Introduction

The Agricultural Information Division (AID) has continued with its main objective of providing up-to-date and reliable statistics and information to users/stakeholders for various uses such as policy formulation, strategic planning, decision making and research. The Division maintains a Database Unit, a Library and Documentation Unit, an Audiovisual Unit and a Computer Network Unit to achieve its mission. The Division also forms part of the triangular inter-library network comprising AID/UOM/MSIRI. Audiovisual support is provided to the Ministry and parastatal bodies for the organization of agricultural events.

ISO Certification

The Agricultural Information Division became an ISO certified Division. It was awarded the MS ISO 9001:2008 certificate by the MSB on 30 November 2011 which remains valid until November 2014. The scope of the certificate of registration covers the following services:

- Development and provision of information services on food and agriculture to ministries, government departments, parastatal bodies, local authorities, other government agencies, private companies and international organizations.
- Provision of IT support services and audiovisual and other related ancillary services.
- Provision of library and documentation services to professionals and the general public.

In this respect, regularly internal auditings were carried out to ensure that the Division satisfies the requirements contained in the quality manual.

Database Unit (STO Ms C.Moorlah)

Website

Links of agricultural institutions supplying statistics to the Division (FARC, AREU, AMB, FSC, MSIRI, MMA, Irrigation Authority, Tobacco Board, Tea Board, etc) were established to the AID website for ease of consultation by stakeholders. Digest of Agricultural Statistics 2012 and statistics on foodcrop production as well as slaughter data (first three quarters of 2012) were updated in the AID website. Regular amendments were carried out as and when required.
Due to high IT literacy, stakeholders were encouraged to visit same and extract relevant information from the user-friendly webpage. Consequently, most of the requirements for information were met through online consultation.

**International Cooperation**

In the context of international cooperation with countries, inputs were provided in respect of import/export trade figures of agricultural products with Tunisia and Togo for the years 2011 and 2012.

**Food Crop Statistics**

Foodcrop statistics (area harvested, volume of production and area under new cultivation) received from the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) was compiled for the months November 2012 to November 2013.

**Livestock Slaughter Statistics**

Data on livestock slaughter (cattle, goat, sheep, pig and deer), their origin (local or imported), the number of heads slaughtered and their respective carcass weight for August 2012 to September 2013 from the Mauritius Meat Authority, were processed.

**Database Management**

Latest statistics on issues pertaining to the agricultural sector published in the Annual Digest of Statistics, import and export trade data on agricultural products of 2012, data on particular subgroups of food items (rice, wheat and other cereals, pulses, milk, meat etc.) and up-to-date information on world food production and food security as well as on consumption pattern and price were regularly downloaded from appropriate sites.

**Annual Report**

The Annual Report of the Agricultural services was compiled by AID as from 2012 to be posted on the Ministry’s website for online consultation

**Miscellaneous Requests**

In the context of food security, information was supplied to various stakeholders in respect of seed imports of selected vegetable, forage, and flower, imports of all soya and maize by-products for the year 2010. FAO questionnaires on Tropical Fruits (fresh and processed fruits, imported/exported for years 2011-2012)
Library and Documentation Unit (STO Ms. J. Hiu Sin Nen)

New Acquisitions
The Unit purchased 50 books and 156 magazines and acquired 486 books and 162 magazines through donations or exchange from various organisations inland and overseas.

Photocopy Service
A total of 2,366 photocopy sheets were provided to our officers for documentary purposes.

Loan of books/documents
1,398 books/documents/periodicals were issued to officers of both the Agricultural Services and the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit. Moreover, 17 requests were made on behalf of our staff to the University of Mauritius, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, and the Food and Agricultural Research Council for the Inter Library loans of various agricultural documents.

Reference work/users
1,275 officers and agricultural students from the University of Mauritius or the Mauritius Institute of Education have been attending the library for reference work and other library services. Some 109 requests for miscellaneous agricultural information were attended to through telephone calls and queries from users.

Computerisation
Our in-house database is being regularly updated and 13,917 entries for books/periodicals/reports have been input to cater for the needs of users for faster retrieval of information.

Internet
Access to the Internet has allowed to tap unlimited resources of agricultural information on worldwide databases and websites. 124 requests were entertained and 3,299 pages of information, 472 files, 5,576 references of updated information, and 500 e-publications were downloaded from specific Internet Sites and provided to officers.
Audiovisual Unit (AS Mrs. D. Li Yuet Cheong)

Public Address and Audiovisual Support

Audiovisual support was provided to cover 81 events such as World Food Day celebrations, training sessions, seminars, workshops, meetings, launching ceremonies, sensitisation campaigns. The main organisations concerned were:- the Small Planters Welfare Fund, the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit as well as the Divisions of Animal Production, Entomology, Horticulture, Land Use, Veterinary Services, Richelieu Engineering Workshop, Food Technology Laboratory, National Plant Protection Office, the Office of the Chief Agricultural Officer, and the Ministry of Agro Industry & Food Security.

Some important events covered were:

- Distribution of fertilizers under the Calamity Solidarity Scheme
- Launching ceremony of the Compost Subsidy Scheme
- Talks & training on Occupational Safety and Health
- Vegetable Harvest Ceremony and Seeds distribution
- Workshop on National Multidisciplinary Stakeholder
- National Science Week
- Launching ceremony for Implementation of Assistance to Planters
- Training on Risk Assessment
- Livestock Policy Hub meeting
- Awareness workshop on the Psycho-Social Development of children
- Launching of consultative workshop on the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Bill
- Presentation of Seed Bill
- Launching ceremony of Pre-Market Tests and Certification Scheme
- Launching of Community Garden
- Sensitization talk on Blood Donation
- Launching ceremony of the Calf Productivity Incentive Scheme
- Inauguration & opening of Petrin Visitors Centre, Plaine Sophie Nature Walk & Bras d’Eau Visitors Centre
- Planter’s Excellence Award Nite
- World Food Day Celebrations
Photographic Work
The Unit took photos to cover 46 events for the Divisions of the Ministry and other parastatal organisations.

Graphic Work
Posters, stickers, programmes, banners, invitation cards, flyers & logos were designed for the following divisions: Entomology, National Plant Protection Office, Veterinary Services, the Head Office of the Ministry and the office of the Chief Agricultural Officer.

Computer Network Unit (SSA Mr. P. Hypolite)

A. List of sites for support
   (a) Port Louis
      Head Office
      Sterling House
      Blendax House
      Abercrombie ES
   (b) Reduit
      Agricultural Services (NPPO (Reduit and Plaisance), Land Use Div., Transport Section, FTL, DVS and its outstations (St Pierre, Rose-Belle, Flacq and Abercrombie) etc.
      NPCS and outstations
   (c) Beau-Bassin
      Barkly ES (Horticulture)
   (d) Curepipe
      Forestry Div
      PGR (Horticulture)
      Curepipe ES (Agronomy)
   (e) Others
      Remote Sensing Station (Bigara)
      Richelieu (Engineering Section)
      Richelieu ES
      Saint Pierre ES
      Nlle. Découverte
      Roches-Brunes etc.
B. ICT Infrastructure :-

The current shared systems size in terms of number of equipment forming part of the Local Area Network:

Reduit - No. of Pcs = 180, Notebooks = 12
30 at Forestry Div (Curepipe) and 10 at Engineering Div (Richelieu)

The Stand Alone System in terms of not forming part of Local Area Network:

No. of PCs = 70

The following Application Software/Systems are operational at the Ministry (Port Louis, Reduit and others):

(i) HRMIS (Personnel System)
(ii) Treasury Accounting System – Finance Section, at Sterling House, PLouis
(iii) Land Conversion Permit System – Main Server at Reduit
(iv) Registry Information System
(v) Website update of (i) the Ministry of Agro Industry and FS, (ii) Forestry Dept, (iii) NPCS and (iv) SSRBG.
(vi) Government Intranet System (GINS) – The network at the Ministry is constantly expanding and we are providing support to all div/sections of the ministry connected to GINS Network.
(vii) Small In-house Systems – (Foxpro Platform) – 3 In house systems (2 in Poultry Division and 1 at Barkly ES) maintained by Systems Analyst and Ass. Systems Analyst.

C. Duties Performed.
During the Year 2013 the officers at CNU (Reduit and Port-Louis) have:

(1) Attended to e-Agriculture and ISO monitoring committees.
(2) Re-configured PCs in case of technical problems.
(3) Troubleshoot connectivity as and when required with respect to GINS Network.
(4) Configured PCs for internet access through GINS.
(5) Carried out surveys to detect fault when users do not have access to internet through GINS.
(6) Provided assistance to the Central Co-ordination Unit (CCU) of CISD icw technical problems with router.
(7) Accompanied Advanced Marketing Ltd technicians in the troubleshooting exercises of GINS equipment.
Commissioning of newly purchased IT Equipment like PCS, printers, laptops etc.

Installed and configured new ICT equipment.

Provided maintenance of in-house systems at Barkly Division, and APD.

Performed daily/weekly/monthly back-ups on servers.

Replaced the old NCR 4400 Server by a virtual machine (Solaris 11) on the HP Proliant ML350 G6 Server.

Installed and updated Symantec Antivirus, (Free Anti-Virus and Anti_Spyware installed on standalone PCs).

Updated websites for (i) the Ministry of Agro Industry and FS, (ii) Forestry Dept, and (iii) NPCS.

Carried out surveys in all Depts./Sections of the Ministry to update list of IT equipment and IP Addresses.

Attended Bid Evaluation committees regarding IT equipments.

NOTE: The Stores System is still not operational whereas the Land Conversion System has been installed virtually on the HP Proliant ML350 G6 Server at Reduit and is operational.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y. Boodoo (as from August 2010)</td>
<td>Divisional Scientific Officer (DSO)</td>
<td>BSc (Hons) Agriculture (Mauritius)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Certificate Plant Breeding, Wageningen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. D. Li Yuet Cheong</td>
<td>Agricultural Superintendent (AS)</td>
<td>Combined Diploma in Agriculture &amp; Sugar Technology (Mauritius)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss J. Hiu Sin Nen</td>
<td>Senior Technical Officer (STO)</td>
<td>Combined Diploma in Agriculture &amp; Sugar Technology (Mauritius)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Combined Diploma in Information &amp; Library Studies (Mauritius)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss C.D. Moorlah</td>
<td>Senior Technical Officer (STO)</td>
<td>BSc(Hons) Agriculture (Mauritius)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MSc Information Technology with Management (Mauritius)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MSc Crop Science (Mauritius)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. L. Luchoo</td>
<td>Senior Field Assistant (SFA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. P. Baluckram</td>
<td>Senior Agricultural Support Officer (SASO)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. K.K. Koonjee</td>
<td>Agricultural Support Officer (ASO)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. K.K. Chummun</td>
<td>Agricultural Support Officer (ASO) (transferred on 14.05.2013 to Veterinary Services)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Z. Ebrahim</td>
<td>Visual Artist Graphics</td>
<td>Dip. Commercial Art (Mumbai)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>BA (Hons) Graphic Design (University of Technology Mauritius)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Grade</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. S. Gopee</td>
<td>Agricultural Executive Assistant (AEA) (retired on 31.07.2013)</td>
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**IT STAFF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. P. Hypolyte</td>
<td>Senior Systems Analyst (SSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vishwanee GUTTY (Mrs)</td>
<td>Reskilled Data Entry Officer (<em>acting as Computer Support Officer</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(posted on 21.08.2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. A. Ramdhony</td>
<td>Computer Support Officer (CSO) (left Ministry of Agro Industry &amp; FS as from 21.08.2013)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NON TECHNICAL STAFF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. S. Ramdoyal</td>
<td>Agricultural Clerk (AC) (transferred on 04.10.2013 to Dairy Chemistry Division)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. N. Gungabissoon</td>
<td>Agricultural Clerk (AC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Z. Lotun</td>
<td>Agricultural Clerk (AC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. N. Gopal</td>
<td>Sales Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss N. Ramkhelawon</td>
<td>Management Support Officer (posted on 4.10.2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. J.M. Chowrimootoo</td>
<td>Sampler (retired on 03.09.2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. S. Ravjee</td>
<td>Office Care Attendant (OCA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. I. Ramkissoon</td>
<td>General Worker on allowance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRAINING & COURSES ATTENDED

(i)  Web 2.0 learning Opportunity at University of Mauritius, Reduit, 14 to 18 January 2013 Ms J. Hiu Sin Nen (STO)

(ii) Training programme on Managing Health and safety risks at work place for supervisory level, 29 May 2013 Ms J. Hiu Sin Nen (STO)