

## **SRICANSOL Project Wins National Agricultural Research Award**

*Contributed by the SRICANSOL project team*

The SRICANSOL project, a twinning project of the Soil Science Societies of Canada and Sri Lanka, won the second place prize for National Awards for Excellence in Agriculture Research awarded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands & Irrigation.

The certificates and a cash award of Rs 250,000 were awarded by her Excellency The President, Mrs. Chandrika Kumaranthunga Bandaranayake at a ceremony held in the presidential secretariat on October 6, 2004. This project is funded by the Canadian International development Agency (CIDA) as part of the Agricultural Institute of Canada International Twinning Partnership Program.



*Prof. R.B. Mapa, the team leader of the SRICANSOL project receiving the award from the President of Sri Lanka, Hon. Chandrika Bandaranayake Kumaranthunga.*

The award was made for Phase I of the “SRICANSOL” project for its work on “Soil characterization, classification and evaluation of the Wet Zone of Sri Lanka for land management”. This award was made taking into the consideration the originality of the research, its scientific merit, contribution to knowledge, and application in national development.

The team, which received the award, was comprised of Prof. R.B. Mapa (Team Leader), Dr. S. Somasiri, Mr. A.R. Dassanayake, Prof. D. Kumaragamage and Dr. H.B. Nayakekorale. Dr. Tee Boon Goh from University of Manitoba and Mr. R.J. Eilers of Land Resource Unit, Manitoba complete the project team as the counterparts from the Canadian Society of Soil Science.

This project, which is supported through the CIDA Partnership Branch, was later extended to cover the Intermediate and Dry Zones of Sri Lanka and at present is in the sustainability phase where the database generated will be used for improvement of the agro-environmental health in Sri Lanka.

The cash award of Rs 250,000 was donated to the SRICANSOL building fund by the awardees. This money will add to the funds provided by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives to build a training center for the SRICANSOL Project.