



## **Agricultural Science Education in Sri Lanka: is the Agricultural Degree Compatible with the Current Demand of the Job Market?**

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### **Abstract**

Although Sri Lanka is an Agricultural country, only about 34.1% was engaged in Agriculture related jobs in 2010 and most graduates are less attractive in the employment market in Sri Lanka. There exists high potential in agricultural jobs in private sector. Therefore, this study tries to find reason for this contradictory situation. Purposively selected 135 respondents consist of employee sector, academic staff members and graduates of two leading Agricultural universities in Sri Lanka were used for the survey, by administering pre-tested structured questionnaires. The study shows that 56% of the total job opportunities for Agricultural graduates were provided in the private sector. Even still there is a huge demand; the Agricultural degree is not compatible with the current job market requirements. Job market expects the graduates to be more confident and more practical oriented. But the current course content is mainly focused on more theoretical aspects. The attitudes of the Agricultural students should be changed towards the job market expectations. Therefore, based on the survey the study recommends introducing efficient educational policy with desirable curriculum adjustments to capture the current job market efficiently.