

Walawe Left Bank Irrigation Upgrading and Extension Project (Phase II), Sri Lanka

(Period of study: 6 months from January, 2002 Our assignments: farming)
(Period of study: 5 months from August, 2003 Our assignments: farming)

Background of the study

Agriculture is still the mainstay of the economy in Sri Lanka. The agricultural sector accounts for 12% of GDP (Gross Domestic Production). 32% of the country's population is engaged in agriculture-related activities and more than 70 % of the citizens live in rural areas. In the southern dry area, solving the dry period water shortage problem, rehabilitating agricultural infrastructure and promoting crop diversity are the main issues to focus on to help alleviate poverty. It is also necessary to rehabilitate and upgrade existing irrigation facilities there. The Project area is located in the lower regions of the Walawe River in the central part of the Hambantota district, Southern dry area and 240 km away from Colombo. This area has poor production of rice and other crops due to farmers' dependence on rainfall. The residents are poor compared to those of other areas. Therefore this project focuses on securing stable irrigation water, increasing land use efficiency and improving agricultural production. Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka requested this project under Yen loan program.

Outline of the study

The project built a new irrigation system and social infrastructure in the rain-fed area, and rehabilitated and upgraded the old facility of Uda Walawe reservoir. Then the project tries to 1) increase the production of rice and OFC under stable application of irrigation; 2) create employment opportunities under new construction and settlement; and 3) improve the farmers' living environment and activate the regional economy.

Our assignments

- Baseline survey in irrigated area and newly settled area
- Demonstration of vegetable production
- Selection of new crops and cultivation improvement of existing crops



Field assistant is a member of technical resource team (bitter gourd field)



Good relationship with farmers in kohlrabi field



Technical resource team has weekly field visits



Possibility of cocoyam cultivation in the Project area