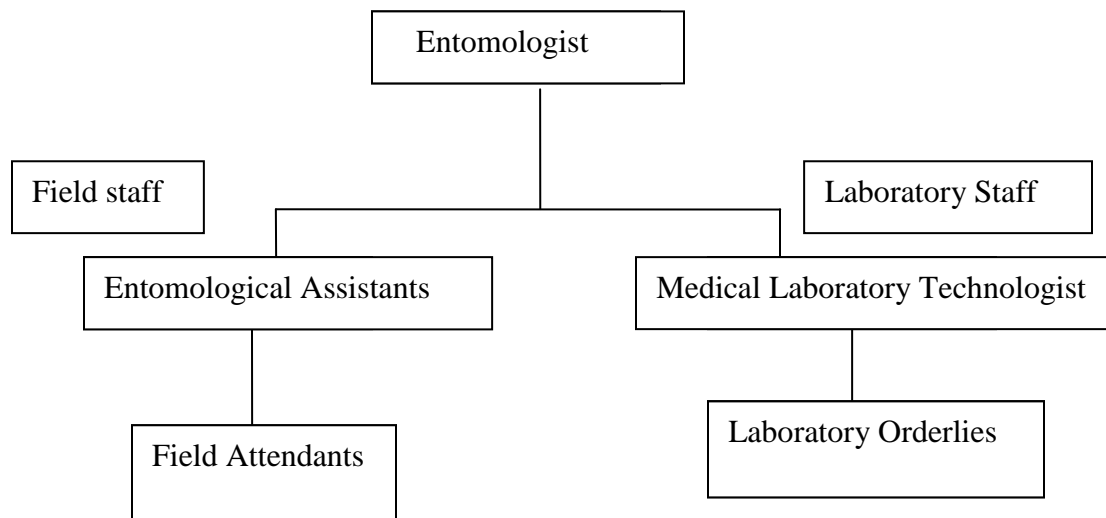


## Department of Entomology

### Introduction

Research on mosquito vectors of disease is the main activity of the department. This department also conducts disease vector surveillance for dengue haemorrhagic fever and Japanese Encephalitis to guide the health authorities in implementing successful vector control programmes. Special investigations on vector born disease problems are undertaken as and when requested by the Ministry of Health in order to assist in controlling epidemics. The staff is actively engaged in field studies in addition to laboratory work.

### Organization Chart



**Entomologist /Head** - Dr. Indira S. Weerasinghe

Academic Qualifications : 1) B.Sc (General degree) Second Class Upper Division

University of Colombo 1983

(2) Ph.D (Medical Entomology), Faculty of Medicine

University of Colombo 1997

Post Doctoral Research - University of Leeds, United Kingdom May 2001 – May 2002

Postal Address – Department of Entomology, Medical Research Institute, Colombo 08

E mail address - [indiwee2005@yahoo.com](mailto:indiwee2005@yahoo.com)

Telephone - 011-2695551

### Field staff

#### Entomological Assistants

Mr. N.W.G. Premarathne

#### Field Attendants

Mr. R.A.H.M. Ananda Bandara

Mr. T.A.Piyadasa  
Mr. G.H. Gamini  
Mr. P. Ranasinghe  
Mr. D. Sunil Shantha  
Mr. H.M.Somasiri  
Mrs. Y. Sriya Kanthi  
Miss. H.N. Wickramarachchi

Mr. W.G. Wijesena  
Mr. W.A. Ariyapala  
Mr. H.K.A. Sarathchandra  
Mr. M.L.A. Gamini  
Mr. H.A. Jayantha

### **Laboratory staff**

#### **Medical laboratory Technologist**

Mrs. Gaveshika Dissanayake

#### **Laboratory Orderlies**

Mrs. M.K. Ramya Perera  
Mr. P.P.R.S. Bandara

### **Activities**

#### **Department has 5 main activities**

1. Disease Vector surveillance
2. Laboratory Evaluation of mosquito repellent products and insecticides
3. Research
4. Consultancy services
5. Training

#### **1. Disease Vector surveillance**

Disease vector surveillance are carried out in high risk areas of dengue and JE to provide scientific and technical guidance to the Ministry of Health and other public health personnel on the control of mosquitoes.

Also Acting in advisory capacity in the investigation of out breaks of emerging and re emerging vector borne diseases.

#### **2. Laboratory Evaluation**

Laboratory evaluation of biological efficacy of insect repellents, mosquito larvicides and insecticides are carried out by the department.

#### **3. Research**

Research on the following aspects of insect vectors of medical importance are carried out by the department.

- a) vector bionomics, taxonomy, surveillance and control strategies,
- b) vector resistance to insecticides,
- c) development of natural insect repellents
- d) Molecular studies of vector and parasites

#### **4. Consultancy services**

Provide consultancy services to the Registrar of pesticides and Sri Lanka Standards Institution on the biological efficacy of mosquito repellent products, mosquito larvicides and insecticides. Also Provide information and advice to the general public on the identification and control of mosquitoes and other insect pests.

#### **5. Training provided**

- a. Conduct lectures and training programmes in Medical Entomology, for post graduate trainees (MD, M.Sc., & Ph.D.), undergraduates (B.Sc) and for para medical staff (trainee MLTT and PHII) of the Ministry of Health.
- b. Provide scientific and technical guidance for undergraduate and post graduate research students.
- c. Coordinate two year laboratory and field training programme for Trainee Entomological Assistants of the Ministry of Health.
- d. Coordinate examinations for Entomological Assistant trainees and inservice personnel
- e. Conduct inservice training programmes for Entomological Assistants attached to the Ministry of Health.

#### **6. Other activities**

Maintaining mosquito colonies for research, training and educational purposes and acting as a reference centre for mosquito vector species and other insect vectors.