Field Visit Report Success Story: Improving Livelihoods and Building Resilience through CSIAP in Jandurawewa Tank (Phase I – CSIAP) Southern Province

The World Bank financed Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project (CSIAP)

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation (MOALLI)

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Success Story: Improving Livelihoods and Building Resilience through CSIAP in Jandurawewa Tank, Hambantota

World Bank-financed Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project (CSIAP), implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands, and Irrigation since 2019, aims to improve agricultural productivity and climate resilience in Sri Lanka's most climatically vulnerable hotspot areas. One shining example of this initiative is the rehabilitation of the Jandurawewa Tank in Hambantota, completed in 2022.

Before the Irrigation Infrastructure Development in 2021

After the Irrigation Infrastructure Development in 2025





A Foundation for Resilience and Year-Round Cultivation: The Jandurawewa Tank was rehabilitated and handed over to the local community to boost productivity and strengthen climate resilience. The rehabilitation has not only rehabilitated critical irrigation infrastructure but also encouraged year-round cultivation by promoting climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and efficient water management.



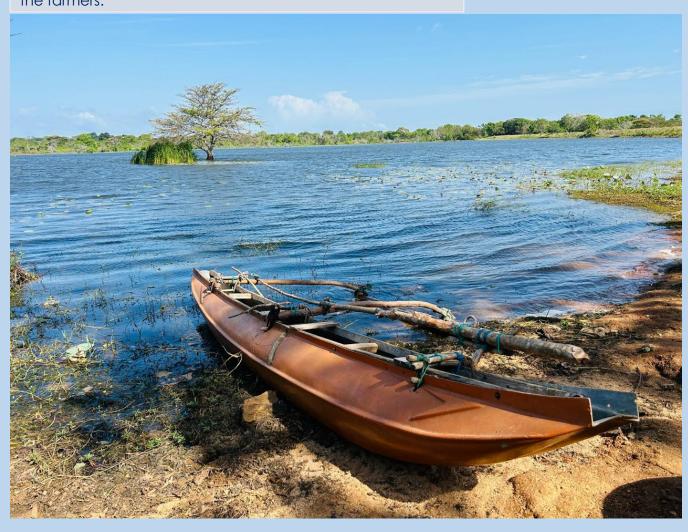
Farmers from Jandurawewa received training on CSA practices at the dedicated, ecofriendly Climate Smart Farmer Training School in Thirappane. This training equipped them with the knowledge and technologies to sustainably manage their farms despite climate challenges.

Following the rehabilitation, farmers began cultivating Maha and Yala paddy seasons, as well as growing green gram and other field crops during two mid-seasons. This expansion to four crop cycles per year marks a significant increase in crop diversification and intensity, directly improving farm productivity and incomes.

Diversification of Income Sources: Due to the improved irrigation infrastructure, farmers now utilize their cultivable land throughout the year, maximizing productivity. A notable economic development has been the introduction of a lotus flower picking business, managed by the Prakum Farmer Organization (FO), which tendered the collection rights to private individuals for Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 per month. This was unheard of before the tank rehabilitation when lotus flowers were picked only for religious purposes. Despite some flowers being reserved for community religious festivals, this new business provides a **stable monthly income** for the FO and represents an innovative diversification of income for the community. It will help to the O&M of the village tank. Furthermore, plans are underway to introduce fish farming in the tank, which will create an additional source of income for the farmers.







Tackling **Human-Elephant** Conflict (HEC) and Enhancing Community Wellbeing: Prior to CSIAP interventions, the area was a high HEC incident area, with frequent crop damages and threats to farmers' safety. To address this, CSIAP supplied Solar Powered Movable Seasonal Paddy Field Electric Fences, protecting paddy lands from wild animals. Farmers reported a significant reduction in HEC incidents following the fence installation. enablina cultivation vear-round without fear of crop destruction.

This protection has not only saved crops but also allowed farmers to save valuable time and spend more with their families, contributing to overall family wellbeing and resilience. Many farmers emphasized the considerable financial savings resulting from reduced crop damage. Farmers informed that the elephant fence installation is also one of the reasons for the improve the year round cultivation in this area.









Building Sustainable Farming Practices and Ecosystem enhancement: Ecosystem enhancement and biodiversity improvement have been noted around the project site, showcasing the project's environmental benefits alongside agricultural gains.

Expanding Participation and Productivity

Before rehabilitation, only 48 farmers were engaged in cultivation on 48 acres of land, mostly limited to the Maha season with partial water availability. After the improvements, 55 farmers are actively cultivating 60 acres through all four seasons.

Notably, farmers have expanded into green gram and mid-season crops, which were not previously cultivated here. Farmers proudly reported producing their own paddy and other seed varieties, eliminating the need to purchase seeds—an important sign of sustainable and resilient farming practices.







A Personal Story of Transformation: Mr. and Mrs. Jayasena

Among the many beneficiaries, Mr. P. K. D. Jayasena and Mrs. R. M. Nirosha, a farming couple, exemplify the transformative impact of CSIAP. Before rehabilitation, they faced severe water shortages and could cultivate only Maha paddy season. Now, they successfully grow two full paddy seasons plus a variety of vegetables and OFC such as Tibbatu, Thalana Batu, Dambala, Tomato, Ma Karal, Bada Iringu, Cucumber and greengram.

It was observed that their annual income from the paddy in 2019 was 349,600 and expenditure was 180,000 and the profit was 169,600 only. In 2023 income was 966,720 and profit was 322,720. In 2024 income was 1,350,000 and profit was 907,000.

Their annual profit from the paddy cultivation alone has increased from Rs. 169,000 to Rs. 0.9 million, with expenses of Rs. 443,000. OFC and vegetable farming also contributes an additional income to their 2024 income. Mrs. Nirosha benefited from training at the Farmer Training School and support for sprinkler irrigation and polytunnel systems from CSIAP.

The couple expressed profound gratitude to CSIAP for the supports and encouragement. An encouraging trend has been the habit of maintaining income and expenditure records by a significant number of farmers, which provides clear evidence of the economic benefits brought by the project interventions.

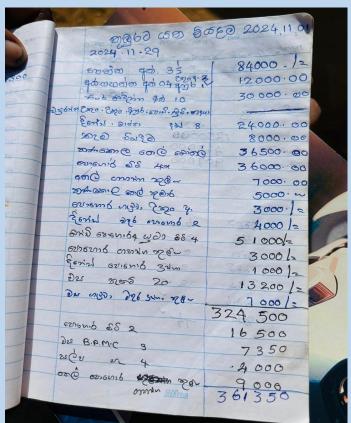


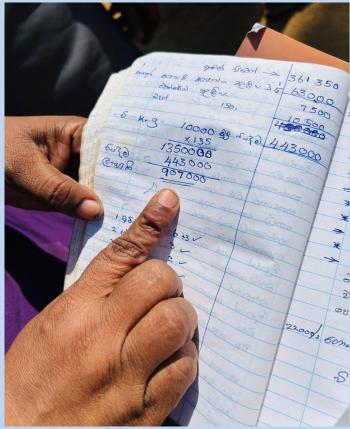
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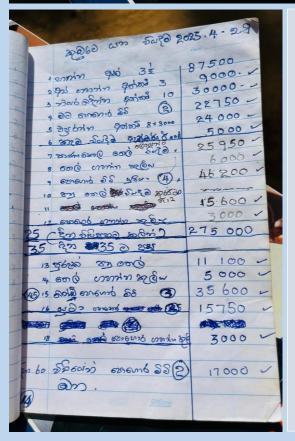
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Broader Socio-Economic Impact: CSIAP's success extends beyond agriculture. Increased earnings have allowed farming families to invest in education, health, housing, and farm inputs, raising living standards and building resilience. Women and youth are finding new employment opportunities after the irrigation infrastructure development.

Conclusion

The Jandurawewa Tank rehabilitation stands as a model for integrated water management and community-driven CSA development in climatically vulnerable hotspot areas. It has enabled year-round cultivation, diversified income sources, and improved the resilience and prosperity of local farming families. CSIAP's holistic approach is transforming not only livelihoods but also the socio-economic fabric of rural communities, fostering sustainable development for future generations.