

Master trainers training programme on Vegetable Seeds Production – 2016

JICA Project for Enhancement of Production System of Certified Vegetable Seeds in Sri Lanka (Vegetable Seed Project) has been planned and organizing a Master Trainers Training programme in 2016 Yala season in collaboration with Department of Agriculture. Targeted beneficiaries of this programme are essential seeds (breeder's and basic seed) producers of the Department of Agriculture (DOA). Participants are expected to play a vital role as trainers to transfer learned knowledge and techniques to farming community as well as private sector in order to enhance quality seed production.

The training session takes place once in a month (five sessions in a season), and the participants are obligated to practice those learning's in their own lands in order to gain deeper understanding by experiencing actual field works.

On 16th of May, appointed thirteen (13) master trainers were gathered together at the first time to initiate the training programme. The master trainers were DOA officers selected from SPMDC Regional offices (4), Government Seed Farms (3), SCS Regional offices (4), and HORDI (2), who are engaged in vegetable seed production as in day-to-day operations. At the beginning of the session, the master trainers learned about Good Vegetable Seed Production Practice (GVSP), which composes the core concept of this training programme. After getting a general picture of quality seed production by went through GVSP, a lecture on sowing and nursery management was given to the master trainers to promote a greater understanding in raising good seedlings. Since agriculture practices cannot be mastered only by auditing classroom lectures, the trainers moved to the field to practice what they taught at the lecture, and sowed seeds of eggplant and bitter gourd. The master trainers will learn proper manner of seed production through managing those eggplant and bitter gourd plants in the training field.

The 2nd session of the Master Trainers' Training was held on 29th of June in Gannoruwa.

Each participants presented to share their current progress of the practice of learning's during the previous programme. 2nd programme mainly comprised with review of

preparation of nursery media and nursery management including practical sessions on transplanting of brinjal / eggplants.



At the beginning of the training, all the participants made presentations to report their activities in their own plots - Soil Sterilization by heat.



After the class room session, the participants moved to the field and had a practical training- transplanting practice.



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The 3rd session of the Mater Trainers' Training was held on 27th of July in Gannoruwa.

As per every session, the training was kicked off with presentations made by the participants. One representative from each region (Aluttarama, Kundasale, Mahailuppallama, and Nikaweratiya) presented the progress and current status of their training plots using slides and showing photographs to the other trainees.

Following the presentations, an expert from the Project gave a lecture on land preparation, seedling establishment, training of bitter gourd, and soil cover (mulching). The coursework underwent explaining details of each topic logically for the trainees to gain a better comprehension and to understand the importance of those practices.

To closing the session, all the participants moved from the lecture room to the model training field established in Post Control Unit II, a testing farm operated by Seed Certification Service (SCS) of Department of Agriculture, to put into action what they just learned in the lecture. The trainees experienced training of bitter gourd, establishment of brinjal seedlings, and mulching on brinjal plot in the model training field.



Progress report by participants



Practical work in establishment of brinjal



Practical work in Training of bitter gourd

Vegetable Seed Project: The 4th Master Trainers' Training on Vegetable Seed Production

The master trainers were gathered on 1st of September to participate in the latest monthly session for the training in Gannoruwa. The practical topics for the day were; 1) application of additional fertilizer, 2) application of support for fruit vegetables, 3) shoot training for brinjal, and 4) hand pollination for bitter gourd. How those practices make differences to the plants was explained in the lecture, and the participants learned the proper methods for each practice.

To get better grasp on the practical topics in the lecture, the trainees engaged in the management works in the brinjal and bitter gourd training plots employing the method learned in the classroom. The participants showed great interest in shoot training of brinjal and put effort into mastering the technique by their hands.



Application of add fertilizer on brinjal



Management works on bitter gourd



Training of brinjal

**Vegetable Seed Project: The 5th Master Trainers' Training on
Vegetable Seed Production**

As the agricultural season turns from Yala to Maha, the Master Trainers' Training in Yala 2016 comes to the end; the 5th and final session of the training was organized on 17th October in Peradeniya to close the entire programme that held throughout the season at once in a month intervals.

The master trainers gathered up to the demonstration plot, where they had learned practical techniques by applying management operations with their hands, to engage in the final steps of seed production. All the fruits at the proper timing for seed production were harvested, and the master trainers acquired proper manners of seed extraction, cleaning, and drying through experiencing each procedure in the field. In addition to the practical works in the field, the participants gained more detailed knowledge and logics in sound post-harvest manners at the classroom lecture conducted by a Project expert. In an ordinary way, prior to the post-harvest lecture, the participants presented and shared to the other participants for the past one month status of their own training plots established in their regions, and reported the final outcome of their field management results.

To wrap up the training programme, the participants took an evaluation paper test to give proof that they are qualified master trainers, and as a result of the test, they proved that they were. All the master trainers declared that they are ready to take rolls as seed production instructors to give practical guidance to seed producers in the country. Their activity as master trainers begins from upcoming Maha 2016/17 season, and they are expected to train a number of seed producers who have problems in producing quality vegetable seed.



Harvest of Brinjals



Field Report by Participants



Participants Taking Evaluation Test



Master Trainers at the demonstration field in Gannoruwa