



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN SRI LANKA



The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Our vision is to create a world free from hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

Today countries face an increasing myriad of demands and challenges in agricultural development. To support them, FAO has identified five key priorities in which the Organization can best apply and leverage its knowledge, expertise and experience. These priorities, or Strategic Objectives, represent the main areas of our work to achieve a world without hunger, malnutrition and poverty and do so in a sustainable manner – contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

FAO's Strategic Objectives are:



Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition



Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable



Reduce rural poverty



Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems



Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

70 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP.

40 YEARS OF IN-COUNTRY REPRESENTATION

Ceylon became a member nation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in April 1948, upon gaining independence from the United Kingdom. FAO unanimously elected Ceylon as its 57th member at the FAO Conference Special Session in Washington from 06 – 14 April 1948. Since then, FAO's technical assistance and funding support to the country was focused on addressing the government needs and priorities within the sectors of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry.

The 1950's and 1960's saw Ceylon hosting several major international and regional FAO conferences such as the Food and Agriculture Study Group on Coconuts (1957), the Conference of the Expert Group of the FAO on Rice Grading (1959), the Conference of the Consultative Sub-Committee of the FAO on the Economic Aspects of Rice (1959), and the Food and Agricultural Conference on Copra (1959). FAO's involvement together with UNDP in the formulation of the Mahaweli Masterplan in the late 1960's marked a significant milestone in the UN's contribution towards irrigation and agricultural development in the country.

Ceylon played an active role in various global and national campaigns lead by FAO including the "Freedom from Hunger Campaign" launched in 1960 and the "FAO-Ceylon Agricultural Extension Workshop" in 1967.

With UNDP support, FAO was actively, involved in providing technical assistance to the country which was renamed "Sri Lanka" in 1972.





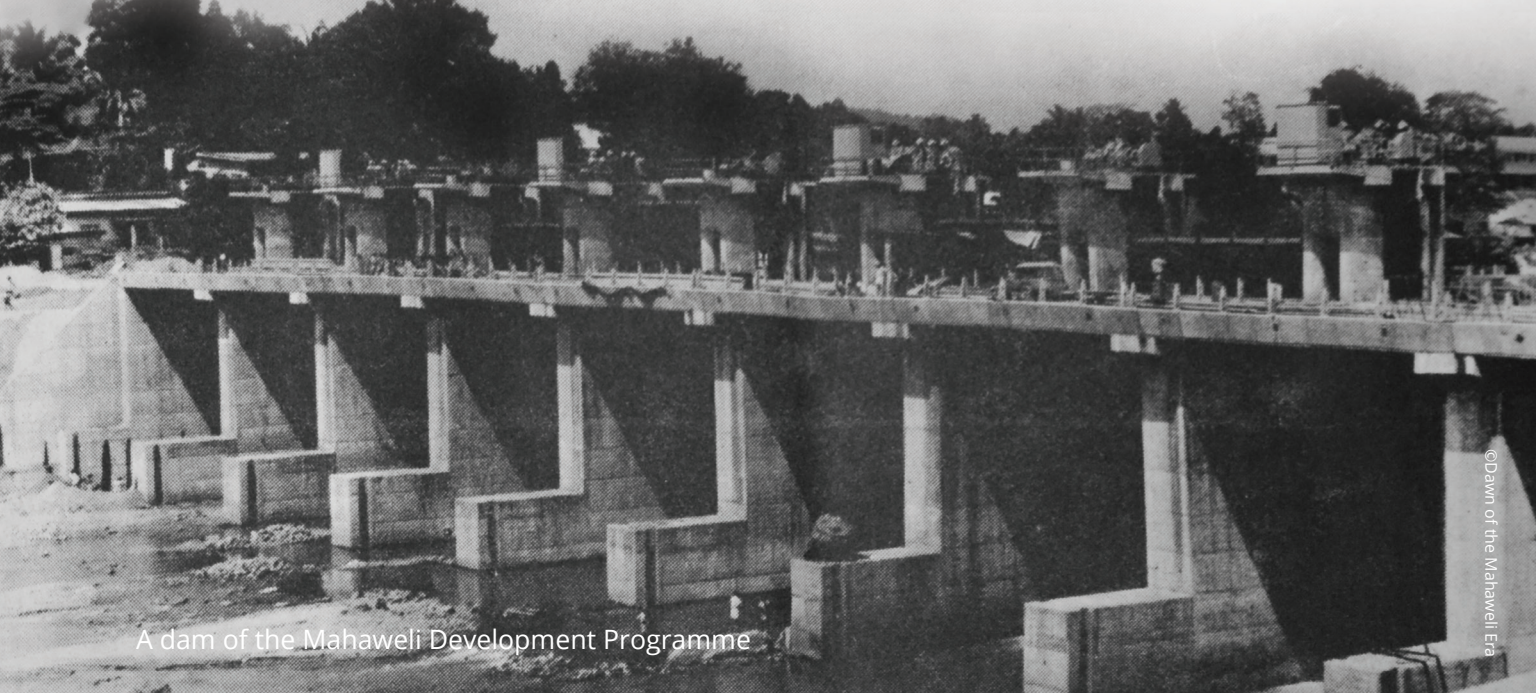
Ceylon, 1952 - Henry Hirst, FAO Animal Husbandry expert and two farm managers of the Ceylon government, inspect a rye field at the Bopatalawa farm where experiments in livestock feed were being conducted.



Ceylon, 1953 - FAO sent a master fisherman, and later a marine engineer to the country to advise on mechanization of the fishing industry. This piqued the interest of fishing communities and eventually led to the provision of diesel engines to fishers under the Colombo Plan. This came as a welcome change to fishers who used to carry on their work with only wind and muscle for power.



Ceylon, 1967 - Demonstrations are the surest way of convincing the farmer of improved practices. Here, rural folk are seen watching a demonstration on the use of bullock-drawn transplanter for paddy during the FAO-Ceylon Agricultural Extension Workshop.



A dam of the Mahaweli Development Programme

©Dawn of the Mahaweli Era

The Mahaweli Development Programme is the largest multi-purpose development project conceived in Sri Lanka. The Mahaweli Development Programme was initiated in the context of a development alternative for Sri Lanka, which would improve the foreign exchange balance, increase local industrial and agricultural production and improve nation-wide socio-economic conditions.

In 1961 the government of Ceylon requested assistance from the special fund of the United Nations to survey the Mahaweli Ganga Basin and the Dry Zone areas in the North and Central Provinces. The request was approved by the governing Council of the special fund in June 1964. The plan of operation was drawn up and signed on 12 October 1964 on behalf of the government of Ceylon, the United Nations Special Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations acting as executing agency.

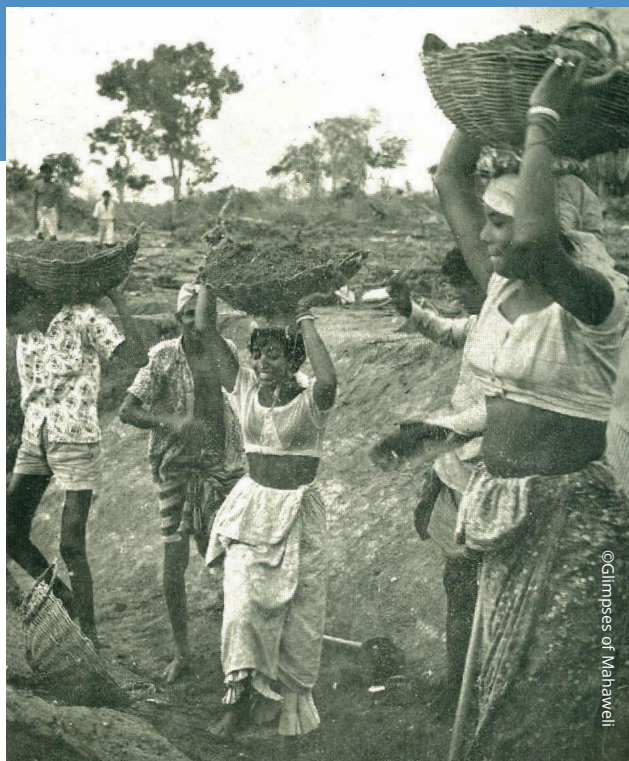
The UNDP/FAO study became operational on 27 October 1964 and concluded in May 1968. The survey was carried out over a period of three years in two stages the field investigations of the first stage, carried out between March 1965 and February 1967. The principal aim was to work out an outline for a Master Plan for full development of the water resources for irrigation and hydropower. The second stage of the survey was carried out between February 1967 and May 1968.

In 1968, FAO formulated a master plan to provide irrigation from the Mahaweli Ganga (Sri Lanka's largest river) to develop 360 000 hectares of new and existing agricultural land and provide additional hydroelectric power facilities.

Preliminary investigations based on the Master Plan jointly prepared by a UNDP/FAO team indicated that the total water resources of the Mahaweli were 6 000 000 acre feet, capable of irrigating 900 000 acres.

The Mahaweli Development Programme was planned to be completed over a period of thirty years. However, the Government decided in 1977 to accelerate implementation of a major portion of the Mahaweli Development Programme and the original thirty-year timetable was reduced to five. The programme was named the Accelerated Mahaweli Masterplan which was based on the UNDP/FAO Masterplan.

The opening of the Moragakanda – Kaluganga Scheme in January 2018 by President Maithripala Sirisena completed the 40-year long Mahaweli Development Project. The completion of the Mahaweli Development Programme brings to an end an era of major dams and irrigation projects in Sri Lanka.



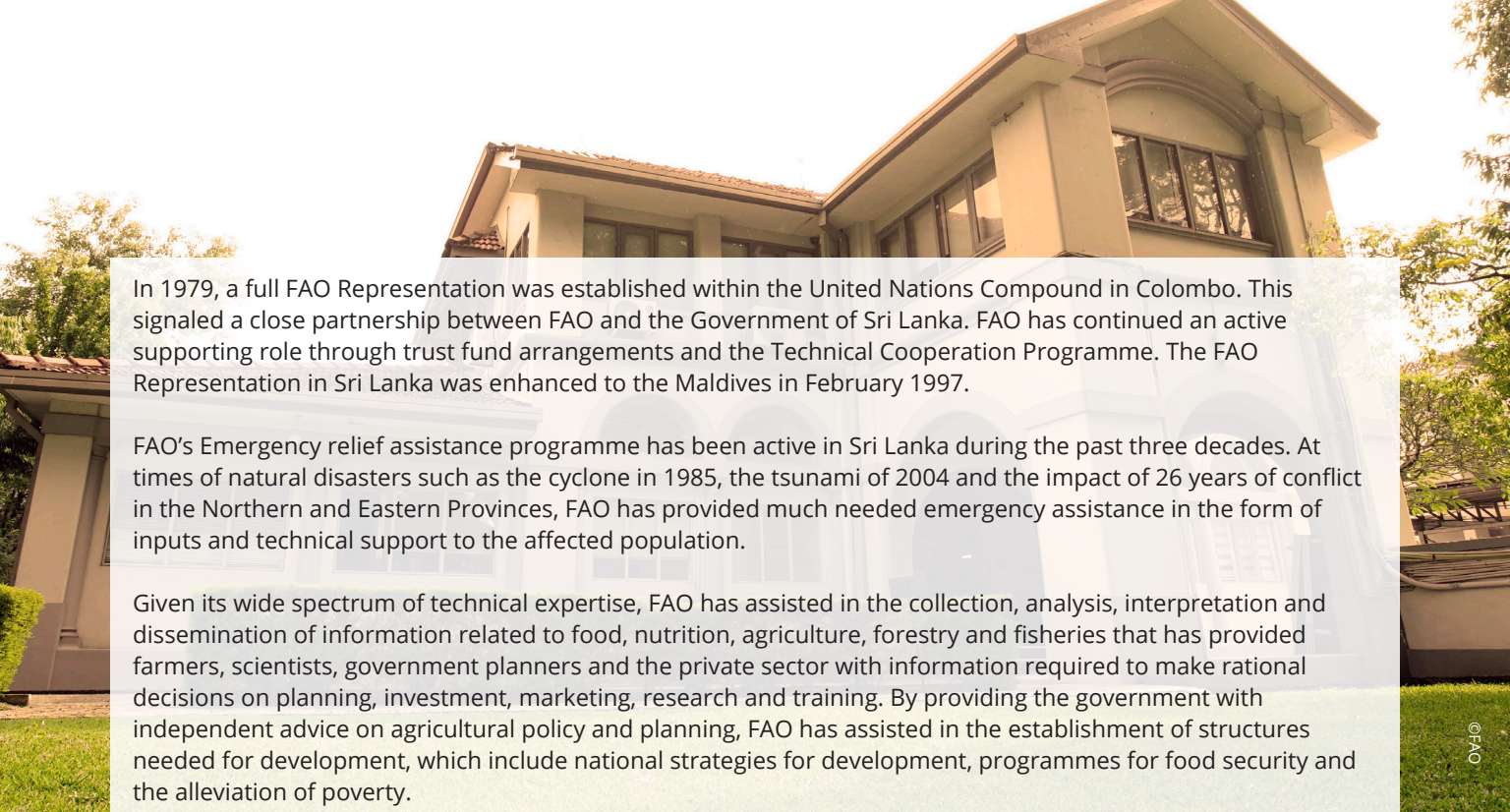
**“ Outstanding
Accomplishment –
I congratulate you and your
colleagues on the most
expeditious and purposeful
manner in which all the work
relating to Mahaweli
Development has been
accomplished. This is one of
the most outstanding human
accomplishment of this
century. ”**

M.S. Swaminathan

Director General, IRRI and Independent Chairman,
FAO Council in a letter to Hon. Minister Gamini
Dissanayake on 22.7.1984

Rural families who will benefit from the diverted Mahaweli waters were engaged by the Mahaweli Development Board to cut the distributory canals in the new development area in Kalawewa.





In 1979, a full FAO Representation was established within the United Nations Compound in Colombo. This signaled a close partnership between FAO and the Government of Sri Lanka. FAO has continued an active supporting role through trust fund arrangements and the Technical Cooperation Programme. The FAO Representation in Sri Lanka was enhanced to the Maldives in February 1997.

FAO's Emergency relief assistance programme has been active in Sri Lanka during the past three decades. At times of natural disasters such as the cyclone in 1985, the tsunami of 2004 and the impact of 26 years of conflict in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, FAO has provided much needed emergency assistance in the form of inputs and technical support to the affected population.

Given its wide spectrum of technical expertise, FAO has assisted in the collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of information related to food, nutrition, agriculture, forestry and fisheries that has provided farmers, scientists, government planners and the private sector with information required to make rational decisions on planning, investment, marketing, research and training. By providing the government with independent advice on agricultural policy and planning, FAO has assisted in the establishment of structures needed for development, which include national strategies for development, programmes for food security and the alleviation of poverty.

A key contribution from FAO has been capacity development of government staff and departments. Over the years, FAO through various donor funded programmes has provided numerous long-term fellowships leading to post graduate degrees as well as regular short term international training programmes. Sri Lanka being a signatory to the agreement for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) – which provides exchange of experts among the developing countries for agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors – a large number of Sri Lankan experts have served in FAO assisted programmes in other countries.

At the national level, FAO has carried out extensive training courses, workshops and seminars for the benefit of thousands of technical officers of various departments which continuously and regularly provide in-service training for the Government officers. Many trained officers have subsequently provided training to many farmers and fishermen directly impacting food security and livelihoods.

With its mandate aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), FAO is continuing to assist the Sri Lankan people by forging strong partnerships with the government, donors, private sector, other UN agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, community based organizations and the rural communities. Strengthening food systems to enhance nutrition security and increase income generation; the sustainable management of natural resources and promoting climate resilient agriculture; and capacity building of stakeholders to undertake policy formulation and for evidence-based decision-making are the priorities for ongoing projects implemented by FAO in Sri Lanka.

1979

INCOME RAISING ACTIVITIES FOR WOMEN

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with FAO invited several countries from Asia and the Pacific including Sri Lanka to participate in an inter-country project for the promotion of Income Raising Group Activities for Rural Women. Case studies prepared and presented by leaders and group members of rural women who were engaged in successful activities were shared at national workshops conducted for leaders of other women's groups. The aim of the project was to empower rural women to engage in income generating livelihood activities by exposing successful work of their counterparts.



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Members of a poultry society are seen grading and packing eggs for sale.

1979–1981

SUPPORT FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE COCONUT INDUSTRY

Coconut cultivation in the four districts in the Eastern Province namely Batticaloa (1.5 million trees), Ampara (600 000 trees) and Polonnaruwa (500 000 trees) were destroyed by cyclones in May 1979 which meant 88 percent of the 53 000 acres of coconut cultivation in the province were destroyed. FAO provided technical assistance for the rehabilitation of the coconut industry, which included the establishment of coconut nurseries.



©Dep. of National Archives

Minister of Coconut Industries Mr. Harold Herat (center) and FAO Representative Mr. Garvey Laurent (right) touring the coconut nurseries in the Batticaloa District.

1983

SERICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

An FAO project to assist sericulture development in Sri Lanka led to a fourfold increase in national silk output. The project which began in 1983 was aimed at increasing cocoon productivity and the production of raw silk and silk fabric. FAO experts advised Sri Lanka's Silk and Allied Products Development Authority on measures to improve the efficiency of Sericulture farms and provided technical assistance in mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing, weaving and finishing.



©FAO/M. Petruzka

Picking mulberry leaves for the feeding of silkworms at the Central Sericulture Station in Pallekale in the Kandy district, Central Province, Sri Lanka.



1980–1999

NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR MASTER PLAN

The only complete National Forest Inventory was conducted during the period 1982 to 1985. With this practice of planning in forestry, the Sri Lankan government, with technical support from FAO and World Bank, developed its Forestry Sector Master Plan in the year 1995.

From 1993 – 1997, FAO through a GEF funded project also raised the technical capacity of the Department of Wildlife Conservation of Sri Lanka for establishment and management of protected area; developed capacity for assessment and management of human-elephant conflicts.



Assistance for Rinderpest Prevention and Control. Rinderpest is a highly contagious viral disease that primarily affects cattle and buffalo.

1994–1997

EMERGENCY PREVENTION SYSTEM FOR TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL AND PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES

The Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant pests and Diseases (EMPRES), which FAO established in the year 1994, strengthened the country's contribution to prevention, control and when possible, eradication of diseases and pests. In Sri Lanka, this has helped the eradication of rinderpest disease and the prevention of the entry of H5N1 into the country. FAO provided the Government of Sri Lanka assistance in Rinderpest Prevention and Control from 1995 to 1997 through a USD 297 000 programme. It was not until 1999 that Sri Lanka could declare provisional freedom from rinderpest.



FAO Representative Mr. G. Bernard inspecting a saree at the Silk Textile Training Center.

1991–1999

SERICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PHASE II

To achieve its goal of producing 100 tons annually, Sri Lanka's Silk and Allied Product Development Authority (SAPDA) decided to move silk production from government farms to smallholder farmers, but needed assistance in developing extension services for silk production. With FAO's assistance, extension officers were trained to work with smallholders. Local people skilled in the silk industry, but without formal training, were engaged to demonstrate on-the-spot field techniques and practical skills. They were supervised by experts. Use of local people cut expenses and meant farmers were benefitting from people speaking their language.

FAO support resulted in the drafting and approval of the Seed Act in 2003



©FAOLK

1996–2003

SEED ACT

Sri Lanka was one of the 150 countries which ratified the first Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Better Use of Plant Genetic Resources which was adopted at the fourth International Technical Conference held in June 1996. Subsequent FAO support resulted in the drafting and approval of the Seed Act for the country in 2003.

2004 TSUNAMI EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY PROGRAMMES

FAO's tsunami recovery programme focused on the rehabilitation and sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector and reviving the livelihoods of coastal communities.



©FAO/Prakash Singh

FAO assisted families to move from food aid to food production in the shortest time possible, helping them to replenish their assets and rebuild their livelihoods.



©FAOLK/Mahendran

1996–2018 CONFLICT AND POST CONFLICT ASSISTANCE

2015 REDD+ INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN

FAO has continued to work with the Government of Sri Lanka to conserve the country's 2 million hectares of forests which are rich in endemic species of flora and fauna. The country's forests can make a significant contribution to both adaptation and mitigation of climate change. In 2015 FAO in partnership with the UNDP, UNEP through the UN REDD Programme assisted Sri Lanka to prepare and implement national strategies and mechanisms on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) to improve forest governance. The National REDD+ Investment Framework and Action Plan (NRIFAP) an outcome of the National UN-REDD Programme is now considered by the Government of Sri Lanka as part of its national response to the threat of climate change.

FAO has worked closely with the Department of Forestry on strengthening policies and systems to safeguard the country's forests.



©UNREDD



2009–2018

REHABILITATION OF IRRIGATION TANKS

FAO has conducted rehabilitation and renovation of irrigation tanks in Sri Lanka for many years and has forged a strong partnership with the Department of Irrigation, Department of Agrarian Services Development and the farmer communities.

With funding from the European Union, FAO has in the post conflict period of Sri Lanka undertaken rehabilitation of approximately 200 irrigation tanks.

The completion of rehabilitation works of irrigation tanks has enabled an increase in the water capacity of irrigation tanks which has resulted in irrigation efficiency, an increase in the number of acres of farmland that can be cultivated and an increase in the water levels of surrounding wells.

Rehabilitated tanks also enhance biodiversity in the villages and the storage of runoff water in the rainy seasons contributes to climate change resilience.



2018

SRI LANKA DESIGNATED AS A GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SITE

A Sri Lankan agrarian system, the “ellanga gammana” or Cascaded Tank-Village system in Palugaswewa in the Anuradhapura district was designated as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) by FAO.

This FAO-led initiative aims to protect and promote valuable agricultural heritage, preserve biodiversity and traditional knowledge, as well as create resilient ecosystems.

TURNING THE TIDE – FAO’S TSUNAMI RECOVERY PROGRAMME IN SRI LANKA

The December 2004 tsunami ravaged coastal communities off the Indian Ocean, claiming nearly a quarter of a million lives in 12 countries. In Sri Lanka, the tsunami that struck on the morning of December 26th left behind widespread destruction, claiming the lives of over 31 000 people, destroyed over 99 000 homes, and damaged natural ecosystems, and coastal infrastructure. Thousands of boats, fishing nets and gear were damaged or destroyed. Crops, livestock and coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves and tree crops, were also severely damaged.

FAO is the UN’s lead agency for the rehabilitation and development of the fisheries and agriculture sectors in Sri Lanka.

Whilst FAO and the Sri Lankan government’s immediate priority following the tsunami was to get the fishers fishing and farmers farming again as soon as possible, the longer-term strategy was to improve the sectors as a whole with a view to raising the incomes of coastal communities.

Following the tsunami of 2004, FAO supported rehabilitation of the severely damaged fisheries sector in eight of the most seriously affected districts. FAO Tsunami Recovery Programme for Sri Lanka included the distribution of rice seeds and fertilizers to thousands of farmers as well as boats to fishermen in areas hardest hit by the tsunami. Enhancing nutrition of affected families was also a top priority of FAO which focused on nutrition enhancing training for close to 2000 tsunami affected households provided through the Department of Agriculture’s extension service.



Agriculture and fisheries instructors were trained on how to enhance micronutrient, protein and energy intake for meals using locally grown horticulture produce, rice and fish. Processing of horticulture produce and fish for preservation and long – term use was also demonstrated as part of the training sessions. These technologies and knowledge were transferred to the farmer/fisher communities affected by the tsunami through the farm women agricultural extension services and the women rural development society. FAO’s nutrition programme demonstrated how to prepare nutritious meals for emergency situations from available ingredients and food aid materials while taking advantage of the diversity of foods.



©FAO



A fisherman sorting new fishing nets provided by FAO.



A farmer trained in nutrition management by FAO cooking a meal for her family.



Rice seeds and other inputs were distributed to thousands of farmers in areas hardest hit by the tsunami.



FAO together with the Ministry of Fisheries supported boats and engine repair yards island-wide.

CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT ASSISTANCE

Sri Lanka experienced a 26 year long civil war from 1983 to 2009 in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Families resettling in their original homes following the end of the conflict needed assistance to resume their livelihoods, boost local agricultural production and related income generating opportunities and improve their food security. With an estimated 80 percent of the population in the Northern Province reliant on crop cultivation, livestock and fisheries as their primary source of livelihoods, assistance was focused on rural livelihoods.

As part of the sector's response plan, immediate measures were taken to address socio-economic and environmental losses, increase food production, ensure food security and improve nutritional levels of resettled IDP farmer and fisher families and conflict-affected people in the North and East.

Immediate assistance was also needed to re-establish and strengthen institutional capacities to develop crops, livestock and fisheries.

Vast areas of farmland, orchards and essential infrastructure were abandoned and/or damaged during Sri Lanka's long-running conflict. FAO has supported the clearing of farmland and the rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation systems and agricultural wells. It also provided families with seeds to grow rice, vegetable gardens and other field crops as well as fruit trees, tools and water pumps. FAO trained farmers on environmentally-friendly farming techniques, like conservation agriculture, as well as pest control and reducing post-harvest losses. This evolved into a farmer field



school programme and extension support for agribusiness development.

At the end of the conflict, some 50 000 abandoned cattle roamed the north in large herds. FAO worked with the Government to organize the initial cattle round-up and repatriation of animals to returning families. FAO provided month-old chicks to families to boost egg production, and assistance to set-up poultry mini hatcheries with priority given to women-headed households. Since 2011, thousands of goats and cattle have been distributed to increase household milk production. Veterinary support services have been established and artificial insemination services strengthened, while training and marketing support were provided as milk production steadily increased in the north. FAO provided support to returnees – farmers and fishers – so they can feed themselves and their families. Efforts were made to strengthen local farmer and fisher organizations in order to improve income levels and contribute to local economic development. Rehabilitation of irrigation tanks and support towards value addition and market chain development for farmers were also part of FAO's agricultural development programmes.



Farmers transporting sacks of seed and fertilizer from an FAO distribution center.



Urgent support provided to farming communities for the production of vegetable and other field crops.



FAO's assistance during the conflict and post conflict period in Sri Lanka included the provision of agricultural inputs to internally displaced persons voluntarily returning to their former homes in the North-East Region of Sri Lanka, agricultural rehabilitation to conflict affected farmers and ensuring sustainable food security to affected households.



FAO provided emergency support to returning displaced farmers in the conflict affected districts of Sri Lanka.

FAO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA



Over the past 40 years, the FAO Representation in Sri Lanka has implemented over 400 projects in the country in partnership with the Government of Sri Lanka, including support through FAO regional and global projects.

FAO's emergency and agricultural livelihood development programmes have reached approximately **one million** farming and fishing families in the country.

FAO works closely with the Government to implement programmes in improved agricultural production systems, aquaculture development, nutrition, and climate change adaptation, with an aim to drive forward economic and social progress for all, and ensuring the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources.





1979 - Gamini Dissanayake, Minister of Lands and Land Development and Mahaweli Development, Mr. Garvey Laurent, FAO Representative in Sri Lanka, and Mr. Gunner Segerstrom, FAO Director at a training course on forest conservation in Colombo.



2008 – President Mahinda Rajapaksa addressing the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy.



2012 - FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva with Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, on the occasion of the Vesak Day Celebrations at the FAO Headquarters in Rome.



2004 - President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga receiving the Ceres Medal from Dr. Jacques Diouf, FAO Director General in Colombo for commitment towards eradicating poverty and hunger.



2018 – President Maithripala Sirisena addressing the 24th session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in Rome, the highest FAO Forestry statutory body.

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



For 40 years, fighting hunger, poverty and malnutrition has been at the heart of FAO's work in Sri Lanka.

In food - the way it is grown, produced, consumed, traded, transported, stored and marketed - lies the fundamental connection between people and the planet, and the path to inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Through a tailored Country Programming Framework, FAO's technical and policy expertise is aligned with government priorities and supports the most vulnerable populations. The Framework sets the path for FAO to transition towards more upstream assistance in building national capacities, enabling informed policy interventions and scaling up of good practices and lessons learned.

INCREASING THE CONTRIBUTION OF FOOD SYSTEMS TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND INCOME GENERATION

FAO is supporting the Government of Sri Lanka and the private sector through technical advice and capacity development to strengthen food systems, including the diversification of agricultural production and livelihoods, and the promotion of high value crops and value addition in a manner that generates profit for producers. FAO uses a holistic food systems approach to transfer knowledge to improve smallholder productivity and promote intensification in an economic and environmentally sustainable manner. The approach will also encourage safe and sustainable value chains that result in produce being of high quality and safety and marketable on domestic and international markets.

FAO also concentrates on technical assistance for the formulation and implementation of tools, guidelines, and policies to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture, access to nutritious foods for the most vulnerable, diversification of diets and future smart foods.

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

With a population expected to grow by 2.4 million people by 2050 and with rising wealth leading to changing consumption patterns for food, water and energy, the sustainable management of the natural resources and fragile ecosystems of Sri Lanka is becoming increasingly challenging.

Misuse of agricultural lands and of agrochemicals is decreasing soil fertility while increasing pollution, production costs and GHG emissions. Overfishing and high but unquantified rates of loss in the fisheries value chain are stressing an important livelihood. Encroachment of forested areas and unsustainable management of watersheds and coastal areas is leading to loss of biodiversity and habitats, forest degradation and susceptibility to floods and landslides.

Furthermore, the agricultural sector in Sri Lanka is vulnerable to increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, extreme weather events and climate change as witnessed by continuous cycles of drought and floods in the last 10 years.

FAO is working with the Government to nurture healthy ecosystems, sustainably manage land, water and natural resources, and improve the efficiency in the use of resources. Interventions are also focused on action to conserve, protect and enhance natural resources and enhance the resilience of communities, especially the most vulnerable including women and the poor, to climate variabilities. An ongoing initiative by FAO and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is to support the development of a coherent national Sustainable Land Management Policy that can be adopted across sectors.

FAO is supporting evidence-based climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction policies and programmes and best practices, making them available to rural communities and other stakeholders.



Soil and plant testing for site-specific fertilizer application to reduce the indiscriminate use of fertilizer.



Rehabilitation of Degraded Agricultural Land in the Central Highlands through Sustainable Land Management.



INCREASING CAPACITY FOR POLICY FORMULATION AND EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING

Establishing the necessary frameworks for identifying, collecting and managing the most relevant data and information related to food and nutrition security, natural resources and climate change, and for ensuring that this information is analyzed, disseminated and translated into evidence-based decisions and action has been a challenge for Sri Lanka. A Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics is intended to contribute to addressing this gap and FAO is committed to support its implementation.

FAO has contributed to the formulation of a Joint National Nutrition Action Plan in collaboration with the Presidential Secretariat. Contributions to the National Agriculture Policy, and the Spices and Allied Products Policy, are laying the foundation to develop the Overarching Agricultural Policy in Sri Lanka. A Country Gender Assessment conducted for the first time in the country provides guidelines for gender mainstreaming in the agriculture and food sectors.



National Biosafety Project, promoting the safe transfer, handling and use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

Revision of the fisheries legal and regulatory framework has augmented efforts to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Sri Lanka. FAO is currently providing technical assistance to the formulation of the National Biosafety Act and Action Plan, the National Food Safety Policy and revisions to the Food Based Dietary Guidelines.

FAO will strive to increase the capacity of relevant stakeholders to formulate coherent, inclusive and gender-sensitive policies and investment plans and strengthen governance and coordination mechanisms related to food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE MATTERS

From ending poverty and hunger to responding to climate change and sustaining our natural resources, food and agriculture lies at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



OUR DONORS & PARTNERS

| OUR DONORS | KEY PARTNER INSTITUTIONS AT NATIONAL LEVEL |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Asian Development Bank | Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development |
| European Union | Ministry of City Planning, Water Supply and Higher Education |
| FAO Technical Cooperation Programme | Ministry of Education |
| FAO TeleFood Programme | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Global Environmental Facility (GEF) | Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine |
| Government of Australia | Ministry of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms |
| Government of Austria | Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment |
| Government of Canada | Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development |
| Government of Germany | Ministry of National Policies, Economic Affairs, Resettlement and Rehabilitation, Northern Province Development and Youth Affairs |
| Government of Ireland | Ministry of Plantation Industries |
| Government of Italy | Ministry of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment |
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