decision making			

	15.6. Adopt a mechanism for policy integration through the intervention of the Department of National Planning (with other entities for compatibility)			Farmer Organizations, Universities, Professional Associations, Private sector, International Research Institutes, Development partners
	15.7. Adopt a performance-based work evaluation of the state involvement in the food system			
	15.8. Update/develop and implement relevant Acts/ordinances and regulations, including empowerment of agencies to coordinate in implementation such regulation			
	15.9. Adopt participatory approaches involving engagement of farmers, scientists, academia, private sector, non-governmental Organization (NGOs)/Community-based Organizations (CBOs) in the national, regional and local level decision-making process in agriculture			
	15.10. Impose regulations including punitive actions for violation of laws related to agriculture			
	15.11. Constitute the involvement of private sector and development partners in decision making related to agriculture			
	15.12. Adopt a mechanism to implement professional development of the private sector agencies in the agriculture sector			
	15.13. Institute a performance-based reward system in agriculture across sub-sectors			
	15.14. Take measures to remove financial and regulatory constraints that hamper agricultural development, especially on use of new machinery and technologies			
	15.15. Harmonize with agriculture related acts and other policies for effective implementation			
	15.16. Link to 5.1 above			
	15.17. Link to 14.9 above			

Acronyms of the Responsible Institutions

AAIB	Agriculture and Agrarian Insurance Board
CCFC	Colombo Commercial Fertilizer Corporation
CFC	Ceylon Fertilizer Corporation
DAD	Department of Agrarian Development
DAPH	Department of Animal Production and Health
DOA	Department of Agriculture
DOI	Department of Irrigation
DOM	Department of Meteorology
DS	District Secretariat
DWLC	Department of Wildlife Conservation
FCAU	Food Control Administration Unit
HADABIMA	*Haritha Danav Bim Sanvardhana Madyama Adhikariya*
HARTI	Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute
MASL	Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
MLEL	Mahaweli Livestock Enterprise Ltd.
NADSA	National Agricultural Development and settlement Authority
NFPB	National Food Promotion Board
NFS	National Fertilizer Secretariat
NIPHM	National Institute of Post-Harvest Management
NLDB	National Livestock Development Board
PC	Provincial Council
SLCARP	Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy
SLSI	Sri Lanka Standards Institute