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# IPS-IFPRI partner to strengthen collaboration in South Asia on food security policies

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**From left: IPS Executive Director Dr. Saman Kelegma and IFPRI South Asia Director Dr. P.K Joshi during the signing of the MoU for a collaborative research on food security in South Asia at the**

## **IPS Auditorium in the presence of Agriculture Ministry Secretary B. Wijayarathne, Agriculture Department Director General Dr. Rohan Wijekoon and Consultant D.C. Dheerasekera**

The Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a collaborative research on Food Security in South Asia to strengthen research and capacity building.

The MoU also aims to facilitate effective management of agricultural resources, by government and poor rural communities in developing countries and increase the impact of research. The MoU was signed between IPS and IFPRI and IPS Executive Director Dr. Saman Kelegama and IFPRI South Asia Director Dr. P.K. Joshi signed on behalf of the respective institutions.

The signing took place at the inauguration of a two-day 'National Consultation Workshop on Key Challenges and Opportunities for Food Security Policies' held at the IPS Auditorium in Colombo.

The aim of the workshop organised by IPS and IFPRI was to identify the key challenges and opportunities for food security in Sri Lanka and provide the basis for the formation of a successful food security policy framework for the country.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Kelegama said, "Eliminating food insecurity will require a holistic approach that promotes sustainable agriculture while ensuring economic viability of farm operations and environmental sustainability.

By working together and supporting sustainable agricultural development, I am confident that we can not only improve the food security of those who are hungry but create new opportunities to mitigate the future vulnerabilities of the people for hunger."

Commencing the first session of the national consultation workshop 'Food Security in Sri Lanka', IPS Research Economist Dr. Manoj Thibbotuwawa highlighted the "importance of solving the food insecurity as a productive investment in human capital, rather than just a consumption or welfare measure". The workshop further discussed different avenues and best practices that ensure sustainable food production in Sri Lanka; identified most important interactions, synergies and trade-offs between climate change and food security; discussed the potential value and role of promoting healthy food systems in food security; dignified gaps in the regulatory framework that hinder the agri-food value chains; identified the role of value addition, agribusiness and market access.

At the end of the workshop participants synthesized the above objectives and suggested modalities for policymakers and other stakeholders to develop policies to promote food security in Sri Lanka. The final outcome of the workshop will be shared with policymakers and other stakeholders in the coming weeks in order to provide a platform for future food security policy strategies.

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