



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Open Competitive Examination for Recruitment to Grade III of
Sri Lanka Agricultural Service - 2021

APPLICATIONS are invited from Sri Lankan Citizens who have completed the following qualifications on the last date of receipt of applications for the open competitive examination for the recruitment of officers to the 162 posts mentioned in Section 1, Grade III of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service under the Provisions set out in the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service Minute. The application form has been published on the website of the Sri Lanka Examination Department, www.doenets.lk and applications can be submitted only through online. Once the application is submitted online, it should be downloaded and the signature of the applicant should be attested in the printed copy with certification of the Head of the institution if applicable. Thereafter, that printed copy of the application should be sent by the registered post to reach the Commissioner General of Examinations, Institutional Examination Organization Branch, Sri Lanka Examination Department, P.B. 1503, Colombo on or before the closing date of applications. Name of the Examination should be clearly marked on the top left corner of the envelope.

Acceptance of online applications opens on **13.12.2021 at 8.00 a.m.**

The printed copy of the application should compulsorily be sent by the registered post and the complaints on the loss or delay of the printed copy in the mail will not be considered. The inconveniences that may cause due to the delay in sending applications until the closing date should be borne by the applicant himself.

Note.- Candidates who have applied for the Open Competitive Examination for Recruitment to Grade III of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service as per the Notice of call for Applications published in the Government *Gazette* No. 1929 dated 21.08.2015, if they wish to appear for the examination, they have to re-apply online. The maximum age limit mentioned under 5.3 of this announcement does not apply to the candidates who had qualified on the date mentioned in the previous announcement. Here they do not even have to pay the exam fees again. The list of candidates who have applied earlier will be published in the websites of the Examinations Department of Sri Lanka and Ministry of Agriculture.

The "Minute on the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service" includes the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service Minute published in the *Extraordinary Gazette* No. 1880/2 dated 19.09.2014 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and all amendments made to it so far and to be made in the future. In this notification "Appointing Authority" shall mean "Public Service Commission", "Secretary" shall mean the Secretary of the Ministry - in -Charge of the subject of Agriculture, "Service" shall mean Sri Lanka Agricultural Service" and "Appointment" shall mean "an appointment to the Grade III of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service" and "Written Examination" shall mean "Open Competitive Examination for Recruitment to Grade III of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service 2021" and the term "Officer" unless otherwise specified shall mean "an officer of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service."

The closing date of applications will be **10th of January 2022.**

This examination will be conducted by the Commissioner General of Examinations in **March 2022 in Colombo only.**

1. Number of vacancies

<i>Stream</i>	<i>Post</i>	<i>No. of Vacancies</i>	<i>Code of the post</i>
Agricultural Development	Assistant Director of Agriculture (Agricultural Development)	69	1
Agricultural Research	Assistant Director of Agriculture (Agricultural Research)	88	2
Agricultural Economics	Assistant Director of Agriculture (Agricultural Economics)	05	3

Note. - An applicant who has fulfilled the required qualifications can apply for more than one or more than one streams out of the streams of Agricultural Development, Agricultural Research and Agricultural Economics using only one application.

2. Method of Recruitment :

2.1. *Written Examination :*

The written examination consists of the following two question papers in accordance with syllabus prescribed in first appendix of this notification.

Question Paper	Duration (hours)	Maximum Marks	Pass Marks (Minimum)
Intelligence Test Paper	1 1/4	100	40
Subject Related Study (In accordance with the relevant post)	2	100	40

2.2. To pass the written examination, 40% or more marks are required for each question paper.

2.3. *General Interview :*

Based on the order of the highest number of the aggregate of marks secured in the written examination, a number of applicants not exceeding twice the number of vacancies out of the applicants shall be called for the interview. No marks will be given in the general interview and only the applicants will be required to confirm whether they have fulfilled the qualifications mentioned in the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service Minute and this notification on the due date. The Board of Interview shall be appointed by the Public Service Commission.

2.4. In the event of an applicant has secured sufficient marks for the selection of more than one scheduled posts having applied for one or more than one scheduled posts, recruitment shall be made taking in to account the merit of their written examination marks and the options of the applicant. The applicant shall express his/her option in writing at the interview and he/she shall not be allowed to change it later.

2.5. After scrutinizing the qualifications of applicants by the board of interview, the Public Service Commission will recruit candidates for the vacancies in each post who will be selected on the basis of merit sequence of written examination marks only.

3. Terms and Conditions of Engagement :

3.1. This post is permanent and pensionable. You are subject to the policy decisions taken by the government in the future in respect of pension scheme you are entitled to. Further, any officer who will be appointed to any of above posts should make his/her contributions to Widows'/Widowers' and Orphans' pension fund as stipulated by the government from time to time.

3.2. Officers selected should be agreeable to serve in any part of the island.

3.3. All officers in the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service are subject to serve in all Provincial Public Services as required. For this purpose the officer will be temporarily released to a post in the Provincial Public Service. Such term of service will be determined on the consent between the relevant Provincial Authority and the Appointing Authority according to exigencies of service.

(a) Provincial authority will issue a letter of appointment to the relevant officer subject to the conditions of release from the service. The officers appointed to Provincial Councils will be subject to be transferred within the Province by the relevant Provincial Authority.

- (b) An officer shall be subject to the administration and disciplinary control of the Public Service Commission, even during his period of service in the Provincial Public Service.
- (c) An officer who released to the Provincial Public Service shall return to his/her substantial post at the end of the period he/she so released .
- 3.4. Officers appointed to Grade III on the results of Open Competitive Examination will be subject to a period of three (03) years' probation. Officers appointed through Open recruitment shall pass the First Efficiency Bar Examination before confirming in the post.
- 3.5. **Skills Development** : Skills Development training will be provided to the officers recruited to the service through one (01) month training programme to acquire the skills on trends of Socio Economic and Cultural in relation to agricultural development and job environment by the Department of Agriculture or any other institute (Example : Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration) identified by the Department. At the end of the programme a certificate will be awarded after an assessments. This certificate should be obtained for the confirmation in the service.
- 3.6 Selected candidates will be placed in Grade III of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service subject to the General terms an conditions governing appointments in the Public Service provisions of the Service Minute of Agricultural Services of Sri Lanka, Regulations of the department, provisions of the Establishments code and financial Regulations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Rules of Procedure of the Public Service Commission (hereinafter referred to as Procedural Rules) published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1589/30 of 20.02.2009 and any amendments hereinafter thereto the above Terms, Conditions, orders, Provisions, Regulations and Rules.
- 3.7. Recruited officers are required to obtain the competency in the second languages within prescribed period as per provisions of Public Administration Circular No. 18/2020 and Circulars incidental thereto.

4. Monthly Salary Scale :

The consolidated monthly salary scale assigned to these posts as per Public Administration Circular 03/2016 is as follows :

SL - 01 - 2016 - Rs. 47,615 - 1335 x 10 - 1630 x 8 - 2170 x 17 - Rs. 110,895/=

Recruitment will be made to Grade III of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service and they will be placed in the Initial salary step of Grade III - Rs. 47,615/=

5. Qualifications :

5.1. Educational Qualifications :

5.1.1 For Streams of Agricultural Development and Agricultural Economics :

Four year Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission

5.1.2. For Stream of Agricultural Research :

Four year Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission

Or

Four year degree in Bachelor of Science in the subject of Botany, Chemistry, or Zoology obtained from a University recognized by the University Grant Commission

5.2. Physical Requirements :

Every applicant shall be physically fit in all respect to serve in any part of Sri Lanka.

5.3 Other Qualifications :

- (a) All applicants must be citizens of Sri Lanka.
- (b) The age should not be less than 22 years and not more than 30 years as at the closing date of applications. Accordingly an applicant qualifies to sit the examination in terms of age only his/her date of birth falls on or before 10.01.2000 and on or after 10.01.1992.
- (c) An applicant is eligible to sit the Open competitive examination only **thrice**.
- (d) Every applicant shall be physically fit in all respect to serve in any part of Sri Lanka and it should be proved by medical certificate.
- (e) Applicants must be of excellent moral character
- (f) Every applicant shall fulfill the prescribed qualifications as at the date specified in this notification. (Applicants apply for open recruitment should have obtained degree qualifications prescribed as basic educational qualifications on or before the closing date of applications. For this purpose, the valid date of the degree should be a date on or before the closing date of applications. Applications submitted on pending results will not be valid.)

6. The examination fee for this examination is Rs. 1200/-. When the examination fee is paid, the payments should be made only through the following payment methods provided in the online system.

- (i) Any Bank credit card
- (ii) Any Bank debit card
- (iii) Bank of Ceylon Online Banking Method
- (iv) Bank of Ceylon Slip Payment
- (v) Postal Department Payment at any Post Office

Acknowledgement of the payment will be informed by an SMS or E-mail. The full amount of examination fee should be paid and the applications for which the payments have been made less or more than the examination fee will be rejected. The Department of Examinations will not be responsible for the errors occurring in the payment of examination fees by the above payment methods.

Note.- Instructions on the manner in which the payments are made through the above methods are published under technical instructions in the website of the Department of Examinations.

7. Instructions to prepare the Application and Apply to the Examination :

- 7.1. The online application of the examination should be filled only in English Language. In addition to the soft copy of the application submitted by the applicant *via* online, a printed copy thereof should also be sent by the registered post. Once the Department of Examinations receives both soft copy and printout copy of the applications, those copies will be verified and the applicant will be informed whether the department accepted/ did not accept it as a valid application by sending an SMS message to the mobile phone number used to access the system or to an e-mail address. Before filling the online application, please download the common instructions sheet prepared for the examination. Follow these instructions thoroughly when the application is filled. Any revision made after taking a printout of the application will not be considered as a valid revision. The incomplete applications will be rejected without notice.
- 7.2. The signature of the applicant should be certified in the application and in the admission form for the examination. The signature of an applicant working in any State / Provincial Public Service or Public Corporation should be attested by the Head of the Institution or an authorized officer, other applicants get his/her signature attested by a Head of a Government School/Retired Officer, Grama Niladhari of the Division, Justice of the Peace, commissioner of Oaths, Attorney at-Law, Notary Public, Commissioned Officer in the Armed Forces or Permanent Staff Officer of Public Service or the Chief Incumbent of a Buddhist Temple or

the Presiding Priest or a person holding a significant position in the clergy or in charge of any other religious place of worship.

8. Admission to the Examination :

- 8.1. The Commissioner General of Examinations will issue admission cards to the applicants whose ages are within the age limits specified in the notice and who have sent duly completed applications with the relevant receipt obtained on payment of the examination fee on or before the closing date of applications. An applicant presenting himself/ herself for the examination must produce his/her attested admission card to the supervisor of the examination centre. An applicant who fails to produce his/her admission card will not be permitted to sit the examination. The Sri Lanka Department of Examinations will publish a notice in newspapers soon after the issuance of admission cards to the applicants. Any applicant who does not receive his/her admission cards two or three days after the notification, should notify that effect to the Department of Examinations as mentioned in this notification. Applicants are informed to notify to the Department of Examinations indicating full name, NIC number and address of the applicant and keeping the copy of application which is retained by you, copy of receipt of payment of examination fee and copy of the receipt of registration of the application issued when application was sent by registered post in hand and in case of an applicant living outside Colombo, to obtain a copy of the admission cards by fax, it would be more productive to notify to the Department of Examinations by faxing a request including your above information and a fax number.
- 8.2. An applicant must sit the Examination at the Examination Hall assigned to him/her. Every applicant should surrender the admission card to the supervisor of the examination hall of the first day presenting himself/ herself for the Examination. It is the responsibility of every applicant to answer the question paper prescribed for the examination to which he/she presents himself/herself. A set of rules to be followed by all applicants is published in this Gazette. All applicants are subject to the rules imposed by the Commissioner General of Examinations in connection with this examination. An applicant who violates any of these rules is liable to a punishment at the discretion of the Commissioner General of Examinations.
- 8.3. Issuance of the admission cards to an applicant does not necessarily mean that he/she has the requisite qualifications to sit for the examination.

9. Identification of the Applicant :

An applicant will be required to prove his/her identity at the Examination Hall to the satisfaction of the supervisor for each subject he/she appears. For this purpose any of the following documents will be accepted.

- I. National Identity Card
- II. A valid Passport
- III. A valid driving license

Furthermore, the candidates should enter the examination hall without covering their faces and ears in order to prove their identity. The candidate who refuses to prove their identity in the said manner shall not be allowed to enter the examination hall. Moreover, the candidates should remain in the examination hall from the time of entering the examination hall up to leaving upon completion of the examination without covering the face and ears enabling the invigilators to identify the candidate.

10. Scheme of Examination :

- 10.1. Medium of the Examination :
The examination will be held in Sinhala, Tamil and English media . The language of the examination given in the application will not be allowed to change later.
- 10.2. An applicant must sit for all papers of the examination in one and the same language.

11. **Competitive Examination Procedure and relevant syllabus :**

All applicants shall answer the question papers 1 and 2 in accordance with the syllabus hereinafter referred to. Syllabus for each post is indicated in first appendix.

12. **Results of the Examination :**

The result sheet containing the names of the candidates who have not more than double the number of vacancies will be sent to the Secretary, Public service commission. After the approval of the Public Service Commission, the Commissioner General of Examinations will convey the results to all applicants who appeared for the examination, personally by post or on the website www.results.exams.gov.lk.

13. No certificates should be attached to the application. Applicants should be prepared to submit the original documents of the certificates to prove the qualifications mentioned in their application only at the time of interview.

14. **Furnishing false Information :**

If an applicant is found to be ineligible his/her candidature is liable to be cancelled at any stage prior to during or after the examination. If any particulars furnished by an applicant found to be false or if he/she has willfully suppressed any material, fact he/she will be liable dismissal from the Public Service.

15. The Appointing Authority will make the final decision on any matter not provided for herein.

16. The final decision of filling or not filling of all or part of existing vacancies will be taken by the Appointing Authority.

17. In the event of any inconsistency among Sinhala, Tamil and English texts, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

By order of the Public Service Commission,

Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture.

"Govijana Mandiraya"
Rajamalwatta Lane,
Battaramulla.
on 30 day of November 2021

First Appendix

Regulations and Syllabus of the Open Competitive Examination

Question Paper 1 - Intelligence Test

A multiple - choice short question paper including questions to assess the linguistic, Mathematics and Logical ability. Duration 1 1/4 hours . Total Marks 100.

Question Paper 2 - Study of Subject Area

This is a written aptitude test to assess the knowledge in the relevant subject area. Each applicant may sit for question papers as relevant to the post or posts he/she applies for, chosen from the following question papers. These question papers consist of short questions and multiple - choice questions. Duration 02 hours. Total marks 100.

Note.- Subject matter paper in the Open Competitive Examination will be prepared mainly focusing the theoretical knowledge in accordance with the following syllabus. Examination will be held as determined by the Director General of Examinations. Syllabuses in respect of each post are enumerated below :

1. Question Paper for the stream of Agricultural Research :

Applicants shall answer only one out of the two parts referred to in (A) and (B) bellow, as they wish.

PART (A)

01. Agricultural Botany :

Fundamentals of crop classification, fundamentals of crop growth and physiology.

02. Genetics and Plant Breeding :

Mendelian law, population genetics, mutations molecular genetics cytogenetic quantitative genetics, fundamentals of plant breeding, genetic resources protection and bio-diversity, pollination behavior and breeding concepts, incompatibility, mass and pure line selection, commonly used breeding methods and current trends.

03. Plant Pathology :

Types of pathogenic organisms, infections, response of plant to infections, infective methods and fundamentals of their management, current trends in plant pathology and disease management, diagnostic techniques, symptomatology, Koch's postulate application, modern techniques of diagnosis (ELISA), current trends.

04. Fundamentals of Entomology :

Fundamentals of classification of animals, structural characteristics, biological information and damage, economic significance of pest damage, estimation of insect population and damage.

05. Seed Technology :

Seed physiology, morphology, dormancy, germination, viability, tests on viability and purity, stages of seed production, seed certification and seed storage.

06. Tissue Culture :

Theories, facilities and requirements for tissue culture, media, applications of tissue culture systems, protoplast culture, mutagenesis, embryo rescue, in vitro fertilization, genetic transformations, cryopreservation.

07. Agricultural Chemistry :

Fundamentals of biochemistry and practical applications of biochemistry in agriculture, fundamentals of food chemistry and practical applications of food chemistry in agriculture, fundamentals of analytical chemistry and practical applications of analytical chemistry in agriculture;

or

PART B

01. Agronomy

Agro-climatology, ecology, land development, tillage, fundamentals of crop growth and physiology, measurement of crop growth, yield indices, fertilizer recommendations and efficiency, weed biology and control, principles of irrigation systems, principles of crop soil and water relationship.

02. Crop Science

Physiology of rice, highland grains, pulses, tuber crops and other field crops, growth, methods of propagation, methods of planting, physical chemical and biological methods in crop manipulation, establishment and management of scientific pastures, fundamentals of timber and fruit production.

03. Soil Science

Soil formation, physical and chemical characteristics of soil, soil problems relating to cropping, fertility management of soil, watershed management, plant nutrition, fundamentals of plant classification.

04. Genetic and Plant Breeding :

Fundamentals. Mendelian law, population genetics, mutations, molecular genetics, cytogenetic, fundamentals of plant breeding, genetic resources protection and bio-diversity.

05. Plant Pathology :

Plant infections, response of plants to infections, biological control, modern trends in disease management.

06. Fundamentals of Entomology :

Indicated under sub-paragraph 04 of question paper (A)

07. Field research principles and statistical principles and knowledge in important statistics on agricultural sphere in Sri Lanka.

08. Entomology :

Economically significant insects in agriculture, their classification, internal and external features, structure of different systems and their functions, pest management, significance of pest damage, pest identification, their damage and control, integrated pest management.

09. Micro-biology :

Micro-organisms and agricultural environment, bio-technology applications in agriculture, soil -living biomass and their effects on agricultural practices.

10. Biometrics and Applied Statistics :

Basic knowledge in statistics, agricultural research, analysis of planning obtaining and analysis of data.

Note.- it will be compulsory for all the applicants for the stream of Agricultural Research through Open recruitment to answer only any part of the 02 parts referred to as (A) and (B) above.

II. Question Paper for the stream of Agricultural Development

01. General Agriculture :

Climatic zones of Sri Lanka, land development, land preparation and equipment, crop establishment and machinery required for the purpose, soil and soil fertility, nursery and nursery management, planting material, pest control, plant protection, appliances, cropping systems, irrigation methods, integrated farming, protected agriculture, micro-irrigation systems, harvesting and harvesting machinery, post-harvest losses, processing of farm products, factors considered in selecting suitable vegetables, fruits, pulses and cereals for cultivation in specific areas, integrated pest management, integrated plant nutrition systems, Plant Protection Act, Soil Conservation Act.

02. Crop Production :

Agronomy, agro-climatology and ecology, land development and tillage, fundamentals of crop growth and physiology, measurement of crop growth, yield indices, fertilizer recommendations and efficiency, weed biology and control, irrigation agronomy, principles of crop water relationship.

03. Field Crops :

Introduction, ecological requirements, plant species and varieties, growth physiology, Physiological principles of yield determination, rice agronomy, crop management and production, highland cereals, legumes, tuber crops and other important field crops (tobacco, onion, fiber and oil crops).

04. Crop Management :

Intercropping, harvesting and processing.

05. Horticultural Crop Production :

Fruit production, nutritional value, social and economic factors, origin and distribution, ecological requirements, cultural practice, application of modern techniques.

06. Fruit vegetable and flower production :

Nursery management, orchard management, modern techniques in crop establishment and culture, fruit and vegetable crop improvement, fruit and vegetable based cropping systems, post-harvest losses, prevention of post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables, biotechnology, local and export markets for fruits and vegetables., present constraints and future strategies, requirements for vegetable production, vegetable based cropping systems, marketing, floriculture, propagation techniques, cultural practices, quality parameters, principles of landscape gardening.

07. Agricultural Extension and Training :

Introduction of agricultural extension and objectives, agricultural development and extension, adaptation and diffusion of innovations, communication, teaching methods of extensions, extension approaches used in Sri Lanka, relation between research and extension, preparation of extension programmes, review and evaluation, institutions associated with agricultural extension in Sri Lanka, adult education, training procedure, various techniques use in identifying training requirements, arrangement of lessons, evaluation of training, use of audio-visual devices for training.

08. Seed Technology :

Seed physiology, structure , morphology, germination, viability, seed testing, tests on viability and purity, stages of seed production, seed certification and seed storage.

09. Apiculture :

Types of bees and hives in a colony, parts of bee boxes, capturing of bee colonies, establishment, dividing, pest and diseases in a bee colony.

III. Question Paper for the Stream of Agricultural Economics

01. Agricultural Production/Economics and Farm Management :

Importance of farm management in agricultural production, basic concepts, production functions, forms of production functions, production surface, ISO - quant, ISO-clines, ISO-revenue lines, principles of resources combination and cost minimization, principles of diminishing returns, substitution and income effects, flexibility and diversification of adjustments of production to meet risk and uncertainty in agriculture, price theory with special emphasis relating to pricing of agricultural products, evaluation of crop-livestock combination, farm site and returns to scale principles of importance and comparative advantage of family farms, importance of records in determining the strong and weak points in the farm mechanization and incorporation of this information in optimization models.

02. Agricultural Marketing :

General principles of marketing, relative importance of such production and marketing institutions dealing with marketing in Sri Lanka, role of such institutions in influencing the growth of markets, problems facing the marketing of agricultural products in Sri Lanka and principles involved in improving marketing efficiency.

03. Land Economics:

Economics concepts as applied to land use, demand for land supply in Sri Lanka, land use planning in Sri Lanka, importance of colonization and settlement programmes in Sri Lanka.