



Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation

Annual Report 2014/2015



Board of Management

Mr. Sam Wijesinha, Chairman *
Prof. Sarath Kotagama, Chairman**
Dr. Kamala Peiris, Secretary *#
Prof. Ramanie Jayatilaka, Secretary **
Mr. T. Vairavanathan, Treasurer
Mr. A.P. Dainis, Member
Ms. Kala Peiris, Member ^
Mr. J. Henry de Mel, Member ^
Mr. L.P.D. Dayananda, Member ^

* resigned 26.08.2014 ** from 26.8.2014

resigned 29.1.2015 ^ from 30.3.2015

Staff

1. Mr. T.L. Wijetunga - Executive Director
2. Ms. Devika Fernando - Secretary
3. Mr. A. Sornalingam - Senior Programme Officer
4. Ms. Thusyanthi Balasingam - Senior Programme Officer
5. Mr. Sanath Jayatunga - Programme & Administrative Officer
6. Mr. A.K.A. Leelasena - Programme Officer
7. Ms. Wasana Chandrasiri - Asst. Finance Officer
8. Ms. Deepika Nilangi - Programme Officer
9. Ms. Maleesha Samarathunga - Programme Officer
10. Ms. Isuruni Janitha - Jnr. Finance Assistant
11. Mr. K. Nihal Alwis - Driver
12. Mr. S.P. Gamini Thushan - Driver
13. Ms. S. Mary - Office Aide

14. Mr. V.C. Karunananda - Consultant
15. Ms. Chitra Vithanage - Consultant
16. Mr. A. Nagendran - Consultant
17. Ms. Thushari Karunarathne - Financial Consultant

SILK Project - Field office Staff

1. Mr. Subramaniyavel Ariharan - Field Manager
2. Ms. Mahendran Thurkadevi - Field Officer
3. Mr. Nadarajah Thavaprasath - Field Officer
4. Mr. Vijayakumar Anojan - Field Officer
5. Ms. Piramila Poologanathan - Field Officer
6. Ms. Kandasamy Kanchana - Field Officer
7. Ms. Anne Thayany Jesudasan - Programme Assistant



SILK Project - Field office Staff



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Cover page photos: These photographs are of the “Sustainable Interventions in Livelihoods in Kilinochchi” (SILK) project implemented with the generous support of the American people and USAID.

Message from the Chairperson of the Board of Management of SLCDF



“ Our strategy for the next Five years, and the successful implementation of the USAID programme, the sincere relationship with Diakonia, must be remembered with pride.”

AYUBOWAN!

It has been another hectic year, as we come to the end of 2015, we can proudly look back and be very happy. We have as usual pulled ourselves together for better service to the community. As a dedicated staff we are pleased that our efforts have resulted in enabling a healthier “take home” for all of us. We have been commended by our donors for what we have performed and thus we can “pat our backs” too - Well done all of you.

Our strategy for the next Five years, and the successful implementation of the USAID programme, the sincere relationship with Diakonia, must be remembered with pride. We are now on the path to further development,

to keep the good name of Mr. Sam Wijesinha, and Dr. W.P.P. Abeydeera, we have to dedicate this coming year for further consolidation. I hope that we will find the “place on the planet” for continuing our good services more spaciouly and relaxed in a “home of our Own”.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all the board members who have provided judicious guidance for our tasks. SLCDF would not be the bright light in the horizon for our membership if not for the dedicated and unquestionable commitment of the staff, ably led by Mr. Tissa Wijetunga our Executive Director. Last but not least, all of you in the field who are a part of SLCDF, tirelessly implementing programmes to bridge the divide and make the planet a happy place for all.

Wasanawan!!

Prof. Sarath Kotagama
Chairman, Board of Management, SLCDF

Year in Review

Year 2014/15 has been an extremely satisfying and successful year for us. We continued working with war affected resettled communities in Kilinochchi funded by USAID. We completed the Diakonia funded project implemented in Mullaitivu District. The Diakonia monitoring team has expressed their satisfaction with the project and awarded another project for two years. We are delighted to announce that we expanded our work into another affected area by initiating work with families with disabled in Vavuniya district. In addition to these three Districts, in Batticaloa District, with our facilitation established a district level women's organisation to work with affected women with the help of Diakonia.

We successfully completed HIDA funded Integrated Agriculture 30 month project in Moneragala district. We started another project with financial support from Stichting Gilles, Belgium in Kalpitiya with women fisher folk to build a sustainable and inclusive value chain for mollusk aquaculture in coastal areas that gives marginalized coastal communities, and particularly women in those communities an opportunity to improve their livelihoods, reducing their vulnerabilities and enable them to participate in co-management of the resources.

SLCDF started an environment project in three locations of Deltota Divisional Secretary's Division, Kandy district, with the help of UNDP SGP

GEF to address the adverse effects of land degradation towards livelihood development and enhanced food security. Mrs. Brigitte Weigand a generous contributor from Germany provided funds to mobilize community in ten villages in Matara and Hambantota districts, to establish strong CBOs and strengthen their NGOs to provide services to vulnerable communities to start livelihood programmes.

As an experimental project, started CKDu awareness project at community level to promote deeper awareness on preventive methods and environment friendly home management practices in the households of one location in Galgamuwa Divisional Secretary's Division, Kurunegala District.

The preparation of five year strategic plan for SLCDF from 2015 to 2020 in consultation with a wide spectrum of stakeholders and supported by USAID/ SPICE was a memorable experience, during this period. SLCDF continued coordination and monitoring of programme activities with network members of eighteen District Consortia of NGOs along with their CBOs by conducting quarterly meetings, attending district consortia meetings, field visits and monitoring programmes. We continued the facilitation role with NGO National Action Front (NNAF), NGO Management Development Centre (NGOMDC) and Jak Development Foundation by attending their meetings, discussions and workshops.



Meeting with women to establish district level women's organization in Batticaloa District.



Coordination and monitoring with network members.

We are delighted to announce that we expanded our work into another affected area by initiating work with families with disabled in Vavuniya district.

Year in Review contd.

We organized an almsgiving at our secretariat on 23rd December 2014, to invoke blessings on our past Chairman Mr. Sam S. Wijesinha, pioneer Executive Director late Dr. W.P.P. Abeydeera, past member of Board of Management Prof. Sudatta Ranasinghe and other past staff members. The Board members, staff, Dr. Abeydeera's immediate family members and friends, NGOMDC and NNAF participated in the religious ceremony. Further donation was made towards the completing the construction of a Dhamma School building at Siri Vajiraramaya temple.

Mr. Sam Wijesinha, Chairman of SLCDF submitted resignation papers on 14th July 2014 with a request to appoint a person from the new generation. At the Annual General Meeting held on 26th August, 2014, Professor Sarath Kotagama was appointed as the new Chairman of SLCDF. During the year under review, four meetings of the Board of Management, a special Board of Management meeting and the Annual General Meeting of the Board were held.

On 8th March, 2015, in view of the International Women's Day, SLCDF held a workshop on the theme, "Recognition and Advancement of Female Migrant Workers" where representatives from District Consortia, NNAF, NGOMDC and staff of SLCDF participated. The proceedings of the workshop was published and circulated among the participants.

On 8th March, 2015, in view of the International Women's Day, SLCDF held a workshop on the theme, "Recognition and Advancement of Female Migrant Workers" where representatives from District Consortia, NNAF, NGOMDC and staff of SLCDF participated.



Almsgiving programme for deceased Board of Management members and deceased SLCDF staff.



International Women's Day workshop.

Highlights of ongoing Projects

Story of SILK Project

SLCDF commenced implementing in November 2013, Sustainable Intervention in Livelihood project in Kilinochchi District (SILK) with dairy farming combined with conservation farming through strengthening the existing Women Rural Development Societies (WRDSs), Rural Development Societies (RDSs), Farmer Organizations and Livestock Breeders' Cooperative Societies, for 960 families supported by USAID funds, now in its second year. This project is focussed on rebuilding and restoring the lives of resettled war affected families in 40 villages of the Kilinochchi district. Special attention has been given to women headed households and those families with differently abled among the total of targeted 960 families who will benefit from the project.

Up to end of March 2015, 860 families were selected by WRDSs/Organisations using participatory methods for dairy farming and conservation farming from 35 villages. We have completed Cornerstones, technical and conservation farming training, constructed cattle sheds, cultivated fodder and 260 participants (all women) are engaged in dairy farming. Out of the total 260 families, 192 participants purchased the improved breed of cattle and already 132 cows have calved. Those families derive 3 – 8 litres per day and their monthly average family income is Rs. 4,500 to Rs. 7,500. At present monthly total milk production is 15,840 litres and 192 dairy farming participants have obtained the membership of LIBCOs.

We have held a five day advanced certificate course at University of Peradeniya on Artificial Insemination for 21 participants including veterinary surgeons, livestock development officers, animators from 4 Divisional Secretary's Divisions to provide the services for dairy farmers. Dr. Basil Alexander along with three consultants held a special technical monitoring programme at field, examined and treated 17 cows using modern equipment, five cows are pregnant and performed artificial insemination on another 10 cows. Trained officers are conducting field level practical classes on AI and are achieving improved success rates in Artificial Insemination.

The project has trained 256 participants on conservation farming from 21 villages and provided start up capital for conservation farming. Out of these, 248 engaged in conservation farming are already making an income ranging from Rs.1, 000 to Rs. 18,000 per month.

This project is focussed on rebuilding and restoring the lives of resettled war affected families in 40 villages of the Kilinochchi district. Special attention has been given to women headed households and those families with differently abled among the total of targeted 960 families who will benefit from the project.



Field level conservation farming.



Conservation farm visited by USAID official.

Year in Review contd.

Highlights of ongoing Projects contd.

Income gained from the dairy farming and conservation farming is used for mainly children's education, medical expenses, food and clothing, redemption of pawned jewellery, repayments of bank loans and defraying day to day expenses. They have commenced the repayment of RLF loans; fifty two participants have repaid part of their loans to the 10 WRDSs.

The project selected water scarcity village of Thadduwankotti to provide drinking water for the community and completed the construction of 20 rain water harvesting tanks, which have already been filled with rainwater which families are using for drinking and other domestic purposes. Two small tanks were rehabilitated in two villages for use by the community for domestic purposes.

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Dairy farming - Nathan Scheme



Fodder cultivation, Ambalnagar.



Advanced Artificial Insemination field training programme conducted by Dr. Basil Alexander



Rainwater harvesting project - Thadduwankotti

Transforming Marginalized Communities for Sustainable Development

In 2013, SLCDF implemented a project in Mullaitivu with Diakonia support for the resettled vulnerable families and was successfully completed. Following the success of the previous project, Diakonia approved another two year proposal (2014 - 2015) enhancing capacities of the needy and their organisations for achieving sustainable development. Yougashakthi Women's Federation is working as a partner organisation for implementing the project.

First year targets were achieved and 19 clusters and their members are actively participating in project activities. Conducted Cornerstones and Technical training and provided start up capital and 48 participants are engaged in dairy farming and earning an income of more than Rs. 10,000 per month. Out of the total of 41 participants in conservation farming 37 of them practise conservation farming methods in their home gardens as well as their other highland holdings. In September 2014 with the onset of rain, commenced conservation farming and they earned between Rs.1,000 to Rs.18,000 per month from their peanut, vegetable, banana and paddy sales. The earned income was used for their children's education, cover day to day expenses, medical expenses, clothing and food as well as redemption of their pawned

jewellery and bank loan repayments. We have conducted a capacity building programme for clusters and organizational leaders, which included designing of a Training of Trainers training programme with five modules. Of these two modules have been completed with the participation of 29 leaders drawn from 19 clusters.

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Training of trainer programme



Yield of black gram



Conservation farming

Year in Review contd.

Highlights of ongoing Projects contd.

Forming and Strengthening the Federation of Women's Organisations in Batticaloa

SLCDF has commenced a six month project 1st January 2014 to 30th June 2014 to establish a District Women's Federation in the Batticaloa District by bringing the women's societies at GN level, forming Divisional Level Federations and establishing the District Women's Federation funded by Diakonia.

We completed all activities by facilitating a consultancy process from community level to district level among the women's groups, Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders and formed District Women's Federation in the Batticaloa district. The federation members actively participate in the village development decision making process in all Divisions in the district by attending Divisional and District level meetings.



District women leaders taking oath



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Formation of the district Women Federation



TOT programme in progress

Women leaders lead the Integrated Agriculture project in Buttala

In September 2012, started the Integrated Agriculture project to establish new, economically and environmentally sustainable livelihoods for the motivated poor of Buttala area in Moneragala district and completed all the projected activities by March 2015. As a local partner Wellassa Kantha Sahayogitha Padanama (WKSP) implemented the activities along with six community organisations while Hope International Development Agency (HIDA) Canada provided the funds.

Out of the three main project activities relating to conservation farming and dairy farming, satisfactory results were achieved while the beekeeping programme needed more attention to achieve the expected results. Over 70 farmers earn an additional income over Rs. 50,000 annually and 10 dairy farmers earn an additional income Rs.300 to Rs. 600 per day by selling milk. Over 100 farmers in six locations follow conservation farming practices. There are 18 committed beekeepers among 30 who are involved in beekeeping in five locations.

These CBOs are led by highly committed women leaders. They will have the support of RLF funds available for continuing all project activities.

The most significant achievement is the strengthening of the newly established six CBOs who are continuing all project activities commenced with HIDA funding. These CBOs are led by highly committed women leaders. They will have the support of RLF funds available for continuing all project activities. The NGO, Wellassa Kantha Sahayogitha Padanama, now is more confident to keep the programme going with support and guidance from SLCDF.



Women engaged in dairy farming at Mahasenpura



Conservation farming – Buttala

Year in Review contd.

Highlights of ongoing Projects contd.

Women fisher folk engaged in Oyster Culturing

The main objective here is to build a sustainable and inclusive value chain for mollusc aquaculture in coastal areas for marginalized coastal communities particularly women in those communities and opportunity to improve their livelihoods, reduce vulnerabilities and enable them to participate in co-management of the resources funded by Stichting Gilles, Belgium.

This project was started in December 2014 and up to now mobilized the communities, participants forming community based organisations in Kandakuliya and Gangewadiya in Kalpitiya area. There are 13 in Kandakuliya and 15 in Gangewadiya all are women and both CBOs hold monthly meetings, conduct other group activities regularly. Kandakuliya CBO started group savings and established a group fund.

In Kandakuliya, conducted awareness programmes on environment and personal hygiene clean up campaigns also were organized to maintain a clean environment along the lagoon area. Construction of water sealed toilets was started for the needy families to keep the area clean and certified oysters have been produced for earning reasonable income. Ten families have constructed ten oyster racks and they stock more than 20,000 oysters in the cages using knowledge gained from the technical training and advice provided by NARA officials. The community has gained a deeper knowledge on marketing processes including identification, selection, cleaning, packing, harvesting and scientific methods for oyster culture through exposure visit to "Live Oyster" project in Negombo. They will be ready to market their products soon.

Ten families have constructed ten oyster racks and they stock more than 20,000 oysters in the cages using knowledge gained from the technical training and advice provided by NARA officials.



Constructed wooden racks for oyster culture



Women engaged in oyster culture



Women engaged in regular cleaning of oyster



Value added training on Oyster marketing

Community driven Environment Project

In July 2014 commenced work in three villages in Deltota Divisional Secretary's Division Kandy district implemented by Hill Country Forum for Community Organisations (HIFCO) with the help of UNDP/SGP/GEF for two years to strengthen the abilities of three communities to manage possible land degradation driven pressures on food production and management systems with sustainability. In this project there are five key activities to achieve the objectives. These activities will improve the knowledge and skills towards environment friendly attitudes among community.

The project practised participatory approach to strengthen the community and community organisations and by now have formed fourteen small groups and initiated their own community fund. They have commenced group activities and established three community based organisations, one in each village.

The project has mobilized the community by conducting orientation and awareness creation programmes and introduced sustainable land management. The technical team of the soil management unit of the Department of Agriculture has completed the soil conservation survey and demarcated contour lines for implementing soil conservation measures. The Department of Agriculture has conducted training in land management practices for twenty six community leaders from three communities. The trained leaders facilitated application of land management practices in individual landholdings. Out of the total of 137 families 80 families applied land management practices by using the following methods; stone terracing, lock and spill drains, rubble walls, live fencing. The interest shown by CBOs and their members in participating in the land management activities and group work was encouraging.

Out of the total of 137 families 80 families applied land management practices by using the following methods; stone terracing, lock and spill drains, rubble walls, live fencing.



Land management practices in progress



School children engaged reforestation - Deltota

Year in Review contd.

Highlights of ongoing Projects contd.

Strengthening of CBOs and NGOs

Mrs. Brigitte Weigand a generous donor from Germany provided funds to mobilize and establish strong CBOs and strengthen the associated NGOs to provide services to vulnerable communities to start livelihood programmes among community in ten villages in Matara and Hambantota districts. We have started the project in March 2015 and collected baseline information, held initial discussions with the community and formed small groups and CBOs in ten locations in two Districts.



Mushroom cultivation as a livelihood in Wadigala, Hambantota.

Community awareness on CKDu prevention project

As an experimental project started CKDu awareness project at community level to promote deeper awareness on preventive methods and environment friendly home management practices in the households of one location in November 2014 for a period of one year in Galgamuwa Divisional Secretary's Division, Kurunegala District.

The project has commenced mobilization process in Ihala Palukandewa village in Galgamuwa Divisional Secretary's Division and formed small groups and community based organisation with 24 participants. With the help of Govinge Samaja Seva Sanvidanaya, the implementing NGO and Health authorities, awareness programmes were conducted and twenty four families including youth and children understand the gravity of CKDu disease and are practising preventive methods. Using start-up capital provided, 13 participants have cultivated chemical free vegetables and other crops in their home gardens.



Meeting with Ihala Palukandewa community / CKDu project

Strategic Plan for SLCDF

During this period a memorable experience was the preparation of Five Year Strategic Plan for SLCDF from 2015 to 2020 in consultation with a wide spectrum of stakeholders and supported by USAID/SPICE and SLCDF assigned Creators Forum a consultancy firm to develop it. They had several desk reviews followed by a series of discussions, meetings and workshops with all stakeholders including board members, staff, donors, government officials and representation from grassroots to national level network members. From this exercise emerged the five year strategic plan for SLCDF.



Strategic planning staff workshop.

Network in progress

During the review period NGO National Action Front (NNAF) and network of District Consortia members were involved with policy advocacy work as independent civil society organisations and provided their suggestions for the proposed bill on Micro Finance. Work continued for revitalizing the current NNAF Code of Conduct by gathering information from diverse participants from different ethnicities of the nine provinces. NNAF and its members helped SLCDF to collect information on community needs along with other information for developing project proposals. SLCDF and its network together with NNAF participated in the “March 12th Movement”, a mission to elect clean and corruption-free politicians to Parliament.

NGO Management Development Centre (NGOMDC) conducted 81 training programmes for the SLCDF projects implemented in Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Batticaloa, Moneragala and Anuradhapura districts during the review period.

The latest activity of Jak Development Foundation during the past year was the additional building constructed to extend residential training facilities at the Jak Resource Centre in Rambukkana to cater to a wider population thereby popularising jak.

I thank the former and present Chairmen as well as the former and present Secretaries, Treasurer and other pioneer Members of the Board of Management for their support for expanding the programme activities in the Northern Province. Also, SLCDF is privileged to have experts on development field joining the Board of Management anew during the period under review, to support its cause. SLCDF wish to extend its appreciation to the enthusiastic members and leadership of the Small Groups / Self Help Groups, Community Based Organizations, NGOs, District Consortia and NNAF as well as the partner Donor community for their unstinted support to the development of the 5-year Strategic Plan of SLCDF. We are grateful to Mrs. Nina Abeydeera for her advice and participation at SLCDF events. Last but not least I congratulate the committed and hardworking staff in their efforts to empower communities towards sustainable livelihoods including those vulnerable segments living in the North.

Tissa Wijetunga
Executive Director

SLCDF and its network together with NNAF participated in the “March 12th Movement”, a mission to elect clean and corruption-free politicians to Parliament.



DC members involved with March 12th movement



Practical training programme in Jak Resource Centre Rambukkana

Bird's Eye View of Projects Implemented during the Year 2014 – 2015

Title of Project	Project Cost	Donor	Project Status	Major Activities	Participants	District
Sustainable Interventions in Livelihood in Kilinochchi (SILK)	US \$ 836,680	USAID	Ongoing	This project will contribute to the grassroots development of families affected by war, rebuilding their lives, building & strengthening local development organizations.	960 families	Kilinochchi
Transforming Marginalized Communities for Sustainable Development (Diakonia 03 Phase 01)	Rs. 7,913,000	Diakonia	Completed	Provide start up capital & training for livelihood activities through dairy farming, cornerstones training & conservation farming along with capacity building programme for Yougashakthi Women Federation	251 families 19 Clusters 154 SHGs	Mullaitivu
Transforming Marginalized Communities for Sustainable Development (Diakonia 03 Phase 02)	Rs. 7,840,500	Diakonia	Ongoing	Provide start up capital & training for livelihood activities through dairy farming, cornerstones training & conservation farming along with capacity building programme for Yougashakthi Women Federation	147 families 20 Clusters 160 SHGs	Mullaitivu
The adverse effects of land degradation livelihood development & enhanced food security (GEF)	US\$ 38,162	UNDP	Ongoing	Strengthening community through 3PRA programmes, identifying suitable soil conservation methods, land management practices, reforestation, providing revolving loan fund (RLF)	120 families	Kandy
Strengthening of two CBOs and one NGO in Matara and Hambantota districts and To Provide Services for Livelihood Programmes for Vulnerable Communities	Euro 10,000	Mrs. Brigitte Weigand/ Forderverein des Rotary Club Bonn Sud e.V	Ongoing	Building assets of the Tsunami affected families conducting training programmes & building the capacity of Mushroom producer organizations.	100 families	Hambantota/ Matara
Sustainable Livelihood for People with Disabilities (HOPE - SLPD)	CND \$ 27,360	HOPE International Development Agency	Ongoing	Through the project HIDA, will address the broader cultural context of disability so that livelihood benefits for people with disabilities are sustained beyond the project's end. The project includes activities designed to increase understanding among families & neighbours of people with disabilities so that they better support & encourage them as fully participating members of the community.	34 families	Vavuniya
Building Sustainable Farms & Communities for Coastal Aquaculture in Sri Lanka	Euro 30,000	Stichting Gilles	Ongoing	Strengthen & sustain the mollusk shellfish & quality program to ensure the product is safe for the market, designate areas to be utilized & protected for bivalve farming, refine & improve the culture process for farming of oyster by providing the correct technologies	60 families	Puttalam

5 Year Strategic Plan for the Period 2015 – 2020

The development of the strategic plan was participatory and inputs from District Consortia of NGOs, Donor Agencies, Government of Sri Lanka, Canadian High Commission, NGO National Action Front (NNAF), NGO Management Development Centre (NGO MDC), the Board of Management and Staff of SLCDF were available for incorporation in the plan. Views of people of different regions, ethnic groups, religions, socio economic conditions and gender were taken into account. It is praiseworthy that Senior Officials of the Government took a lead role at the provincial level consultative workshops informing of the government plans and the space for NGO engagement.

Vision

Become a dynamic Facilitator for civil society engagement in development of Sri Lanka.

Mission

Develop capacity and facilitate spaces for the civil society to access economic and social equity towards sustainable development.

Goal

By 2020 SLCDF will have achieved excellence in the provision of development facilitation in all its strategic directions.

Objectives

- To facilitate the empowerment of marginalized communities to have equitable access to benefits of development and workout long term solutions through DCs, NGOs and CBOs.
- To enable research, experimentation and dissemination of appropriate technology and skills to rural communities
- To promote and establish social harmony and pluralism among communities.
- To facilitate and strengthen alliances among civil society actors and networks and promote interface with government agencies and the private sector.
- To facilitate policy intervention on micro finance and support for systematic and efficient management.

Values

- Human centred
- Participatory
- Accountability and transparency
- National harmony
- Gender equality
- Child focused
- Pro-poor

Cross Cutting Themes

In all the programme areas gender, environment, and climate change will be incorporated to ensure gender equality and environmental sustainability where applicable.

Strategic areas

- Linking marginalized communities into mainstream development
- Facilitate access to appropriate technology
- Promoting active citizenship, ethnic and social cohesion for just, equitable and pluralistic society
- Strengthening and sustaining development partnerships, networking and advocacy.
- Policy interventions and innovative approaches to micro financing

Tribute to Pioneer Chairman of SLCDF, Mr. S. S. Wijesinha



Mr. Sam Wijesinha hailing from Getamanne a village in the deep South of Sri Lanka was born in 1921 and passed away on 31st August 2014. He had his early education at Ananda College Colombo and S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. Mr. Wijesinha completed his B.A. degree at the University of London, his LL.M. degree from McGill University in Canada, and his training as a Barrister at Law at Middle Temple in the UK.

He began his prestigious career as a lawyer in the Attorney General's Department as Assistant to the Attorney General of Sri Lanka (Crown Counsel). Mr. Wijesinha later serving with distinction as Secretary General of Parliament, raised the position to perhaps the most respected in public life. On retirement in 1981, Mr. Wijesinha was appointed as the first Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman) where he succeeded in resolving most problems brought before him, given

his long experience of both politicians and administrators, and served two terms until 1991. He later served as Chancellor of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Wijesinha was also a life member of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments and a past president of both the Classical Association of Sri Lanka and the Royal Commonwealth Society (Sri Lanka Branch). He also served as Secretary of the Child Protection Society, Chairman of the Human Rights Task Force and Chairman of the Prisoners' Welfare Association.

He was the pioneer Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation (SLCDF) from 2002 until his retirement in 2014. Mr. Wijesinha was personally linked with Sri Lanka Canada Development Fund (SLCDF), a project of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) from 1987 to 2002 which subsequently used the same acronym for the newly formed local NGO, SLCDF. It is a coincidence that his late wife Mrs. Mukta Wijesinha was the pioneer Chairperson of the SLCDF project. On invitation of the SLCDF project, he participated in local and international meetings and provided his knowledge and experience on peace building, national harmony and human rights, in Canada and at the South Asian Regional conferences.

As much as his interest in public service, Mr. Wijesinha was dedicated to community development work and enjoyed meeting with the beneficiary families and seeing their improvement. He liked to see the children of all families consuming fresh milk and learn English. He took personal interest to promote especially dairy farming, mushroom cultivation, beekeeping and other livelihoods using indigenous resources when discussing progress of projects of SLCDF at the Board of Management meetings and provided ample inputs through his vast knowledge and direct interaction with people of all walks of life. We will always remember Mr. Wijesinha's invaluable commitment to community development work as well as the sustainability of SLCDF.

Dear Mr. Sam Wijesinha, in grateful appreciation for your exemplary leadership and selfless acts of time and dedication, your eminence in the national sphere and your visionary guidance, helped us in coping with numerous challenges of a difficult period of transition in our efforts to serve disadvantaged communities. Thank you, Sir!

May you experience the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana!

Dr. Ms. Kamala Peiris, was a great source of inspiration to all at SLCDF



Dr. Kamala Peiris, a development consultant with over 45 years of experience, was Secretary of the Board of Management of SLCDF from 2002 to 2015 till her retirement. Prior to that she was closely associated with Dr. W.P.P. Abeydeera, the Founder Programme Director of Sri Lanka Canada Development Fund in all their development work. Her inputs were highly valued at all times especially on education and community development, with a particular emphasis on women and children.

Dr. Kamala Peiris was a firm believer in people's collective voice which can result in a louder voice to recognize the rights of the people unheard. She believed a community to be led towards development the leadership being generated from the members of that community by promoting their skills and capacity. Other than for education her passion was to move with the common people in different communities which are faced with marginalization due to varied forms of vulnerabilities. Her main focus of

women's empowerment was through education and economic development for livelihood strengthening for women. As a result she encouraged a Dutch professor to do a film on women in the coir sector from the southern coastal belt of Sri Lanka. Today the groups formed by Dr. Kamala Peiris export their products to a number of fair trading organizations and run a coir factory making advanced forms of rope.

She also worked closely with many of the development gurus from early seventies and promoted the concept of collective bargaining through social mobilization. She is the founder director of Siyath Foundation established in 1983 which has worked in many different areas and accredited as a fair trading organization. She is also a founder member of Cenwor (Center for Women's Research) and had been on the boards of SLCDF, PIDA, Avadi Lanka, NGO MDC and many other non-governmental organizations. Dr. Kamala Peiris has written two books on education and women's empowerment called *Tiny sampling Sturdy Tree* and about women in the coir sector under the title of *'Weaving the future together'*.

Dr. Peiris was also the President of the National Committee on Primary Education Reforms and also served in many Consultancy Assignments with different international development organizations. She served the Government as Director of Primary Education from 1971 to 1981 at the Ministry of Education.

She was the recipient of a Presidential Award in 2005 "Sri Lanka Sikhamani", and also received an Honorary Doctorate from the Open University of Sri Lanka (2007). She has contributed immensely to sustainable development in Sri Lanka through her dedicated work with varied committees, commissions, presidential task forces and development organizations.

Dr. Peiris completed her B.A. in London, her Masters in Education at Cornell University in the U.S.A. and a further M.A. in Public Administration in India.

Dr. Kamala Peiris will always be remembered in Sri Lanka as a devoted teacher, a mentor a scholarly academic and researcher and a radical thinker. We at SLCDF will sorely miss her knowledge, her wisdom and her counsel.

May she attain the blissful state of Nibbana!

Looking to the Future with a Smile



The Ambalnagar WRDS was selected from over 40 WRDS in the Kilinochchi District to promote conservation farming initiatives spearheaded by the SILK project.

Ms. Yugarajah Thruvarumalini, known to friends and family as Malini, is a 40-year old woman who lives with her husband and two children in Ambalnagar village, the site of Sri Lanka's second largest irrigation tank Iranamadu. Nearly all the families from this village depend on farming for their livelihood.

Prior to their displacement in 2009, Malini's family lived a decent life. Malini's husband managed a grinding mill in Kilinochchi. The family lived in a 2-room house, and managed their day-to-day living without too much difficulty.

The events of 2009 scarred this family deeply. As the civil conflict reached its end, the family was displaced to a transition camp in Vavuniya. Malini's husband was injured during this period in his leg, causing him much discomfort and difficulty in walking.

In 2010, the family was given permission to return and resettle in their village. The government provided the family

with temporary shelter and a livelihood package as part of the resettlement process. Using these funds, the family opened a small boutique in the village. Shortly thereafter, Malini's daughter suffered a major accident and was treated at the local hospital for more than 3 months. The newfound boutique closed. The family's future looked bleak. Malini applied for, and was fortunate to receive assistance from UN Habitat through Indian government funding for permanent housing. Using these funds, Malini's family was able to partly construct their new house.

Malini and her husband are both experienced farmers, and until their displacement in 2009, they always had a sizeable home garden. Financial constraints meant the family didn't have the necessary capital to initiate or expand their home-gardening efforts until an opportunity presented itself through the SILK project funded by USAID with the generous support of the American people.

Malini is an active and long-standing member of the Ambalnagar Women's Rural Development Society (WRDS). The Ambalnagar WRDS was selected from over 40 WRDS in the Kilinochchi District to promote conservation farming initiatives spearheaded by the SILK project. Ambalnagar WRDS nominated Malini as a recipient for the program. She also received endorsements from Grama Niladari, Samurधि Officer, Development Officer, Karaichchi Divisional Secretary and District Coordination Committee (DCC)

After the selection process, SLCDF, assisted by the NGO Management Development Centre, conducted a series of Cornerstones training programs, a value-based development model that integrates conservation farming practices through the use of self-help groups. "Sharing and caring" features prominently in the program. For example, participants receive appropriate training and then are gifted cattle. Recipients agree to "pass

on” the first-born female calves to other participants in the program, as well as the knowledge and skills acquired during the process. The goal of the project is to create a repeating cycle that fosters collaborative community interactions.

Malini is currently working closely with her mentor, and eagerly awaiting the birth of the calf that will be gifted to her family as a result of her participation in the program. Malini says that the training was invaluable, and that the larger goals of the program, aimed at strengthening community relations, benefits the social development of the entire village.

Malini was also given extensive training on conservation farming methods, including best practices promoted by the Department of Agriculture. Following completion of her training, Malini was able to acquire the necessary materials to start preparing organic compost and organic liquid fertilizer. She shared her training knowledge with her husband. SLCDF provided Malini 10,000 rupees through Ambalnagar WRDS. She used these funds to purchase 4 water sprinklers (Rs. 5,500), ploughing cost (Rs. 2,000), compost (cow dung) (Rs. 1,000), and seeds from Paranthan Agricultural Farm to grow leafy vegetables, (keerai), snake gourd, bitter gourd, long beans, and okra.

She and her husband cultivated a ½ acre plot in April 2014. Malini harvested the crops weekly and sold the vegetables both in the village and the Kilinochchi market grounds. She reported that her efforts have grossed Rs. 39,900 in profit, and that the garden also provides for her family’s dietary needs. Malini used

some of the money she earned to buy books, pencil cases and stationery for her children. Prior to her involvement in the SILK project, these items, while important, would not have been possible to gift to her children. She also purchased food and new clothes for her family using money she earned selling the vegetables.

Malini’s first harvest was a success, and she has already leased another ½ acre plot to start it up again. The success of her efforts prompted Malini to borrow Rs. 30,000 from a local bank to start rearing poultry. She plans to use the chicken dung as fertilizer in her garden, and will earn more income in the future from selling chickens, as well as vegetables, in her community.

Malini says that the opportunity to participate in the USAID-funded project opened her eyes to new and improved farming methods. Previously, she and her husband always used chemical fertilizers in their garden. As a result of the training she received, she understands the benefit

Malini says that the training was invaluable, and that the larger goals of the program, aimed at strengthening community relations, benefits the social development of the entire village.

of using organic fertilizer and other conservation farming techniques. She is also proud that her home gardening plot is being used as a model for other villagers interested in adopting her new and improved gardening techniques.

Malini wanted the opportunity to thank those responsible for helping her family through a difficult period, for teaching her to better provide for her family, and for fostering a collaborative spirit in her village. She is excited to expand her garden plot further and incorporate even more conservation farming techniques in the future.

Malini’s tenacity and hard work has paid off. She will always be grateful for the helping hand provided by USAID that has enabled her family to move beyond the dark days they experienced over the past few years. She now smiles thinking of what the future holds not only for herself, but her family and community as well.



Banking on Themselves: Self-Help Groups Empower Poor Rural Women



As at 2009, Uthayam cluster members had saved approximately Rs.118,000. During the last stages of the war in 2009 however, the cluster lost all their savings; several of their members also tragically died during the conflict.

The village of Iyankulam, 32 kilometers away from the Thunukkai Divisional Secretary's Division, is a cut off and isolated village of 200 poor and war-affected families. The village is 8 Km away from the main road and during the rainy season, the dirt-path leading to the village gets so badly flooded that the main road, bus services and other transport becomes inaccessible.

This village is solely dependent on agriculture. Most of the villagers have small-to-marginal land holdings of one to one and a half acres per household on average. Most of the men are employed either in low-paying labour jobs in the nearby villages or are engaged as temporary workers. The womenfolk remain at home to take care of the family and household needs; where possible, they are also self employed.

In 2002, the Self Help Group concept was initiated by the Aid Agency

KNH and Yougashakthi Women's federation in this village. Initially 9 SHGs formed with 120 women and established Uthayam Cluster. This cluster is affiliated to the Yougashakthi Women's Federation. As at 2009, Uthayam cluster members had saved approximately Rs.118,000. During the last stages of the war in 2009 however, the cluster lost all their savings; several of their members also tragically died during the conflict. All the others became displaced, went through much hardship and finally resettled in their village in 2010. In 2012 with the help of the Yougashakthi Women's Federation they again mobilized the SHGs and formed 5 SHGs. Even though they re-established the SHGs and Cluster they had limited function and were not as active as before.

In 2013 SLCDF with the funding assistance of Diakonia, SLCDF selected Yougashakthi Women's Federation to implement the project

called 'Transforming Marginalized Communities in Sustainable Development in Mullaitivu District.' Program components included capacity building of the 155 SHGs, 19 Clusters and Federation, as well as livelihood development. Under this program SLCDF selected 2 representatives each from the 19 clusters and trained them on Training of trainers (TOT) and social mobilization, based on self help group approach. Two women from Uthayam also participated in this training. After the training the two trained participants worked to create awareness and to mobilize their groups.

The Uthayam cluster was facilitated with funds for livelihood development activities, worth Rs.365,000 for 23 families @ Rs.15,000 per family. Twenty four participants from the cluster were also trained on organic farming activities. Of these 24 participants, 21 are continuing to

practice environmentally friendly farming and are doing well with it on their homesteads. Sixteen of these participants were identified as good role models by the Thunukkai Agricultural Department and awarded Rs.5,000 each, totaling Rs.80,000 by the Agricultural department for their organic compost and fertilizer making.

With the Rs.365,000 provided by SLCDF / Diakonia, Uthayam cluster set up a revolving fund to help their many members. Due to the repayment scheme, an additional 14 families (apart from the original 23) have been able to gain benefit from the funds, bringing the total number of beneficiary families thus far to 37.

At present 6 SHGs are functioning actively with a membership of 93 women under the cluster. The Uthayam cluster with the support of the TOT trainers was able to form another 3 groups. A lot has changed at the village level and in the lives of these women since the formation of self-help groups. The bottom-up approach has empowered the rural women. They are actively involved in various aspects of SHG management such as conducting meetings, documentation related to the group, savings collection and remittance, loan request appraisals, and loan sanction. Cluster leaders review loan applications received from various SHG groups and undertake checks to verify the track record of the individual applicant as well as the SHG with which she is affiliated. The members are loaned the funds as a start-up capital, at a subsidized interest rate of approximately 12

percent per year which is far lower than the local moneylenders' rates of 30 - 40 percent per year. The added advantage is that interest paid by the borrowing members also becomes the income of the group and hence gets partially recycled back to the borrowing members.

SHGs/Cluster members have started welfare activities amongst the group members which help in strengthening the relationship between the members. These activities include visiting / supporting bereaved members, visiting the sick and assisting them, guiding each other in times of difficulties, self help work, providing emergency loan from the group fund.

All these factors have empowered the rural women, some of whom have reached apex positions in the rural governing bodies and are contributing actively to improving the situation in their communities and villages. Access to microfinance has brought about a major transformation in the

Women from some of these SHGs have now assumed important positions in the village-level Women Rural Development Societies, as well as representing the cluster committee at the Yougaskathy Women's Federation level.

confidence, status, and effectiveness of the SHGs women. Women from some of these SHGs have now assumed important positions in the village-level Women Rural Development Societies, as well as representing the cluster committee at the Yougaskathy Women's Federation level.



Renewed Lease of Life for War-Affected, Disabled Family



Sasikala was supported with Rs.15,000 to enhance her livelihood. With this money she purchased three pregnant goats. At the moment she has 3 fully grown goats and 4 calves with her.

R. Sasikala aged 38 comes from a rural, isolated village still suffering the effects of war, which hasn't benefited much from the post war infrastructure development. Her village of Iyankulam in the Thunnukai Divisional Secretariat of Mullaitivu District is removed from the main road by 8 Km.

Women like Sasikala are obliged to walk all that way of 8 Km to access the bus to go to town. Only a few of the better off families have cycles. Being a far flung rural village, this is also an area facing difficulties from wild elephants. The villagers' lives are thus ones of constant stress and hardship. Sasikala's family used to do crop agriculture before their 2009 displacement in the war. Since then though, her husband has become sickly and she herself sustained injuries (on her arm and leg), which has reduced her capacity to do farming. As such, she is registered in the disabled

category. She has three daughters, the eldest of whom, currently sitting for her A'Levels is also disabled. The other two children are school going. Due to her husband's sickness, she became the main breadwinner of her family, despite her own disability. Her only means to earn a living was labour work, which she gained access to only sporadically.

Long before the war culminated, she became an active member of an SHG (in 2002) and being one of its most active and motivated members, she had saved up to Rs.25000 in a personal capacity by 2009. Unfortunately, due to the displacement, she lost all her hard earned savings.

She resettled in her village Iyankulam in 2010 and again became a member of her SHG - the 14 member group Ilanthalir of the Uthayam cluster, of the Yougasakthi Women's Federation. Their

group savings amounted to Rs.42,000 out of which Rs.40,000 has been provided to members as a revolving loan fund (RLF). Her individual savings in the fund is Rs.2,000. Utayam cluster was selected for the Diakonia funded project called 'Transforming Marginalized Communities for Sustainable Development through Yougashakthi Women Federation.'

Sasikala was supported with Rs.15,000 to enhance her livelihood. With this money she purchased three pregnant goats. The goats delivered 3 male calves which she sold for Rs.21,000. At the moment she has 3 fully grown goats and 4 calves with her. Her family consumes goat milk. She was able to repay Rs.5,000 from this income to her SHG.

The social capital generated by the group activities of the Self-Help Group keeps her exceptionally contented

with her lot. She feels wanted by the community at large with her role in the group she belongs to. The self-help group keep her moored in useful activity providing much self satisfaction and self esteem as well. She is grateful to SLCDF / Diakonia for having assured her of a steady avenue to educate her children as well as to meet her domestic needs with the facilitated new livelihood venture. She is looking forward to a life of quality with her three children and husband. She is also determined to go beyond and serve her self help group, cluster and community as much as she can.

She is looking forward to a life of quality with her three children and husband.



Towards Economic Development through Conserving the Environment

The area covered under this project is in the wet zone of Sri Lanka, 2775 feet above sea level. It is close to Deltota town with treacherous terrain without proper accessible road system situated in the Kandy District. The villages covered are Gonangoda, Karagaskada North and Karagaskada South. Most of this land is of 60 to 70 degrees gradient. Heavy soil erosion has taken place in most of these lands, which have already degraded and balance lands are being subjected to this process of land degradation.

It is the aim of SLCDF to develop a deeper sense of shared ownership and responsibility for the natural resources by involving all groups who have a stake, as well as supporting community mechanisms of managing their own resources. Therefore, the proposal was developed in consultation with Hill Country Forum for Community Organizations – HIFCO (Kandy District Consortium) and the community. UNDP/GEF/SGP approved this proposal and the agreement was signed in July 2014 with SLCDF to implement the project.

The main objective is to strengthen the ability of communities and their organizations, to manage possible land degradation driven pressures on food production and management systems with sustainability. Key activities in this project will improve necessary knowledge, enhance the skills of the selected families as well as promote environment friendly attitudes among the community, especially in the younger generation. The project will expand to the adjoining areas of the Deltota division through wide

experience sharing. Orientation on the project was given to all stakeholders including representatives of community members, Government and non-governmental organizations.

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) programmes, community mobilization and baseline data collection were carried out to initiate the process of mobilizing and strengthening community to form into groups and forming of community based organizations covering the 3 villages. The “Village Mapping” exercise was used to identify the available resources, needs and issues of the village.

One day orientation programme was conducted at Deltota Divisional Secretariat Office. This orientation programme provided space for all stakeholders to build positive relationships and a clear understanding about the project and on the importance of having an integrated approach to overcome the identified environment issues related to the project was given. After the programme held with the Government officials, it was observed that more spaces were opened to establish links with the Government, Local Government authorities and political leaders. The Deltota Divisional Secretary also expressed his willingness to contribute to this project recognizing this project as a felt need of the area.

The Technical Team of Natural Resources Management Center of the Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya visited the project area and carried out the soil conservation survey.

The main objective is to strengthen the ability of communities and their organizations, to manage possible land degradation driven pressures on food production and management systems with sustainability.



They have demarcated contour lines for implementing soil conservation measures covering 95 acres of land belonging to 137 families.

Twenty six community leaders representing the 3 villages had undergone training on Land Management practices- stone terracing, lock & spill drains (KuttiKanu), rubble walls, live fence (SALT System), directed by the officials of the Department of Agriculture. The trained community leaders facilitated their group members to start soil conservation methods in their own lands according to the recommended methods by the technical team for each block of land. Up to now 110 families have applied land management methods on their own lands and payments were made on completion. The actual value of work completed on the lands amounted to almost double the total payments made.

Following the mobilization, the community has formed into 11 small groups and by now has initiated to build their own community fund with a nominal amount. Up to now, Rs.330,000/- has been disbursed from project funds among 36 members in the three villages of Gonangoda, Karagaskada North and Karagaskada South to commence income generating activities.

One awareness programme and one school environment conservation/ reforestation programme were held with 150 school children and 12 teachers of 3 schools in Deltota, to extend the message of conserving the environment to the next generation.

The project managed to develop a positive relationship with the Divisional Secretariat in Deltota for the smooth functioning of the programme. The Divisional Secretary and Assistant Divisional Secretary and other government officers have extended their support for this project and this will immensely quicken its path to sustainability.

Now the stage is set for fruitful use of these lands hitherto totally neglected and remaining unproductive. The owners of these lands have commenced developing them as home gardens and locations of small businesses, all started with revolving loan funds from the project. Some of them are already earning a little supplementary income, laying the foundation for establishing sustainable livelihoods in the near future. This will hopefully take place with increasing links developed with service providers in the project area.

Up to now 110 families have applied land management methods on their own lands and payments were made on completion. The actual value of work completed on the lands amounted to almost double the total payments made.

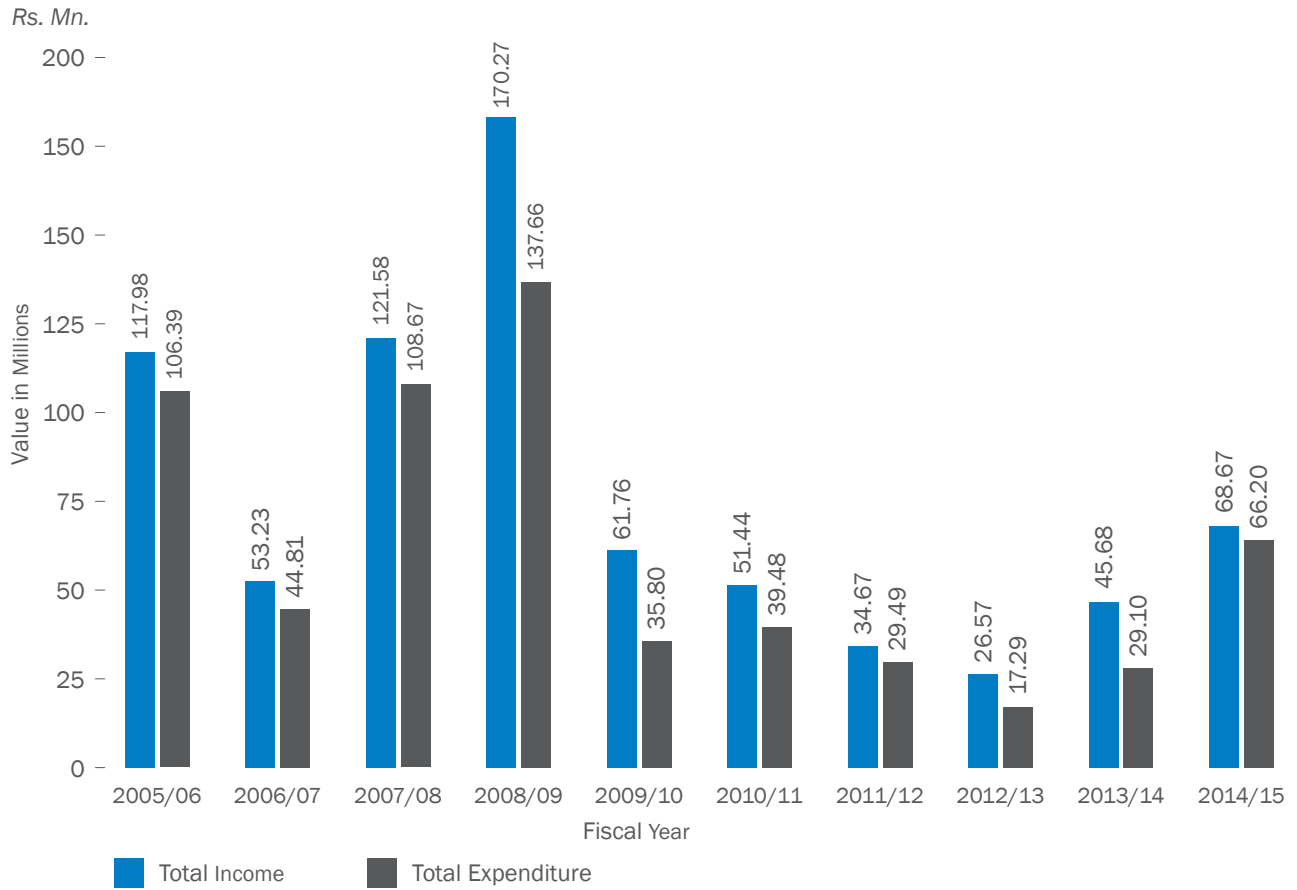


Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

Year Ended 31st March

	2015 Rs.	2014 Rs.
Incoming Resources	56,260,279.70	24,744,896.02
Other Project Related Revenue	18,119.26	270,686.42
	56,278,398.96	25,015,582.44
Project Expenditure		
Personnel Cost	10,169,180.95	8,600,357.44
Projects Related Expenditure	48,004,493.80	14,312,696.01
Total Project Costs	58,173,674.75	22,913,053.45
Net Surplus on Projects	(1,895,275.79)	2,102,528.99
Revenue Earned	3,164,592.08	4,462,416.00
	1,269,316.29	6,564,944.99
Administrative Expenses	7,061,822.41	4,452,193.36
Other Expenses	203,646.33	433,535.43
	7,265,468.74	4,885,728.79
Operating Surplus	(5,996,152.45)	1,679,216.20
Finance Income	9,227,942.58	16,200,498.08
Finance Cost	0.00	0.00
Net Finance Income	9,227,942.58	16,200,498.08
Excess of Income Over Expenditures Before Taxation	3,231,790.13	17,879,714.28
Taxation (WHT)	760,559.32	1,299,675.24
Excess of Income Over Expenditures After Taxation	2,471,230.81	16,580,039.04

Income and Expenditure Comparison

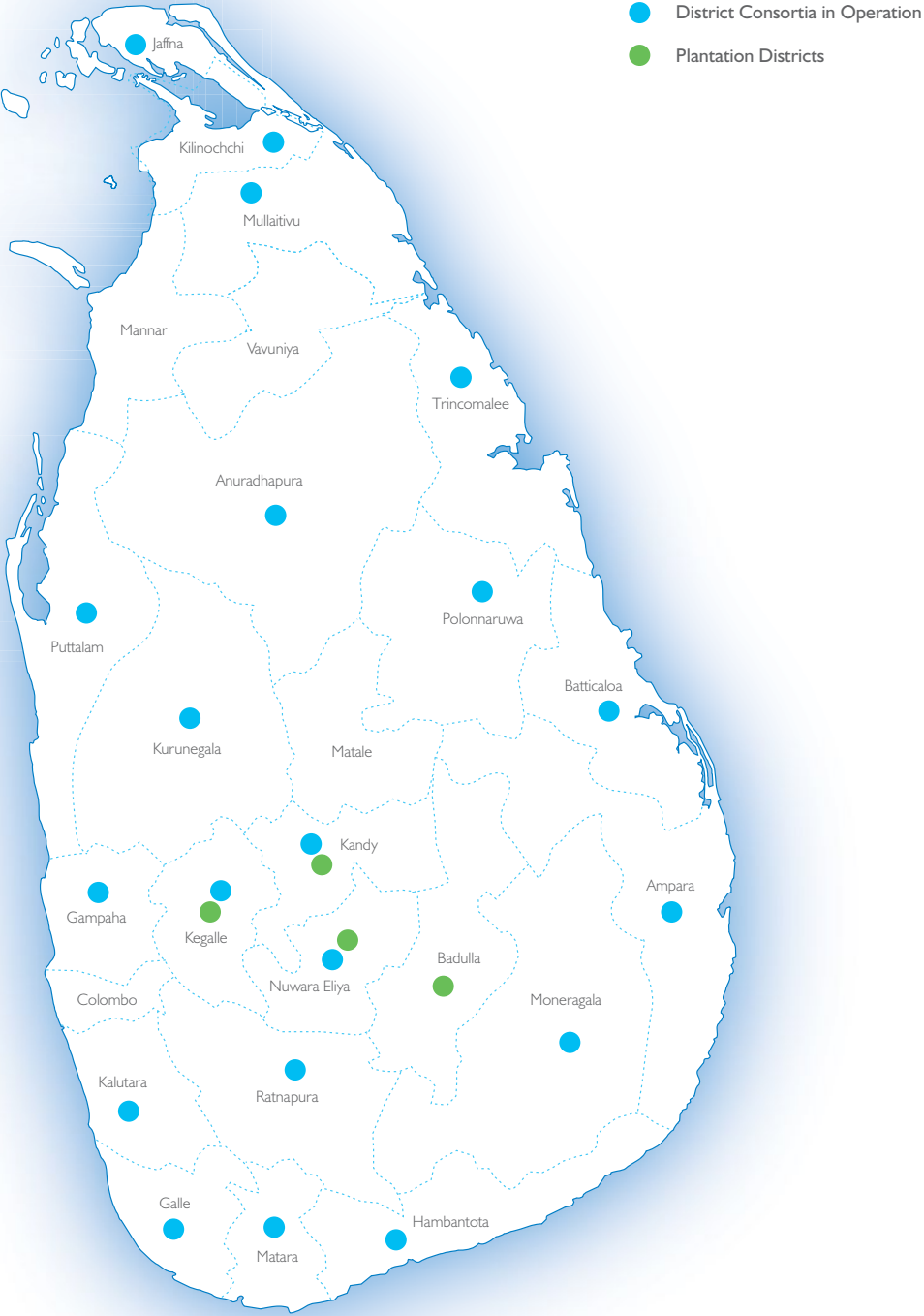


Past & Present*

Partner Organizations

Adventist Development & Relief Agency	Canada
Builders Labourers Federation of Queensland (BLFQ)	Australia
Brigitte Weigand / Forderverein des Rotary Club Bonn sud e.V. *	Germany
Calgary Waldorf School	Canada
Canada World Youth	Canada
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	Canada
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	Canada
Cardinal Leger and His Endeavour	Canada
Centre for Days of Peace	Canada
Canadian Hunger Foundation / Partners in Rural Development	Canada
Christian Children's Fund of Canada	Canada
Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Resource Centre	Philippines
Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)	Germany
Development and Peace	Canada
Diakonia *	Sri Lanka
Girl Guides Canada	Canada
Heifer International	Nepal / USA
Help the Aged Canada	Canada
Hindu Temple School	Canada
Hope International Development Agency *	Canada
Hugh MacMillan Rehabilitation Centre	Canada
International Development & Refugee Foundation	Canada
Jules and Paul-Emile Leger Foundation	Canada
Match International Centre	Canada
National Language Project	Sri Lanka
NGOs' Water Supply & Sanitation Decade Services	Sri Lanka
North Atlantic Marine Alliance	Canada
Oxfam Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Peacefund Canada	Canada
Primate's World Relief and Development Fund	Canada
Sequus International	Canada
South Asia Partnership	Canada
South House Exchange	Canada
Sri Lanka Association in Canada	Canada
Sri Lanka Botswana Association	Botswana
Stichting Gilles *	Belgium
The Asia Foundation	Sri Lanka
UEnd: Foundation (ChristmasFuture Foundation)	Canada
United Nations Office for Project Services /(GEF/SGP) *	Sri Lanka
University of Guelph	Canada
USAID *	Sri Lanka
World Accord	Canada
World Bank	
World Literacy of Canada	Canada
Young Women's Christian Association Canada	Canada

Map of Sri Lanka with Districts of Operation





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