

# NATIONAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SURVEY 2017

## STATISTICAL BRIEF



NATIONAL  
SCIENCE  
FOUNDATION

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## PREFACE

The Statistical Brief of the National Research and Development Survey 2017 reflects the performance of R&D institutes of the country in deploying resources towards Research and Development (R&D) activities in the year 2017. In addition to the information on financial and human resources inputs, the publication also includes few output indicators that measure the results of R&D of the country. This report carries the information gathered from the State Sector R&D Institutes, Higher Education Institutes, Business Enterprises, and Private Non Profit Organizations.

The National Research and Development Survey is conducted by the National Science Foundation on a regular basis meeting the international standards stipulated by OECD and UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS). Frascati Manual (2002) of OECD and Technical Paper No.11 of UIS are the two major guidelines followed in the Survey. Hence, the statistics provided in this publication is internationally comparable. The R&D statistics of this publication are aimed at policymakers, planners, researchers, scientists and technologists requiring a quantitative overview of R&D activities of the country.

We wish to thank the Heads and staff members of all respondent organizations for their invaluable co-operation, which is an essential pre-requisite for the successful completion of a national study of this nature. Finally, we wish to record our deep appreciation for the encouragement and advice given by the Board of Management of the National Science Foundation during the Survey.

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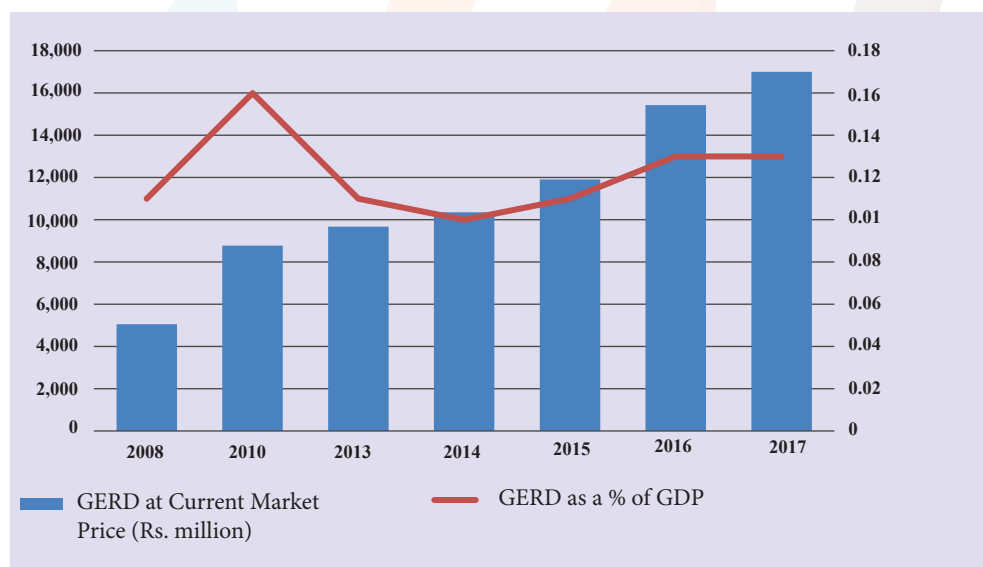
# 1. Financial Resources for Research and Development

**Table 1.1. Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) 2017**

Description		
a)	Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) at Current Market Price (Rs. million)	17,003.34
b)	GERD as a percentage of GDP (%)	0.13%
c)	GERD per Million Population (Rs. million)	792.92
d)	GERD (USD million)	105.90

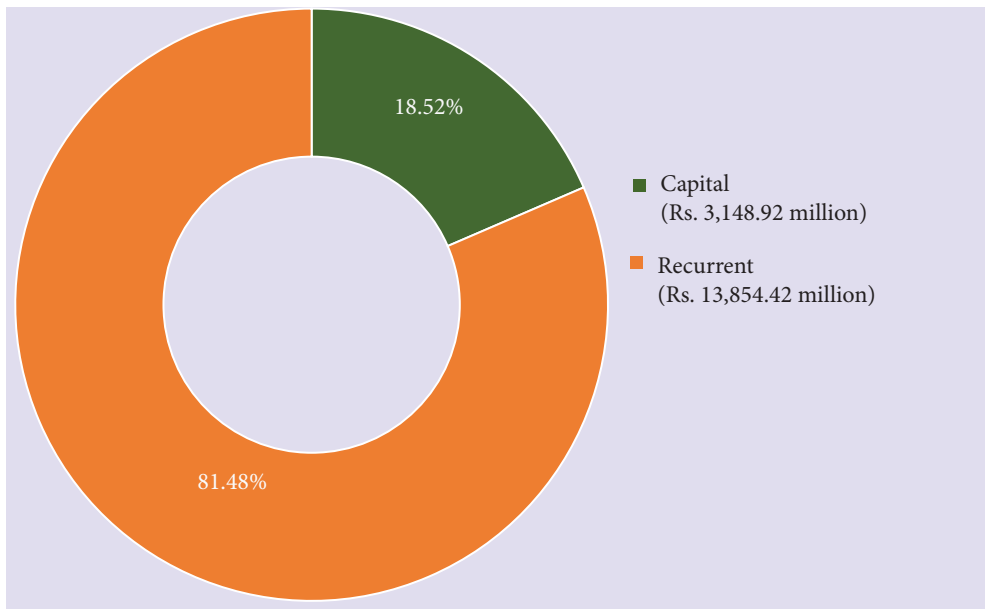
Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Figure 1.1. Time Trend of GERD (2008-2017)**



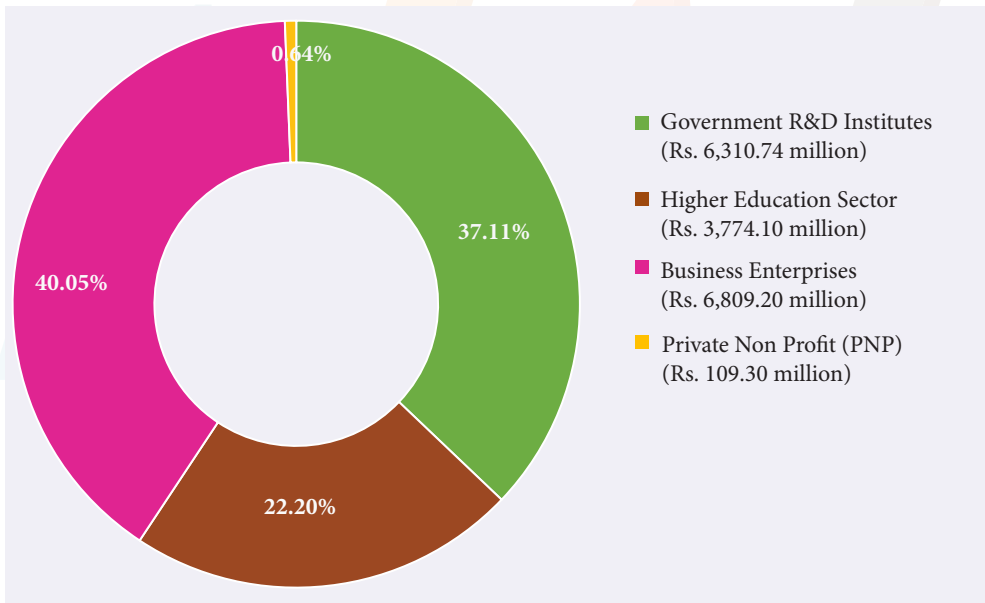
Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Figure 1.2. Capital and Recurrent Expenditure on R&D**



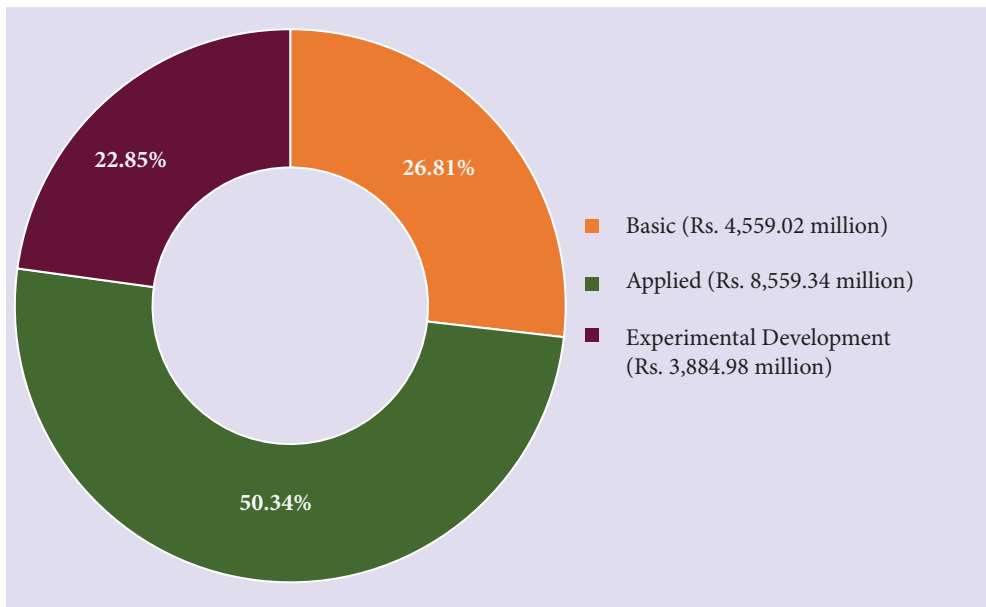
Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Figure 1.3. GERD by Sectors**



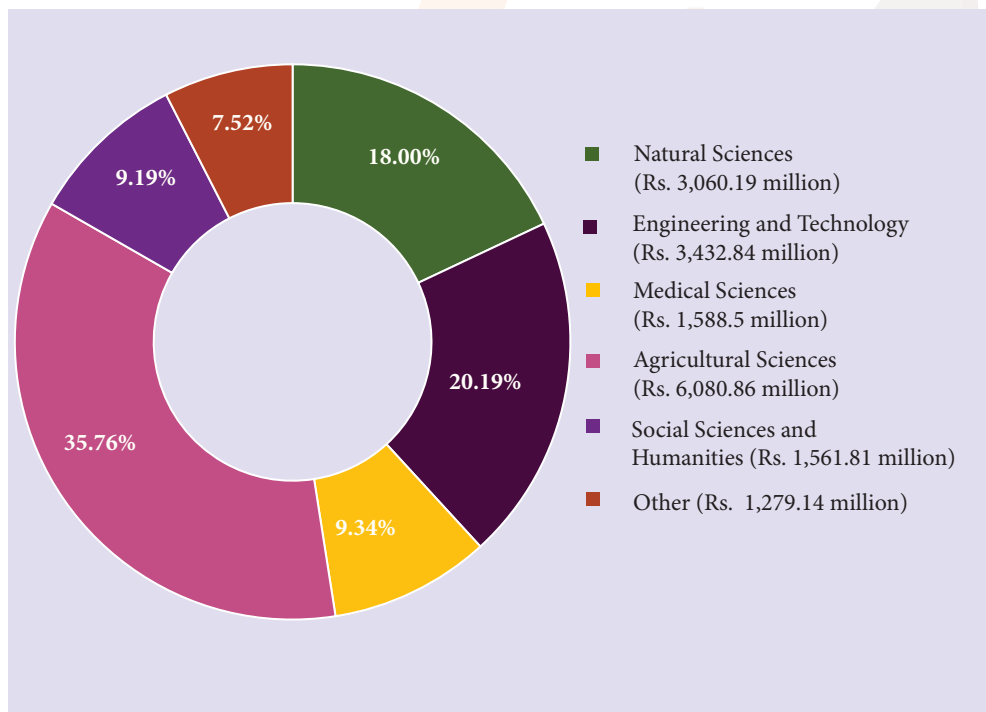
Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Figure 1.4. GERD by Research Activities**



Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Figure 1.5. GERD by Field of Science**



Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

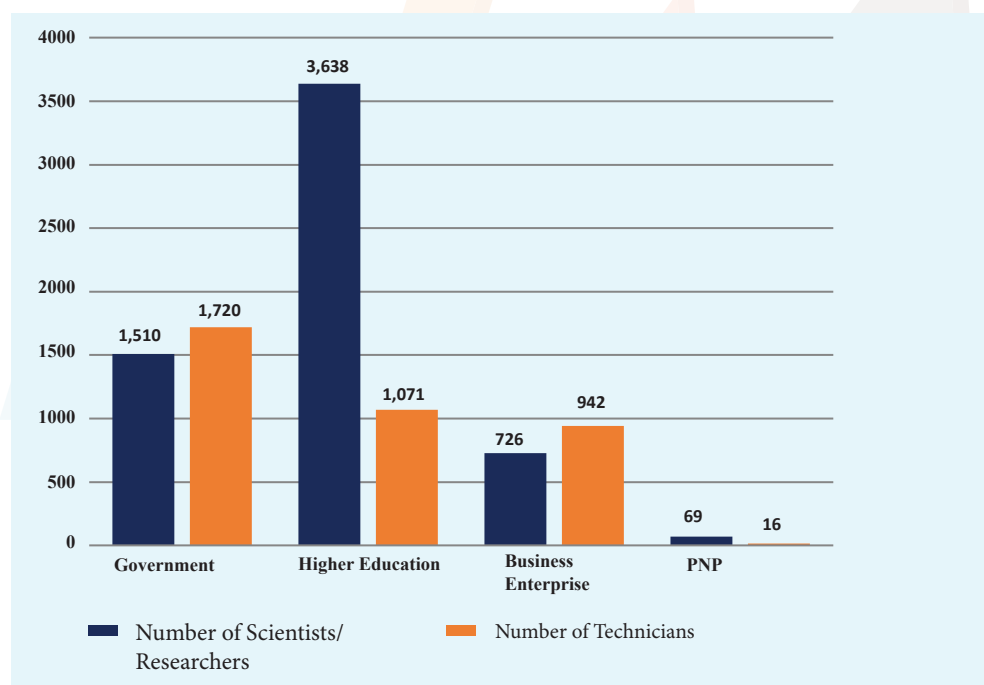
## 2. Human Resources for Research and Development

**Table 2.1. Reserchers/Scientists and Technicians Employed in Research and Development 2017**

Description		
a)	Head Count of Researchers/Scientists (Number)	5,943
b)	Head Count of R&D Technicians (Number)	3,749
c)	Human Resource for R&D (Researchers and Technicians)	9,692
d)	No of Technicians per Researcher/Scientist	0.63
e)	Full-time Equivalent of Researchers/Scientists	2,248

Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

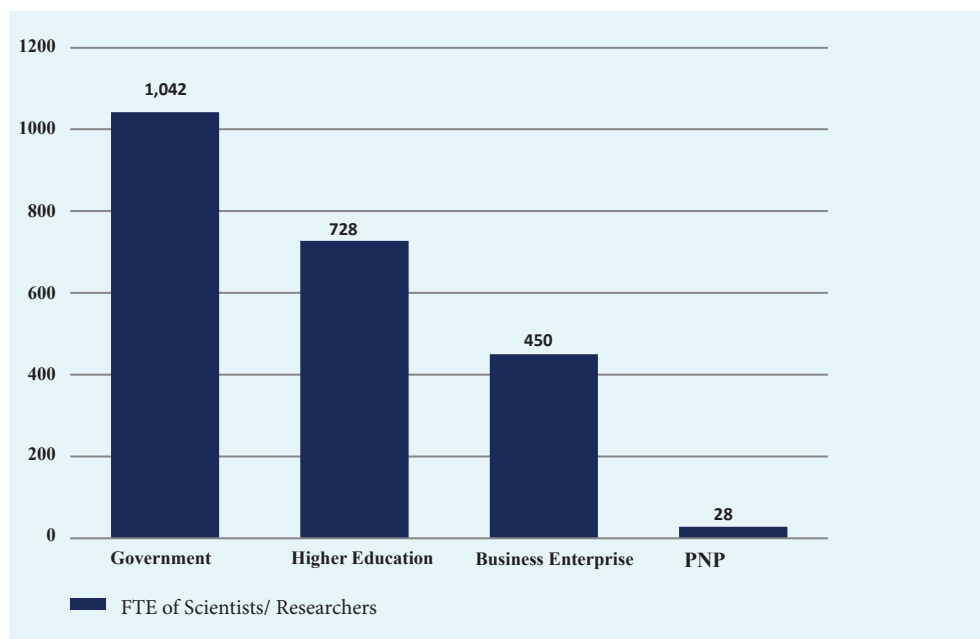
**Figure 2.1. Distribution of R&D Persons by Sector**



Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2016 (NSF)



**Figure 2.2. Full-time Equivalent (FTE) of Scientists/Researchers**



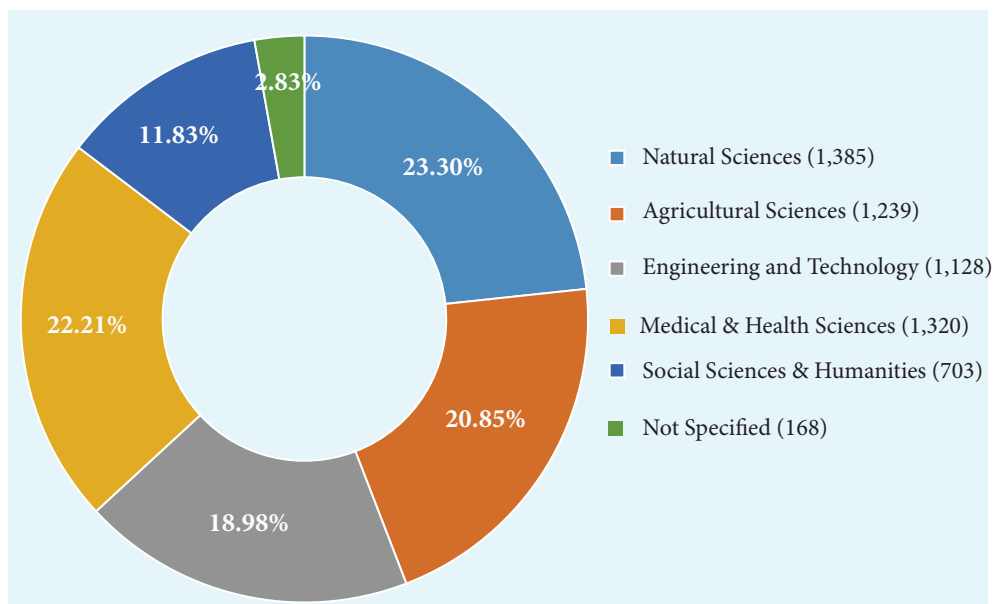
Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Table 2.2. Researchers/Scientists by Field of Science**

Discipline	Male	Female	Total
Natural Sciences	764	621	1,385
Agricultural Sciences	725	514	1,239
Engineering & Technology	721	407	1,128
Medical & Health Sciences	578	742	1,320
Social Sciences & Humanities	365	338	703
Not specified	98	70	168
Total	3,251	2,692	5,943

Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Figure 2.3. Distribution of Researchers/Scientists by Field of Science**



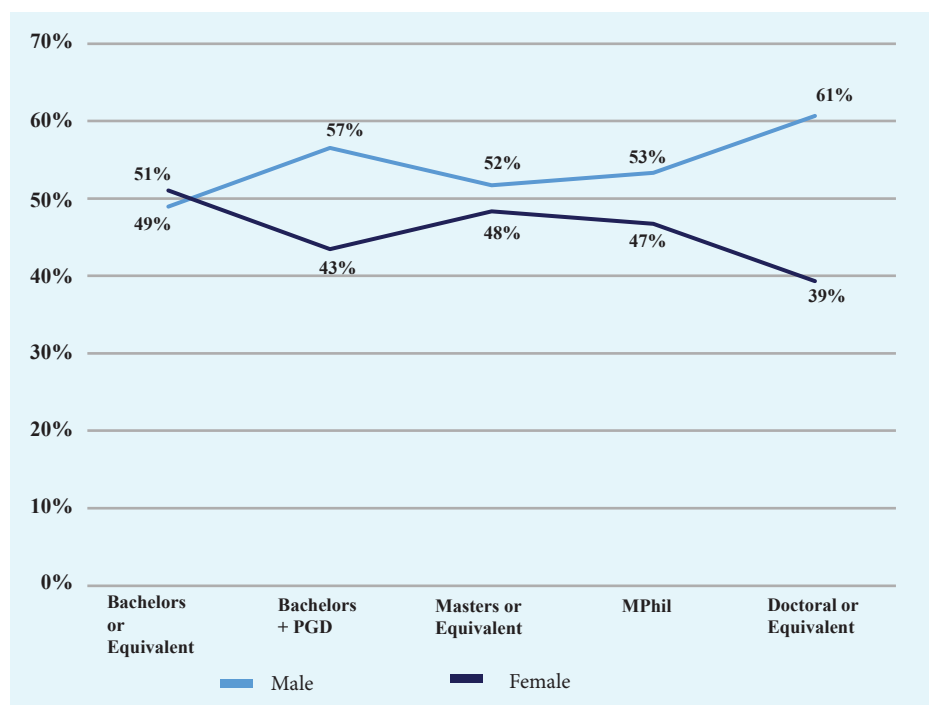
Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Table 2.3. Educational Qualifications of Researchers/Scientists**

Educational Qualification	Male	Female	Total
Doctoral or Equivalent	1,196	775	1,971
MPhil	227	199	426
Masters or Equivalent	1,010	945	1,955
Bachelors + PGD	138	106	244
Bachelors or Equivalent	605	631	1,236
Non Specified	75	36	111
Total	3,251	2,692	5,943

Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Figure 2.4. Researchers/Scientists by Educational Qualification and Gender**



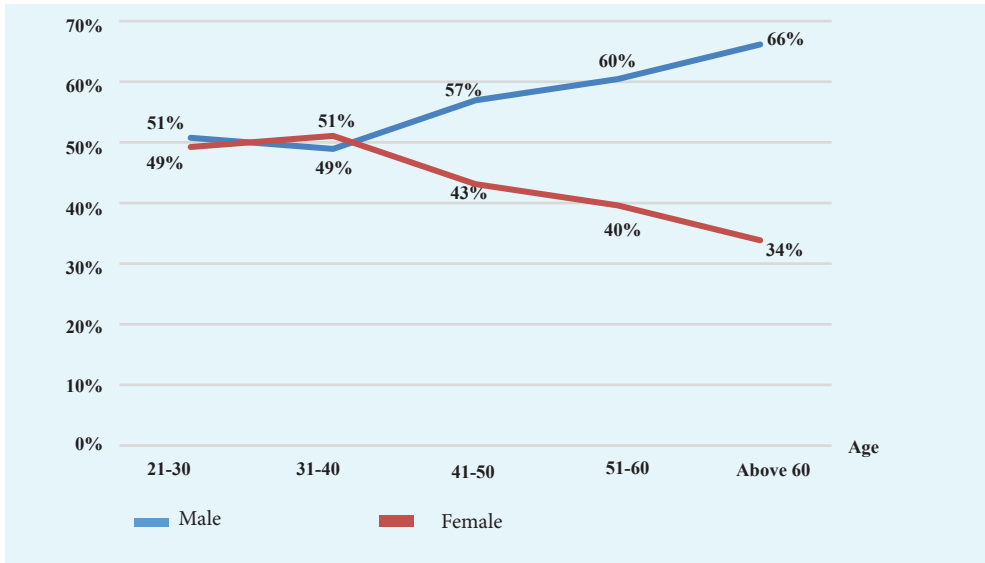
Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Table 2.4. Researchers/Scientists by Age and Gender**

Age group	Male	Female	Total
21-30	394	382	776
31-40	933	974	1,907
41-50	987	747	1,734
51-60	765	501	1,266
Above 60	172	88	260
Total	3,251	2,692	5,943

Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Figure 2.6. Age and Gender-wise Propotion of Researchers/ Scientists**



Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

### 3. Research and Development Outputs in 2017

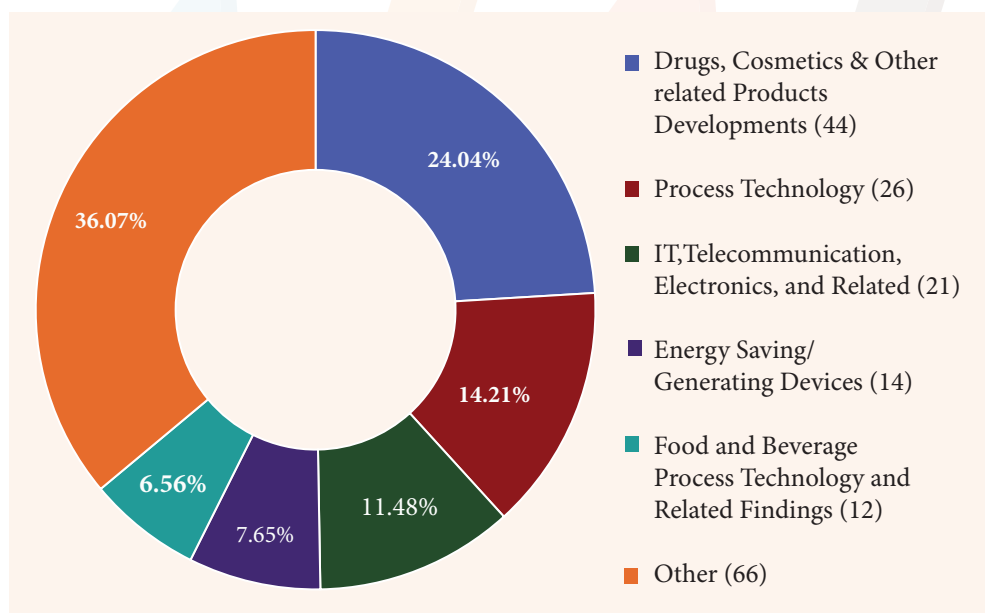
**Table 3.1. Patents, Industrial Designs and SCI Journal Publications in 2017**

Description	
a)	Number of Patent Registrations (Resident)* 54
b)	Number of Patent Registrations (Non-Resident) * 129
c)	Total Number of Patent Registrations (a+b)* 183
d)	Number of Industrial Designs Awarded (Resident)* 189
e)	Number of Industrial Designs Awarded (Non-Resident)* 141
f)	Total Number of Industrial Designs Awarded (d+e)* 330
g)	Publications by Sri Lankan Scientists in SCI Journals** 486

\*Source: National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO), Sri Lanka

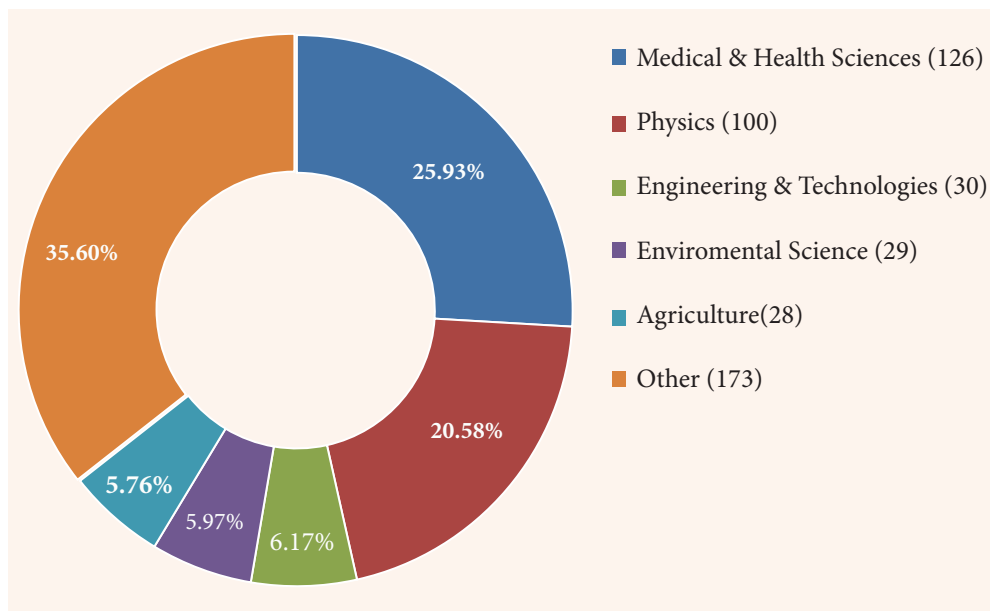
\*\*Adopted from the Scopus

**Figure 3.1. Sector-wise Patent Distribution**



Source: National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO), Sri Lanka

**Figure 3.2. SCI Journal Publications by Category**



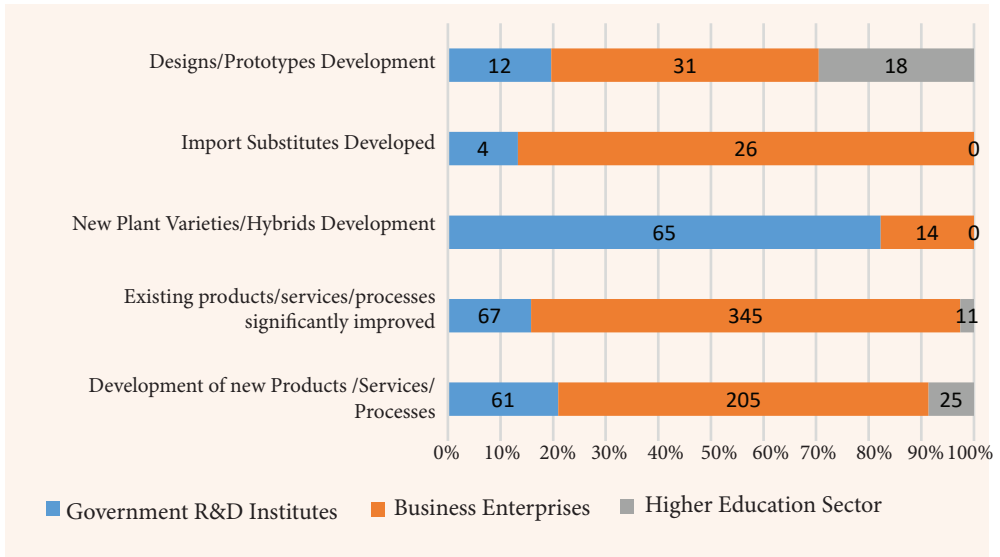
Source: National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO), Sri Lanka

**Table 3.2. Innovations**

Innovation Type	Developed	Commercialized
a) Development of New Products/ Services/Processes	291	171
b) Existing Products/Services/Processes Significantly Improved	423	321
c) New Plant Varieties/Hybrids Developed	79	20
d) Import Substitutes Developed	30	25
e) Designs/Prototypes Developed	61	19

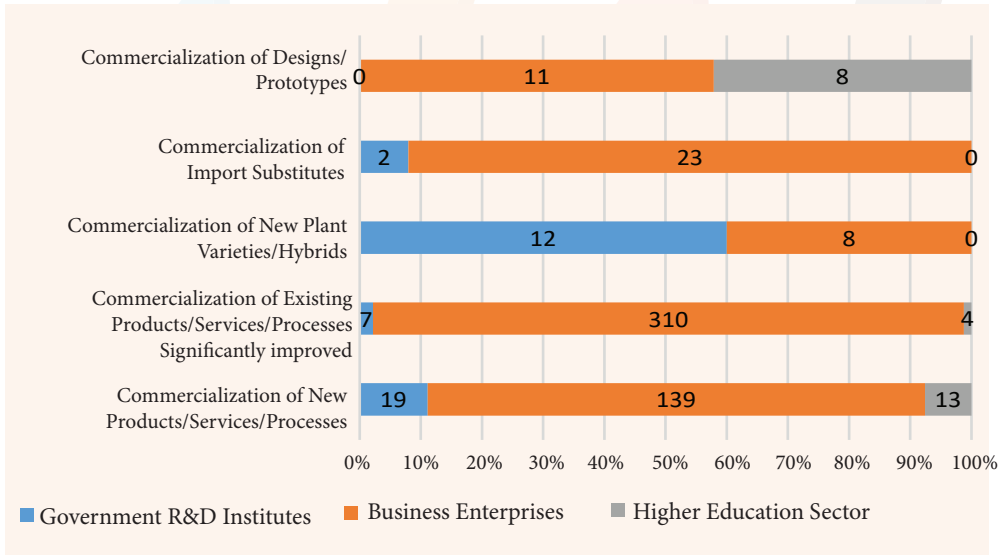
Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Figure 3.3. Introduction of Innovations by Sectors**



Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)

**Figure 3.4. Commercialization of Innovations by Sectors**



Source: National R&D Survey of Sri Lanka, 2017 (NSF)





## DEFINITIONS AND TECHNICAL NOTES

The definitions and terminology used in the National R&D Survey 2017 and in this Statistical Brief are based on the guidelines provided by UNESCO and OECD.

### 1. Research and Experimental Development (R&D)

R&D comprises creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge including the knowledge of humanity, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to device new applications.

The term R&D covers three activities:

- a) Basic research: The experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations phenomena and observed facts, without any particular application or use in view (OECD, 2002).
- b) Applied research: The original investigations undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. However, it is directed primarily towards a specific practical aim or objective (OECD, 2002).
- c) Experimental development: The systematic work, drawing on existing knowledge gained from research and practical experience that is directed to produce new materials, products and devices; to install new processes, systems and services; or to improve substantially those already produced or installed (OECD, 2002).

### 2. Sectors

This survey covered four major institutional categories that conduct Research and Development:

- i. Government Organizations that conduct R&D – Full coverage.
- ii. Higher Education Institutes - Full coverage.
- iii. Business Enterprises – 250 institutions were selected for the survey considering degree of their R&D activity and proportion of their contribution to national economy. All major industries that conduct R&D were included in the sample
- iv. Private Non Profit Institutions (PNP) – All institutions that were involved in the activities related to R&D were covered in the survey

### 3. R&D Expenditure

All expenditure for R&D performed within a sector of the economy, including both:

- a) Current cost (labor cost, non-capital purchases of materials, supplies of R&D equipment, water, fuel, gas, electricity, library materials etc.).
- b) Capital expenditure (reported in full for the period when they took place and should not register as element of depreciation).

#### 4. Human Resources in Research and Development

**Researchers:** Professionals engaged in the conception or creation of new knowledge, products, processes, methods, systems and also in the management of the projects concerned (OECD, 2002).

**Technicians and equivalent staff:** Persons whose main tasks require technical knowledge and experience in one or more fields of engineering, physical and life sciences (technicians) or social sciences and humanities (equivalent staff). They participate in R&D by performing scientific and technical tasks involving the application of concepts and operational methods, normally under the supervision of researchers (OECD, 2002).

**Head count:** Reflects the total number of persons employed in R&D, independently from their dedication. This figure is used for analyzing the characteristics of the R&D workforce, with respect to age, gender, research specialization, etc.

**Full Time Equivalent (FTE):** One person per year. (e.g. If a person normally spends 30% of his/her time on R&D and the rest on other activities such as teaching, administration and counseling, the FTE is then counted as 0.3. Similarly, if a full time R&D worker is employed at an R&D unit for only a six month period, the FTE is calculated as 0.5).

#### Reference:

OECD. (2002). Frascati Manual: Proposed Standard Practice for Surveys on Research and Experimental Development. Paris, France: OECD Publications Service.

UNESCO. (2014). TECHNICAL PAPER NO. 11. Guide to Conducting an R&D Survey: For countries starting to measure research and experimental development. Montreal, Quebec, Canada: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

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