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Ministry of Education

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Circular No: 02/2013

- All Chief Secretaries of the Provinces,
- All Provincial Secretaries of Education,
- All Provincial Directors of Education,
- All Zonal Directors of Education,
- All Divisional Directors of Education,
- All Principals

**The Programme to convert the school premises to a model garden in line with the Divi Neguma National Development Programme**

**1.0 Introduction**

The Ministry of Education intends to implement in all schools the Programme to convert the school premises to a model garden in line with the Divi Neguma National Development Programme which is in operation according to the development policy framework of the Government of Sri Lanka; Mahinda Chintana Vision for the Future.

Through the empowerment of the teacher as a model leader in the school system by employing the school system for this National Programme, it is expected to make the school a Divi Neguma model school and to convey the practical experience of the student through active participation, the essence of the Divi Neguma Programme to the members of the family .

Under this programme, the cultivable lands in the schools and the Education Offices are expected to be cultivated. In urban schools where cultivable lands are not available, Urban Agriculture must be employed.

In the implementation of this Programme, it is expected to provide the students with new knowledge on Agriculture, improve their practical skills and inculcate positive attitudes on Agriculture and dignity of labour, and it is emphasized that the participation of all students and teachers; not only the students studying Agriculture; should be ensured.

**2.0 The specific objectives of the Programme**

- Create enthusiasm in the students about crop cultivation and animal husbandry
- Train to employ students' leisure time for a useful activity
- Develop dignity of labour in the students
- Make maximum use of the school resources

- Increase the nutritional level of the family
- Create additional avenues of income to strengthen the economy of the family
- Make maximum use of the waste materials through the production of organic manure
- Make the school environment more pleasant and take part in the conservation of the environment
- Accustom the future generation to a self sufficient life style

### 3.0 The way of implementing the programme

- The Zonal and Divisional Directors of Education, Deputy/Assistant Directors of Education (Agri.) serving in the Zonal and Provincial levels and In-Service Advisors of Agriculture will be acknowledged and through them, the assistance needed in the implementation of this program will be obtained and also the evaluation, monitoring and supervision of the programme will be carried out.
- An officer for the coordination of the programme must be appointed in Provincial and Zonal levels. The implementation of the programme in the schools must be carried out by a monitoring committee consisting of the Principal, the Deputy Principal, the teachers, the representatives of the Old Boys / Girls Association and the representatives of the School Development Society.
- Allocations for the quality inputs may be utilized for purchase of seeds and fertilizer required for the starting of the programme and the income received from the cultivation must be deposited to the School Development Society and be used for the long term continuation of the programme as per the provisions of the Circular of the School Development Society.
- Action has to be taken to obtain assistance on cultivation methods and crops suitable for agri- climatic zones and urban gardening methods for the urban schools from the District Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture.
- If more space is available in the school land, food crops as well as multi yearly crops with medicinal and timber value must be cultivated.
- Simultaneous to the school programme, action must be taken to cultivate crops in the premises of the Zonal and Provincial Education Offices and the teachers' quarters as well.

### 4.0 Activities proposed under the programme

- Planning the school land
- Preparation of the land
- Cultivation of crops
  - Vegetables, fruits, grains, green leaves, yams, medicinal plants and multi yearly crops
- Establishment of nurseries.
- Production of Organic manure
  - Compost Production
  - Organic Liquid Fertilizer
- Maintaining bio-gas units
- Cultivation in a limited area
  - potted cultivation, cultivation towers, cultivation terraces, soil-less cultivation (Rigifoam polystyrene boxes , polythene bags filled with coir dust )

- Commercial Agriculture
  - Growing mushrooms,
  - Colourful plants,
  - flower plants,
  - production of bud plants with commercial value
- If Micro water supply, greenhouses can be exemplified it can be implemented with the support of relevant institutions or with the mediation of the School Development Society.

#### 5.0 Post cultivation work

Maintenance and Post cultivation work may be carried out in the grade level by dividing school land into sections.

#### 6.0 Monitoring and Progress Review

A quarterly progress report of the programme must be forwarded to the Divisional Directors of Education and the progress must be reported to the Agriculture Branch of the Ministry of Education through the Divisional Director of Education, Zonal Director of Education and Provincial Director of Education. The Assistant Directors of Education of the Subject Agriculture and In-Service Advisors serving in the Zonal and Divisional Education Offices must monitor and give necessary assistance for the cultivation work in the schools in their Zone.

The programme should be annually implemented without any interruption having selected the sections in which the above activities can be implemented by means of utilizing the resources in the school.

Treating this as a national need, it is expected that your active cooperation will be extended for the successful implementation of this programme.

**S.M.Gotabhaya Jayaratne**

Secretary

Ministry of Education

Copies:

1. Deputy /Assistant Director of Education (Agri) – For the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme
2. In-Service Advisor (Agri) – For the implementation and monitoring of the programme