

10/09/02

D. Mirror

Paddy mills to be modernised

By Dholani Mawalage

The existing paddy mills countrywide will be modernised to produce quality rice, said an official of the Institute of Post Harvesting Technology (IPHT) of the Agriculture and Livestock ministry.

Already officials have visited the mills in various parts of the country such as Dehiattakandiya, Ampara, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee and Kurunegala to identify the type of assistance they need

to improve the process line.

"At present about 65 paddy mills have been listed for adopting improper technologies and their processing rate and quality are very low," he said.

The official said after the visit they had listed the deficiencies in techniques currently adopted in processing and reports in respect of each mill will be ready soon.

"The IHPT is now carrying out a series of training programmes for selected rice

millers on improved rice processing techniques, machinery selection, proper maintenance of machinery, selection of raw materials, proper storage techniques, packaging and productivity improvement" he said.

"We also advised the rice millers in the preparation of feasibility reports, and whenever necessary, for them to obtain credit facilities from banks to improve their rice mills," he said.

The IHPT plans to communicate with the Export

Development Board and rice exporters to develop effective marketing channels for export quality rice and the Institute will continue monitoring the performance of rice mills modernised under this project and provide advice for further improvement.

"Lack of efficient separators to remove stones and other grains from rice and absence of abrasive type polisher for primary polishing, are the defects in raw rice mills," he said.