AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION DIVISION

Annual Report 2012

DSO Y. Boodoo

Introduction

The Agricultural Information Division (AID) has continued with its main objective of providing up to date and reliable statistics/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 (SSO C. Mooneeramsing and STO Ms C. Moorlah)

Website

Links of agricultural institutions supplying statistics to the Division (FARC, AREU, AMB, FSC, MSIRI, MMA, Irrigation Authority, Tobacco, Tea Board, etc) were established to the AID website for ease of consultation by stakeholders. Digest of Agricultural Statistics 2011 and
statistics on foodcrop production (first two quarters 2012) 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.

**Food Crop Statistics**

Foodcrop statistics (area harvested, volume of production and area under new cultivation) received from the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) were compiled for the months October 2011 to July 2012.

**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 December 2011 to October 2012 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 2011, 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 undertaken by AID as from 2011 and was edited and 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 greenhouse baby production, aquaculture, dairy farming, share of agriculture, imports of all
soya and maize by-products for the year 2011. FAO questionnaires on Tropical Fruits (fresh and processed fruits, imported/exported for years 2009-2011) and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) survey questionnaire on use of improved varieties (beans, groundnuts, maize, potatoes), total area under improved land management and use of chemical fertilizers were filled.

**Library and Documentation Unit (Ms. J. Hiu Sin Nen-STO)**

**Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)**

With the help of CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation), the SDI Service was maintained around specific research profiles.

Bibliographical references obtained through computerized searches from worldwide agricultural databases such as AGRIS, CAB Abstracts, AGRICOLA, BIOSIS, PASCAL, TROPAG & RURAL, HIBISCUS, AGRITROP were channeled to research officers.

A total of 1,272 references were provided under the SDI Service.

**New Acquisitions**

78 additional new books and 242 periodicals were purchased. 442 books, 5 CD-ROMs and 221 magazines were acquired through donations or exchange with various organizations inland and overseas.

**Miscellaneous Services**

1,839 books/documents were issued on loan to officers of both the Agricultural Services and Agricultural Research and Extension Unit.

23 requests were made on behalf of our staff to other research institutions for the interlibrary loans of agricultural documents.

13 requests were ordered for some 87 free documents from various institutions abroad. Various requests were also entertained for specific technical and scientific publications. Moreover, many requests were entertained online for free books or e-books.
1,376 Library users have been attending the Documentation unit for reference or other library services.

163 requests for miscellaneous information have been attended through telephone calls and queries from users.

**Computerisation**

Special Library software has been set up for fast retrieval of information. This database is being regularly maintained and 12,312 entries have been input in the system.

Literature searches have been carried on-line on various CD-ROM databases such as CAB abstracts, AGRICOLA, TROPAG & RURAL, which are regularly updated. 19 requests were met and 2,864 references were downloaded and provided to officers on diskettes/pen drives.

**Internet**

147 requests have been attended to and 2,301 references, 231 files and 3,933 pages of information were downloaded and provided to Library users on diskettes/pen drives.

**Audiovisual Unit (Mrs. D. Li Yuet Cheong-AS)**

**Public Address and Audiovisual Support**

Audiovisual support was provided to cover 100 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, Agricultural Chemistry, 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 wires for the construction of new basket traps
- Launching ceremony for two IAEA approved projects
- Distribution of fertilizers under the Calamity Solidarity Scheme
- Talks on Health and Safety measures
- Launching of Rain Water Harvesting Scheme
- Talk on Spraying techniques
- Training courses on Pig Artificial Insemination
- Working session with FAO consultant on Phytosanitary Capacity Evolution Tool
- Meeting on Land Occupation
- Presentation of findings from animal risk in the Indian Ocean
- Training on First Aid, Fire Fighting and Risk Assessment
- Launching of a Newly Formulated Compounded Feed
- Workshop on Agricultural Action Plan
- Potato Harvest Ceremony and National Potato Festival Week
- Launching of the Small Farmers Welfare Fund
- Launching of Community Garden
- COI meeting
- Talk on VAT Refund Scheme 2012
- Award Certificate Ceremony
- Celebration of World Animal Day
- World Food Day Celebrations
- Annual White Grub Protocol meeting

**Photographic Work**
The Unit took photos to cover 65 events for the Divisions of the Ministry and other parastatal organisations.

**Graphic Work**
Posters, pamphlets, press adverts, labels, brochures, leaflet programme, banners, invitation cards, bags, flyers, billboards were designed for the following divisions: Entomology, the Head Office of the Ministry and the office of the Chief Agricultural Officer.
Computer Network Unit (Mr. P. Hypolite-SSA)

A. List of sites where we are responsible and where we are giving support.
   (a) Port Louis
      Head Office
         Sterling House
         Blendax House
         Abercrombie ES

B. Reduit
   Main Stores

   Agricultural Services (i.e. The NPCS, the NPPO, the Land Use Div., The Transport Section, the DVS etc)
   (b) Beau-Bassin
      Barkly ES (Horticulture)
   (c) Curepipe
      Forestry Div
      PGR (Horticulture)
      Curepipe ES (Agronomy)
   (d) Others
      Remote Sensing Station (Bigara)
      Richelieu (Engineering Section)
      Terre Rouge Rivulet
      Saint Pierre ES
      Nlle. Découverte etc.

C. ICT Infrastructure :-
   The current shared systems size in terms of number of equipment forming part of the Local Area Network:

   Reduit - No. of Pcs = 160, 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 = 60

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

(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) Websites of the (i) Ministry of Agro Industry
(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 IT Professional Officer

D. ISS Staffing:- Our Project Managers posted at the CIB are Mrs. N. Fakim and Mr. P. Ramnial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line No</th>
<th>Name of Officer</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Posted at</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Percy HYPOLITE</td>
<td>Senior Systems Analyst</td>
<td>Port-Louis (3 days) &amp; Reduit (2 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Catoon Bibi MUTTYLALL</td>
<td>Assistant Systems Analyst</td>
<td>Port Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Amar RAMDHONY</td>
<td>Computer Support Officer</td>
<td>Reduit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Prithviraj NEWOOR</td>
<td>Computer Support Officer</td>
<td>Port Louis</td>
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During the Year 2012 the officers at CNU (Reduit) have:

1. Attended to e-Agriculture and ISO monitoring committees
2. Re-configured PCs in case of technical problems
3. Troubleshooted on 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. Assisted Advanced Marketing Ltd technicians in the commissioning exercises of GINS equipment
8. Assisted suppliers for commissioning exercises icw delivery of IT Equipment like PCS, printers, laptops etc.
9. Installed and configured new ICT equipment.
10. Provided maintenance of in-house systems at Barkly Division, and APD
11. Performed daily/weekly/monthly back-ups on servers
12. Installed Free Anti-Virus and Anti_Spyware on PCs as Symantec Licence had expired.
14. Carried out surveys in all Depts/Sections of the Ministry to update list of IT equipment and IP Addresses

NOTE: The Server located in the Procurement Division at Reduit and hosting the Stores System is down since June 2010. Tender exercises regarding purchase of a new server was done last year but it yields no responsive suppliers. The same exercise was carried out this year still it yielded no responsive suppliers.
# STAFF LIST AND QUALIFICATION

## TECHNICAL STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y. Boodoo (as from August 2010)</td>
<td>Divisional Scientific Officer (DSO)</td>
<td>BSc (Hons) Agriculture (Mauritius) Certificate Plant Breeding, Wageningen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. C. Mooneeramsing (transferred to 12/7/12 to Food Security)</td>
<td>Ag. Senior Scientific Officer (SSO)</td>
<td>BSc(Hons) Agriculture (Mauritius)</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) MSc Information Technology with ManagementMSc Crop Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. L. Luchoo</td>
<td>Senior Field Assistant (SFA)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. P. Baluckram</td>
<td>Technical Assistant (TA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. K.K. Koonjee</td>
<td>Technical Assistant (TA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. K.K. Chummun</td>
<td>Technical Assistant (TA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Z. Ebrahim</td>
<td>Visual Artist Graphics</td>
<td>Dip. Commercial Art (Mumbai)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### IT STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. P. Hypolyte</td>
<td>Senior Systems Analyst (SSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. N. Abdoulah</td>
<td>IT Professional (termination of contract on 16/8/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. V. Juggarnauth</td>
<td>Senior Computer Support Officer (SCSO) (transferred to CISD on Sept 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. A. Ramdhony</td>
<td>Computer Support Officer (CSO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. P. Ramburrun</td>
<td>Data Entry Officer (DEO)</td>
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### NON TECHNICAL STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. L. Luchoo</td>
<td>Senior Field Assistant (SFA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. P. Baluckram</td>
<td>Technical Assistant (TA) ( transferred on 17/12/12 to State House)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. K.K. Koonjee</td>
<td>Technical Assistant (TA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. K.K. Chummun</td>
<td>Technical Assistant (TA) (posted at AID on 24/11/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Z. Ebrahim</td>
<td>Visual Artist Graphics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. S. Gopee</td>
<td>Agricultural Executive Assistant (AEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. S. Ramdoyal</td>
<td>Agricultural Clerk (AC)</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>Mr. J.M. Chowrimootoo</td>
<td>Sampler ( posted at AID on 6/12/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. S. Ravjee</td>
<td>Office Care Attendant (OCA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRAINING & COURSES ATTENDED

(i) Workshop on Trade Remedies at Domaines Les Pailles, 6 to 7 March 2012, Mr. C. Mooneeramsing (SSO)
(ii) IC3 Course at Dr, Maurice Curé S.S.S, Vacoas, 10 March to 16 June 2012, Mr. S. Ravjee (OCA)
(iii) Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture (EICA), Egypt, 1 April to 15 June 2012, Mr. P. Baluckram (TA)
(iv) First Aid Course at Conference Room, Reduit, 3 to 31 July 2012, Mrs. N. Gungabissoon (AC)
(v) Risk Assessment at Conference Room, Reduit, 4 July 2012, Ms. J. Hiu Sin Nen (STO) and Mrs. D. Li Yuet Cheong (AS)
(vi) Web 2.0 learning Opportunity at University of Mauritius, Reduit, 9 to 13 July 2012 Ms C. Moorlah (STO)