

E1-27: Contribution of UNDP/RCA/IAEA Programmes to Sri Lanka on the use of isotopes and radiation to strengthen technology and support environmentally sustainable development

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The immediate objectives of UNDP/RCA/IAEA programmes on the application of isotopes and radiation technology, are to upgrade the capabilities of key personnel in science and industry on the technology suitable for addressing problems of environmentally sustainable development and preparation of recommendations to national governments on applications of technology which will be harmonized on international standards.

The sustainability of such technological development is dependent on availability of trained manpower. Regional and national training programmes, workshops, seminars and demonstrations have been conducted for the last 12 years in the use of nucleonic control systems, isotope techniques in process optimization, tracer technology, nuclear analytical techniques, non destructive evaluation of materials and radiation processing. Internationally accepted national standards are being prepared for most applications.

Regional and national programmes have trained a large number of scientists and engineers in Sri Lanka to form core groups of national experts in each application. These groups have developed their capabilities to provide training for others without any foreign expertise. The promotion of this technology has been addressed for top-level executives and decision makers. Technology was transferred even to small and medium scale industries. The contribution of UNDP/RCA/IAEA programmes to Sri Lanka's industrial development is considerable. However, the progress of applicability is dependent on economy, policies and provisions for incorporation of international standards.