

## Historical Background of Ceylon Cinnamon



Cinnamon is the most important and valuable spice produced in Sri Lanka. Before the advent of modern food preservation technology Europeans have used Cinnamon with Pepper to preserve meat products. Cinnamon is used in bakery products, Asian foods and flavoured tea for its distinctive aroma & flavour. With growing concern on health hazards associated with synthetic flavoring agents used in the food industry there is an increasing preference for natural flavours world wide.

The unique method of processing and curing of Cinnamon entices the characteristic flavour over Cassia. The preparation of Cinnamon quills involves a combination of art and skill unique to Sri Lanka and has been handed down from generation to generation over centuries. Value added Cinnamon products such as Cinnamon oil, Cinnamon powder and Tablets are also produced and exported to large number of countries.

At present Cinnamon is widely used as a food ingredient, in the pharmaceutical preparations & the cosmetics industry world wide. Being high in antioxidants it is good for overall health. Volatile oil of Cinnamon is widely used in perfumes, cosmetics and scented exotic gifts.

USA & Mexico are the main markets for Ceylon Cinnamon. Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Spain, Guatemala, Chile and Bolivia are the other countries which consume a considerable amount of Ceylon Cinnamon. Sri Lanka has an immense potential to penetrate into niche market segments in the International market.

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### Obituary

*SAPPTA grieves the passing away of Former Governor of Central Bank, A.S Jayawardena, with whom members of SAPPTA had worked closely.*

## Prosperity Through Diversity: Sri Lankan RPCs Leading The Change on Crop Diversification in 2018

Sri Lanka's Regional Plantation Companies (RPCs) made important headway in their continuing transformation towards a diversified, value-added agri-business model over the past year with total RPC crop diversification initiatives.

RPC efforts to nurture sustainable oil palm cultivation in Sri Lanka have served as an extremely promising first step towards revitalizing the Sri Lankan plantation industry through concerted, coordinated and sustainable crop diversification.

Over and above these highly successful forays into the oil palm sector, Sri Lankan RPCs are also working diligently to expand beyond the current mainstream alternatives, additionally seeking out other well-known alternatives which have expanded to well in excess of 2,300 hectares in 2018.

These innovative diversifications include crops like Cinnamon, Areca Nut, Macadamia, Coffee, Pineapple, Rambutan, Soursop, Citrus Papaya, Avocado, Passion Fruit, Pears, and Vanilla together with spices like Pepper, Cloves, Cardamom, and forestry initiatives from, Khaya and Giant Bamboo and other fuel-wood plantations.

In order to ensure the survival and continued prosperity of the plantation sector, it is imperative that we not only diversify into innovative new crops, but also that we establish these diversifications within a vertically integrated production model that prioritizes value addition over mere bulk production.

In that context, the Planters' Association commends and encourages our member RPCs vital efforts in exploring previously untapped agri-business potential through innovative diversifications aimed at producing unique, value-added products for export markets.

Crucially, these advancements represent an improvement that is several orders of magnitude above the condition of the island's plantations sector prior to the assumption of privatized management of the estates in 1992. Prior to the divestment by the state of Sri Lanka's plantation sector, the entire national industry had been largely constrained to the three perennial crops- tea, rubber and coconut - with limited commercial forestry projects, cinnamon and cardamom cultivation.

Previous and on-going efforts of RPCs to make innovative crop diversifications represent the leading edge of a new emerging hybrid plantations model in Sri Lanka that is anticipated to reverse and rectify challenges currently faced in perennial crops, as our industry progressively transitions towards a vertically integrated agribusiness model.

Yajith de Silva

The Planters' Association of Ceylon