

## Organic productivity multiplies in Sri Lanka

**T**he Sri Lankan Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture organized the workshop on Local Market Development for Organic Products in Kandy, 10–11 September. Three participants who had attended the APO study meeting on Organic Agriculture for Promoting Green Productivity and Agribusiness Exports held in India, 23–27 July, attended the workshop along with 60 local participants from the Department of Agriculture, private companies, NGOs, and the farming sector. The workshop aimed at identifying the constraints on the development of the local market for organic agriculture products and deriving strategic solutions from all sectors involved.

The local market for organic agricultural products is still small in Sri Lanka but interest and demand have grown among the more health-conscious. Products such as tea, coconuts, coffee, cocoa, spices, and fruit are mainly cultivated on plantations operated by large enterprises. After listening to the experts' presentations on current issues, possible solutions, and best practices in local and overseas organic markets, the workshop participants formulated strategic recommendations and programs to develop local markets for organic products under the four headings of policy research and support services; strategies for local markets; roles of producer groups; and supply chain management logistics and maintenance. "The knowledge on the marketing of organic products and agribusiness gained from the APO study meeting held in India served as the initial foundation of our discussion," said Agriculture Monitoring Officer W.M.S. Nishantha Wanasundara, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka. Wanasundara, as well as two other participants, provided the APO with a detailed report of the workshop. 