

Current Projects

UNIDO Integrated Programme-Phase 11

1. Renewable Energy Project in Meemure, Kandy District

This project which constitutes the energy component of the Integrated Programme Phase 11 is in line with the priorities of rural electrification set forth by the Government of Sri Lanka. The concept of the project is to cover rural areas in Sri Lanka to establish Renewable Energy systems (Micro-hydro and Dendro) based community development centres containing ICT's facilities for communities in off grid areas where they will not receive power from the national grid for next fifteen to twenty years. The availability of power in the rural context could open up a variety of small cottage level industries providing employment opportunities and livelihood for many in off grid areas. It is also helpful in maintaining a refrigerator to preserve special vaccines, drugs which will improve medical facilities to a certain extent.

The first such project commenced in Meemure in Kandy District. Meemure is a village 40 Km off Hunnasgiriya in the Kandy district and the only road leading to the village is in a very bad state hence travelling to project site takes approximately three hours from Kandy Under this project the Dendro Power plant has been installed. The construction of concrete polls, erection of polls, distribution lines and wiring of houses are underway to provide electricity to a part of the village community by end July 2008. Thereafter the second phase of the project which is construction of Micro-hydro plant is expected to commence by August 2008.

2. Strengthening International Certification Capacity in Sri Lanka with particular reference to SA 8000 and HACCP /ISO 22000

The main aim of the project is to develop national capacity for the Social Accountability (SA 8000 and food safety Management system (HACCP/ISO 22000) standard development and certification, Also one of the major objectives is to establish an independent private sector driven certification body. These objectives would be achieved through the training of trainers, consultants and auditors under international practices. The project on completion would increase Market Access for Sri Lanka Exports by ensuring compliance with market requirements.

The project so far has completed market analysis of certification bodies in Sri Lanka and set up certification body, certification committee and manual, procedures under finalization. Further under this project have trained consultants, auditors and trainers and currently assisting seven companies in food, Agriculture sectors in implementing ISO 22000 and hope to implement this system in five more companies. The ISO 22000 certification for the first batch of companies is expected to take place in July/August 2008.

It has also started scheme for food safety in hotels and restaurants with Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) in U.K and negotiating certification partners for ISO 22000, SA8000 and Global Gap

3. Sustainable livelihood programme among conflict affects populations in the North and Eastern regions through improved agricultural productivity and community based entrepreneurship.

The project aims at first of all to assist around 3000 households in rural communities in selected districts to revitalize agricultural activities and increase food production through

simple hand tools, implements and agricultural machinery including basic food processing equipment. At the same time it assist in the product diversification in terms of increasing the value addition of agricultural products through development and promotion of agro-based micro and small business based on the market demand in the North and Eastern regions as well as trade potentials between the regions and other parts of the country.

The project so far has selected the Batticaloa Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Agriculture in Batticaloa District and chamber of Commerce and Industry in Trincomalee District as the counterpart organizations/implementing partner in the respective districts.

The project offices have been set up with office equipment and the project staff has been recruited. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with the counterpart organizations. The District Committees, Divisional committees and village level committees have been formed for better implementation and monitoring of the project.

The National projects Managers along with the committee members have selected fourteen famer orgainizations in each district. The farm equipment was purchased and training given to farmers.

The handing over of the Farm equipment to farmers will take place in early July2008 with the participation of officials of Japanese embassy, Government Agent, Presidents of Chambers. National Director UNIDO Focal Point, National Coordinator and other government officials.

Past Projects

UNIDO's contribution to Sri Lanka in Phase 1

1. Subcontracting and Partnership Exchange

UNIDO has set up 55 Subcontracting and Partnership Exchanges (SPX) in 32 countries. In Sri Lanka it was established in 2001 at Small and Medium Enterprise Developers (SMED) which is an arm of Federation of Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCISL). Small and Medium scale industrial producers often lack the appropriate knowledge and connection that would enable them to establish cooperation with bigger companies interested in outsourcing production of parts . SPX benefits both large and small scale producers. The former reduce their costs by outsourcing production and acquiring tailor-made products while the latter increase their capacities and productivity, improve quality, reduce marketing costs as well as create additional jobs. SPX in Sri Lanka had registered 493 companies in Rubber, Plastics, Coir, Electrical & Electronics , Engineering sectors and had company information in their database specially designed for the centre They also made 762 business contacts and also several programmes and a Revers fair at the conclusion of the project in 2003.

2. Business Advisory Services (Business Incubator)

UNIDO assisted in setting up and strengthening Business Incubator in Kamurupitiya in Matara to provide business advisory services to entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs tend to have limited knowledge of administrative, regulatory and financial aspects of business management. The centres give entrepreneurs easy access to; helpful publications on business management, referral services, loan packages, training and counselling and help

with business planning. Eight entrepreneurs producing variety of products such as Motor Spares, Brass items, Food items were assisted under this project.

A major development disparity in Sri Lanka is the concentration of industrial activity around Colombo and the neighbouring districts. The Southern Province is particularly neglected. In order to address the regional disparities in the country, UNIDO strengthened the Chambers of Commerce & Industry in the Southern district as well as promotion of rural Agro Industry Development and supporting women entrepreneurs. The project was funded jointly by UNDP and UNIDO

3. Metrology Standardisation and Accreditation

Developing economies must offer competitive level of product quality and meet a growing number of international standards if they are to benefit from the increasing liberalisation of the world trade. UNIDO paid special attention to upgrade Sri Lanka capacities in standards, metrology (Science of measurement) and testing. In a bid to facilitate the international accreditation of chemical testing and microbiology testing laboratories in Sri Lanka, UNIDO upgraded testing equipment, technical skills in Chemical and Microbiology and management capabilities at the Sri Lankan Standards Institute (SLSI) and the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI). UNIDO also upgraded the testing equipment and technical and management skills of Rubber .Food and Metrology laboratories at ITI. UNIDO assistance in accreditation for Food, Chemical, Microbiology, Rubber and Metrology is a major boost to Sri Lankan exporters, in addition to heightening consumer safety through high quality testing services.

UNIDO also established capacities in Sri Lanka relating to ISO 14000.

Environmental Management System (EMS) standard was a project with Sri Lanka Standards Institute (SLSI) and provided support to train auditors, consultants and lending direct assistance to ten enterprises to launch EMS. The above projects were funded by Government of Norway.

4. Industrial Policy Interventions

UNIDO in co-operation with JICA prepared the 'Master Plan for Industrialisation and Investment Promotion'. In particular, UNIDO carried out the sectoral studies for the Master Plan covering the Leather and Apparel sectors. The project was funded by Japan.

5. Improving industrial statistics

In Sri Lanka UNIDO provided assistance to Department of Census & Statistics to make it easier and cheaper to access and disseminate the right industrial statistics at the right time to the right user and strengthen the statistical base and network. A major service in the compilation and use of industrial statistics is the National Industrial Statistics Programme which is supported by UNIDO developed software. This project was funded by Government of Japan

6. Cleaner production

Industrial pollution is a problem everywhere, even in developed countries. Standards are usually set by their respective governments and agencies on the assumption that pollution can be dealt with by the end of the pipe technologies. Cleaner production requires a shift in

thinking away from end-of –the-pipe treatment towards prevention. This includes selecting the best raw material and following the best practices and even product design. To date 40 Cleaner Production centres have been set up worldwide.

National Cleaner Production Centres have been set up in Sri Lanka, jointly by UNIDO and the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP). The centres provide training, awareness and consulting services to SMEs on cleaner production, and the project is funded by Government of Norway.

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