

**Weed seed contaminations of imported onion (*Allium cepa*) seed lots**

K K S D Pradeepika\*, M Rambukkana, S D D N Sandanayake, H T A S Priyadharsani and D P P Jayakody

*National Plant Quarantine Service, Canada friendship road, Katunayake.*

In Sri Lanka, growing of B'onion (*Allium cepa*) is done by using the imported onion seeds mainly from India. This study was done at the National Plant Quarantine Service, Katunayake to identify weed seed contaminations of B'onion seed consignments imported into Sri Lanka from India in year 2006. During the year 2006, twenty three samples of B'onion seed consignments were checked for weed seeds and all samples were contaminated with weed seeds. Among the weed seeds identified, *Chenopodium album*, *Covolvulus arvensis*, *Euphorbia dentata*, *E.maculata*, *Astragalus* sp. and *Argemone platyceras* have not been recorded in Sri Lanka. *Parthenium hysterophorus*, which have been under official control in Sri Lanka. *Chenopodium album*, *Convolvulus arvensis* and *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* are in the list of world's worst weeds. Sri Lanka considered *Cuscuta* sp., *Parthenium hysterophorus* and *Opuntia* sp. as quarantine important weed species. Although, *Achyranthes*, *Amaranthus*, *Brassica*, *Ipomoea*, *Phyllanthus*, *Trifolium*, *Lolium*, *Echinochloa*, *Setaria* and *Panicum* species have been reported in Sri Lanka, *Amaranthus*, *Echinochloa*, *Setaria* and *Panicum* species are highly competitive, aggressive weeds. Control of such weeds is very difficult and highly expensive. According to the tetra solium test, all the weed seeds detected were viable. As these weeds have a potential of establishment in our country with planting of onion seeds, proper pre-entry and post-entry safeguard measures should be implemented to prevent the entry and establishment of unwanted alien weed species.