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இயற்கை வளங்கள் முகாமைத்துவ நிலையம்
விவசாயத் திணைக்களம்
Natural Resources Management Centre
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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Date

8th January, 2017

Director General of Agriculture

Through:- Director/ NRMC

Weather update – January and February 2016

The Meteorology Department of Sri Lanka has predicted that all districts of Sri Lanka will have a likelihood of receiving near normal rainfall during both January and February in 2017. However, it is pertinent to note that quantum of rainfall that would receive during these two months even if the normal rainfall regime experiences are not substantial. Both January and February are the driest months of any year for Sri Lanka in almost all agro-ecological regions of the country as per the climatological expectations. Thus, any rain spell that may experience at any place of the country during next two months would not ease off the prevailing drought conditions of the country.

Moreover, prevailing dry weather conditions coupled with cold nights may continue for several more days with increased risk of occurrence of frost damages in higher elevations in Nuwara Eliya district. Vegetable farmers in this region are therefore advised to practice evening irrigation daily to make the soil to become wet, especially on days where daytime is a cloud free sky. Furthermore, they could also establish several small beacons/bonfire at several places in the farmlands after mid night without harming the crops in the field. Mulching can also be practiced as another mitigatory measure for frost damages.

It is likely that substantial amount of rains would not experience until late March or early April of this year which will receive in the form of evening thundershowers of convectional origin. Hence, very stingy use of available water in tanks, wells and public water supply systems should be practiced to avoid further water shortage situation for drinking, irrigation and environmental needs

Dr. B.V.R. Punyawardena
Head/Agro-climatology & Climate Change Division

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Additional Secretary (Development), Ministry of Agriculture: for your information pl.

Director/Communication and Additional Director/Communication: for necessary actions pl.