Development of Information System for enhancing upcountry vegetable cultivation in Sri Lanka

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Declaration

I declare that this dissertation does not incorporate, without acknowledgement, any material previously submitted for a Degree or a Diploma in any University to the best of my knowledge and belief, it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person or myself except where due reference is made in the text. I also hereby give consent for my dissertation, if accepted, to be made available for photocopying and for interlibrary loans, and for the title and summary to be made available to outside organization.

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05/04/2013
Dedication

This report is sincerely dedicated to
The farmers who are engaged in the cultivation of vegetables in spite of the hard-ship
they encounter in their daily living work instinctively for the benefit of society.

The Research community in the field of Agriculture who are using their knowledge,
technology and skills for the improvement of living standards of our people

The Policy makers whose sole interest is the up-liftment and
Development of the country
I express my gratitude to Dean, faculty of Information Technology, University of Moratuwa for giving me the opportunity to follow the M.Sc. program.

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Abstract

Sri Lanka is one of the developing countries in South-Asian region where Agriculture remains the mainstay of economy and approximately 33% of the total labor force is engaged in Agriculture. Production of rice is the most important activity and cultivation of other cereals, vegetables and fruits are also prominently in the economy of Sri Lanka. Therefore it is very important to analyze the agricultural information for the purpose of formulating policies and also enhancing the knowledge of farmers to encourage them to be in the Agriculture. In this context, production, price fluctuations, forecasting, seasonal indices and the factors which could affect for these variables are highly important. In this project, four upcountry vegetables namely potatoes, beans, carrot and cabbage were selected and, an attempt was made to develop a web-based information system, which can be used for effective decision making on expected harvest of selected crops with the utilization of lands, according to Agro-ecological measures and demographic characteristics and also on seasonal indices and time series forecasting to educate farmers, consumers and other interested parties as well. The regression models for estimated harvest were developed with the use of SPSS statistical software from the raw data collected from a sample survey conducted in Matale, Kandy, Nuwara-eliya and Badulla districts. The information system will provide users to select key variables by district, crop and the season and any of pre-defined categories of independent variables identified by each model and then visualize the expected harvest. The seasonal indices and most appropriate price forecasting trend lines were generated by considering monthly prices for a period of 2001 to 2010. These three measures would be a total solution that is available in the system for effective decision making.
# Table of Contents

Declaration  
Dedication  
Acknowledgements  
Abstract  

Table of Contents  

Chapter One – Introduction  
1.1 Background Information  
1.2 Problem in brief  
1.3 Motivation  
1.4 Proposed Solution  
1.5 Objectives of the project  
1.6 Summary  

Chapter Two – Literature Review  
2.1 Introduction  
2.2 High temperature  
2.3 Drought  
2.4 Salinity  
2.5 Flooding  
2.6 Adaptation to climate change  
2.7 Enhancing vegetable production system  
2.8 Water saving irrigation management  
2.9 Cultural practices  
2.10 Prioritizing Vegetable research to address impact of climate change  
2.11 Exploitation of Genetic Diversity  
2.12 Increasing area under improved varieties  
2.13 Vegetable nursery management  
2.14 Protected cultivation  
2.15 Vegetable seed production  
2.16 Promotion of organic cultivation  
2.17 Use of insect pollinators  
2.18 Minimizing post harvest losses  
2.19 Summary  

Chapter three – Methodology  
3.1 Introduction  
3.2 Description of sample survey data  
3.2.1 Demographic characteristics of farmer  
3.2.2 Awareness regarding farming and technologies  
3.2.3 Location and form of the land  
3.2.4 Crop establishment  
3.2.5 Coding of identified variables  
3.3 Description of retail prices  
3.4 Summary
Chapter four – Data analysis

4.1 Introduction 23
4.2 Sample size 24
4.3 Demographic characteristics of farmers 27
4.4 Awareness about agricultural information and technologies 29
4.5 Nature of land 30
4.6 Regression analysis 32
4.7 Seasonal Index 52
4.8 Price forecasting models 55
4.9 Summary 58

Chapter five – Requirement Analysis

5.1 Introduction 59
5.2 User requirements 59
5.3 Functional requirements 61
5.4 Non-functional requirements 61
5.5 Context Models 63
  5.5.1 Context model for decision support system 63
  5.5.2 Context diagram for calculating estimated harvest 64
  5.5.3 Context diagram for visualizing seasonal indices 65
  5.5.4 Context diagram for visualizing and actual and estimated prices 66
5.6 Summary 67

Chapter six – Technology adopted for the system 69

6.1 Introduction 69
6.2 Reasons for selecting proposed technology 69
6.3 Background of the technology used 69
6.4 PHP and Mysql’s place in development 71
6.5 Technology architecture 72
6.6 Summary 72

Chapter seven – Implementation 73

7.1 Introduction 73
7.2 Basic mechanism for implementation 73
7.3 Information stored in the system 73
  7.3.1 Background Information 74
  7.3.2 Derived information 74
7.4 Components of the web-site 75
  7.4.1 Estimated production process 76
  7.4.2 Preview of seasonal indices 76
  7.4.3 Preview of price forecasting 77
  7.4.4 Preview of dynamic information 77
7.5 Implementation of components 77
  7.5.1 Database implementation 77
  7.5.2 Login module implementation 77
Chapter eight – Evaluation

8.1 Introduction

8.2 Achievements of the objectives
  8.2.1 Data gathering
  8.2.2 Creating a database
  8.2.3 Regression models
  8.2.4 Seasonal indices
  8.2.5 Price forecasting
  8.2.6 Web based information system
  8.2.7 Assessment on results
  8.2.8 Training and developments

8.3 Summary

Chapter nine – Conclusion and Further work

9.1 Overview

9.2 Assessment of the system

9.3 Problems encountered and limitation in development of project

9.4 Further developments

9.5 Summary

References

Appendixes

Appendix A
Appendix B
Appendix C
Appendix D
Appendix E
Appendix F
Appendix G
Appendix H
Appendix I
Appendix J
List of Tables

| Table 1.1 | Annual extent cultivated | 02 |
| Table 1.2 | Annual Production | 03 |
| Table 1.3 | Per-Capita consumption(Kg) | 03 |
| Table 1.4 | Annual Requirement (M.tons) | 04 |
| Table 1.5 | Average retail prices (Rs/Kg) | 04 |
| Table 3.1 | Demographic characteristics | 16 |
| Table 3.2 | Knowledge regarding the farming technologies | 17 |
| Table 3.3 | Knowledge regarding the protection methods | 18 |
| Table 3.4 | Awareness about fertilizer | 18 |
| Table 3.5 | Awareness about other cultivation methods | 19 |
| Table 4.1 | Distribution of sample by districts | 24 |
| Table 4.2 | Distribution of sample by crops cultivated | 24 |
| Table 4.3 | Distribution of sample by districts and crops cultivated | 25 |
| Table 4.4 | Distribution of sample by crops cultivated in each season | 25 |
| Table 4.5 | Different samples selected for regression models | 26 |
| Table 4.6 | Description of samples taken for regression analysis | 26 |
| Table 4.7 | Distribution of sample by Gender and districts | 27 |
| Table 4.8 | Distribution of sample by age group and districts | 27 |
| Table 4.9 | Distribution of sample by level of education and districts | 28 |
| Table 4.10 | Distribution of sample by income group and districts | 29 |
| Table 4.11 | Distribution of sample by knowledge on agro. Problems | 29 |
| Table 4.12 | Number of plots selected in the sample | 30 |
| Table 4.13 | Distribution of plots by slope and districts | 31 |
| Table 4.14 | Distribution of plots by height of top soil | 31 |
| Table 4.15 | Regression model for Beans in maha season in Matale district | 33 |
| Table 4.16 | Regression model for Cabbage in maha season in Matale district | 34 |
| Table 4.17 | Regression model for Potatoes in maha season in Nuwara-eliya district | 35 |
| Table 4.18 | Regression model for Carrot in maha season in Nuwara-eliya district | 36 |
| Table 4.19 | Regression model for Carrot in yala season in Nuwara-eliya district | 37 |
| Table 4.20 | Regression model for Cabbage in yala season in Nuwara-eliya district | 38 |
| Table 4.21 | Regression model for Cabbage in yala season in Badulla district | 39 |
| Table 4.22 | Regression model for Potatoes in yala season in Badulla district | 40 |
| Table 4.23 | Regression model for Beans in maha season in Badulla district | 41 |
| Table 4.24 | Regression model for Beans in yala season in Badulla district | 42 |
| Table 4.25 | Regression model for Beans in maha season in Kandy district | 43 |
| Table 4.26 | Regression model for Cabbage in maha season in Kandy district | 44 |
| Table 4.27 | Regression model for Beans in yala season in Kandy district | 45 |
| Table 4.28 | Regression model for Carrot in yala season in Kandy district | 46 |
| Table 4.29 | Regression model for Cabbage in yala season in Kandy district | 47 |
| Table 4.30 | Regression model for Carrot in intermediate season in Kandy district | 48 |
| Table 4.31 | Regression model for Cabbage in intermediate season in Kandy district | 49 |
| Table 4.32 | Seasonal index | 50 |
| Table 4.33 | Actual and estimated prices in 2010 based on models | 51 |
| Table 5.1 | User requirements | 52 |
List of Figures

Figure 3.01  Architecture of prediction of harvest  21
Figure 4.01  Production of beans in maha season in Matale district  34
Figure 4.02  Production of cabbage in maha season in Matale district  35
Figure 4.03  Production of cabbage in yala season in Matale district  36
Figure 4.04  Production of potatoes in maha season in Nuwara-eliya district  37
Figure 4.05  Production of carrot in maha season in Nuwara-eliya district  38
Figure 4.06  Production of carrot in yala season in Nuwara-eliya district  39
Figure 4.07  Production of cabbage in yala season in Nuwara-eliya district  40
Figure 4.08  Production of potatoes in maha season in Badulla district  41
Figure 4.09  Production of potatoes in yala season in Badulla district  42
Figure 4.10  Production of beans in maha season in Badulla district  43
Figure 4.11  Production of beans in yala season in Badulla district  44
Figure 4.12  Production of beans in maha season in Kandy district  45
Figure 4.13  Production of cabbage in maha season in Kandy district  46
Figure 4.14  Production of beans in yala season in Kandy district  47
Figure 4.15  Production of carrot in yala season in Kandy district  48
Figure 4.16  Production of cabbage in yala season in Kandy district  49
Figure 4.17  Production of carrot in intermediate season in Kandy district  50
Figure 4.18  Production of cabbage in intermediate season in Kandy district  51
Figure 4.19  Retail price seasonal index for Beans  53
Figure 4.20  Retail price seasonal index for Cabbage  53
Figure 4.21  Retail price seasonal index for Carrot  54
Figure 4.22  Retail price seasonal index for Potatoes  54
Figure 4.23  Actual and estimated prices of Beans in 2010  56
Figure 4.24  Actual and estimated prices of Cabbage in 2010  57
Figure 4.25  Actual and estimated prices of Carrot in 2010  57
Figure 4.26  Actual and estimated prices of Potatoes in 2010  58
Figure 5.1  Business activity diagram  62
Figure 5.2  Context model of decision support system  63
Figure 5.3  Process model of calculating estimated harvest  64
Figure 5.4  Process model of visualizing seasonal indices  65
Figure 5.5  Process model of displaying actual and estimated prices  66
Figure 6.1  Technology Architectural diagram  72
Figure 8.1  Seasonal index for potatoes  83
Figure 8.2  Price forecasting  84