

# National Plant Quarantine Service



## Contact Information

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## Vision

Facilitate the international movement of healthy plants and plant products for the development of national agriculture and related industries

## Objectives

- Prevention of introduction, establishment and spread of dangerous alien pests within the country.
- Involvement in domestic pest control programmes
- Development of treatment technologies to eradicate pests of quarantine importance.
- Promotion of export of healthy plants and plant products.

## **Mandate**

This service has the responsibility of enforcing and implementation of Plant Protection Act No.35 of 1999 and Regulations made thereunder in relation to plant quarantine activities. It also conducts research and development activities in plant quarantine aspects.

## **History**

In 1869, a rust disease *Hemileia vastatrix* wiped out the coffee plantation in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Subsequently Indonesia passed legislation banning coffee imports including sacks used for packing coffee from Sri Lanka and it was the first plant quarantine law in the Asian region.

In Sri Lanka, British scientists of the Department of Agriculture at Peradeniya commenced plant quarantine activities in 1880s. This was necessitated because; Sri Lanka became a centre for identification of pests affecting crop plants. Regional countries have sent here the samples for scientific studies. After the establishment of Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) at Gannoruwa, Peradeniya, all the plant quarantine activities were carried out jointly in the divisions of Entomology and Plant pathology of the same Institute. In early 1980s with the help of Australian government, a separate unit for Plant quarantine activities was established in Gannoruwa within the premises of CARI. A Chief Plant Quarantine officer was appointed assigning all the responsibilities of plant quarantine in Sri Lanka. In 1994, the present National Plant Quarantine Service complex was established at Katunayake with the financial assistance of the Japanese Government.

## **Plant protection laws in Sri Lanka**

1901 - Insect Pest and Quarantine Ordinance

1907 - Plant Pest Ordinance

1909 - Water Hyacinth Ordinance

1924 - Plant Protection Ordinance

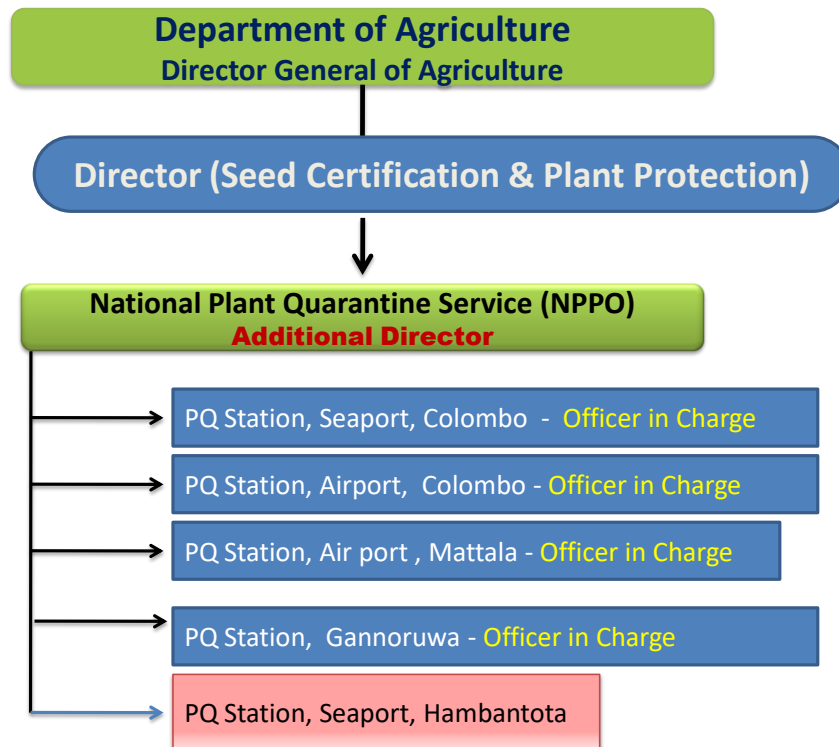
1999 - Plant Protection Act

The Plant Protection Act No. 35 of 1999 was passed by the Parliament in July 1999. Since new regulations are not yet enacted, those made under the Plant Protection Ordinance are still in operation. The regulations made by the Minister of Agriculture and notified in the Gazette of 1981.11.12 including 19 regulations covering almost all aspects related to importation of plants and plant products to Sri Lanka.

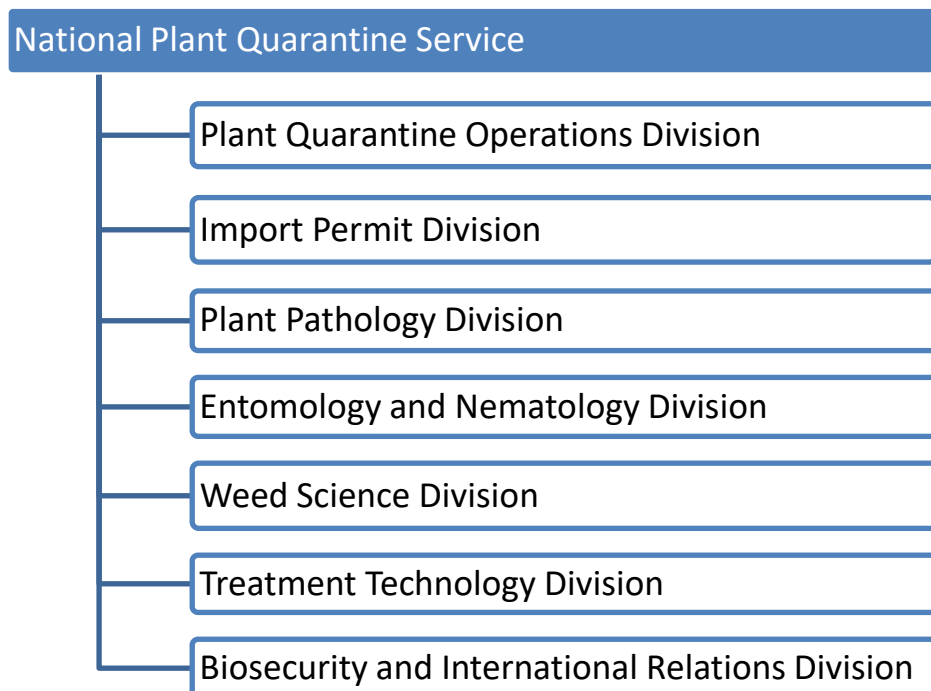
## **Services**

- **Pest diagnostics and detection**
  - Inspection
  - Sampling
  - Visual and laboratory examination of commodities
  - Treatments for pest eradication
  - Issuance of phytosanitary certificates according to the phytosanitary requirements of importing countries
  - Issuance of Plant Import Permits
  - Pack house certification
  - Field auditing
  - Certification of plant and plant production facilities, quarantine treatment facilities
  
- **Training and awareness**
  - Short training programmes for academia (university students, diploma holders, teachers, school children)
  - In plant training for undergraduates and diploma holders
  - for Stakeholders
  - for general public
  - Multi media and mass media programmes
  
- **Research related to plant quarantine**

# Structure of Plant Quarantine Service



## Technical Divisions of the National Plant Quarantine Service



# **Activities of the Technical Divisions**

## **Plant Quarantine Operation Division**

Major Activities of Quarantine Operation Division

1. Coordination with stakeholders on plant quarantine matters.
2. Coordination of Export plant nursery inspection and preparation of final test reports as supporting documents to issue phytosanitary certificates
3. Coordination of activities between the ports of entry and laboratories in testing samples and compilation of final test reports required to release imported consignment.
4. Destruction of prohibited, problematic or pest infected materials submitted to the NPQS laboratories.
5. Handling of post Entry quarantine activities.
6. Organizing training and awareness programmes for stakeholders and general public.
7. Information exchange related to plant quarantine matters with other NPPOs
8. Compiling documents related to administrative activities, financial and physical progress etc..
9. Advisory services on phytosanitary matters for stakeholders.

## **Import permit Division**

The basic responsibility of this division is to issue import permits for the import of plants and plant products based on the import conditions developed through PRA process. This division cooperates with other technical divisions on developing import conditions and initiates the PRA process by submitting requests to the PRA team.

Further the division is responsible for providing information for inquiries made on importing commodities

## **Pathology Division**

1. Inspection of import/export cargo of plant, & plant products
2. Inspection of plant nurseries and production fields
3. Identification of diseases
4. Auditing export vegetable nurseries
5. Advisory services for plant nursery men/ coir exporters
6. Conducting training and awareness programmes
7. Studies on the diseases of imported seed potatoes
8. Research activities related to plant quarantine
9. Being a member of the PRA team and Surveillance team

## **Entomology Division**

1. Inspection of import/export cargo, plant nurseries and production fields
2. Identification of insect and nematode pests
3. Auditing export vegetable nurseries
4. Conducting training and awareness programmes
5. Research activities
6. Being a member of the PRA team and Surveillance team

## **Weed Science Division**

The Weed Science Division of the National Plant Quarantine Service was established in 1999 as one of the major technical divisions in the institute.

Main duty and function of this division is to carry out official phytosanitary certification activities related to weed (including their seeds) and soil contaminations on the export ready and imported commodities.

In Addition,

- Predicting the potential invasiveness of a plant requested to be imported
- Compiling and upgrading Quarantine weed lists
- Surveys and surveillance on weeds that were introduced unintentionally or illegally to understand the biology, ecology, reporting their status and developing management options for those weeds
- pre import weed risk analysis, development of import phytosanitary conditions and perform post entry quarantine studies on plants that are regulated to import (due to their potential invasiveness) when they imported for scientific studies
- Being a member in PRA and surveillance teams
- Development of identification keys for the quarantine weeds and their seeds, maintaining reference collections and research on pre, intermediate and post entry quarantine management of weeds
- Scientific identification of plants imported to Sri Lanka

## **Biosecurity and International Relations Division**

This Division was established in 2015, considering the importance of having a separate division to coordinate PRA and surveillance activities. Functions of this division include:

- Coordination of PRA team and facilitation of PRA process
- Compiling PRA reports and designing Import phytosanitary conditions
- Documentation and databasing of pest information
- Conducting surveillance, coordinating surveillance activities and reporting
- Maintaining international relations, cooperation with the other countries on phytosanitary matters
- Developing standards, policies and regulations, coordinating the process
- Developing information for market access of Sri Lankan produce

## **Plant Quarantine Treatment Technology Division**

Treatment is a plant quarantine action intended to eliminate 100% pests in a commodity

There is a zero tolerance policy in plant quarantine for pests .

The objective of the quarantine treatment is to prevent the movement of pests into areas where they are not already established.(Treatments are directed at elimination of pests associated with Imports and provide pest sanitation for exports)

Fumigation is the treatment that is used most frequently in Plant Quarantine.

### **Services provided by the Treatment Technology Division**

- Commercial fumigation for export/ import commodities using mrethyl bromide/ phospine; Vacuum and NAP
- Online approval for Methyl Bromide fumigations as Sri lanka is signatory to the Montreal protocol.
- Supervision of fumigation of cargo done by private fumigators to fullfill the requirements of the importing country.
- Registration of treatment providers under ISPM 15.
- AFAS JSR Auditing to comply with AFAS standards especially to the consignment need the AFAS certification.
- Support on market access of exported commodities through phytosanitary certification with required treatments to fulfil the requirement of importing country.
- Sharing technical information of biosecurity treatment measures of import and export requirements to industries.
- Technical assistance to industries process to meet requirements.
- Assessment and corrective actions taken place in the critical point of the industry.

### **Research activities**

- Development of fumigation standards for new fumigants: Ethyl F ormate and Liquid phodpine.
- Finalizing the irradiation regulation for phytosanitary purpose.

### **Development activities**

- Consolidation and training a good biosecurity practices to stakeholders.
- Approval of industry process as part of phytosanitary certification system.

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