

SLWP Activity Progress January – June 2022

World Wetland Day Activities 2022

World Wetland Day Programme by Central Environmental Authority (CEA)

SLWP have been contributing for this event for last five years. SLWP partner CEA, conducted the programme commemorating the world wetland day on 2nd February at “Ape Gama”. The programme consisted of various cultural events and speeches from universities regarding the importance of wetlands. Certificates were given to the winners of the essay and speech competition held in schools focusing the wetland day.



World Wetland Day Programme by University of Colombo

SLWP partner, University of Colombo organized a wetland programme in collaboration with SLWP and Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLDC) on 2nd February at “Diyasaru Uyana” wetland park. The programme started with a nature trail through the wetland park and keynote speech was done by Prof. Devaka Weerakoon, University of Colombo. Finally demonstration session was carried out on “creating a floating wetland and “Eco friendly methods for restoring canal banks”. The programme was coordinated by Steering Committee member Prof. Deepthi Wickramasinghe.



World Wetland Day Programme at Kobbekaduwa Vidyalaya, Muruthawela

Marking World Wetland day 2022 with the collaboration of Lanka Jalani, Lions Club of Pilimathalawa and Divisional Secretariate office Yatinuwara, held an educational / awareness program on February 01st for students and teachers of Kobbekaduwa Vidyalaya, Muruthalawa in Yatinuwara AGA's Division Kandy district. The programme focused on the importance of Wetlands and Water and how it effects on Climate Change.

Due to Covid 19 pandemic situation only 61 students 13 teachers and 02 officers from AGA office participated the programme. But the participants are planned to have a session / discussion with other students / staff and staff on 02.02.2022 on the above topic.



World Wetland Day Programme at Madduma Bandara Junior school- Aladuwa, Kadugannawa

Marking World Wetland day 2022 with the collaboration of Lanka Jalani, Lions Club of Pilimathalawa held another an educational / awareness program on 02nd February for students and teachers of the Madduma Bandara Vidyalaya , Aladuwa, Kadugannwa in Udunuwara AGA's Division , Kandy district.

Due to Covid 19 pandemic situation participated only 10 students 2 teachers. But the participants will have a program with other students and staff.



World Water Day Activities 2022

World Water Day Tree Planting Programme

With the collaboration of the SLWP partner, Lions Club of Pilimathalawa, a tree planting programme was organized in the Denuwara Educational Zone. Over 150 valuable plants were handed over to 80 schools in Denuwara Educational Zone. The trees were planted in schools and river bank areas with participation of over 120 students. This activity was carried out during the month of March.





World Water Day Shramadana Programme in Gonadika School

Marking the World Water Day a shramdana / cleaning programme was organized in the Gonadika Vidyalaya on 20th March. The schools premises and water resource areas were cleaned during this activity. 15 students and 25 school community members participated the programme.



World Environment Day Programmes



Manioc Tree planting programme - WED 2022 Programme

The above programme held on 8th June at Manikdiwela Central College. The programme was organized by the SLWP partner the Lions Club of Pilimathalawa. They have a long history with Lanka Jalani collaborating and actively participating in activities.

200 manioc sticks were planted on the school premises and another 200 were distributed among the children to be planted in their home gardens. With the current crisis, food security is one of the most important matters, and encouraging students/community on home gardening will be a somewhat solution. 175 school children and 15 staff participated the programme.



Donating of Coconut Plants – WED 2022 Programme

The above programme held on 30th June at Orayan Estate, Doluwa, Gampola. This was another programme organized by the SLWP partner the Lions Club of Pilimathalawa.

With the collaboration of Lanka Jalani, Agriculture development organization Orayan estate, Lions club of Pilimathalawa and Divisional secretary of Gampola we distributed Coconut trees and vegetables seeds to peoples at Orayan estate G.S. Division. 60 low-income families benefitted from this programme.



School Walk, Aladuwaka Madduma Bandara Vidyalyaya - WED 2022 Programme

The Lions club of Pilimathalawa we organized ab Environment day walk from Aladuwaka Madduma Bandara school to Kandy Colombo main road on 7th June.

160 students and staff participated in this walk and messages on the importance of catchment conservation, tree planting, food security best practices/habits for conserving energy were displayed in the walk.

The walk started from school and walked on Kandy – Colombo main road and returned to school. Some information flyers were disseminated to the community while the walk.

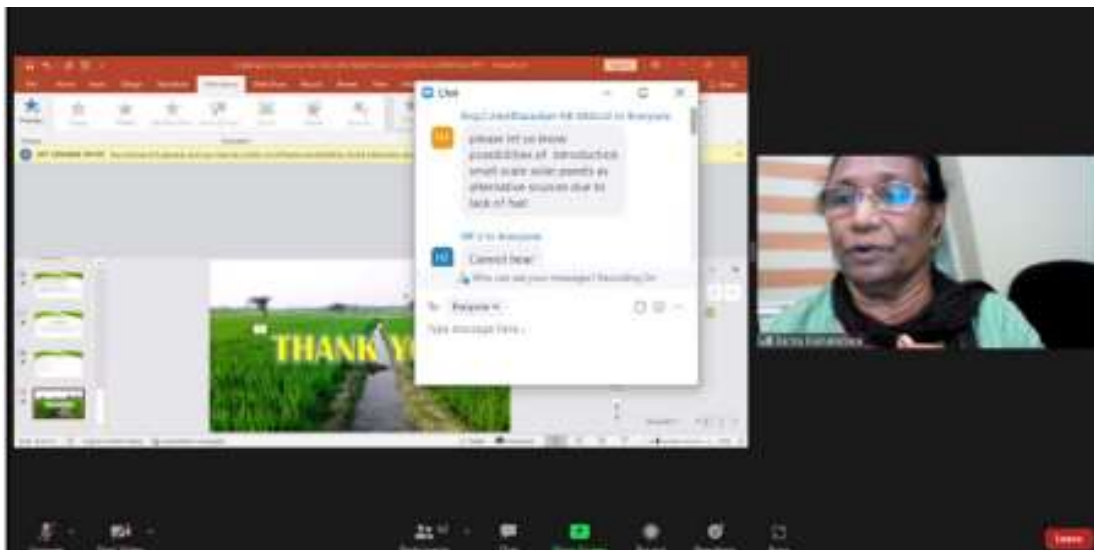


Webinar on “Challenges in on-going Yala Cultivations-2022”

An online webinar was organized by the Water Forum of the Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka on 30th May with collaboration with SLWP as a hybrid event..

Currently, Sri Lanka is experiencing an agricultural crisis that will lead to a shortage of food. The crisis is also likely to hit the livelihood of the farming community. Engineers working in the irrigation and water resources sectors need to work hard to mitigate the harmful effects and assist in securing adequate food supply while ensuring the best possible allocation for most needed power and domestic water.

The above programme addressed these issues and shared their knowledge on mitigating these issues by adding new technology such as solar panels as a solution for the power shortage. Resource persons from the Department of Irrigation and Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka shared their knowledge in this event.



Celebrating the World Water Day with the collaboration of IESL

“Groundwater” making the invisible visible”, the theme of World Water Day 2022, that has been very successfully celebrated by SLWP, with collaboration with the Institute of Engineers of Sri Lanka (IESL). The event was the Webinar and Panel Discussion on “Groundwater in Sri Lanka : Opportunities and Challenges”, organized by the Water Forum (WF) of IESL. This was held on 24th March 2022, 2.00 pm at Wimalasurendra Auditorium of IESL.

The audience was welcomed by Eng. Janaka Priyantha, Chairperson, Young Engineers Water Forum Subcommittee of Water Forum IESL. Eng (Dr.) Kamal Laksiri, the President Elect and Acting President of IESL was delivered the opening remarks. The main item of the event, the Technical Sessions was initiated followed by. *“Governance of Groundwater Resources”* - R. R. G. R. Rajapakse (Assistant General Manager – Research and Development, Water Resources Board, *“Lessons Learnt from International Experiences”* - Mr. Sydney De Silva (Groundwater Management Consultant), *“Groundwater Resources Availability”* - Prof. Ranjana Piyadasa (Professor in Hydrogeology and Head of the Department of Environmental Technology, University of Colombo), *“Groundwater Quality”* Dr. (Eng) S.K Weragoda (Director – Joint Research and Demonstration Center for Water Technology) and, *“Groundwater Usage”* - Mr. Mahinda Premathilake (Assistant General Manager – National Water Supply and Drainage Board). The Technical Sessions were moderated by Eng. S. Jayasiriwardene (Water Supply Specialist). After the panel discussion, an awarding of Tokens with a Note of Appreciation was held and the event was concluded with a Reception.

Around 30 physically attended the event and nearly 50 participants joined virtually. Last not least, it was greatly appreciated Eng. Badra Kalamadasa, the Chairperson of Water Forum-IESL and Chairperson of Sri Lanka Water Partnership (Lanka Jalani) at IWMI for taking the leadership of this entire event. Ms. Kusum Athukorala – Chairperson of Global Water Partnership (GWP) South Asia was attended the programme. SLWP was represented by Mr. Ranjith Ratnayake – Consultant, Poorna Yahampath – Country Coordinator and Mr. Thakshila Premarathne – Programme Officer.

Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

Making of Voice of Water related gender and water video documentary “Keeping the Pot Boiling”

As part of a Continuing collaboration from 2020 Women Water and Climate – Tackling the challenges conference an End of Activity Document called the “Way forward “was developed for future advocacy work. This documentary is to supplement the print document and be posted on SLWP WFWP and other partner websites.

The film “Keep the Pot Boiling “uses existent material from the conference as well as new footage to be shot in Kandy. A field trip was undertaken to carry out the fresh shoot. Final editing is to be undertaken but is being delayed due to fuel issues.

Aquaflix 2022 – Video Competition for celebrating World Water Day 2022.

Aquaflix 2022 is a video competition and a webinar program. This was organized to commemorate the World Water Day which falls on March 22nd. A video competition on groundwater was held under the theme 'Groundwater - Making the Invisible Visible'. This competition was open to faculty of animal science and export agriculture. They were provided with appropriate guidelines based on the main theme and sub-themes. Competitors are requested to make a short video, short film, or documentary video. After 3 weeks of time submission was closed. It was planned to the webinar on 9th of March with the purpose of disseminating the knowledge of resource persons regarding water security, communication and environment, and groundwater issues and to announce the winners, to display their videos and finally having a round table discussion regarding each video.

The main objective of this event was to focus on the university community for the conservation of groundwater resources and to enhance their knowledge.

Video competition and webinar was open to all students of the faculty of animal science and export agriculture, Uva Wellasa University.

They had the opportunity to compete in a new way. Through video competitions and webinar, students gain new knowledge and new experiences about groundwater.

The Webinar at 9.00 AM on April 09, 2022, with 258 participants.

The videos prepared by the candidates of the competition are on YouTube and other relevant websites. Students have started doing the needful operations to make the clips, technically feasible to be published on these online platforms. Once the tuning is done, the final product would be handed over to NetWwater and Sri Lanka Water Partnership.

Technical Report Writing for Young Professionals (Two Programmes)

SLWP collaborated with the Kotmale International Irrigation Training Institute for a series of training workshops on technical report writing. This program was initiated by the national committee, International Network for Water and Ecosystems in Paddy Fields (INWEPF) functioning under the Ministry of Irrigation. It was planned as a response to the recommendations made by the paper reviewers of the 17th INWEPF International Conference. The Program was held on 2nd and 3rd November 2021 at BMICH. During the post-review of the conference, the paper reviewers and conference organizers expressed their views on the need for enhancing skills in conducting practical research and technical paper writing for young professionals in the water sector. With the recommendation of the organizing committee of the (INWEPF) it was planned to train 50 young professionals in this area.

Accordingly, the first training program was held on 1st and 2nd March at the Kothmale International Training Institute for 21 participants selected from the Irrigation Department, Ministry of Irrigation, Mahaweli Authority, Agrarian Development Department, and North Central Province Irrigation Department.

This was followed by a second program held on 23rd and 24th May 2022 for another 21 participants from the Irrigation Department, Ministry of Irrigation, Mahaweli Authority, Agrarian Development Department, and KITI.

The INWEPF committee is planning to conduct a young professional symposium towards the end of this year and expects the active participation of those who participated in the workshop.



Energy Conservation Awareness Programme

In view of the present fuel crisis in the country, energy shortage is a topical issue. SLWP partner, the Lions Club of Pilimathalawa organized an awareness programme to bring the message of energy conservation to the public by creating and displaying banners on conserving energy on 9th May. The banners were displayed around Kandy town in places visible to the public.



Private Sector Collaboration Activities

Rainwater Harvesting Systems maintenance training programmes for Schools in Central Province

CSR Project - SLWP signed an Agreement on 23rd September 2021 with M/S Perera and Sons Pvt Ltd for the project (TEC Euro 7000/-) to provide 5 RWH systems for deserving schools in the CP tea landscape. The Construction started in mid-November 2021 and construction was completed by 31st December 2021. All five RWH systems have been handed over to the respective school principals. The selected schools were.

1. Kobbekaduwa Kanishta Vidyalaya
2. Dunivila Maha Vidyalaya
3. Ankumbura Maha Vidyalaya
4. Gonadika Maha Vidyalaya
5. Kirimatiya Maha Vidyalaya

Due to the covid period, most of the CSR opportunities have dried up due to financial constraints faced by corporates. The Construction started in mid-November 2021 and construction was completed by 31st December 2021. All five RWH systems have been handed over to the respective school principals.

As a post-construction activity, the training programmes for school children and staff were planned to carry out in the respective schools. Two programmes were already held in February 2022 for other three schools programmes were held after the school vacations, in mid-March 2022.

Rainwater Harvesting Tank Painting Programme (RWH Tank Programme with P&S)

Following the end of a successful RWH tank project with partner Perera & Sons Ltd., it was decided to carry out a RWH painting programme for the completed tanks. An estimate was given and agreed on by P&S and several students from each school were selected to do the painting. The painting materials were handed over to schools in March and the painting was done during the month of April and May.

Kobbekaduwa and Kirimatiya and Gonadika schools were visited on the 19-20th of April. The principals of these schools visited were given a token of appreciation for their cooperation. Two schools (Dunuwilla and Ankumbura) who have found it difficult to complete the painting due to ongoing closures and were not visited but encouraged to complete and was done in May.

The inspections were delayed overdue to current fuel problems affecting the country. Schools too are also seen to be badly affected by ongoing fuel and power issues.



Handing over of painting materials to schools



Governance

SLWP Programme Committee Meetings and Steering Committee Meetings

Four Programme Committee Meetings and One Steering Committee Meeting was held to date.