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Seed-paddy sub-sector in Sri Lanka has been functioning for a number of years under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture. There were 35 government seed farms, however only 19 are being operated at the moment. Of the working farms, most of them are running at a loss. Based on the information available, DOA has supplied only 6.75% in Maha and 3.19% in Yala of the total seed-paddy requirement in the Southern Region of Sri Lanka. In order to meet the current seed-paddy demand in the region, the existing seed-paddy structure must be reinforced in an effective manner to ensure an adequate and timely supply of quality seed-paddy at a reasonable price. Therefore, in this context a rapid appraisal was undertaken with a view to ascertain critical problems and suggest possible interventions by interest groups. The objectives of the study were to; identify types and nature of the existing structure of seed-paddy sub-sector in Galle, Matara and Hambantota districts; assess the attitudes of farmers, officers and people engaged in seed-paddy sub-sector; identify constraints that affect seed-paddy sub-sector and suggest methods to improve it. Primary data was gathered from farmers, officers and people engaged in seed-paddy sub-sector in those 3 districts. Secondary data was obtained from reports. Purposive sampling was done to obtain information.

The important findings were: delay in seed certification, delay in supply of irrigation water, limited availability of newly developed rice varieties, limited financial capabilities of paddy farmers, insufficient storage facilities, limited transport facilities, price disparity of seed-paddy, sudden demand changes of seed-paddy, poor marketing network of seed-paddy, necessity of equipment grants/loans and publicity for seed paddy marketing channels. Seed certification service should be installed at Bata-ata seed farm in order to provide Registered Seed Paddy and Certified Seed Paddy on time. Furthermore, it is necessary to encourage alternative seed testing method, e.g. germination test. Officers involved with private seed-paddy industry should be represented at cultivation meetings in order to discuss the possibility of early issuing of water to paddy cultivation areas specially in Hambantota District. Farmers in Galle and Matara Districts should be provided with new rice varieties resistant to fungal diseases. In addition to the existing marketing network, an alternative network has to be strengthened to encourage quick purchasing and distributing of seed-paddy in the region. In this alternative network, Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies, registered farmer organizations, rice millers, "SANASA" etc, could be the main organizations to be strengthened. Thereby a good price can be obtained by seed-paddy producers. It is better to provide relatively low-cost machinery to the seed-paddy growers and marketing agents after identifying their needs carefully. It is recommended that the low risky short-aged seed-paddy marketing channels be strengthened and unoccupied storage facilities at Bata-ata seed farm be rented out at reasonable rates. Publicity campaign can be initiated over the "Ruhunu Sevaya" regarding the seed-paddy distribution and marketing channels.