**<http://www.president.gov.lk/presidential-task-force-on-national-food-production/>**

**Presidential Task Force on National Food Production**

Sri Lanka spends around Rs. 200 billion annually to import main food items including livestock and fisheries products. However, there is a possibility of producing most of the imported food items domestically with high quality and it has been a timely need in order to save the foreign exchange spent on food import.

Considering the consumption pattern of Sri Lanka, nutritionists have recommended that a person should consume 200 grams of vegetables and fruits each per day. However, present day consumption level is 100 grams only. Current per capita consumption of sea food including fish is only 40 grams, although the recommended quantity is to be 60 grams per day. Further, a person in Sri Lanka consumes low level of dairy products despite the fact that 100 ml per day is required. This has been resulted in low level of nutrition among people in Sri Lanka.

In considering the above facts, “National Food Production Programme” is to be implemented during the period from 2016 to 2018 to achieve self-sufficiency in quality food through strategies and activities, proposed by the relevant national and provincial line ministries, departments and institutions.

**Objectives:**

Make the country self-sufficient in food which can be produced locally, utilizing the lands available in optimal manner thus saving foreign exchange on food imports.  
Produce sufficient quality food for people by adopting environmentally friendly cultivation methods and using chemicals for weeds and pests to the extent of minimum possible.  
Ensure food security through proper management of buffer stocks.  
Ensure balanced development in the country through introducing and implementing a food production programme based on agro-eco zones.  
Minimize production cost and maximize productivity through application of quality inputs and appropriate technological methods.  
Establish a proper coordination among all stakeholders who are involved in the domestic food production programme and make it part and parcel of daily life of people including school children, farmer organizations and civil organizations.