

# INVEST IN SRI LANKA

## Agro-Processing Sector



# Overview

Sri Lanka's agro-processing sector represents one of the most promising investment opportunities in South Asia, combining the country's natural agricultural advantages with strategic government support and growing global demand for processed agricultural products. With agriculture contributing 7.7% to GDP in Q1 2024 and generating over USD 700 million annually in foreign exchange, the sector serves as a cornerstone of Sri Lanka's economy while offering substantial returns for international investors.

## Investment opportunities

### Fruits & Vegetables

Fresh and processed products for export

- Dehydrated Fruits and Vegetables
- Frozen Fruit and Vegetable Products
- Fruit Juices and Concentrates
- Canned and Preserved Products
- Organic and Specialty Health Products

### Value-Added Spices

With a global brand in "Ceylon Spices"

- Spice Powders and Blends
- Essential Oils and Extracts
- Organic Certified Spices
- Specialty Culinary Products
- Pharmaceutical and Cosmetic Grade Extracts

### Value-Added Coconut Products

- Virgin Coconut Oil for Culinary and Health Markets
- Coconut Water (fresh and processed)
- Coconut Flour and Other Baking Ingredients
- Coconut-based Health and Nutrition Products
- Cosmetics and Personal Care Products
- Nutraceuticals and Supplements



## Cut Flowers & Foliage

A high-margin niche with global demand

- Greenhouse Farming for Climate-controlled Production
- Open-field Cultivation for Traditional Varieties
- Hydroponic Systems for Premium Products

## Aquaculture and Fish Processing

- Freshwater Fish Farming and Processing
- Shrimp Farming
- Sea Cucumber and Breeding Farming
- Seaweed Farming for Food and Industrial Uses
- Marine Fish Farming
- Ornamental Fish Breeding and Export
- Integrated Aquaculture Systems



## Animal Husbandry

- Milk Processing and Packaging
- Cheese and Dairy Product Manufacturing
- Ready-to-drink Milk Products
- Milk Powder Production
- Butter and Specialty Dairy Products
- Broiler Farming for Meat Production
- Layer Farming for Egg Production
- Breeding Stock for Export Markets
- Processed Poultry Products



# Investment Thresholds and Qualifying Criteria

**Minimum Investment:** USD 150,000  
Raw material should be sourced locally

## Investment Incentives

### Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA)

Applicable to new projects and expansions by existing BOI projects.

Total Investment Made (US\$ Mn)	Enhanced Capital Allowance		Period for Deducting Unrelieved Losses (Years)
	Northen Province	Other than Northen Province	
> 3 and ≤ 100	200%	100%	10
> 100 and ≤ 1000	200%	150%	10
> 1,000	200%	150%	25

Depreciable Assets:
Class 1: computers and data handling equipment together with peripheral devices.
Class 2: buses and minibuses, goods vehicles, construction and earthmoving equipment, heavy general purpose or specialised trucks, trailers and trailer-mounted containers, plant and machinery used in manufacturing.
Class 3: railroad cars, locomotives, and equipment, vessels, barges, tugs, and similar water transportation equipment, aircraft, specialised public utility plant, equipment, and machinery, office furniture, fixtures and equipment, any depreciable asset not included in another class.
Class 4: buildings, structures and similar works of a permanent nature.
Class 5: intangible assets, excluding goodwill.
Class 6: Milking machines with latest technology, used to manufacture local liquid milk related products

### Exemption of Income Tax on Employment Income of Expatriates During the ECA

During the period covered by the ECA, the employment income of the company's expatriate employees is entitled to a 0% rate, if:

- the company has incurred more than US\$ 250 Mn on depreciable assets in Sri Lanka, and for the period in which the payment is made out of profits sheltered by ECA allowance, or for 5 years from the commencement of commercial operations, whichever is higher.
- the number of expatriate employees at any time during that period does not exceed twenty.

### Exemption from Import Taxes & Levies

Exemption	Export Oriented				Non-Export Oriented			
	Customs Duty	VAT	PAL	CESS	Customs Duty	VAT	PAL	CESS
Importation of construction related items during project implementation (PI) period	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Importation of capital items (plant, machinery, equipment)	✓ Lifetime	✓ Exempted / Deferred for a Lifetime	During PI (for Inv > US\$ 50 Mn)	During PI (for Inv > US\$ 50 Mn)	✓ During PI Period	✓ During PI Period	During PI (for Inv > US\$ 50 Mn)	During PI (for Inv > US\$ 50 Mn)

# Visa Facilitation

## Business Visas:

- BOI issues recommendation letters to Sri Lankan Embassies/High Commissions to assist investors in obtaining business visas.

## Resident Visas:

- BOI facilitates resident visas (up to 5 years) for investors, with renewable visas available for qualifying employees.

# Access to Global Markets



## Free Trade Agreement and Preferential Market access

- Indo - Sri Lanka FTA (ISFTA)
- Pakistan - Sri Lanka FTA (PSFTA)
- Sri Lanka - Singapore FTA (SLSFTA)
- Thailand Sri Lanka FTA
- EU GSP+ Regional Trends for Processed Food Market Sri Lanka
- UK Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS)

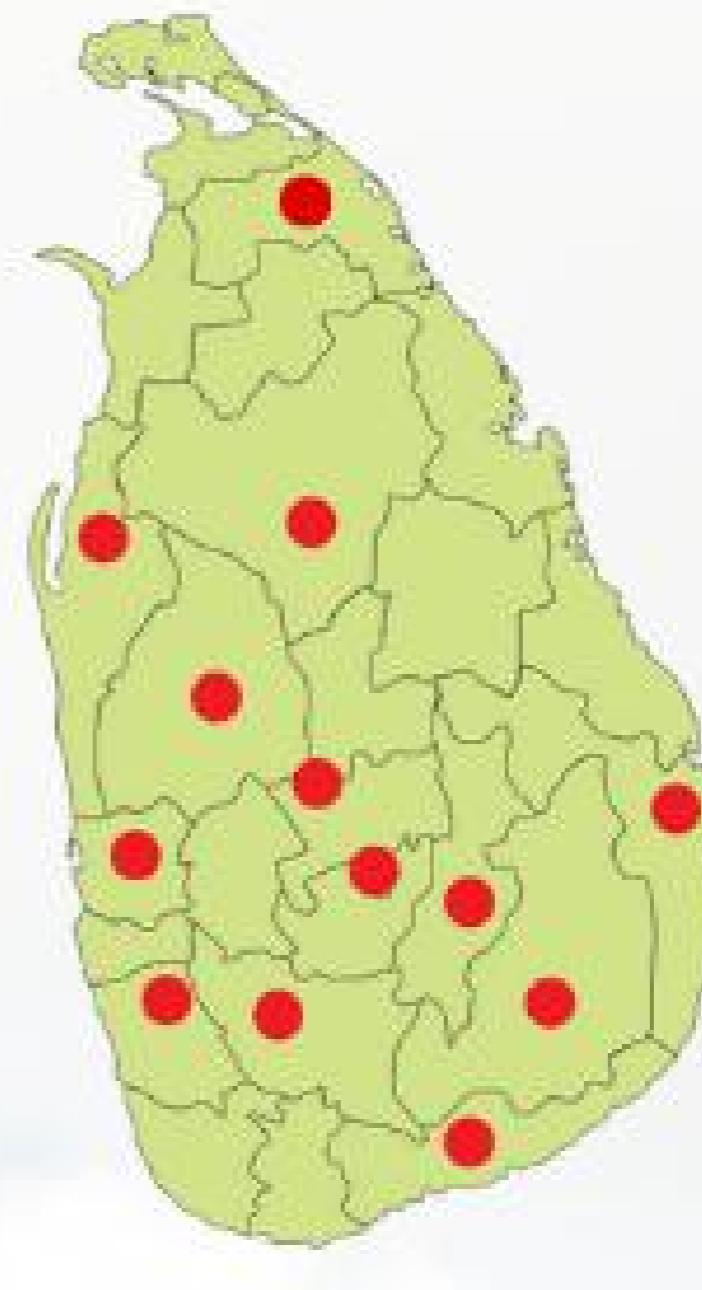


# Raw material available in Sri Lanka

## Fruit & Vegetable Growing Areas

Out of the total land in Sri Lanka,

- 43.5% is used for agriculture, of which about 20% is used to grow fruits and vegetables.



## Aquaculture



- Total Coastline of Approximately 1,700 km
- The total extent of lagoons and estuaries has been estimated to be 121,000 hectares (ha).
- Adjoining these estuaries and lagoons are extensive areas of low-lying delta lands estimated at 70,000 hectares.

## Spice Growing Areas

- Sri Lanka's rich diversity of soil types and climatic conditions provide the ideal environment for these spices to flourish in abundance.

