

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

LIMITED COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT TO GRADE III OF SRI LANKA AGRICULTURAL SERVICE - 2024 (2026)

APPLICATIONS are invited from public Officers who have completed the following qualifications for the limited Competitive Examination for the recruitment of Officers to 125 vacant posts as at 30.06.2024 in Grade III of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service mentioned in following Section 1, under the provisions set out in the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service Minute. These qualifications should be completed by the last date of calling applications.

In this notification, the "Minute on the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service" includes the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service Minute" published in the *Extraordinary Gazette* No. 1880/26 and 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. "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 "Limited Competitive Examination for Recruitment to Grade III of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service Grade 2024(2026)" and the term "Officer" unless otherwise specified shall mean "an Officer of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service." The closing date for application is **16th of October, 2026**. The examination will be conducted by the Commissioner General of Examination in **January 2027** in Colombo only.

Stream	Post	No. of Vacancies	Code of the post
Agricultural Development	Assistant Director of Agriculture, (Agricultural Development)	75	1
Agricultural Research	Assistant Director of Agriculture Agricultural Research	44	2
Agricultural Economics	Assistant Director of Agriculture (Agricultural Economics)	06	3

1. Posts Vacant/ Number of Vacancies

- The application is published under 'Our Service' - Online Applications - Recruitment/ E.B Exams' in the web site - www.doenets.lk of the Department of Examinations Sri Lanka and applications can be submitted online only. The acceptance of online applications will open at **09.00 a.m. on September 21st 2026** and close at **09.00 p.m. on October 16th 2026**.
- Officers must submit a copy of the application to their Heads of Institutions for inclusion in their personal files. At the time of being called for the interview, a certified copy of the application and a letter confirming service, certified by the Head of the Institution, must be presented.
- Applicants must bear any adverse consequences resulting from delaying their application submission until the deadline.

Note :-

In the limited competitive examination, one applicant can apply for only one of the above stream posts.

02. Method of Recruitment :-

2.1 Written Examination :-

The written examination consist of the following two question papers and the syllabus is given in the first appendix of this notification :

Subjects	Time (hours)	Maximum Marks	Pass Marks
Intelligence Test Paper	1 1/4	100	40
Subject Matter Paper (In accordance with the relevant post)	2	100	40

2.2 In order to pass the written examination. 40% or more marks are required for each question paper.

2.3 Structured Interview : Basic qualifications of candidates who pass the written examination will be scrutinized and marks will be awarded to seniority. Candidates who score 40% or more marks in each subject of the examination will be called for interview.

2.3.1. Method of awarding Marks for Seniority at the Interview. The period of active service of an applicant with effect from the date

fulfillment of prescribed qualification up to the closing date of applications shall only be reckoned for the purpose of awarding marks for seniority. Subject to a maximum of 30 marks, at a rate of 02 marks for each year of such period of active service and at a rate of 01 mark for a period of service extending to 180 days or more shall be awarded.

2.4 Subsequent to submitting the marks obtained by the candidates in the interview for seniority to the Sri Lanka Department of Examinations, the Department of Examinations will prepare final merit list of limited competitive examination for each post by adding marks for seniority and marks of written examination and forwarded it to the Public Service Commission. The Public Service Commission will make recruitment to the relevant posts based on the merit order of the priority list.

2.5 Upon obtaining the concurrence of the Secretary to the Public Service Commission, the Commissioner-General of Examinations shall notify the results to all candidates who sat for the examination individually or publish the same on the *website* of the Department of Examinations at www.results.exams.gov.lk.

03. Terms and Conditions of Engagement :-

3.1 This post is permanent and pensionable. Further, you should contribute to Widows'/ Widowers' and Orphans' pension fund and make contributions as stipulated by the government from time to time.

3.2 Appointees must agree 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, requirement of the cadre and other connected matters.

(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 the transfers within the Provincial Council made 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 Limited Competitive Examination will be subject to a one year acting period. Officers appointing through Limited recruitment shall pass the First Efficiency Bar Examination within three (03) years.

3.5 **Skills Development** :- Skills Development 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 assessment. 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 and conditions governing appointments in the Public Service, provisions of the Service Minute of Agricultural Service of Sri Lanka, Regulations of the Department, provision of the Establishment 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 Extra Ordinary* No. 2310/29 of 14.12.2022 and any amendments hereinafter thereto to the above Terms, Conditions, orders, Provisions, Regulations and Rules.

3.7 Recruited Officers are required to obtain the competency in the second language within prescribed period as per provisions of Public Administration Circular No. 18/2020 and the Circulars incidental thereto.

04. Monthly Salary Scale :

The consolidated monthly salary scale assigned to these posts as per Public Administration Circular 10/2025 is as follows:

SL-01-2025-Rs.82,150-2400x10-2,940x8-3,900x17-Rs. 195,970/-

Recruitment will be made to Grade III of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service.

05 years active and satisfactory period of service

Salaries will be paid to the appointees in accordance with Schedule III of Public Administration Circular 10/2025.

Or

- (b) An Officer of the Associate Officer Service category who has obtained a four year Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission and has completed five (05) years active and satisfactory period of service under the Department of Agriculture or Provincial Departments of Agriculture and has directly involved or be involving in the duties of the Department of Agriculture or the Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

05. Qualifications

5.1 Basic Qualifications :

5.1.1 For Streams of Agricultural Development

- (a) An Officer who holds a post of Agricultural Instructor in Special Grade of the Sri Lanka Technological Service

Or

- (b) An Officer who holds a post of Agricultural Instructor and has completed at least 10 years active and satisfactory period of service in the Sri Lanka Technological Service or Provincial Technological Service.

- (c) An Officer of the Associate Officer Service category who has obtained a four year Bachelor' degree in Agriculture from a University recognized by the University Grants Commission and has completed five (05) years active and satisfactory period of service under the Department of Agriculture or Provincial Departments of Agriculture and has directly involve or be involving in the duties of the Department of Agriculture or the Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

Or

- (d) An Officer who holds a post of Garden Assistant and has completed 10 years active and satisfactory period of service

Or

- (e) An Officer who holds a post of Agricultural Instructor or Garden Assistant possessing a degree in Agricultural Science or Science and has completed 05 years active and satisfactory period of service.

5.1.2 For Stream of Agricultural Economics

- (a) An Officer who holds a post of Economist Assistant and has completed

5.1.3 For stream of Agriculture Research

- (a) An Officer who holds a post of Research Assistant, Soil Surveyor or Land Evaluation Officer in Special Grade of the Sri Lanka Technological Service

Or

- (b) An Officer who holds a post of Research Assistant, Soil Surveyor or Land Evaluation Officer and has completed a minimum period of ten (10) years active and satisfactory service in the Sri Lanka Technological Service.

Or

- (c) An Officer of the Associate Officer Service category who has obtained a 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 subjects of Botany, Chemistry or Zoology obtained from a University recognized by the University Grant Commission and has completed five (05) years active and satisfactory period of service under the Department of Agriculture or Provincial Departments of Agriculture and has directly involved or be involving in the duties of the Department of Agriculture or the Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

Or

- (d) An Officer who holds a post of Research Assistant, Soil Surveyor or Land

Evaluation Officer possessing a degree in Agricultural Science or Science and has completed a period of 05 years active and satisfactory service.

Note :

- I. Officers holding posts in the Associate Officer Service Category must apply under only one stream from among Agricultural Development, Agricultural Economics, or Agricultural Research.
- II. In accordance with the Supreme Court Application No. 61/2006 decision and as stipulated in the *Extraordinary Gazette* of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 1619/25, which amended the previous Service Minute of the Sri Lanka Agricultural Service, Offices who held the post of Agricultural Monitoring Officer or Programme Assistant (Agriculture) as of 04.11.2009 and have completed five (05) years of active service are a so eligible to apply for limited recruitment. However, these Officers are eligible to apply under only one of the following streams: Agricultural Development, Agricultural Economics, or Agricultural Research.

5.2 Physical Requirements :

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

5.3 Other Qualifications :

- (i) Applicant must be of excellent Moral Character.
- (ii) Applicant should fulfill required qualifications on or before the date specified in this notification.
- (iii) Concessions or promotions granted to an applicant with retrospective effect, subsequent to the date specified in the notification for calling applications will

not be treated as fulfilling of the prescribed qualifications for the examination.

- (iv) The Officer should not have been subject to a disciplinary punishment as per the provisions set out in the Public Service Commission Circular No. 01/2020.

06. Method of Application :-

- (a) The online examination application must be completed strictly in English. The Department will notify the applicant whether the submitted soft copy of the application has been accepted or rejected. This notification will be sent *via* Short Message Service (SMS) to the mobile number used to access the system, or through *E-mail*. Prior to completing the online application, applicants must be download the Instruction Sheet provided for exam registration. These instructions must be followed accurately when filling out the application. Any amendments made to the printed copy of the application after download will not be considered valid. Incomplete applications and those received after the closing date will be rejected without any prior notice.
- (b) These posts are categorized as follows :
 - Category I : Assistant Director of Agriculture (Agricultural Development)
 - Category II : Assistant Director of Agriculture (Agricultural Research)
 - Category III : Assistant Director of Agriculture (Agricultural Economics)
- (c) The examination fee is Rs. 1,200.00. When paying examination fees, payments must be made only under the following payment methods provided by the online system.
 - I. *Via* any bank credit card
 - II. *Via* any bank debit card with the facility of internet transactions.
 - III. *Via* BOC online banking or the "Flex" app of Bank of Ceylon.
 - IV. *Via* any branch of the Bank of Ceylon.

Note

- (a) Instructions on how to make payments using the above methods are published on the website under the technical instructions related to the examination.
- (b) Confirmation of payment receipt will be notified *via* SMS or email. The full examination fee must be paid, and applications with underpaid or overpaid examination fees will be rejected. The Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka, shall not be held responsible for any errors occurring during the payment of examination fees through the aforementioned payment methods.
- (c) The fee paid for the examination will not be refunded under any circumstances, nor will it be transferred to any other examination.

08. Sitting for the examination :-

- 8.1 The applicant's signature on the admission card must be certified. The signature of an applicant should be attested by the Head of the Institution or an officer authorized by him.

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 applicants 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.

- 8.2 Issuance of the admission cards to an applicant does not necessarily mean that he/she has the requisite qualifications to sit for the examination.
- 8.3 Admission cards will be issued online only by the Commissioner General of Examinations to applicants who have paid the prescribed

examination fee on or before the closing date, under the presumption that they fulfill the qualifications stated in the *gazette* notification. The Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka will publish a web notice immediately upon the issuance of the admission cards. If a candidate does not receive their admission card even after 2 or 3 days of publishing the notice, they must inquire from the Institutional Examinations Organization Branch of the Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka as specified in the notice. When making such inquiries, the applicant must correctly state the name of the examination applied for, the full name of the applicant, the national identity card number, and the address. And to verify any information requested by the Department of Examinations, it will also be useful to keep ready a copy of the application held by the applicant and a copy of the receipt obtained for the payment of examination fees.

09. Identification of the Applicant:

Candidates must prove their identity to the satisfaction of the Supervisor for every subject they sit in the examination hall. Only the following documents are valid for this purpose:

- a) National Identity card,
- b) A valid Passport,
- c) A valid driving license.

Furthermore, candidates must enter the examination hall without covering their faces, so that their identity can be verified, and without covering their ears, so that it can be confirmed they are not wearing electronic communication devices. Applicants who do not agree to this will not be admitted to the examination hall. Additionally, from the moment they enter the examination hall until they finish the exam and leave, they must remain without covering their face and ears.

10. Mode 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 indicated in first appendix.

Syllabus for each post is indicated in first appendix.

12. Applicants should prepare to produce the originals of the certificates to prove the qualifications stated in their applications only at the interview.

13. Furnishing false Information:-

If it is revealed that a candidate does not possess the eligibility to sit for this competitive examination, his/her candidacy may be cancelled at any time, whether before, during, or after the examination. If it is revealed after the date of appointment that any information submitted by a candidate is false, or that any important fact has been willfully suppressed, it will be a cause for his/her dismissal from the public service.

Candidates are subject to the rules and regulations imposed by the Commissioner General of Examinations

regarding the conduction of the examination and the release of results. If those rules and regulations are violated, he or she will have to undergo a punishment imposed by the Commissioner General of Examinations.

14. If there is any matter for which no provision has been made herein, the final decision thereon shall be taken by the appointing authority.

15. The final decision to fill all or part of existing vacancies will be taken by the Appointing Authority.

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

By order of the Public Service Commission,

D. P. WICKRAMASINGHE,
Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land
and Irrigation.

Rajamalwatta Lane, Baththaramulle,

FIRST APPENDIX

Regulations and Syllabus of the Limited Competitive Examination

QUESTION PAPER –I - INTELLIGENCE PAPER

A multiple – choice and short-answer question paper designed to assess the linguistic, mathematics and logical ability. Duration 1 ¼ hours. Total marks 100.

QUESTION PAPER -2 - ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE IN 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. - According to the following syllabus, the subject-related question paper for the limited examination will be designed with emphasis on field experience. The examination will be conducted as determined by the Commissioner General of Examinations.

The syllabus for each post is given below:

I. Syllabus for the stream of Agricultural Research

Applicants may answer only one of the two sections, (a) or (b), mentioned below, according to their preference.

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. Genetics 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

The section specified under sub-paragraph 04 of the question paper is relevant to this.

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.- All candidates applying for the Post of Assistant Director of Agriculture (Agricultural Research) under the limited recruitment stream must answer only one of the 02 Parts mentioned in (a) or (b) above

II. Syllabus 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 practices, 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 used 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. Syllabus 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 surfaces, 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 principals 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.

09-164