

**F-12: Some characteristics of research collaboration in the National Research System**

R M W Amaradasa

*(National Science Foundation, Colombo 7)*

Sharing the tangible and intangible resources in scientific research is important to support the Science & Technology driven National Development. The current research in operation in the country, the publications in Journal of National Science Council (JNSC), and Annual Proceedings of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) were examined to observe the characteristics of research collaborations that exist in the National Research System.

The research collaborations were categorized into three major groups namely Type A, Type B and Type C denoting no collaboration, collaboration within the same organization and inter institutional collaboration respectively. Index of Research Collaboration (IRC) has been defined as the ratio between the involvement of more than one researcher and the involvement of only one researcher.

The ongoing research projects show very low percentage of projects (1.6%) with type C collaboration. Type B collaborations can be seen in 28.6% of projects at which the IRC value was higher than one for Life Sciences and Medical & Veterinary Sciences.

The JNSC publications for the period 1993-97 show a higher level of type B collaboration with an average IRC of 2.4 for all sciences. IRC for type C

collaboration in JNSC publications was 0.9. Similarly, the annual proceedings of SLAAS (1994 – 96) shows that type B collaborations are more prominent than type C. Higher IRC values for type B can be seen in sections A, E1 & E2 (IRC value of 5.1, 4.1 & 4.5 respectively). IRC value for type C collaborations is higher in section A (IRC=3.4). Section C shows the lowest collaborations in both type B & type C.

The findings conclude that inter institutional collaborations in scientific research is almost absent in ongoing research projects. Existence of collaborations within the institution is evident. However, improvements of the inter-institutional collaborations can be seen at the publication stages in general. The results would provide some input for Research & Development management at institutional, sectoral and national level for better integration of scarce resources for research.