

(Narrative Report / Journal - Sri Lanka Water Partnership)
Activity Summary January – November 2019

Goal 01 -Catalyze Change in Policy and Practice

GWP – Core Activities

Wetlands activities

Activity 1 - World Wetland Day celebrations Programme (Event 1)

To mark World Water Day, an interactive workshop titled “CoCCo” (*Collective Communities for Conservation*) was held at the UoC’s Faculty of Science with the participation of more than 100 undergraduates from Universities of Colombo and Jaffna on 1st February.

The overall goal of this activity was to discuss the Conservation & Management of Wetlands in Sri Lanka providing an opportunity to share ideas and thoughts on Wetland Conservation and Management while promoting ethnic harmony and friendship. The event was started with welcome address by Head of the Department Prof. Deepthi Wickramasinghe stating the importance of Wetlands which was followed by the speech by Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. K. R. R. Mahanama emphasizing on importance of conserving Wetlands as a part of environmental conservation. Prof. Partheepan, Head of Agriculture, University of Jaffna spoke about their interests in conserving wetlands followed by many interactive activities participated by students.



Students from both universities shared their views at the event about diminishing of wetlands with present urbanization and how to conserve wetlands while presenting innovative concepts through drama and songs. The program was concluded expanding the positive notion in wetland conservation, among the students of both universities.

Activity 2 - World Wetland Day celebrations Programme (Event 2)

To mark World Wetland Day, an interactive workshop to raise awareness on the importance of wetlands was organized by Sri Lanka Water Partnership in collaboration with Ministry of Local Government, Economic Promotion, Power & Energy, Environmental Affairs, Water Supply & Drainage and tourism of Western Province on 8th February. This event was held at “Diyasaru Park” in Thalawathugoda with participation of 75 school children.

Sri Lanka is a country which is blessed with abundant water bodies as well as with wetlands. Yet, wetlands are facing many pressures due to enhanced unsustainable developmental activities especially in the urban areas.

To mark World Wetland Day an information booklet was also launched which was prepared by Prof. Wickramasinghe and printed by Western Provincial Council (WPC). This booklet which is in colour with many pictures is to be distributed among school children to raise awareness.



The main goal of this event was to discuss the role of wetlands in climate change mitigation. Thus, SLWP together with WPC provided a platform to raise awareness on the local level issues and to identify appropriate management practices which will ensure the sustainable use of the wetlands and their contribution to mitigate climate change among young generations. School children who are the active members of Environment Pioneers Club from Kalutara district attended to this event. This workshop was coordinated by Professor Deepthi Wickramasinghe of University of Colombo and Ms. Sujeewa Fenando of WPC.

Note : these activities also relate under the RSM / RBO & source area conservation activities in Goal 01.

RSM / RBO Programmes

Activity 1 - World Environment Day Programme

Sri Lanka Water Partnership and Lions Club of Pilimathalawa with the collaboration of Kadugannawa Urban Council and Sri Lanka Red Cross in a tree planting programme for WED, planted 100 Kumbuk trees along Nanu Oya canal on 09th June 2019 at Pilimathalawa, in Central Province. Lions Club of Pilimathalawa and Kadugannawa U.C. will undertake to maintain the trees till established.



GWP – WACREP Activities on CCA

Agency Staff Programmes / New Technology Programme (Activity 2A & 5A)

Activity 1 - Climate Change Adaptation for Improved Export Crops

SLWP in collaboration with the Dept. of Export Agriculture and “Gami Pubuduwa” (Village awakening) program of Hatton National Bank conducted a program on 22nd February at Narammala Divisional Secretary’s office on “Improved Livelihood Security for export crops farmers with climate change adaptation “ for 65 participants . The Head of the Narammala Export Agriculture Research Station, Dr HMPA Subasinghe conducted a session on pepper cultivation for export purposes and the impacts of climate change. He gave abroad view of new cultivation technologies and emphasized the need for micro irrigation to support cultivation during the long droughts experienced with climate change.

Mr RADRA Ranasinghe conducted a session on Betel cultivation for export. A Q and A session was conducted with farmers who were very appreciative of the opportunity given. Many queries raised by farmers were on irrigation and pest control issues related to climate change. Officers of the HNB Gami Pubuduwa conducted a session on financial literacy emphasizing the need for savings and reinvestment in business.

Activity 2 - CCA Programme for Officers / Farmer Leaders in Jaffna and Killinochchi

A CCA Programme for agricultural field staff and farmer Leaders in Jaffna district was held on 18th March at the Thirunavelly Agriculture Training Centre Jaffna. The programme was organized by SLWP in collaboration with the District Secretariat Jaffna with coordination by the District Director Agriculture Jaffna and support of the Chief Secretary NPC. The programme was conducted in Tamil and the Principal Scientist Dr MSM Nijamudeen of FCRDI Mahailupallama served as the main resource person supported by Mrs S Kaileswaran District Director and Dr T Karunainathan Deputy Director Research from the Agriculture Research Station Thirunaveli 41 Officers and 18 Farmer Leaders attended the programme. The total number of participants were 64 including the resource persons and officials. The Programme included a field visit/ demonstration to view technology options for coping with climate change at the Thirunaveli Research Station This programme was the first on CCA held for such target groups and all participants showed high enthusiasm. The District Secretary Jaffna, Mr N Vehtanayahan who made the welcome address stayed on till the completion of the programme indicative of the general interest, enthusiasm and commitment of the staff and farmer leaders for such programmes. The technical books on crops and technical options in Tamil with CCA documents were highly appreciated.



A similar programme was held on 19th March at the District Agricultural Training Centre Veddakachchi in Killinochchi also organized by the District Secretary Killinochchi and coordinated by the District Director Agriculture. Dr MSM Nijamudeen was the main resource person supported by Mr A Selvarajah District Director Agriculture and staff.

Considering that major irrigation systems were important in the district a special focus on CCA and Irrigation system management was emphasized through a prevention by Eng S Shanmuanathan Deputy Chief Secretary NPC Jaffna who had earlier served as Provincial Director Irrigation NP and had long experience in the district.



60 Participants attended the programme among which 27 were farmer Leaders and 28 officers. The same enthusiasm and interest as in Jaffna was seen in this programme as well which the first such programme was held on CCA for field staff and FO Leaders.

Activity 3 - CCA Programme for Field Officers of Irrigation Department of Gampaha and Kegalle District

At the request of ID a CCA programme for field staff of the department serving in the Gampaha DIE Division (Gampaha and Kegalle Districts) was held on 13th June 2019 in Nittambuwa. Mainly field staff of ID comprising Engineering Assistants, Development Officers, and Work Supervisors attended the workshop. A number of Agriculture Department (DA) Instructors too participated. Though a target of 50 participants were planned for 69 attended with 61 participants from ID and DA. The programme covered staff serving in Attanagalu Oya with 36 anicuts and 2 others. . Main source of water for 5 large anicut schemes namely Muruthawela, Panugala, Ketawala, Welikada and Morenna in Gampaha District is the Attanagalu Oya which starts from Kegalle District. There are another 31 small anicut schemes in addition to above schemes fed by same water source. The gross command area under 5 major anicut schemes and medium and minor anicut schemes is about 7380 Acres and 89% of the command area is under paddy in both seasons. Major problems faced by farmers and officers under Attanagalu oya are the water shortages in upper part of Attanagalu Oya and floods in lower parts. There are 117 Farmer organizations established in the area.

An evaluation of the Programme by participants was carried out at conclusion. This Programme has partial funding support from CAPNET Lanka



Activity 1 - CCA Programme for Farmer Leaders of Bathalagoda, Hakwatuna oya and Kimbulwana oya Major Schemes (Deduru oya basin)

A Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) programme for FO leaders of Bathalagoda, Hakwatuna oya and Kimbulwana oya major irrigation schemes on request of the Irrigation Management Division of the Ministry of Irrigation and Irrigation Department was held at the Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI) Bathalagoda on 22nd July 2019. A total of 81 participated including 63 FO representatives of the above schemes, Development Officers of the 3 schemes and Resident Project Manager Batahalagoda. Dr S Pathmarajah and 4 graduate students from PGIA also attended the Programme which was a joint activity of SLWP and Capnet Sri Lanka. Resource Persons included Mr Ananda Jayasinghe Former Director IMD / Irrigation Agronomist. Eng Malaini Kulasinghe Director Irrigation Kandy Zone and former Director NWP who represented Eng Janaki Meegastenna Director Irrigation and Addl Director CRIP who was on a sudden assignment to Manner and Mr DMM Dissanaikie Lecturer Wariapola School of Agriculture and former Deputy Director Agriculture NWP. The programme included a field visit conducted by Mr Rohana Thilakasiri Principal Agriculturist RRDI. SLWP was represented by Mr Ranjith Ratnayake Country Coordinator and Mr UG Abeygunawardena Consultant while the Ministry of Irrigation was represented by Mr RPM Dissanaikie Additional Director IMD.



Goal 02 - Generate and Communicate Knowledge.

GWP – Core Activities

Gender and Water / Youth Activities

Activity 1 - Young Water Professional Programme in Jaffna

The first Young Water Professionals Programme in Northern Province held in Jaffna on 19th March at Euroville Hall. The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp. Ms. Kusum Athukorala Activity Leader and Senior Advisor gave an introduction to the SLWP and highlighted the perceived role of the young Water professionals (YWP) as a conduit for community and school engagement, the need for promoting an ongoing dialogue about water conservation in Jaffna, In view of the major challenges faced by Jaffna and the looming threat of climate change, consultation and consensus building is needed for sustainable, equitable solutions. She said there was a need to work at different levels - to see what can be done at school, work and at home to raise awareness and find a means to keep the public attention on the theme going.



Mr Illaangovan Secretary Northern Province (NP) Governor's Secretariat addressed the gathering and stated that the most critical problem of NP is water.

Mr Bharathidasan, DGM NWSDB gave a broad perspective of water related issues in Jaffna and highlighted some of the ongoing initiatives and possible solutions.

Finally the group then was led in a SWOT analysis by the Activity Leader which also suggested the followup activities. 58 Young Water Professional participated the programme.

Activity 2 - MHM Programme in Matale - Improving girl's access to education through better menstrual health awareness

With support of CSR partners (NDB) and the support of provincial education authorities SLWP/NetWwater commenced a MHM program on July 5th to improve school health through sustainable sanitation focusing on rehabilitation of school sanitation after carrying out a province wide study of school sanitation in Central Province. These studies and subsequent evidence based advocacy activities have highlighted the need for a menstrual hygiene management program to support improved health for girl children and reduce absenteeism among adolescent girls. Poor menstrual hygiene management (MHM) practices was seen as a major cause for blockages and failures in school sanitation systems, thereby depriving the children of access to sanitation especially and crucially during menstruation

Ms. Kusum Athukorala, Snr Advisor SLWP with Dr Gamini Jayakody /RDHS and Ms. Manel Pushpalatha /SLES acted as resource persons. The program was attended 23 teachers and 423 girls by as well as Provincial and Zonal education officers. The group included a large number of premenstrual girls.

The students were given an opportunity to send written questions after each session and responses were given by the resource persons. A simple questionnaire was verbally administered at the end. The questionnaire was optional and it was observed that students jointly filled in questionnaires...

School Programmes / Water Messenger Programmes

Activity 1 - World Water Day TOT Programme by Lions Club of Pilimathalawa

A training programme for 68 concealing teachers was held on 25th February at teacher's training center, Pilimathalawa. Awareness of water and sanitation and school sanitation was carried out during this programme. Assistant Director, Department of Education Central Province, A Senior Chemist, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Programme officer from Teachers Training Centre participated the programme as resource persons.

15 schools agreed to do art competitions, essay competitions and poster exhibitions while other 53 agreed to have an awareness programme at school assembly on 22nd March. Prices of 1st, 2nd & 3rd will be to the 15 schools.



Activity 2 - World Water Day Programme by Lions Club of Pilimathalawa

With the collaboration of the SLWP Partner the Lions Club of Pilimathalawa a World Water Day Programme was organized on 21st of March at Danthure Maha Vidyalaya. The Programmes was an awareness programme on water security for school children. Around 200 students, 12 Teachers and 2 officials from Lions club Pilimathalawa participated the programme. Chief Chemist from National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Central Province participate the programme as a resource person.



Activity 3 - World Water Day Programme by Ma Oya AWP

An Environment Conservation Programme was organized by the Ma Oya AWP to commemorate World Water Day on 15th - 16th March in Gurugoda Oya, Undugoda. This is the second part of the programme (first programme held on 21st February at Molagoda Primary school as an awareness activity), where 43 students and environmentalists did a river clean-up programme around the Gurugoda Oya area. The clean-up covered around 16 kms and it also included observation of illegal construction on the sides of the Nalangana Ella (upper part of the Gurugoda Oya) and conclusions and actions were discussed at the end of the programme as the 2nd Phase.

Activity 4 - World Water Day School Quiz programme

A School Quiz Programme was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Department of Education, Western Province and University of Colombo on 30th March at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI), Colombo. 40 schools out of 90 were selected for this programme from the 1st round held in early March. The programme consisted of 3 rounds where a quiz round, art competition and a debate was held and given marks to each school team accordingly. Prof. Deepthi Wickramasinghe, Regional Council Member GWP SAS / Programme Committee Member SLWP took a major role in sections of the winners and arrangement of this programme. SLWP donated school sanitation booklets, posters and water messenger badges for the participants.



Activity 5 - World Environment Day Programme at Kadugannawa Maha Vidyalaya

An awareness programme for school children on air pollution and an art exhibition was organized by the SLWP and Partner Lions Club of Pilimathalawa on 7th June at Kadugannawa Maha Vidyalaya to commemorate World Environment Day. The programme was carried out by the Head of Agriculture section of the school, Mr. Ashoka Ratnayake under supervision of the school principal. Total of 30 students participated the programme and 12 students were selected for best arts.

Activity 6 - Tree Planting Programme by Ma Oya AWP

A tree planting and an awareness programme was organized by the SLWP and Partner Ma Oya AWP (Ma Oya Mithuro) on 05th June commemorating the World Environment Day. The tree planting was done around the BO Ella area with the participation of 60 scouts. There will be an art and essay competition as the second stage of this programme and scheduled to be held in the first week of July.



SDG Activities

World Environment Day Programmes

Activity 1 - Environmental Programme by Lions Club of Pilimathalawa

SLWP Partner The Lions Club of Pilimathalawa organized a programme under the topic, "Haritha Purawarak Bihika Bihikaramu" on 8th February. The activity is a part of the work undertaken to build a Green Zone by

cleaning posters and banners from Kadugannawa to Pilimathalawa area. The message of clean water for a sustainable eco system is also promoted during this activity. 12 members from the Lions Club of Pilimathalawa and 86 other volunteers participated the programme.



Activity 2 - CCA Programme for The Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind

The Nuffield School is part of the Ceylon School for the Deaf and Blind (CSDB) is governed by the Anglican Church and managed by a Board of Trustees headed by the Bishop of Colombo. The CSDB operates three residential schools, The School for the Deaf and The School for the Blind at Ratmalana, and the Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind at Kaithady in Jaffna.



This programme was held on 18th March and the objective of this program is to improve school children's health status by imparting a broader awareness and understanding of the issues related to water and sanitation in scenario of climate related changes.

The program covered the themes of climate change, drinking water supply and water quality and the links between sanitation and health. The program included an interactive component on building a school water action plan.

This activity took more time than a normal school activity as the entire program had to be explained to the sign language teachers beforehand. Thus the program was held in Tamil, English and sign language.

The activity started with a dance drama on the theme of deforestation carried out by the older children. Then the SLWP activity leader Kusum Athukorala explained her experience of the impact of Climate Change on water security and the perceived threat to water security of Jaffna.

The Resource person Mr Dwarakan /NWSDB conducted a lecture with photos via power point presentation about the climate change and drinking water issues affecting Jaffna.

Ms Geethanie Ahangama Steering Committee member SLWP donated painting material and gifts for the competition

Goal 03 - Strengthen Partnerships

Private Sector Collaboration

Activity 1 - SLWP HNB Tea Landscape Programme

After successfully completing the construction of the 6 Rain Water Harvesting Tanks in 6 selected school a post construction training programme was held on proper maintenance of the new tanks. The programme was held on 15th February and conducted by my SLWP partner/collaborator Mr. Lalith Seneviratne. The programmes were held at each school individually throughout the day.

The Tea Landscape Final report was submitted to HNB on 25th February



Initiatives are underway to expand the tea landscape programme supported by HNB and have Unilever restart the Agra Oya programme that was stopped after the pilot study. Discussions are on with Dilmah to see areas of collaboration under their CSR portfolio.

Governance

8 Programme Committee Meetings and 2 Steering Committee Meetings held up to November 2019. The 2nd Steering Committee Meeting on 7th November to approve 2020 Work Plan and Budget of SLWP .

Other

a) Meeting with Cargill's Bank.

A three member team from SLWP had meeting with the CEO of Cargills Bank on 26th March at the bank headquarters on possible collaboration and support under Cargills CSR Programmes. Mr Thiagarajah the CEO was very interested in SLWP activities especially those addressing farming issues and agreed to further take-up with the Food City Chain that had strong links to local farmers.

b) GWP SAS Regional Council Member Prof Deepthi Wickramasinghe receives award at 1st World Summit on

“Leaving No One Behind”

Professor Deepthi Wickramasinghe, Professor in Environmental Science, University of Colombo and Regional Council Member GWP South Asia representing Sri Lanka Water Partnership was one of 3 recipients of best exploratory awards for human rights based approaches towards water for all at the 1st World Summit held in Geneva on 7th February 2019. Professor Wickramasinghe has worked for the water sector for many years with a special focus on clean and green water for all, human beings as well as for ecosystems.



The other two awards were went to Columbia and India. Proposal by Prof Wickramasinghe was on “Rainwater Harvesting as an alternative water source for CKDU affected areas in Sri Lanka”. The award carries with it a grant of Swiss Francs 5000/- from WATERLEX a NGO established in 2010 in Geneva to promote human rights to water and sanitation. The pilot project is planned to be carried out in Sri Lanka this year.

c) National Conference on Colombo Wetlands

The Global Environmental Facility/Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP) implemented by UNDP has been initiated and offers an excellent opportunity to protect and conserve Colombo Wetlands which provides a unique value to Colombo metro areas and suburbs. The Centre for Environmental Justice accepted this challenge and has presented a strategic and extensive community based plan and has invited decision makers, state agency representatives, practitioners, academics, developers and general public and other interested parties to this conference.

SLWP Senior advisor Ms. Kusum Athukorala and GWP SAS RC Member Prof. Deepthi Wickramasinghe participated at the above programme on 11th June at the Water’s Edge, Battaramulla.

d) GWP Network Meeting

SLWP participated at the Virtual Network Meeting on 26th June along with GWP SAS RO. SLWP Partners highlighted issues related to GWP Impact Areas of SDG and Climate Change. Need for adequate funding was highlighted as diminishing Core was impacting on rand and visibility affecting leverage of LRF. Need for GWP to partner with dedicated ware expert centers such as IWMI for expert input was recommended. Need for more Gender and Youth focus in GWP programmes was also expressed

e) 21st International convention of the Soroptimists International

SLWP Senior Advisor Ms. Kusum Athukorala participated at the 21st International convention of the Soroptimists International was held in Kuala Lumpur 19-21st July with more than 1000 global representatives. Ms. Kusum delivered the key note address on the theme “Women Water and Food Security” and participated in the subsequent panels on climate change and women’s health. She also made use of this opportunity to meet representatives of the Malaysian Water Partnership.

f) SLWP Senior Advisor Participating at Stockholm Water Week

SLWP Senior Advisor Ms. Kusum Athukorala participated as a presenter and resource person in the full day session on Women and Youth – living apart together. She attended all Asia Focus sessions which had very poor gender focus and commented accordingly. She also went for the training sessions conducted on Facebook and Instagram and visited the booths and had discussions regarding funding by Antea PLC , Nestles, IHE Delft , UNWATER , Australia Water Partnership, Govt of India’s Swach Bharath and BORDA .

She was invited to the IWMI launch, the Womens networking event and “She Decides” event conducted by WfWP. she had sit down discussions with GWP Exec Secy Monika for collaboration with WfWP. She also had discussions with Monica Ericson, Steven Downey , Colin Herron and Francois Brikke of GWP at which she consistently raised the issues of CWP funding . She was introduced to new GWP Chair Mr Bamsey.

She met with young water professionals including Antonella Vagliente who visited Sri Lanka – this year 25% of participants were youth.

g) ROSA-WASH Climate Resilience Training from 16-19 July in Kathmandu, Nepal

SLWP Country coordinator Mr. Ranjith Ratnayake participated in this programme along with other professionals representing Sri Lanka, including an Addl. Secretary from the Ministry of City Planning, a Senior Assistant Secretary from the Ministry of Environment the Disaster Risk Reduction Programme Officer from UNICEF. The focus was on WASH and climate resilience and GWP involvement was to seek integration of GWP work in SAS with WASH activities in approaching issues of response to climate change. Both resource persons from GWP and UNICEF were well briefed and knowledgeable and competently handled the 3 day programme.

A Technical Brief on integrating climate resilience into national policies and plans, Linking Risk with Response – options for climate resilience and the Strategic Framework for WASH climate resilience was comprehensive and well presented. The one on Risk Assessment was most useful for even non-WASH water persons. The presentations on Financing on the last day on GCF funding was well thought out and the presentation by Lopez Rello on Financing from GEF, Adaptation Fund and GEF was the highlight as it brought in perspectives and key points useful to all proponents of projects to these funds, usually lacking in presentations on third party institutions.

h) Readiness Support to NDA (Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment under Green Climate Fund (GCF)).

GWP has been accepted as Readiness Support Delivery Partner to access GCF funds by the NDA. A proposal is being prepared to strengthen NDA and line agencies to monitor commitments under NDC and the Paris Agreement and prepare a pipeline of proposals for downstream water management complementary to the proposal on upper watersheds being undertaken by ICRAF for the NDA. Funding is sought in 2020 from GCF for the above.

25th Regional Council (RC) Meeting of GWP South Asia

The 25th RC meeting of GWP South Asia was held on 19th and 20th October in Thimpu Bhutan. Mr Lalith Dissanaikie represented SLWP at the Meeting. The Issue of reduced core funding and impact on performance was highlighted by him and all CWP representatives. This issue to be taken up as priority with GWPO by Chair SAS.

i) Annual Partners Forum of SLWP

The 2019 Annual partners Forum of SLWP will be held at 4.00 pm on 17th December at Salon Anthurium Galadari Hotel

j) Symposium on Urban Water and Coastal Management

SLWP is collaborating with the Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya on the above symposium will be held in the Yellow River Auditorium of IWMI on 28th November 2019.

07/11/2019