



# Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation

Annual Report 2010/2011



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## SLCDF at a Glance

*It is the strength of the people's organization that will ensure the future development of the village*

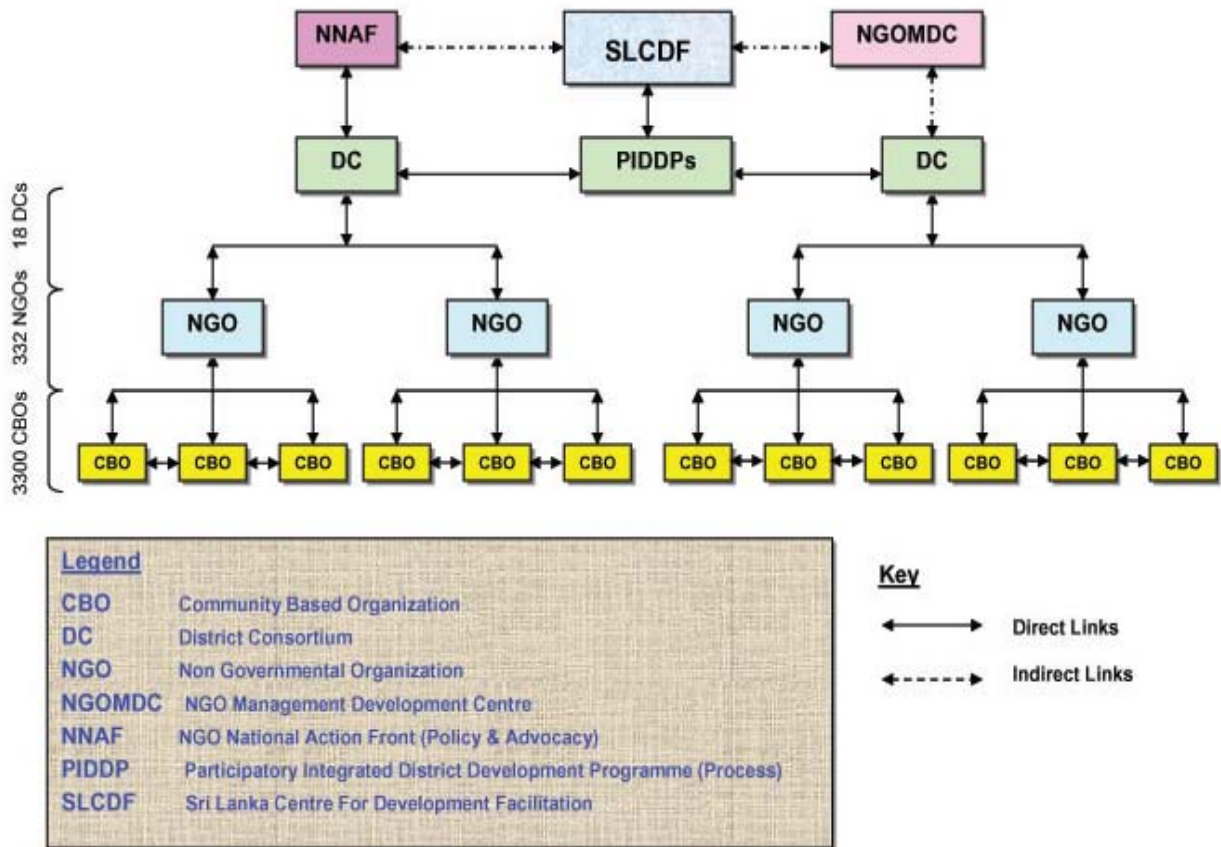
SLCDF was created in 1987 (then, *Sri Lanka Canada Development Fund*), as a bilateral pilot project, to identify mid-size projects for development assistance, for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and affiliated Canadian NGOs. To ensure the sustainability of the organization, SLCDF was registered as a non-profit NGO in 2002 (altering its name to *Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation*) to address issues of poverty and inequality in Sri Lanka, by working with local communities in a collaborative and sustainable manner.

SLCDF operates within a vibrant network comprising 18 district consortia, 332 local NGOs and over 3,300 CBOs. SLCDF encourages institutional and human capacity building in Sri Lanka, and serves as an invaluable lifeline for local NGOs, that lack the necessary financial or human resources to accomplish their unique goals. Disadvantaged communities in Sri Lanka need a voice and ownership in their self-development. By listening to these voices and working with communities to implement practical solutions, real progress can be made that does not result in donor reliance or community disempowerment.

SLCDF is committed to identifying new and innovative approaches, to meet the needs of disadvantaged communities in Sri Lanka. In addition to mobilizing and strengthening informal community-level groups, SLCDF helps develop

the capacity of our partners to undertake more effective development programming. SLCDF has been instrumental in transforming isolated projects of local NGOs into collaborative *Participatory Integrated District Development Programmes (PIDDP)* throughout the country. In addition, SLCDF assisted with the formation of a national apex body, the *NGO National Action Front (NNAF)*, which is responsible for policy and advocacy issues. NNAF serves as an intermediary between local NGOs and the Government and their Ministries on national-level policies affecting the rural poor. SLCDF also played a pivotal role in the formation of the *NGO Management Development Centre (NGO-MDC)*. This is an independent training centre that builds the capacity of local NGOs, offering an extensive range of training modules throughout the country. These training opportunities improve the leadership, programmes, and organizational capacity of partner organizations.

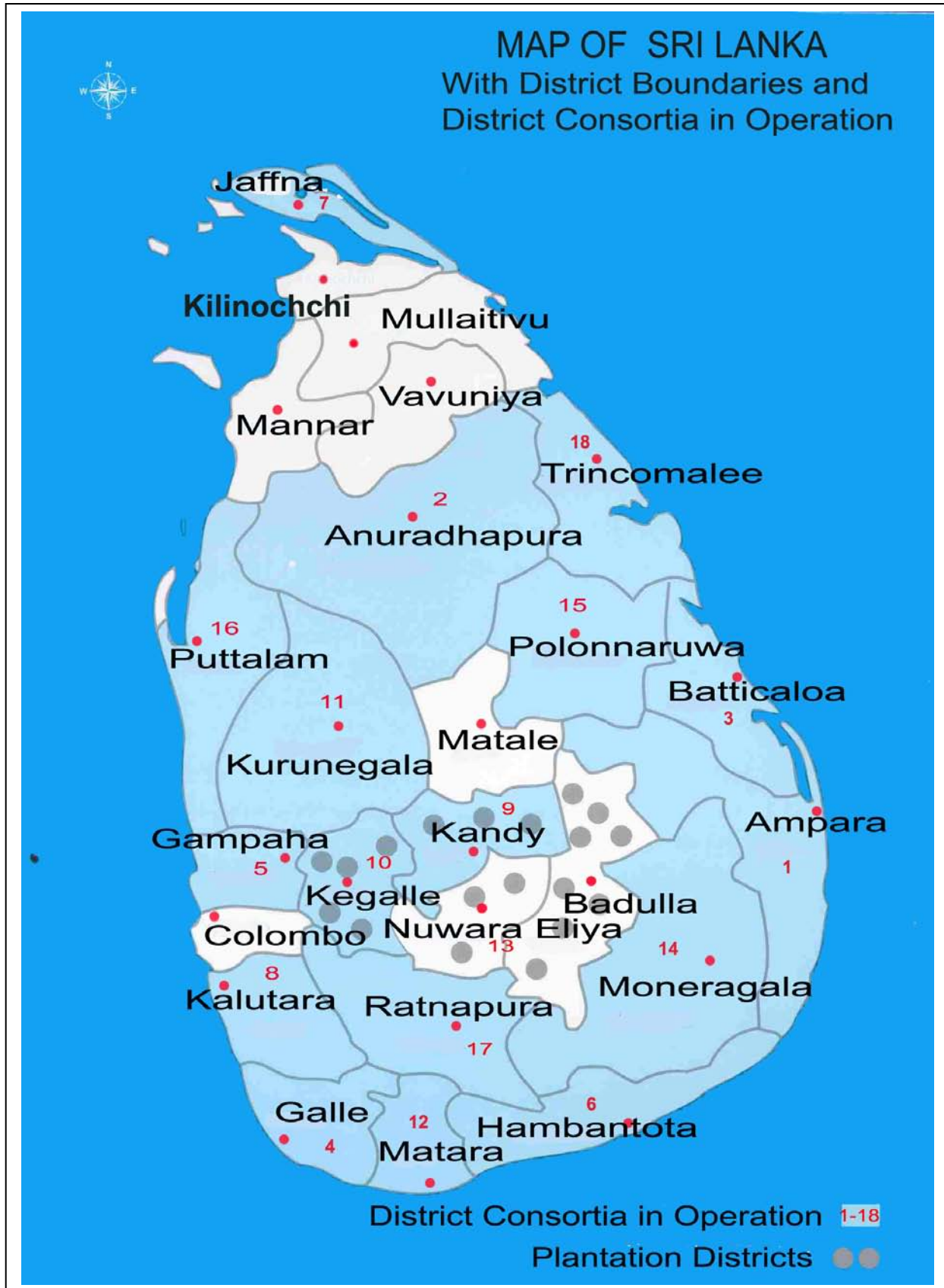
SLCDF seeks to impart individual self-reliance to disadvantaged communities in Sri Lanka. In return, we expect a high level of commitment from our beneficiaries to ensure positive and sustainable results. To achieve sustainable human development in Sri Lanka, local communities must identify their assets, explore unrealized potential, and build effective social networks that offer comprehensive solutions for breaking out from poverty's entrapment.



**SLCDF Programme Process**

Grassroots interaction across 18 districts in Sri Lanka is what sets SLCDF apart from many other organizations. We teach farmers (and others who express an interest) about conservation techniques and organic farming methods, which lead to higher yields and healthier crops. We help local communities secure, restore, and share water supplies, especially in dry zones of Sri Lanka. We encourage local residents to pursue alternative livelihood and income-generating activities in their communities. We facilitate vocational training and small-business development courses, and promote the formation of small-savings groups, which often lead to low-interest microfinance loans for members through revolving community funds. SLCDF firmly believes that collective initiatives and thriving social networks at the grassroots level can serve as a powerful catalyst for sustainable human development.

Map of Sri Lanka with Districts of Operation





Dear SLCDF contributors, colleagues and friends,

Since 2002, it has been my honour to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Governors. From its inception in 1987, SLCDF has supported institutional and human capacity building in Sri Lanka, addressing local needs through collective programming, advocacy and policy formulation. In 2009 alone, approximately 21,000 people have benefitted directly from our relentless efforts to achieve sustainable human development in Sri Lanka.

SLCDF had identified four primary areas of focus for 2010. First, SLCDF is planning to bolster food security in Sri Lanka. In 2009, we witnessed dramatic increases worldwide in the prices of basic commodities and staple foods. SLCDF is dedicated to helping poor rural communities attain food security by improving existing production methods for national crops, particularly rice. We will also implement innovative programmes that will benefit small-scale fisheries, agriculture and livestock producers, as well as promoting better water-resource management in Sri Lanka's dry zones.

Second, SLCDF is supporting a coir production cooperative of over 100 women in Peraliya in the Galle District. Coir is a natural fibre extracted from coconut husks that can be made into rugs, mats, brooms, and ropes. Coir has traditionally been a cottage industry in Sri Lanka that allows women to supplement their household incomes. SLCDF has plans to expand the existing workspace and to offer advanced training courses for cooperative members.

Third, SLCDF is financing the construction of a marketing centre in the Matara District to achieve maximum profit and visibility for district-level artisans and producers. The marketing centre will enhance the ability of producers to create better links with consumers and also will generate a forum for feedback. Once the construction of the centre is finished, the surplus space will be used for district consortium meetings, training events, workshops, and exhibitions. We are hopeful that this community model will serve as a future prototype for other districts where SLCDF operates.

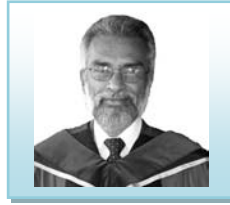
Fourth, SLCDF is funding three Disaster Preparedness and Management Centres (DPMC) in Galle, Kalutara, and Ratnapura. These centres benefit from the active involvement of governmental organizations and have contingency plans in place to adapt to a variety of disasters. Sri Lanka is a disaster-prone developing country that suffers from ocean storms, tidal waves, flooding, landslides, and recurring drought. By building resilience now in disaster-prone communities, SLCDF can reduce the future vulnerability of local residents.

What I have mentioned about our 2010 focus represents a small portion of our diverse programming; but the potential to develop these particular areas will have far-reaching implications for the future scope of SLCDF activities.

Our work is possible only with the continued backing of our supporters. This support, together with the tremendous commitment of staff, allows us to make a real difference in disadvantaged communities in Sri Lanka.

Thank you for caring and supporting our ambitious goals for the future.

Sam Wijesinha  
Chairman, Board of Governors, SLCDF



## Greetings and salutations!

The *Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation (SLCDF)* is a non-profit organization, that empowers disadvantaged communities, to voice their needs and to participate in the implementation of locally managed solutions. Based on the belief that development solutions are sustainable, only when they come from an empowered community, SLCDF encourages the development of a strong civil society in Sri Lanka through institutional and human capacity building.

From 1987, it has been my honour to serve as the executive director of SLCDF. From our inception, we wanted SLCDF to function as a vehicle for human development in Sri Lanka. Our vision was to become a dynamic resource centre for civil society organizations, empowering the most disadvantaged people in Sri Lanka, through human-centred and participatory development processes.

Our primary objective after 24 years of working directly with communities is to ensure that valuable financial contributions continue to reach their intended audience: through projects that are well planned, executed and monitored. SLCDF believes that development solutions require the full support and participation of communities; as it is the communities and individuals who hold the key to growth and empowerment.

The concept of social capital has influenced SLCDF's development vision since its inception. My interpretation of social capital is one that measures the level of trust, communication, and mutual reciprocity that emerges from established and functioning networks. Strong networks also foster cooperation and collaboration, while encouraging respect for cultural norms and ethics. SLCDF builds social capital by creating new ties and strengthening old ones. These connections increase individual well-being and opportunity, by linking people more strongly to their local community and to larger societal resources. We have found that disadvantaged communities throughout Sri Lanka benefit from the increased trust, reciprocity, information, and cooperation associated with social networks.

We invite you to learn more about the valuable work we carry out on a daily basis. Due to the strength of our staff and our commitment to sustainable principles, the community impact of our programming continues to grow exponentially..

Our work would *not* be possible without the time and resources provided to SLCDF by individuals, organizations, and donor agencies that care about global poverty and sustainable human development. It is my sincere hope that after reading our 2010/11 Annual Report, you too will be inspired to learn about ways to become involved in our development vision for Sri Lanka.

W.P.P. Abeydeera, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, SLCDF

## Tenets of SLCDF

### CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building is the backbone of the SLCDF structure. Partner organizations benefit from targeted interventions that promote institutional and human capacity building initiatives. SLCDF also facilitates horizontal and vertical learning within this grassroots network and helps strengthen the collective efforts of civil society organizations at the national level.

### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

SLCDF empowers disadvantaged communities to undertake sustainable social and economic development that emphasizes equal participation of all members of society.

### GENDER EQUALITY

Equality of opportunity for both men and women is fundamental to eradicating poverty in Sri Lanka.

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Protecting the natural environment, ensuring environmental responsibility, and conserving natural resources are integral to our development and advocacy work.

### PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

SLCDF acts on local needs through collective programming, advocacy and policy formulation. Through dialogue and collective action, it builds solidarity among NGOs, the Government, and the private sector. SLCDF also helps local NGOs integrate isolated projects into collaborative Participatory Integrated District Development Programmes (PIDDP) for greater community impact.

### RESPECT

Poverty may reduce choices for people, but not their competence and abilities. SLCDF is dedicated to addressing the issue of poverty and inequality in society, at both the programme and project level, in order to achieve sustainable human development.

### EXPERIENCE

Our current policies, strategies and practices have been developed and refined since 1987. We value the ongoing learning process and enjoy working with other organizations to share experiences and to exchange lessons learned in the development sphere.

### TRUST

SLCDF distributes donor funds to its intended beneficiaries. This creates a responsibility to ensure that SLCDF is transparent and accountable to both our donors and project beneficiaries.

## Bolstering Food Security in Sri Lanka

### *Food Security and Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka*

#### Background:

*“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to enough safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle.”*

In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) helped focus international attention on the plight of the world’s poor. With the MDG deadline fast approaching to halve extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, achieving food security and sustainable development in Sri Lanka remains a vital and pressing concern. (If needed data with statistics available in the UNDP MDG Report published in 2009)

In 2008, the world experienced a global food security crisis. Triggered initially by the growing scarcity and rising prices of wheat and rice, the ensuing crisis resulted in soaring prices for basic commodities and staples, high inflation, and even riots and civil unrest in many parts of the world. This alarming issue highlights the importance of improving agricultural production in developing countries and integrating traditional knowledge with new and innovative methods to boost food security. Improving farming practices, using technology to increase outputs from land without loss of productive land, employing sustainable methods, and introducing concepts such as conservation farming and aquaculture will all have a great impact on food security on developing countries like Sri Lanka.

A special report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on food prices and inflation in 2008 on developing Asia reveals that: quote:

For decades, food prices have been declining in real terms, allowing millions of people around the globe to escape from the trap of poverty. This long-term trend took place despite rapid income and population growth, as agricultural productivity rose steadily. However, productivity gains began to stagnate in the face of continuing growth in demand, bringing about a reversal of this long-term trend. Rising food prices contributed to an acceleration of inflation across the Asia and Pacific region during 2007, and in 2008 the further rise in food prices had reached alarming proportions. The rise in food prices is worrisome precisely because food price inflation is the most regressive of all taxes—*it hurts the poor the most.* unquote.

SLCDF believes that poverty alleviation, food security, and environmental sustainability go hand in hand. Effectively, addressing these interlinked challenges, require working actively with the main actors, from farmers to researchers to government officials.

**What is food security?** To be food secure means that:

- **Food is available:** The amount and quality of food available globally, nationally and locally can be affected temporarily or for long periods by many factors including climate, disasters, war, civil unrest, population size and growth, agricultural practices, environment, social status and trade.
- **Food is affordable:** When there is a shortage of food, prices increase and while richer people most likely still be able to feed themselves, poorer people may have difficulty obtaining sufficient safe and nutritious food without assistance.
- **Food is utilized:** At the household level, sufficient and varied food needs to be prepared safely so that people can grow and develop normally, meet their energy needs and avoid diseases.

## Food Security in the Context of Sri Lanka

The food crisis is real and affects mostly the rural people across Sri Lanka, where poor families spend more than sixty percent of their household income on food items. In the Sri Lankan context, the factors behind rising food prices include higher input costs, higher transportation costs (due to increasing fuel prices), civil conflict, and above all, agro-climatic conditions. Floods and droughts lead to substantial increases in prices of food commodities. Furthermore, there is an evolving trend for producers to concentrate their efforts on raising crops for animal consumption, leaving a shortage for the domestic population. Sadly, it is usually poor rural people who are most affected by these factors. As consumers, they respond by reducing the quantity they eat, which may result in further malnutrition and low resistance to health hazards in disadvantaged communities. As producers, they respond either by withdrawing from the market or reverting to production purely for home consumption purposes.

United Nations (UN) food experts warned in April 2008 that a poor rice harvest, rising global food prices and the escalating conflict would increase food insecurity for hundreds of thousands of citizens of Sri Lanka. According to an IRIN report, only half the country's 20 million people are receiving the minimum daily calorie intake of 2,030, according to the latest poverty assessments compiled by the government. The Department of Census and Statistics in Sri Lanka estimates that: "An average poor person in Sri Lanka receives only 1,696 kcal per day while a non-poor person receives 2,194 kcal.". UNICEF reports that 14 percent of children under five in Sri Lanka showed signs of wasting (acute underweight) and stunting (chronic underweight) while 29 percent of children younger than five were underweight for their age. In districts affected by the civil conflict, rates are even higher.

Improving food security is both a humanitarian and development priority. A successful attack on reducing extreme poverty and chronic hunger requires increased availability, access to, and utilization of food. Economic growth through agriculture is a central and proven tool for many developing countries. In addition to improving agricultural production and practices, more resources should be channelled to renovating minor irrigation systems, introducing and encouraging aquaculture, fishing (both coastal and in-land), home gardening, conservation and dairy farming. These measures will go a long way to help Sri Lanka achieve food security in the future.

Simple measures can be adopted to improve cultivation practices, such as better use of compost fertilizer and better access by farmers and producers to appropriate technology. Both approaches can significantly bridge the gap between potential and actual yields for small-scale producers. Ensuring future food security in Sri Lanka requires an unwavering investment in agriculture, including better access to land, water, technology, and markets. These measures will enable smallholder farmers to grow more food with increased productivity- translating to increased income and resilience for producers.

In particular, investments are needed to ensure efficient, effective and reliable irrigation water supplies. Investments in irrigation systems will improve efficiency and reliability of irrigation water supplies, which will in turn raise crop production, expand irrigated areas, and reduce the incidence of crop failures. Priority should be to improve the efficiency and reliability of existing irrigation systems rather than to develop new systems.

Further improvements are also needed to ensure that farmers have reliable and affordable access to seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and credit. Moreover, the rapid hikes in the prices of key inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, and fuel have created additional hurdles for farmers. Encouraging organic and conservation farming can also lead to lower input costs for rural farmers, while promoting sustainable development in the process.

Sri Lanka remains a net importer of food grains to compensate for its deficit rice production. Wheat imports have been increasing to compensate for the decrease of secondary food crop production and to meet the country's food needs.

In recent years, the Sri Lankan people have endured some difficult times that have affected the livelihoods for thousands of families, such as the Tsunami in 2004 and the long armed conflict between the Tamil Tigers and the Government Forces in the North and East of the country. The country also remains vulnerable to multiple natural disasters (floods, droughts, cyclones and landslides), causing substantial threats to the majority of the population that depend on rain-fed agriculture as their main source of income.

## Coir Processing Co-operative in Peraliya, Galle District

The versatile coconut is at the cornerstone of Sri Lankan culture. Coconuts provide the main ingredient for the country's famous cuisine and several national beverages. Less renowned but just as important is the coconut's fibrous husk, known as coir. When coir is extracted, it can be spun into one of the world's strongest natural threads and woven into items like ropes, mats, rugs, baskets and brooms.

In Sri Lanka, coir-related exports account for 6% of agricultural exports, over 1% of general exports and 0.35% of GDP. Furthermore, coir milling and the production of value-added items provide work to thousands of women in Sri Lanka, many who carry out these activities on a part-time basis to supplement family income.

Before the 2004 Tsunami, private traders had a virtual monopoly on coir production in Peraliya. The Tsunami destroyed all local machines used for coir processing, prompting a group of 100 women to form a cooperative and collectively purchase 58 perches of land for Rs. 1 Million. SLCDF recognized that financing the construction of the building and purchasing new machinery would have far greater community impact on the cooperative members. Construction of the centre was completed in September 2007; currently plans are ahead to provide advanced training courses to members, and to expand the existing workspace for value added products and conduct training.

SLCDF supports a coir production cooperative of over 100 women in Peraliya, located in the Galle District of Sri Lanka. The primary goal of the cooperative is to improve quality and to diversify coir products in this cottage industry. The cooperative will benefit local women in many ways:

- ◆ To raise the living standards and economic conditions of the women and their families;
- ◆ To improve their existing skills and provide further training on advanced coir methods and techniques to further increase employment and earnings;
- ◆ To provide greater interaction among members, encouraging better relationships within the local community and stronger networks for women; and
- ◆ To serve as a forum for members to cooperate on business ventures, to exchange ideas, and to resolve outstanding problems.

The coir co-operative is managed by the women themselves. The focus for 2010 was to highlight the eco-friendliness of the coir fibre, by creating contemporary products of a high standard and marketing them for both domestic and international markets.



Community volunteering to set up Coir Processing Centre



Coir processing Centre and the Machinery



Women processing coir in the centre, Galle



Community Voluntary Participation in Rehabilitation of Minor Irrigation Tank, Puttalam

### *SLCDF on Gender Equality*

By working at the community level with local leadership, SLCDF is able to integrate solutions for women that are culturally sensitive and of benefit to the whole community.

SLCDF works with over 3,300 CBOs that provide opportunities for women through membership in small savings-groups that promote income-generating activities. Most CBOs in the district consortia networks are comprised of women: 80% at village level and at least 60% at the decision-making level.

Women are empowered to start their own income-generating activities, as well as learning to manage their finances and spearhead profit-making ventures (the Coir Cooperative in Peraliya is one such example). Women are mobilized and encouraged to join savings and credit groups at the grassroots level to discuss socio-economic issues and to provide small loans through revolving community funds, thus reducing the prevalence of local moneylenders.



Community Based Coastal Resources Management Consultation with NGO /GO Collaboration, Kalutara



Flood affected receiving dry ration parcels, Matara

## Construction of Marketing Centre, Matara District

SLCDF wants to integrate rural producers with local markets, which is an essential step in the upward spiral from poverty. What better way to generate awareness of local products than to finance a marketing centre that will reduce the prevalence of the middleman, while promoting and advertising the availability of locally-produced items to a larger consumer base?

The continued success of SLCDF livelihood interventions hinges on successful marketing for small-scale producers. Effective marketing of goods is a serious problem for producers in small cottage industries. Too often producers rely on the services of middlemen, drastically reducing their potential profit. Access and exposure to a larger consumer base can be achieved through greater marketing opportunities.

### *Background of the Matara Marketing Centre*

Matara was one of the worst affected Tsunami districts in Sri Lanka. The Matara District Consortium (DC) realized that restoring livelihoods alone would not dramatically improve the socio-economic conditions for local producers. Acknowledging this crucial fact, the DC requested that SLCDF fund a marketing centre to help producers obtain better prices for their products and to minimize the prevalence of local middleman.

The DC and its affiliated 18 NGOs decided to set up a marketing centre in a prime location on Galle Road, the main thoroughway from the southern province to Colombo. The Matara DC invested Rs. 1.45 million to purchase the land for the marketing centre. The total budget of the 3-storey building was Rs.11.5 million. Construction began in April 2008 and was completed in May 2009.

In addition to the ground-level marketing centre, the building will serve multiple purposes. The office premises for the Matara DC will be located on the second floor, with the third floor providing space for training sessions, workshops, exhibitions, and meetings. Over the years, the Matara DC has aptly demonstrated its effectiveness in implementing community projects in an accountable and transparent manner.



Marketing Centre in operation, Matara

The Matara Marketing Centre will serve as a powerful tool to help the rural poor secure better returns on products fabricated in the district. Consultations with government representatives have been carried out on issues ranging from product design, quality control, and health/safety standards for food, and agricultural products. The Matara DC has set up various committees to effectively manage the centre. The marketing centre will benefit local producers in the following ways:

- ◆ Publicize and promote the widest range of products to the largest-possible customer base;
- ◆ Facilitate the unhindered flow of financial benefits (generated from sales of products) to producers;
- ◆ Provide a café and rest-stop within the centre for travelers and commuters passing along the busy southern highway linking Matara to Colombo, thus encouraging people to stop to see what locally-produced items are available for purchase; and
- ◆ Reveal customer preferences by assisting producers in understanding the potential demand for their products.

SLCDF is optimistic that this community-marketing model will serve as a future prototype for other districts in Sri Lanka.

## Disaster Preparedness and Management Centres

The intense media coverage of the devastating Tsunami on 26 December 2004 focused worldwide attention on the plight of victims in Sri Lanka and in other Tsunami-affected countries. Neither are all disasters of such an unprecedented scale, nor do they receive media attention that captivates the global audience. In Sri Lanka, people's lives and their property are constantly put at risk by natural and man-made disasters, but these events rarely warrant relief aid and support.

Sri Lanka is a disaster-prone developing country. Recurring and ongoing disasters often affect more people than a tragedy like the 2004 Tsunami. Successful disaster management efforts should be broad and flexible enough to address the root causes of people's vulnerability to civil conflict, droughts, landslides, floods and epidemics.

SLCDF, with the generous support from various partner organizations, initiated a pilot project to set up Disaster Preparedness and Management Centres ( DPMC) in three disaster-prone sites in Sri Lanka. The sites selected are in Galle, Kalutara and Ratnapura districts and all are fully operational. The initiative to set up these centres was undertaken with the active participation of Government agencies, including the Divisional Secretary and the Social Services Unit of the Divisional Secretariat.

The goal of SLCDF in funding the DPMC is to increase political will, coordination and resources at the local level in responding to disasters that impact vulnerable populations in Sri Lanka. Local communities should be at the center of any disaster management plan. By injecting more resources and effort into strengthening community capacity and reducing vulnerability to disasters, SLCDF can help reduce the impact of natural hazards and ensure a more effective disaster response. Our Centres benefit from the active involvement of Governmental organizations and have contingency plans in place to adapt to a variety of disasters. By taking steps now to build the resilience of local communities, SLCDF can reduce the future vulnerability of these communities.

Training programmes for information and awareness on essential disaster preparedness and management principles have been conducted for the volunteers staffing the Centres during disasters and within local communities in the three districts.

A disaster fund has been set up in each of the three District Consortia that will be used to cover expenses incurred by the Centres. All member NGOs of the District Consortium will contribute 1% of the interest earned through their individual revolving loan funds to finance this disaster fund.



Fibreglass craft with side stands parked at DPMC, Galle

The following DPMC equipment will help save lives by locating and retrieving disaster victims and providing sustenance to them in the aftermath of potential disasters:

- 18 foot boat with 15 horsepower engine
- Non-mechanized 15 ft. fibreglass craft with side stands
- 20 life jackets
- First aid kits
- Megaphones with attached sirens
- High powered rechargeable electric torches (flashlights)
- Cooking equipment, gas cooker with cylinders, and utensils (spoons, knives, plates, mugs) – catering to the needs of 100 people
- Nylon ropes
- Water pumps
- Power generators

## 2008 Floods in Galle District – A Real Life Story

The year 2008 witnessed the most severe floods since 1958 in Sri Lanka. The Southern and Sabaragamuwa Provinces were most affected by the flooding. Preparing for the worst scenario, SLCDF distributed dry rations to feed 1700 families for a period of one week in five districts (Galle, Gampaha, Kalutara, Matara and Ratnapura). Kitchen utensils were also provided to replace lost items for 1700 families. SLCDF ensured that facilities were equipped with all necessary items to save lives during the floods as well as taking care of disaster victims in the aftermath (food, kitchen utensils and first aid). Training on disaster awareness was conducted for local communities and volunteers staffing the Centres.

The Galle Centre is located in Eppala, Panangala, catering to the hamlets of Galaddara, Ketagoda. The Centre was operational at the beginning of October 2008 with the financial assistance from Oxfam Hong Kong. On the 18th of October, there was incessant and heavy rainfall for more than 24 hours. The local police station advised the District Consortium to expect more rain and severe flooding in the area. The Operational Committee of the Centre met immediately and using contingency plans already in place, started informing local citizens of the impending danger.

Generally when flooding occurs in Sri Lanka, citizens rely on local boat owners to help find people trapped by flooding. In October 2008, the boat provided through SLCDF proved its worth. One local resident claims the boat was a godsend, saying: *"It was as if some benevolent deities above helped us out of our predicament."* Volunteers from the Centre saved lives and property using the boat, and worked late into the night, to deliver cooked food parcels to residents seeking shelter at the local school and temple. Work continued over night and into the morning. Around 4:30 a.m., volunteers heard shouting and pleas for help: *"Someone - please save us. Isn't there anyone to save us? Our house is about to crumble. We are on top of a cracking roof."* The voices belonged to Mr. Sarath Kumara, his wife, Ms. Renuka Damayanthi, and their two sons, aged 5 and 7. The boat approached the house just as the water was about to flow over the roof. Renuka lost consciousness. The volunteers helped the family onto the boat and into life jackets. First-aid was administered and Renuka regained consciousness just as the roof of their home got detached and floated away in the gushing water. Recognizing the danger, and possibly death her family almost faced, Renuka started shouting: *"May our saviours attain Buddhahood"* (*"Budubava atvenna"* in Sinhala). The family was safely transported to the DPMC where they remained until the floodwaters subsided.

In the past, villagers depended on informal volunteer groups for rescue and the village temple for shelter when disasters struck. The new Centre in the Galle district demonstrated its worth during the October 2008 floods. Local communities have come to rely on the new Centre and praise it for its admirable work accomplished since. The centres have also brought about stronger links between local Government authorities, NGOs and community leaders. The work of local NGOs staffing the Centres and risking their lives to save residents have also raised their stature in the local communities.

For disaster management to be effective at all levels, it requires powerful, innovative, and committed people: people who listen to those most vulnerable to disasters and ensure their voices are heard.

For example, instructing people to store important documents in a portable bag can help prevent floods and other hazards from destroying a family's long-term financial security.

The graph below highlights five of the 10 major disasters in Sri Lanka's recent history, ranked by number of people affected. This clearly shows that, while some disasters might not take as many lives as the Tsunami, they can have widespread disastrous effects.

DISASTER TYPE	DATE(S)	NO. PEOPLE KILLED	NO. PEOPLE AFFECTED
Drought	1982, 1983, 1987, 1989, and 2001	Not available	7,806,000
Conflict	Since 1983	65,000	4,000,000
Tsunami	Dec. 26, 2004	35,399	1,019,306
Windstorm	Nov. 24, 1978	740	1,005,000
Flood/Landslide	May 17, 2003	235	695,000

Source: OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, [www.emdat.be](http://www.emdat.be) (2008)

## Environmental Management

The exploitation and destruction of natural resources pose an enormous threat to developing countries like Sri Lanka, where disadvantaged communities rely on their natural surroundings for daily survival. SLCDF partners with over 3,300 community-based organizations that work at the grassroots level to integrate environmental management solutions.

SLCDF encourages local communities to build sustainable relationships with their natural environment, and to recognise the limitations of their surroundings. SLCDF supports a diverse set of programming initiatives that encourage sustainable environmental development.

### *SLCDF's environmental initiatives include:*

- ◆ Advocating environment-friendly projects that incorporate sustainable agriculture and rural development principles;
- ◆ Promoting dairy farming and conservation farming as income generating activities (encouraging women's involvement and participation);
- ◆ Supporting dry-zone revitalisation efforts, including agro-forestry, rain-water harvesting, restoring small irrigation tanks and channels, check dams and pitcher irrigation;
- ◆ Advancing community-based natural resource management, with an emphasis on coastal resources following the 2004 Tsunami;
- ◆ Promoting small-scale fisheries development (both inland and marine);
- ◆ Sponsoring an island-wide jak planting campaign designed to alleviate food scarcity and to promote the health benefits of jak; and
- ◆ Providing water and sanitation facilities to the most needy beneficiaries

Charlotte's story demonstrates how rainwater is harnessed from pipes installed on the rooftop and funnelled into a cement tank outside her house. Tanks like this provide water for household consumption, domestic chores and home gardens, thereby reducing the drudgery for women and children of carrying water to their homes from other sources distantly located.

### *A Water Break*

Charlotte is 48 years old and lives with her husband and 5 of their 9 children on the family's homestead in Kudawella in Hambantota district. Kudawella falls within Sri Lanka's dry zone where drought is a recurrent problem for local residents. SLCDF encourages its network of NGOs and CBOs to introduce integrated water resource management solutions.

Charlotte used to spend over 4 hours a day hauling heavy loads of water up the steep winding path to her homestead. A local women's NGO selected Charlotte as a recipient for a rainwater-harvesting tank in 2008. The selection process targeted the community's most disadvantaged members who faced a daily struggle accessing potable water for daily consumption.

SLCDF provided the funds for constructing the rainwater-harvesting tank, and the family contributed their labour to demonstrate their commitment to the project. Another local NGO arranged that a mason, previously trained by SLCDF in tank construction, was on hand to provide the required technical input. The community rallied to support Charlotte and her family, helping to carry heavy bags of cement, sand, etc., necessary to complete the task. It took the family four days to finish the rainwater-harvesting tank with the help of the mason, neighbours and friends.

Charlotte's water tank demonstrates two important elements valued by SLCDF: the collective support of initiatives benefiting the *most needy* of the local community, as well as the *linkages* brought about by NGOs within their respective district consortia. In this case, one NGO identified Charlotte as a suitable beneficiary, while another NGO linked her with a trained mason to help the family construct the tank. In all its endeavours, SLCDF supports people-centred development that builds social capital for local communities.

Charlotte and her family have been using their rainwater-harvesting tank since February 2008. The 7,500-litre tank is the family's first independent source of potable water. The success of the tank has also inspired nearby neighbours to construct their own tanks, with over 15 new additions to the neighbourhood in the following year.

With a surplus of water for the first time in her life, Charlotte embarked on a small home garden using compost she makes from kitchen waste. The garden now provides ample fruit and vegetables for the family's consumption. Instruction and guidance on environmentally focused home gardening was also an SLCDF initiative in Charlotte's local community. Now that Charlotte has more time on her hands, she plans to expand the garden and pursue other income-generating activities like chicken rearing. The rainwater-harvesting tank has improved Charlotte's quality of life, as well as saving her countless hours previously spent hauling water to meet the family's water needs.

## Microfinance & Revolving Community Loan Funds

In Sri Lanka, the most common issue affecting disadvantaged communities is the lack of economic opportunity. SLCDF works with local communities to help marginalized individuals (acquire the tools they need) or gain needed skills to find employment and to build successful businesses.

SLCDF partners with over 3,300 community-based organizations (CBOs) and 332 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in 18 districts of Sri Lanka, to offer services such as vocational training, microfinance through revolving loan funds, and greater access to markets.

Common training modules include locally applicable vocational skills training, business plan development, book-keeping, business management, and tools for marketing. Training is offered in workshops, individual counseling, and peer networking.

Microfinance is an integral element of micro-enterprise development. Since traditional lending usually does not reach disadvantaged communities, microfinance offers a collective solution that lends small increments of capital to local entrepreneurs. Along with credit lending, SLCDF trains entrepreneurs to effectively integrate credit management and savings principles into their business growth.

To help micro-entrepreneurs increase sales and profitability, SLCDF acts as a catalyst to expand access to local markets by promoting effective marketing. By addressing prominent needs such as training, microfinance and access to markets, SLCDF and its partners provide economic opportunities at the community level throughout Sri Lanka.

## Revolving Loan Fund

The revolving loan fund (RLF) is a credit and savings facility designed to provide micro-level capital to disadvantaged citizens in the districts where SLCDF operates. SLCDF provides "grants" to local NGOs who form part of their respective District Consortium. The NGOs in turn administer "loans" to their members for productive income-generating activities. Upon repayment of the loans by participants, the funds are recycled further by the NGO to other members of the community for livelihood and income-generating activities.

In addition to establishing a credit and savings facility accessible to marginalized people, the RLF serves as an important tool in the poverty reduction development process. The RLF provides local NGOs with a sustainable capital base: this arrangement enhances the savings, borrowing capacity, management skills, marketing, and institutional

linkages necessary for developing both the capacity of individuals and local NGOs.

The NGO and District Consortium have responsibility for the fund, and in turn is responsible to SLCDF for proper management and reporting on a semi-annual basis, which includes providing a list of borrowers with amounts paid and interest earned from the loans.

These funds have been operational for over the past 15 years and have made a great impact on marginalized people throughout Sri Lanka. Most disadvantaged people who can access these funds would not satisfy the criteria of traditional lenders. In addition to receiving the loans, beneficiaries also receive training and guidance on basic business practices and principles.

### Income-Generating Activities

Financial assistance is provided to disadvantaged people through a community revolving loan fund mechanism. In partnership with the 18 District Consortia, SLCDF promotes over 25 varied income-generating activities for consideration by individuals and groups. Collective activities are encouraged wherever possible, such as brick or cement block production, coir processing, mushroom cultivation, agriculture, dairy farming, etc. The goal for collective activities is that the loan amount will be invested in required machinery or capital (that exceeds the individual amount provided by the RLF) and that by working together, the group will yield better individual rewards. SLCDF does not contribute the full amount required to embark on the desired venture. Individuals must contribute at least 10-15% to demonstrate their commitment to the project.



Conservation Farming trainee in her home garden, Ampara



Participants in net mending at work, Batticaloa

### *An Entrepreneurial Spirit*

Mrs. N.D. Nandawathie is married with five children. Her family lives in Eppala, a village in the Galle district of Sri Lanka. The family lives in a temporary cottage on crown land (owned by the Government). Nandawathie hopes that one day the Government will grant her family legal permit to the land.

Nandawathie knows hardship. Before the 2004 Tsunami, both Nandawathie and her husband worked as day labourers in agriculture. Her husband's deteriorating health resulted in Nandawathie becoming the family's sole breadwinner. Their main source of income was a Samurdhi grant provided through the State Poverty Alleviation programme, amounting to Rs. 1,000 per month. This grant is available for people in Sri Lanka living beneath the poverty line.

In the early morning of 26 December 2004, Nandawathie started a religious pilgrimage. The waves of the Tsunami slammed into the vehicle carrying the pilgrims, and many of her companions lost their lives. Nandawathie survived, but was in mental anguish for a long period after that terrifying day.

In the aftermath of the Tsunami, she participated in an awareness programme conducted by a local NGO. The programme highlighted several income generating activities for consideration. The idea to start her own business had entered her mind in the past, as she had a culinary flair; but the family simply did not have the capital required to start the venture.

Nandawathie joined a small savings and credit group sponsored by the NGO and she received a loan of Rs. 10,000 in August 2007. She used the money to purchase the required necessities, such as cooking equipment, utensils, and raw materials. These supplies allowed Nandawathie to begin making breakfast items such as hoppers, string hoppers, rolls and sweetmeats. After establishing a name for herself with the local community, Nandawathie began expanding her operation, catering for functions, meetings and religious events.

The entire family supported her endeavours and helped with the preparation and delivery of her edible delights. Before long, Nandawathie had created a thriving business with high turnover and laudable profit. Within ten months, Nandawathie had repaid her loan to the local NGO. From the beginning, Nandawathie set aside Rs. 6,000 from her monthly profits for family expenses. With her collection she was able to obtain electricity supply for her home, which helped enormously with her project of preparing delectable food items. Nandawathie also has begun to build a new home with an exterior kitchen. The excavation of the foundation is underway, and the family has already procured the necessary building materials for the construction.

Nandawathie's story demonstrates how limited financial assistance can have a tremendous impact on a family frustrated and plagued by poverty. As her business continues to grow and prosper, Nandawathie is confident that the future will be kinder to her family. She is determined to keep expanding her business to improve her family's standard of living and quality of life. The loan from SLCDF helped transform Nandawathie's life and her prospects for the future.



Rain Water Harvesting Project, Hambantota and Moneragala

## SLCDF Board of Governors



**Mr. Sam Wijesinha** is the **Chairman** of the SLCDF Board of Governors. He is an Attorney at Law with over 62 years of experience. In his prestigious career, he has served as the Assistant to the Attorney General of Sri Lanka (Crown Counsel), Secretary General of Parliament, Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman), Secretary of the Child Protection Society, Chairman of the Human Rights Task Force, and Chairman of the Prisoners' Welfare Association. He currently serves as the Chancellor of the Open University of Sri Lanka. Mr. Wijesinha is 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). 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.



**Dr. T. Kamala Peiris** is the **Secretary** of the SLCDF Board of Governors. She is a development consultant with over 40 years of experience. Her specialization is on education and community development, with a particular emphasis on women and children. A sampling of her esteemed positions include: Founder and President of the Siyath Foundation, Board Member for the Centre of Women's Research (CENWOR), President of the National Committee on Primary Education Reforms, and an impressive number of consultancy assignments with international development organizations. She has also published two books that focus on grassroots development and primary education reforms. She was honoured with the Presidential Award in 2004 and received an Honorary Doctorate from the Open University of Sri Lanka in 2007. She has contributed to sustainable development in Sri Lanka through her dedicated work with varied committees, commissions, presidential task forces, institutes and development organizations. Dr. Peiris completed her B.A. in London, her M.S. in Education at Cornell University in the USA, and a further M.A. in Public Administration in India.



**Mr. T. Vairavanathan** is the **Treasurer** of the SLCDF Board of Governors. He is a banker with over 35 of experience, both nationally and internationally. His many commendable positions include: Director of the Bank of Ceylon, Senior Audit Officer for the Hong Kong Bank Group, Internal Auditor for the British Bank of the Middle East, Corporate Accounts Manager & Country Operations Manager for Grindlays Bank Ltd. He has also worked as a consultant for the Banking Commission. Mr. Vairavanathan was admitted and enrolled as an advocate of the Supreme Court of Ceylon. He studied at the Royal College in Colombo, completed his higher education at the University of Sri Lanka, and earned his LL.B. from the University of Ceylon.



**Mr. A.P. Dainis** is a SLCDF board member with over 35 years of experience as a teacher, a member of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service (Class I) and a development consultant. He currently specializes in social mobilization, community development, and local governance. He has served in the following respected positions: Chairman of the NGO Management Development Centre (NGOMDC), Director of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance (SLILG), Director of the Local Government Management Unit (LGMU) of the Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government, Director of the Rural Development Training and Research Institute (RDTRI), and National Coordinator of the Non Farm Employment Promotion Project. Additionally, he has carried out varied consultancy assignments with development organizations such as the ADB, World Bank, USAID, GTZ, ESCAP, UNDP, NORAD, CIDA, SIDA, IUCN, and CARE. Mr. Dainis completed his B.A. at the University of Ceylon and his M.A. in Rural Social Development in the UK.



**Professor Ramanie Jayatilake** is a SLCDF board member with over 35 years of experience as a tutor, lecturer, senior lecturer, and associate professor of Sociology at the University of Colombo. Her expertise is in rural sociology and gender. She is a Council Member of the National Institute of Social Development (NISD) and a Board Member of Centre of Women's Research (CENWOR). In her notable career, she has coordinated different academic programmes and served as the Head of the Sociology Department at the University of Colombo. Professor Jayatilake is also a founding and/or life member of the following prestigious associations: International Federation for Women in Agriculture (IFWA), Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS), Sri Lanka Sociological Association, and the Sri Lanka Federation for University Women. She is also a member of the International Sociological Association. Professor Jayatilake completed her B.A. and B.Phil in Sociology from the University of Colombo, her M.Phil in England, and her Ph.D. in India.



**Professor Sarath Kotagama** is a SLCDF board member with over 35 years of experience as a professor of Environmental Science in the department of Zoology. Professor Kotagama has worked as a professor at both the University of Colombo and the Open University of Sri Lanka. He was the first professional ornithologist in Sri Lanka; and his 1982 thesis constituted the first ecological study of Sri Lankan birds. Past notable positions include: President of the Field Ornithology Group of Society, Vice President of the Eco-Tourism Society of Sri Lanka, Vice President of the Bird Life Asia Council, Vice-Chairman of Bird Life Asia Council and Director of the Department of Wildlife Conservation. His research contributions include over 60 publications, 100 presentations, 15 books and numerous field guides. Professor Kotagama has also served on ministerial and presidential task forces focusing on wildlife in Sri Lanka. In addition to his work as an ornithologist, Professor Kotagama is an ardent conservationist, environmental educationist, and wildlife enthusiast. He was awarded the first national Environmental Award from the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science in 1994. He was also the recipient of the Distinguished Achievements Award in 2003 for Conservation Education, awarded by the Society for the Conservation of Biology. Other notable awards include: the President's Environment Award for Excellent Service (2004), the "Sabaragamuwa Sarasavi Keerthi Sri" award for services rendered to the Natural Science Education (2005), and "Desha Manya Parisara Vedi Samaja Daja Deshamanya," a national award from the Government of Sri Lanka (2007). Additionally, he has served as a board member for the Central Environmental Authority and is a founding member of the following groups: March for Conservation, Young Zoologist Association, the Sri Lanka Environmental Federation, Mihikatha Foundation and Institute, and Eco-Tourism Society of Sri Lanka. He is also a member of the National Academy of Science (Sri Lanka) and serves as a scientific expert for the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Netherlands (Hague). He also serves as a technical advisor and co-chairman of the Nature Parks and Bird Paradises (MLGPC). Professor Kotagama earned his B.S. degree in Marine Ecology and his Ph.D. in Ornithology.



**Professor Sudatta Ranasinghe** is a SLCDF board member with over 35 years of experience in public administration, policy analysis, general management and human resource management. He currently serves as a Professor of Management Studies at the Open University of Sri Lanka. Previous notable positions include: Dean of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences at the Open University of Sri Lanka, Member of the Presidential Task Force on National Productivity Improvement, Member of the Board of Governors of the Marga Institute, and Chairman (non-executive) of Survey Research Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. He also designed and implemented a Management Development Programme for the Ministry of Policy Planning and Implementation. Professor Ranasinghe has also worked as a management consultant for NGOs and government ministries on matters relating to institutional development, capacity building, and human resource development (including project formulation, management and evaluation). He has served as a board member for the Road Development Authority and an executive committee member of the PIM Alumni Association. He is also an Honorary Member of the Institute of Personnel Management and a past president (Section F) of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLASS). Professor Ranasinghe earned his bachelor degree in Public Administration from the Vidyodaya University of Ceylon and later obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in Public Administration and General Management from the Postgraduate Institute of Management at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in Sri Lanka.

## SLCDF Executive Director & Deputy Director



**W.P.P. Abeydeera, Ph.D.** has served as the **Executive Director of SLCDF** since 1987. He is a development activist with over 35 years experience promoting people-centred and sustainable human development. Mr. Abeydeera is a life member of the Social Scientists' Association of Sri Lanka. Prior to his current position with SLCDF, Mr. Abeydeera served as the Acting Executive Director of South Asia Partnership (SAP Sri Lanka). He conducted research at the Marga Institute and worked as a statistical investigator for Ceylon Fisheries Corporation. Mr. Abeydeera earned his bachelor's degree and a special degree in Development Studies at the University of Colombo, completed his M.Sc. in Rural and Regional Planning from the Asian Institute of Technology, and his Ph.D. from the University of Guelph in Canada.



**Mr. T.L. Wijetunga** has served as the **Deputy-Director of SLCDF** since 1992. Mr. Wijetunga has over 18 years of experience with local NGOs implementing participatory and social mobilization processes through careful identification of community needs. He serves as the primary project liaison at SLCDF. Prior to working with SLCDF, Mr. Wijetunga served as the Director Development National Youth Service Council. Mr. Wijetunga is also a member of the NGO Management Development Centre (NGOMDC) and the Treasurer of the Neurosurgical Development Foundation. Mr. Wijetunga completed his B.A. at the University of Ceylon, a Diploma in Youth Work from the Commonwealth Youth Programme in India, and an advanced Diploma in Social Work from the Coady Institute in Canada.



Participatory project review meeting in village with donor representation



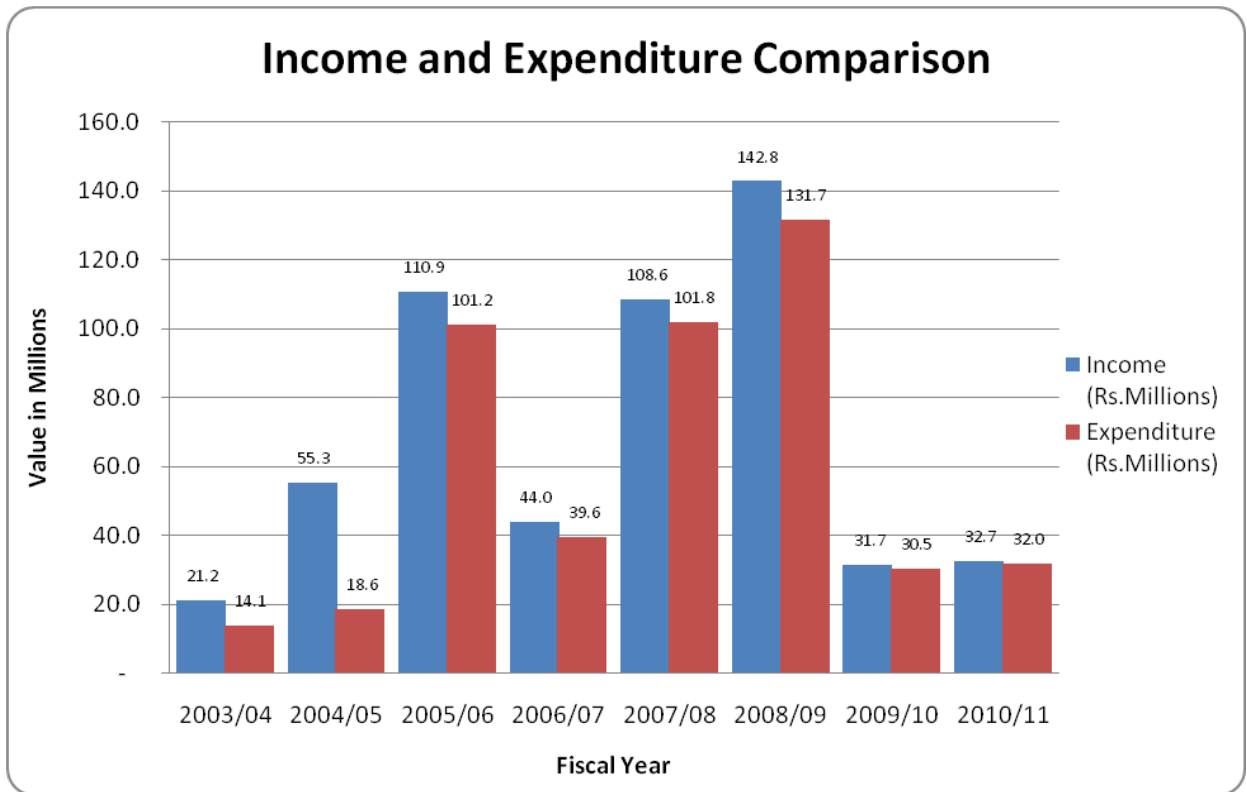
Project Participants in Monitoring - Ampara

## Financial Information

### Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2011

	2011	2010
Incoming Resources	32,592,218.09	31,588,120.60
Other Project Related Revenue	85,000.00	80,278.55
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>32,677,218.09</b>	<b>31,668,399.15</b>
Personnel Cost	8,317,967.98	7,997,407.33
Projects Related Expenditure	23,712,592.33	22,542,126.36
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>32,030,560.31</b>	<b>30,539,533.69</b>
Net Surplus/Deficit on Projects	646,657.78	1,128,865.46
Revenue Earned	18,762,437.56	30,088,341.56
	<b>19,409,095.34</b>	<b>31,217,207.02</b>
Administrative Expenses	6,178,958.01	3,965,176.79
Other Expenses	150,214.33	155,277.14
	<b>6,329,172.34</b>	<b>4,120,453.93</b>
Excess of Income Over Expenditures Before Taxation	13,079,923.00	27,096,753.09
Taxation	1,115,937.71	1,141,078.72
<b>Excess of Income Over Expenditures After Taxation</b>	<b>11,963,985.29</b>	<b>25,955,674.37</b>

(All amounts in Sri Lankan Rupees)



Rattan production as a Cottage Industry,  
Kalutara

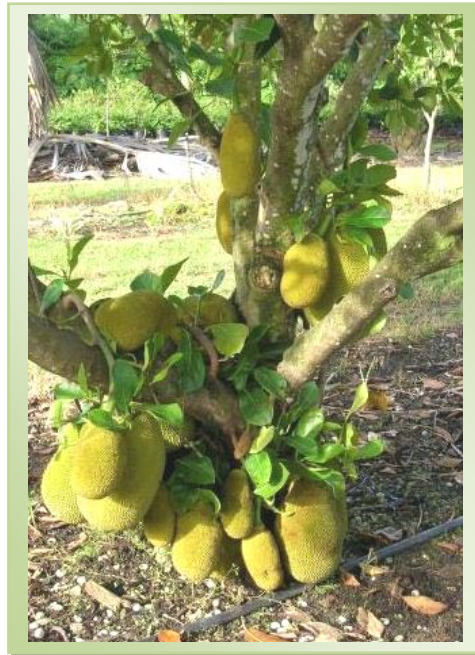


Dehydrated Jak Fruit Products  
Jak Resources Centre, Kegalle

## Financing our Development Vision for Sri Lanka

- ◆ SLCDF works in 18 districts out of 25 districts in Sri Lanka and it plans to expand operations in the North and Northeast.
- ◆ Grants and donations provided to SLCDF are used to support sustainable grassroots projects and capacity building initiatives led by our partner organizations.
- ◆ Our professional field staff (as well as district consortia staff) facilitates on-site technical and vocational training, capacity building initiatives, and networking opportunities to more than 3,300 CBOs and 332 local NGOs.
- ◆ Our goal is to partner with philanthropists, development activists, institutions (both public and private), and donor agencies to create and implement sustainable solutions geared towards social justice, gender equity, integrated environmental management, and economic growth in Sri Lanka.

**Please join us in our mission to help the most disadvantaged people in Sri Lanka. For information on how to help finance our development vision for Sri Lanka, please contact SLCDF.**



## Past & Present Partner Organizations

Adventist Development & Relief Agency	Canada
Builders Labourers Federation of Queensland (BLFQ)	Australia
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
CHF Partners in Rural Development	Canada
Christian Children's Fund of Canada	Canada
Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Resource Centre	Philippines
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)	Germany
Development and Peace	Canada
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
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
The Asia Foundation	Sri Lanka
United Nations Office for Project Services	Sri Lanka
University of Guelph	Canada
World Accord	Canada
World Bank	
World Literacy of Canada	Canada
Youth Women's Christian Association Canada	Canada

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