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# Problem 01-Challenges of Crop Monoculture and Seasonal Overproduction in Sri Lankan Agriculture

Sri Lanka faces significant challenges in agricultural planning due to a lack of crop diversification and coordinated planting. Farmers often grow the same crop in the same season, causing an oversupply that lowers market prices and reduces farmer income. This focus on monoculture also leads to shortages and price spikes for other crops, impacting food security and affordability for consumers.

The economic impact is substantial, as farmers suffer financially from unpredictable price swings while consumers face inconsistent access to key foods.

Example: -

* In areas like Welimada and Bandarawela, all farmers may grow leeks in a particular season. The glut in supply reduces leek prices significantly. At the same time, carrots become scarce and expensive due to a lack of cultivation, creating both economic imbalance and consumer hardship.

# Problem 02-Lack of On-the-Spot Traffic Fine Payment System in Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, there is no system for paying traffic fines immediately at the time and location of the offence. When drivers commit a traffic violation, their driver’s license is often withheld by the police. To retrieve their license and settle the fine, they must visit a specific police station or administrative office to make the payment, often on a different day. This process is inconvenient and time-consuming, mainly if the offence occurs far from the driver's home location.

Example: -

* If a driver from Kandy commits a traffic offence while in Jaffna, their license may be held, and they will need to travel back to Jaffna later to pay the fine and retrieve it. This requires significant time, travel expenses, and planning, which could be avoided with a more efficient system.

# Problem 03- Challenges of Inadequate Patient Records Management in Sri Lankan Healthcare

In Sri Lanka, patients face significant challenges when visiting hospitals due to the requirement of carrying all their clinical records, including medical history, treatment notes, and prescriptions. This practice creates substantial inconvenience for both patients and healthcare providers. Patients often forget to bring their clinical records, which can lead to delays in receiving treatment and increase stress levels. For elderly patients or those with mobility issues, the burden of physically carrying these documents can be particularly overwhelming.

Healthcare providers, on the other hand, may struggle to deliver effective treatment without access to a patient’s complete medical history. This lack of information can result in misdiagnosis or inappropriate treatments, potentially compromising patient safety. Moreover, time spent gathering a patient’s medical information can lead to longer wait times for other patients, exacerbating inefficiencies in healthcare delivery. The reliance on physical documents also raises the risk of losing important information or having incomplete records, further jeopardizing patient safety.

The absence of integrated digital health records systems in many hospitals means that healthcare providers continue to depend on patients to bring their records, limiting the effectiveness of patient management.

Example: -

* Consider a scenario where a patient arrives at a hospital seeking treatment but forgets to bring their medical history book. In this case, the doctor may struggle to assess the patient’s condition without access to vital information about past treatments and existing health issues. This situation could lead to delays in necessary treatment and frustration for the patient and the healthcare provider.

# Problem 04-Shortage of Teachers and Lack of Laboratory Facilities in Difficult Regions

Higher education students face significant challenges in many difficult regions of Sri Lanka due to a shortage of qualified teachers and inadequate laboratory facilities. The scarcity of trained educators in critical subjects such as mathematics and science severely limits students' access to quality education, hindering their academic development. Additionally, the absence of well-equipped laboratories restricts essential hands-on learning experiences crucial for physics, chemistry, and biology. This combination of teacher shortages and lack of practical facilities makes students unable to fully engage with the curriculum, ultimately affecting their academic performance and future opportunities.

In many rural and underdeveloped areas, teachers are often overburdened, handling large classes with limited resources, further diminishing educational quality. The lack of practical laboratory experiences means that students cannot apply theoretical knowledge, making it difficult to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Example: -

* High school students studying advanced chemistry in a rural school face significant challenges. Due to a shortage of qualified chemistry teachers, the subject is taught by an instructor with limited knowledge of the material. Furthermore, the school lacks a functional chemistry laboratory, preventing students from performing experiments to reinforce their theoretical learning.

# Problem 05-Challenges in Crop Disease Diagnosis and Treatment Knowledge Among Farmers

Farmers often face difficulties accurately identifying diseases affecting their crops and lack the knowledge of appropriate remedies or antidotes. This knowledge gap prevents timely intervention, allowing diseases to spread and damage crops, leading to reduced yields, financial loss, and sometimes even the failure of entire crop cycles.

* Diagnosis Challenges: Farmers struggle to identify diseases correctly, leading to ineffective treatment.
* Lack of Information on Remedies: Even when problems are recognized, farmers often don’t know the best antidotes or treatments.
* Economic and Environmental Impact: Mismanagement can harm crops, increase costs, and even damage the environment.

Example: -

* A farmer notices unusual yellowing and wilting in tomato plants. Without clear knowledge, the farmer attributes it to a common pest and applies a standard pesticide, which doesn’t address the underlying fungal infection. As a result, the disease spreads, and much of the crop is lost.

# Problem 06-Inadequate Communication About Garbage Collection in Urban Areas

Urban areas often face challenges due to unclear communication regarding garbage collection schedules, dates, and locations. This leads to confusion among residents, resulting in improper waste disposal and negative impacts on public health and the environment.

Unclear Collection Schedules: Residents may miss garbage pickups or leave trash out too early.

* Inconsistent Collection Locations: Without clear information, garbage may be disposed of in unauthorized areas, contributing to litter.
* Public Health Risks: Improper disposal can lead to health hazards and attract pests.
* Environmental Impact: Overflowing garbage harms local ecosystems and community aesthetics.
* Community Engagement: Lack of communication reduces participation in waste management efforts.

# Problem 07- Price Determination in Food Trading

In the current food trading environment, traders often set prices based on personal opinions and market speculation rather than the actual quality of the food products. This practice undermines the principles of fair pricing and can lead to significant discrepancies between the perceived value of food items and their actual quality. Traders may manipulate prices to maximize profits, selling low-quality food at inflated prices while high-quality products are undervalued.

This arbitrary pricing mechanism can lead to consumer confusion, as shoppers may struggle to discern the true value of the products they purchase.

Additionally, it pressures farmers and producers who strive to maintain high-quality standards but are not rewarded for their efforts in the marketplace.

Example: -

* High-quality organic rice and lower-quality imported rice. Instead of pricing them according to their quality, the trader sets both prices based on his perception of demand. As a result, the high-quality rice is sold at a price similar to the lower-quality rice. Unaware of the differences in quality, consumers may choose the less nutritious option, believing they are getting good value.

# Problem 08- Lack of Fixed Timetables for Public Transport Services in Sri Lanka

The absence of fixed timetables for public transport services in Sri Lanka significantly affects commuters’ daily lives and overall transportation efficiency. This lack of a reliable schedule leads to unpredictability in travel times, causing frustration for passengers who rely on buses and trains to commute to work, school, or other destinations.

This unpredictability affects individuals’ punctuality and creates challenges for those with tight schedules or commitments. Moreover, the irregularity of public transport services can lead to overcrowding, as more passengers attempt to board limited vehicles when they finally arrive.

Example: -

* The daily commuter in Colombo who relies on the bus service to reach work. Without a fixed timetable, they arrive at the bus stop unsure of when the next bus will come. Some days, they may wait only a few minutes, while on others, they could wait for over half an hour. This inconsistency forces them to leave home much earlier than necessary, disrupting their routine and causing frustration. On particularly busy days, they may find the bus overcrowded, making their commute uncomfortable.

# Problem 09- Challenges in Promoting Sri Lanka's Artisans and Handicrafts in the Large Market

Sri Lanka is renowned for its rich heritage of artisanal crafts and handicrafts, encompassing a variety of traditional techniques and materials that reflect the country's cultural identity. However, artisans need help in bringing their products to larger markets, which hampers their economic potential and preserves traditional crafts. One major obstacle is the lack of access to modern marketing channels and distribution networks. Many artisans work in isolation, relying on local sales or small exhibitions without the resources or knowledge to reach broader audiences.

Furthermore, artisans often struggle with inadequate training in business skills, marketing, and quality control, essential for competing in larger markets. They may also lack access to funding or investment opportunities needed to scale their operations, leading to limited production capacities and an inability to meet demand.

Example: -

* Group of traditional Sri Lankan batik artists who create intricate designs. They rely on selling their work at local craft fairs and through word-of-mouth referrals. Despite the high quality of their work, they struggle to compete with cheap, machine-made clothing that floods the market.