

Progress Report under Technology Sector to SOM – February 2004

Sri Lanka is the lead country for the Technology Sector for the period 2002-2004.

National Science & Technology Commission (NATEC) with the assistance of the Ministry of Economic Reform, Science & Technology (MERST) of Sri Lanka organized an Experts Group Meeting of the Technology Sector from 07 – 08 October 2002 for identification of specific projects under this sector.

Two workshops were held prior to the above Expert Group Meeting, one on Agro Technology and the other on ICT. Based on identified technologies a Technology Catalogue was developed.

As a follow up to the Expert Group Meeting, NASTEC prepared a project proposal for Technical Cooperation on “The Development of Low Cost Micro Irrigation System for Rural Areas”, for the development of small/medium agro industries. The proposal anticipates collaborative projects between the Agro Technology and Community Service Centre of the University of Colombo, Kasetsart University of Thailand and Jain Irrigation System Ltd., India. The farmer community, especially the younger generation could adopt these new techniques in the Agriculture sector to improve the yield. These schemes would also increase income and improve socio-economic condition of farmers. There could also be long-term development, such as the development of export village concept. This project is on BIMST-EC priority list for funding.

Another project proposal, NASTEC with the support from the World Conservation Union Office in Sri Lanka, was to prepare a document on Traditional Knowledge, now considered as a working document for the development of a National Strategy for incorporating traditional knowledge into development practices.

NASTEC with the support of NAM S & T Centre of New Delhi, India organized an “ International Workshop on Technology of Application Practices”. This workshop was held from 23 – 26 June 2003 in Kandy, Sri Lanka, attended by delegations of 13 NAM member countries.

NASTEC is in the process of updating and finalizing the Technology Catalogue that gives information on Agro based technologies available for possible use by other countries.

Bio-Pesticides is another area, which envisages the purpose of pesticides in Agriculture and health sectors.