

Sri Lanka Agriculture

Model Dairy Farmers—A Strategy for Poverty Alleviation

THE CHALLENGE

People in the dry-zone districts in Sri Lanka suffer from financial and nutritional poverty and have a lack of food security. Since Sri Lanka imports 60% of its dairy products, the potential exists to develop the dairy sector and use this as a means of alleviating financial and nutritional poverty.

THE SOLUTION

To establish a supply chain of high-quality milk and new buyers, the farmers adopt semi-intensive, integrated farming. The smallholder dairy farmers improve milk production by planning the use of their farmlands to organically produce the right quantity and quality of fodder at low cost.



THE IMPACT

Climate awareness and minimizing external inputs made model dairy farms sustainable and competitive. Farmers adapted through integrating, recycling, reusing and rotating crops. These farming systems are not as affected by foreign exchange rates, international trade policies, fossil energy or expensive supplementary feeds. Therefore, they can compete with imported milk in the local dairy market.