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**Technology transfer and commercialization, from a developing country perspective:
Evidence from recently completed government funded R&D projects in Sri Lanka**

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The transfer and commercialization of the findings of research and development has demonstrable (remarkable) benefits for the social and local economic development especially in developed countries. However, the opportunity to improve the availability, dissemination, and use of government sponsored R&D has consistently been a challenge. Over the years, several efforts have been made to promote the transfer of technology from the Sri Lankan government R&D institutes to the private sector. However, its commercialization rate is reported to be lower than expected. In order to prevent such waste, feedback information obtained from the completed R&D projects need to be utilized for successful transfer of future projects.

The main purpose of this study was to highlight barriers and clarify solutions for efficient and timely technology transfer, based on the findings of an empirical study carried out by analyzing a random sample of 22 case studies of government-sponsored R&D projects from 77 R&D projects. This study refines and reveals that technical soundness, providing a complete technology package equipped with a sufficient infrastructure facility at institutional and national levels, establishing a proper mechanism to transfer technology to the users/industry at institutional and national levels, policy initiatives that facilitate effective technology transfer and finally selecting the most appropriate technology transfer strategies for specific innovations are a set of observable factors that hinder government sponsored R&D transfer and commercialization process. The results of eight technology transfer case studies taken from the sample were summarized under each sub topic assuming that those facts contribute to conceptual clarity of the paper.

Based on the empirical evidence, recommendations are proposed to mitigate the negative consequences of factors that hinder transfer and commercialization of government-sponsored R&D and also to make technology transfer and commercialization a key to sustainable economic development.

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