# SriLanKoRAA

## NEWSLETTER

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## KoRAA HIGHLEVEL MEETING 2017




Group Photo of KoRAA High Level Delegates Meeting at Hanoi, Vietnam



Dr. WMW Weerakoon (President), Mr. Shantha Emitiyagoda (Secretary) and Dr. Ajantha De Silva (Treasurer) represented Sri Lanka.

Korea Rural Development Administration Alumni Association (KoRAA) High level meeting 2017 was held at Hanoi Vietnam from 22nd to 26th May 2017. High level delegates from nine KoRAA member countries, namely Korea, Cambodia, Indonasia, Mongolia, Philippines, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand & Vietnam attended this meeting. Dr. WMW Weerakoon (President), Mr. Shantha Emitiyagoda (Secretary) and Dr. Ajantha De Silva (Treasurer) participated the meeting representing Sri Lanka.

One of the landmark events took place at the meeting was signing a MOU by all the Presidents of nine KoRAA member countries to continue the Alumni activities. A Power Point presentation was done by the Sri Lankan Delegates and also a Poster was displayed on historical development of Alumni Association.

## Executive Committee 2017 / 18

- Dr. W.M.W. Weerakoon, PhD. President
- Mr. G.A.M. Shantha Siri Emitiyagoda, Secretary
- Dr. Ajantha De Silva, PhD. Treasurer
- Mr. K.E. Karunathilake, Vice President
- Mr. P.B. Dayaratne, Liaison Officer
- Dr. W.M.A.D.B. Wickramasinghe, PhD. Editor
- Mr. Gamini Rajakaruna, Member
- Dr. B.V.R. Punyawardane, PhD. Member
- Mr. S.W. Abeysekera, Member
- Mr. S. Periyasamy, Member

SriLanKoRAA new website.

**www.srilankoraa.lk**

## 11th Annual General Meeting of SriLanKoRAA

The 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of SriLanKoRAA was held on 17th & 18th February 2017 at In-service Training Institute, Gannoruwa with the participation of about 40 members and their family members. The event commenced with two seminar presentations at NAICC, Gannoruwa on 17th Feb 2017. Prof. Jayalath Edirisinghe made a presentation on "Happiness – How to achieve it" and Prof. Jeevika Weerahewa talked on " Successful Project Proposal Writing" followed by the SriLanKoRAA get together and Fellowship Dinner at the ISTI Gannoruwa. The ceremonial session of the SriLanKoRAA was held on 18th Feb 2017 at ISTI Gannoruwa. The keynote speech of the ceremonial session was delivered by Prof Nishan Kalupahana, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya on "Nutrition for Changing Life Style" followed by Annual General Meeting. Following Office Bearers were elected at the 11th AGM for the coming 2 year period.




11th Annual General Meeting of SriLanKoRAA at ISTI, Gannoruwa

## SRILANKORAA DONATED ONION SEED CLEANING MACHINE TO JAFFNA FARMERS

Red Onion seed production programme was started in Jaffna with four farmers, and it has been successfully spread to many farmers with the intervention of SriLanKoRAA and the Provincial Department of Agriculture of the Northern Province. When Executive Committee members visited Jaffna last year to observe the progress of the project, there were 30 farmers engaged in producing seeds and expected to increase the number to produce 2000 kg of seeds. Farmers raised the difficulty of cleaning of seeds and requested a possibility of getting a seed cleaning machine. The Executive Committee assessed the importancy of the programme and decided to donate a seed cleaning machine. It was established at the District Training Centre at Thinnanveli with the responsibility under the Provincial Department of Agriculture. A fare was introduced based on the seed quantity and that money will used to maintain the machine.






Prof. Nishantha Kalupahana delivering keynote speech on "Nutrition for Changing Life Style



Members enjoying at the fellowship night.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Next High level URRA meeting will be hosted in Sri Lanka in 2019
- SriLanKoRAA field excursion to Yala wildlife sanctuary will be on due course.

## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

One of the main activities of SriLanKoRRA is involvement of membership with various development activities. In this case members submit a project proposal to Ex. Committee and once it approved they carry out the project. Most of these projects are targeting the development of farming communities. Sri LanKoRRA carried out such activities during the past 11 years and they are as follows.

- Rice Research Training and Demonstration Farm - Polonnaruwa
- Vegetable Research Training and Demonstration Farm - Seetha Eliya
- Community Based Seed Production Societies for seed paddy. Onion seeds and Traditional seed paddy.
- Community based Red onion seed production in Jaffna District.
- Model farm for Dissemination of Appropriate Technology in Agriculture Mahalllippallama
- IT Bank, RRDI Batalagoda
- Integrated Organic Model Farm Village Development with women participation, Anuradapura.
- Introduction of Rain shelters to promote true seed production in B Onion, Also suppoted by KOPIA Centre.
- Establishment of Mushroom Spore Production Facility, Polonaruwa Demostration Farm
- ·RAA Scholarship Progarmme with Four Faculties of Agriculture.
- ·Scholarship programme for children of Members studying at Universities
- ·Promotion and production of weedy rice free seed paddy at Kurunegala
- ·Seed paddy production of Traditional rice varieties at Kurunegala

Under the University scholarship programme, a total of 20 students benefited as follows on need basis and merit basis in each year

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, 8 students (4 Needy & 4 Merit)
Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, 4 Students (Needy)
Faculty of Agriculture, University of Rajarata, 4 Students (Needy)
Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, 4 Students (Needy)
In addition, presently 9 children of members are receiving scholarships from SriLanKoRAA family member scholarship programme.
Recently the executive committee members visited the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Rajarata and hand over the cheque to Dean of the Faculty Agriculture.

## PROJECT EVALUATION

SriLanKoRAA also commenced end project evaluation activity on the request of RDA. Dr Canute de Silva has been recruited as the consultant to carry out the study. The following activities have already been completed.

- Consultant recruited
- Initial Workshop was held with the participation of project Leaders
- For the evaluation, OECD/DAC procedure was adopted.
- Initial findings were presented at the high level meeting in Hanoi

Final report submitted to the RDA




Consultant, Dr. Canute de Silva making a Presentation

## SRILANKORAA FELICITATES DR. W.M.W. WEERAKOON (PRESIDENT)

A Felicitation Ceremony was held to mark the promotion of Dr. WMW Weerakoon ( President) as the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture on 22nd July 2017. Executive Committee and Senior members of SriLanKoRAA, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Dr Rohan Wijekoon, Director General of Agriculture, several Members of the Directorate of the DOA and Dr. Choi In Hu Director, KOPIA Sri Lanka and his Staff attended to grace the event.



Founder President Prof. Kapila Gunasekara presenting the felicitation plaque to Dr Weerakoon.



Dr Rohan Wijekoon DGA presented the greeting Card which contain signatures of all guests.

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