

## **F-15: Present status and future potential of cut foliage industry**

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Export of cut foliage is relatively new in Sri Lanka though the development has been steady over the last 10 years. However, very little information

has been documented regarding its growth and relevant activities. Therefore, a study was conducted to evaluate activities of export foliage industry and its developmental trend.

A survey was carried out through interviews with selected cut foliage exporters using a questionnaire. It emphasized suitable species for cut foliage, management practices, necessary postharvest practices and the present constraints.

There were approximately 90 varieties presently exported as cut foliage. However, new varieties with a high potential were being continuously pursued by the exporters. Required amounts of foliage were collected from their own nurseries as well as from local collectors. Management practices which apply for these florist greens from harvesting to shipping were less sophisticated and therefore, less expensive.

Cut foliage industry contributed to economic growth of Sri Lanka by earning Rs. Mn. 106.96 in 1992. This industry was labour intensive. Simple, less expensive technology, favourable climate and availability of unique flora were some of the major advantages. However, there were some constraints, such as inadequate air cargo space, lack of continuous demand, rejection due to low quality.