

Bouquet to ITI

Introduction

We reproduce herewith excerpts from a concept paper published by the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) some time back on the research and hard work by them on the manufacture of bread and bakery products from rice flour.

We have imported 800,000 tons of wheat flour in 2006 and we have grown 900,000 hectares of rice which is our stable main food. We have been grooming and looking after the farmers of Brazil, USA and any other countries and not our farmers, who we should have a bounden duty to look after.

We have inaugurated the project recently at Malabe, Cherry Bakery, with the participation of Minister Chandasena and 'Mauki' Environmental Agent. The response we have received is tremendous. The Minister has started a self-employment project in Embilipitiya and Polonnaruwa to help the projects and the youngsters.

On September 21 the Ministry of Trade commenced a programme to educate the bakers and public. On September 26 Minister of Scientific Affairs and the Chairman, Lake House will participate in a project initiated by Lake House employees to promote this project. ITI will make a presentation at this project based on their research.

It is heartening to note that ITI has given green light for the project by ascertaining and confirming that bakery products out of rice flour is a reality and the products will be of higher standard and easily consumable. This is very encouraging.

This is a commencement of a new era of modern rice eating in a modern way with the help of modern technology. While reproducing the article below, we take this opportunity to thank the ITI and the staff, again and again, for the initiative taken. We also request them to help us to take this to the ground level and also, to expand in a large-scale.

We take this opportunity to request the scientists, entrepreneurs and the people at large to communicate with us in this project by providing us information, encouragement, suggestions, and assistance.

Value-added food products from rice

"Rice is the major food grain grown in about 900,000 hectares, and is the staple food of Sri Lanka. It has recorded production levels of about 2.5 mn mt during high harvests, such as the Maha season of 2006.

The on-going peace process, favourable climatic conditions with efforts to increase the number of bushels per acre and government's concerted efforts to encourage the farmers by providing the fertiliser subsidy are the main reasons responsible for the bumper paddy harvest this year.

"The present per capita consumption of cereal based foods in Sri Lanka is about 150 kg. Of this the per capita rice consumption amounts to 100 kg while the balance 50 kg is met by wheat imports. Wheat imports for the year 2006 has been about 800,000 mt amounting to a drain of large sums of foreign exchange amounting to about Rs. 17 bn. Bread and other bakery items made out of wheat flour are very popular in Sri Lanka due to their ready availability and convenience.

"In 2002, when the country almost attained self-sufficiency in rice but lacked adequate storage space the then Minister of Science and Technology Keheliya Rambukwella together with ITI scientists embarked on a accelerated programme to introduce rice based food products to the local market. The ITI even came out with an eight point strategy to utilise the excess rice in a more effective manner.

"Now again in 2006 the country is faced with the situation where paddy farmers find it difficult to sell their produce. Has Sri Lanka really attained self-sufficiency in their staple diet? The per capita consumption of cereals as a staple diet of Sri Lanka is 150 kg. The per capita consumption of rice is only 100 kg, the rest being supplied by bread which is made out of imported wheat flour.

For the knowledge of the general public we wish to point out that bread and other bakery items cannot be prepared only with indigenous flour since they lack the required protein-gluten, which is only present in wheat flour, and which is responsible for the spongy nature of the bread.

The onus is then on the government, to take necessary practical measures through policy decisions such as providing incentives and subsidies, waiving off duties, and whatever other means necessary to encourage the use of rice in the local food industry. What is only too apparent is, not that scientists are oblivious to pressing national issues, but that they are powerless unless they are supported by the government policy-making bodies."

News flash

Consumer Affairs Authority Chairman Sarath Wijesinghe has held several rounds of discussions with the Industrial Technical Institute and Sri Lanka Bureau of Standards on many matters of mutual interest, most specifically in the manufacture of rice flour.

The project commenced on August 30, 2006 at Malabe with the help of Minister Chandrasena. We have been very successful. There is a response from all over the country supporting and assisting in this project for which the CAA is acting as a facilitator and a catalyst. The CAA has

organised demonstrations, workshops and self-employment projects in Colombo and all over the country.

The CAA is taking measures to urge to make proposals to the Government and to the respective Ministries and Departments to centralise and accelerate this project in view of future bumper harvest and also highlight the problems that the paddy farmers are expected to face in time to come.

It is also heartening to note that a number of nutritionists, academics, scientists and well-wishers have pledged to support us, and we request them to communicate with us on the following numbers:

2399146/2393577/2445897/2393495,

Fax 2399148

ISLAND WIDE DATA COLLECTION PROGRAMME								
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AUTHORITY								
Wholesale / Retail price schedule of consumer goods								
1st week of September								
Category	Item	Unit	Centre					
			Pettah Market		Super market Angola	Lakshosa Dehiwala	Rural Anuradhapura	Budget Shop (Rajiniga)
			Wholesale price	Retail Price				
Rice	Sambu (Maxi.)	1kg	40.00	35.00	58.00	31.00	43.00	35.00
	Sambu (Mini.)	1kg	31.00	34.00	38.00		33.00	27.00
	White Raw (Maxi.)	1kg	25.00	30.00	32.00	25.50	28.00	26.00
	White Raw (Mini.)	1kg	24.00	28.00				26.00
	Red Raw (Maxi.)	1kg	28.00	31.00	31.50	28.00	30.00	25.00
	Red Raw (Mini.)	1kg	26.00	28.00			28.00	22.00
	Nadu	1kg	26.00	32.00		26.90	28.00	27.00
	Basmathi	1kg	65.00		118.00	63.50	105.00	50.00
	Wheat flour and Bread	Wheat flour (Maxi)	50kg	31.70		50.66	35.50	35.00
Wheat flour (Mini)		50kg	14	19.00	53.00		22.00	18.00
Bread		1 loaf	9	13.00	19.00		11.00	14.00
Bun		1 piece						
Sugar	Red	1kg			69.50	63.50		
	White	1kg	55.00	60.00	65.00	59.75	62.00	59.00
Milk Powder	Lakspray	400g	146	148.00	154.00	154.00	154.00	149.00
	Anchor	400g	154	158.00	163.00	163.00	163.00	156.00
	Nespray	400g	144	148.00	163.00	158.00	160.00	158.00
	Maliban	400g	143	148.00	152.00	152.00	152.00	147.00
	Ratthi	400g	142	145.00	150.00	148.00	148.00	145.00
	Bonlac	400g	155	165.00	173.00			168.00
	Anchor -1	400g	155	160.00	167.50	167.50	168.50	162.00
	Cow & gate	450g			450.00	450.00		
	Nestamolt	400g	146	158.00	162.00	162.00	160.00	150.00
	Horlics	400g	113	175.00	160.00		160.00	155.00
	Viva	400g			150.00		150.00	145.00
	S M A	450g			510.00			475.50
	Diamond	400g			148.00	148		143.00
Lactogen -1	400g			210.00	200.00	210.00	205.00	
Pulses	Dhal - Miasoor	1kg	63.00	70.00	65.00	64.50	75.00	62.00
	Watana	1kg	53.00	58.00		62.00	65.00	56.00
	Gram - Big	1kg	145.00	160.00	155.00	148.00	140.00	165.00
	Green Gram	1kg	105.00	115.00	130.00	112.00	110.00	105.00
	Caupi - White	1kg	95.00	110.00		115.00	70.00	105.00
	Caupi - Black	1kg	95.00	110.00		84.00	70.00	105.00

Potatos	Walimada	1kg	55.00	60.00			55.00	55.00
	Nuwara Eliya	1kg			71.00	62.50	58.00	58.00
	Imported	1kg	40.00	45.00				56.00
Onions	B-Onion - Lanka	1kg	25	32	44.00	37.50	45.00	35.00
	B-Onion - Imported	1kg	30.00	35.00				38.00
	Red Onion - Lanka	1kg	55.00	60.00	71.00		60.00	55.00
	Red Onion - Imported	1kg					120.00	
	Garlic	1kg	78.00	90.00	94.50	90.00	200.00	80.00
Dried Chillies	Imported	1kg	185.00	200.00	220.00		200.00	180.00
	Local	1kg				175.00		
Coconut	Big	1nut	17.00	18.00			15.00	13.00
	Medium	1nut	15.00	16.00	14.50		12.00	11.00
	Small	1nut	14.00	15.00			10.00	10.00
	King Coconut	1nut	7	10	19.00		18.00	
Canned fish	Chef	425g	48	58.00	104	104		
	Gold Fish	425g	93.75	115.00		101.00		
	Captain	425g	92.00	118.00	127.00		110.00	100.00
	Delmege	425g			110.00		110.00	
	Blue bird	425g						
	CWE	425g				90		
	Diamond	425g	93.75	110.00	118.00			102.00
	Turkey	425g			120.00		115.00	
	Erdon	425g					115.00	100.00
	Classic	425g						
Scan	425g	93.75	105	114				
Oil	Coconut Oil	1 Ltr	90.00	95.00	185.00	185.00	100.00	93.32
	Vegetable Oil	1 Lt	82.00	90.00	190.00	175.00	90.00	86.60
Dried fish & Eggs	Spares	1kg	160	180	344.00	175.00	220.00	170.00
	Katta	1kg	400	440	612.00		450.00	440.00
	Balaya	1kg	160	200			200.00	250.00
	Mora	1kg	330	380	685	555.00	450.00	340.00
	Keeramin	1kg	280	300	500.00	600.00	400.00	300.00
	Bombili	1kg	160	180			200.00	180.00
	Maldive Fish	1kg	400	440		345	475.00	450.00
	Seer	1kg	360	400			500.00	
	Thalapath	1kg			650.00		400.00	480.00
	Paraw	1kg						320.00
	Egg - Red	1	6.20	6.30	9.00		7.00	5.50
	Egg - white	1	5.50	5.60	9.50		6.50	6.00
	Sea fish	Seer	1kg					
Paraw(Large)		1kg	270.00	300.00	648.00		360.00	310.00
Balaya		1kg	130.00	160.00			170.00	160.00
Kelawalla		1kg	200.00	230.00	552.00		240.00	210.00
Mora		1kg	220.00	250.00	456.00		250.00	500.00
Thalapath		1kg	260.00	290.00	576.00		320.00	250.00
Alagoduwa		1kg	110.00	140.00			180.00	150.00
Hurulla		1kg	120.00	150.00	228.00		170.00	130.00
Prawns		1kg	500.00	530.00	816.00			490.00
Cuttle fish		1kg			900.00			410.00
Salaya		1kg					110.00	100.00

Meat	Chicken (Boiler)	1kg	240.00	250.00	208.00	210.00	220.00	190.00
	Beef	1kg	260.00	270.00	396.70		300.00	
	Pork	1kg	290.00	300.00	541.00			
	Mutton	1kg	480.00	490.00	537.00		500.00	
Up country Vegetables	Beans	1kg	45.00	60.00	70.00		55.00	68.00
	Cabbage	1kg	30.00	40.00	64.00		50.00	58.00
	Carrot	1kg	20.00	35.00	70.00		45.00	45.00
	Beet root	1kg	30.00	35.00	68.00		50.00	60.00
	Leeks	1kg	20.00	25.00	50.00		48.00	40.00
	Raddish	1kg	10.00	20.00	41.00		18.00	25.00
	Tomato	1kg	15.00	30.00	50.00		38.00	40.00
	Knolkhol	1kg	10.00	20.00	47.00		40.00	35.00
Vegetables	Brinjals	1kg	30.00	40.00	57.00		40.00	45.00
	Pampkin	1kg	10.00	20.00	28.00		25.00	25.00
	Ash Plantain	1kg	40.00	55.00	69.00		48.00	55.00
	Long Beans	1kg	20.00	30.00	57.00		45.00	50.00
	Snakegourd	1kg	10.00	20.00	38.00		35.00	30.00
	Bittergourd	1kg	30.00	35.00	63.00		50.00	45.00
	Ladies fingers	1kg	20.00	25.00	58.00		40.00	45.00
	Cucumber	1kg	15.00	20.00	32.00		30.00	25.00
	Capcium chillies	1kg	30.00	40.00	73.00		60.00	50.00
	Ratala	1kg						
	Kiriata	1kg	35.00	45.00	32.00		60.00	
	Sweet Potato	1kg	15.00	25.00	48.00		35.00	38.00
	Manioc	1kg	10.00	25.00			20.00	30.00
	Lime	1kg	50.00	70.00	94.00		80.00	90.00
	Green chillies	1kg	50.00	60.00	94.00		90.00	60.00

1. The price of Basmathi rice is in a different quality in the supermarket.
2. The price of bread in supermarkets is for 500 g sandwich bread.
3. The price of Mango, Pinapple, Orange (Imported), Apple is marked for a 1 Kg.
4. The price of Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene was increased from August 1.
5. There is a scarcity in Laugfs Gas .