



for a world without hunger

The United Nations Food And Agriculture Organization in Sri Lanka



Our Work on the Ground

FAO was fully established in Sri Lanka in January 1978 and since then Sri Lanka has been receiving a large amount of assistance financially as well as technically in order to develop the agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and forestry and environment sectors of the country.

FAO provides the kind of behind-the-scene assistance that helps people and nations help themselves. Sri Lanka receives FAO technical assistance to enhance the livelihoods of rural people by addressing food security under the FAO's Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS). This project integrates the provision of low-cost technology with appropriate training in the fields of agriculture, livestock, inland fisheries, post-harvest activities and storage, and marketing.

One of the main achievements of FAO's technical assistance activities has been the capacity development of thousands of technical officers of various government departments in the agriculture, fisheries, livestock, forestry and environment sectors, through the organization of a large number of training courses, workshops and seminars within the country.

About FAO

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts - to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. FAO encourages sustainable agriculture and rural development, a long-term strategy for increasing food production, productivity and food security while conserving and managing natural resources.

FAO is the largest specialized agency of the United Nations system and the lead agency for agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries and rural development. FAO, at present, has a membership of 187 nations and one member Organization, the European Community. Since its inception, FAO has worked to alleviate poverty and hunger by promoting agricultural development, improved nutrition and pursuit of food security.

Emergency Response

FAO's Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Programme has been very effective in Sri Lanka during the past several decades. Through the provision of essential inputs, such as quality seeds, agricultural tools, healthy livestock, veterinary supplies and safe fisheries equipment, FAO's emergency operation has helped many thousands of families in Sri Lanka to resume farming activities and to successfully reestablish their household's food and nutrition security. FAO's interventions will further aim to improve coping mechanisms of the vulnerable families and enhance their farming-based livelihood activities through appropriate training.

Following the December 2004 tsunami, FAO immediately responded to the crisis assisting thousands of farmers and fishers who lost their only source of income. FAO's emergency relief and rehabilitation programme in Sri Lanka received a total donor contribution of US\$26.8 million, and administered 15 projects in the fisheries, agriculture and forestry sectors in tsunami-affected areas of Sri Lanka

As a result of the upsurge in violence in the north and east of the country that has led to new displacement since April 2006, FAO is supporting immediate coordinated agricultural assistance to conflict-affected internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host families in the North and East of Sri Lanka. Within the framework of Sri Lanka 2008 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) and with donor support, FAO aims to directly assist about 30 000 households affected by conflict to resume agricultural, livestock

and fishery production rapidly. In addition, proposed coordination support to stakeholders in the agriculture and food security sectors will indirectly assist over 40 000 households that will benefit from more rapid, cohesive and effective interventions. The much-needed supplies combined with training will equip households affected by conflict and natural disasters with the means to resume livelihood activities and help building confidence and self-reliance.

Within the framework of the 2008 CHAP, FAO's main objectives in Sri Lanka are to:

- improve sustainable food and nutrition security through increased local food production;
- enhance crop yields through the provision of high-yielding seed varieties, fertilizers, agricultural tools;
- increase livestock production by providing healthy animals and veterinary services;
- build capacity among farmers, pastoralists and fishers in improved livelihood practices; and
- strengthen coordination in the sector among partner agencies to better identify/respond to needs, improve information exchange and avoid duplication.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock Development and Estate Infrastructure FAO also provides emergency assistance to strengthen the capacity of relevant authorities to identify and implement strategies aimed at the prevention of Avian Human Influenza.

For more information:

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