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Copy for Mr. S. R.  
17/2/01



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අංක 15/12, මේට්ලන්ඩ් චන්ද්‍රවංකය,

(කැ.පෙ. 563), කොළඹ 7.

தொகைமதிப்பு புள்ளிவிபரத் திணைக்களம்

இல. 15/12, மெயிற்லன்ட் சிறுசென்ட்

(கு. பெட்டி 563), கொழும்பு 7.

Department of Census and Statistics

15/12, Maitland Crescent,

(P.O. Box 563), Colombo 7.

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எனது இல. }  
My No. }

ඔබේ අංකය }  
உமது இல. }  
Your No. }

දිනය } 15 February 2001  
திகதி }  
Date }

දුරකථන/தொலைபேசி/Telephone

ප්‍රධාන ජනරාල් } 695291  
பணிப்பாளர் நாயகம் }  
Director General }

ප්‍රධාන කාර්යාලය } 682176, 682177  
தலைமைக் காரியாலயம் }  
General Office }

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Telegrams } "Statistics"

ෆැක්ස්/பாக்கஸ்/Fax 94 - 1 - 697594  
E-mail: dcensus@lanka.com.lk

Dr. Suresh .R. Sharma,  
Resident Representative .a.i.  
FAO, Colombo,  
Sri Lanka.

Dear Sir,

**SRI LANKA'S CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE - 2002**

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is in the process of conducting the Census of Population and Housing 2001. First stage of the Census, namely the mapping of GN divisions has already been successfully completed by the DCS including the cleared areas in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. Listing of all the buildings are now in progress. The enumeration stage of the Population and Housing is scheduled to commence in June 2001. The final Census count has been fixed for June 28, 2001.

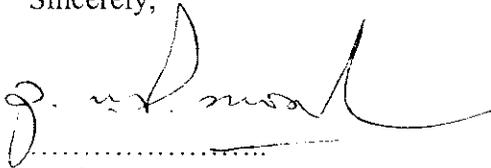
The systematic listing approach followed in the Census of Population and Housing, forms the basis to conduct the Census of Agriculture which is scheduled for the year 2002. The last five Censuses of Agriculture were undertaken in the years of 1946, 1952, 1962, 1973 and 1983 respectively. In the Census of Agriculture 1982, the latest in the series, about 1.8 million holdings both large and small were covered on a complete enumeration basis. Since then there was no proper information on structure of the agricultural sector other than those generated on an ad - hoc basis by different agencies. The Census of Agriculture which was due in 1992 was not conducted and so was the Census of Population and Housing of 1991, due to prolonged internal conflict experienced specially in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country.

Due to the long gap of 20 years since the last Census of Agriculture was undertaken, the DCS has faced with the problem of skilled personnel who possess sufficient practical experience to undertake the responsibilities of conducting the Census as in 1982. It has therefore become necessary for the DCS to request for guidance and advice on planning and conducting the census of Agriculture. The methodology to be adopted in the case of conflict torn areas needs to be reviewed. It is also important to strengthen the cartographic and data processing capabilities of the DCS and to improve the technical skills of the staff involved.

It is in this context that I write to you seeking your assistance at this important juncture to overcome some of the above mentioned difficulties in order to have the Census of Agriculture conducted efficiently and effectively. I would be thankful if an opportunity is given to discuss further details with you on this matter as early as possible.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.G.W. Nanayakkara', written over a horizontal dotted line.

(A.G.W.Nanayakkara)

Director General and Superintendent of Census of Population and Housing