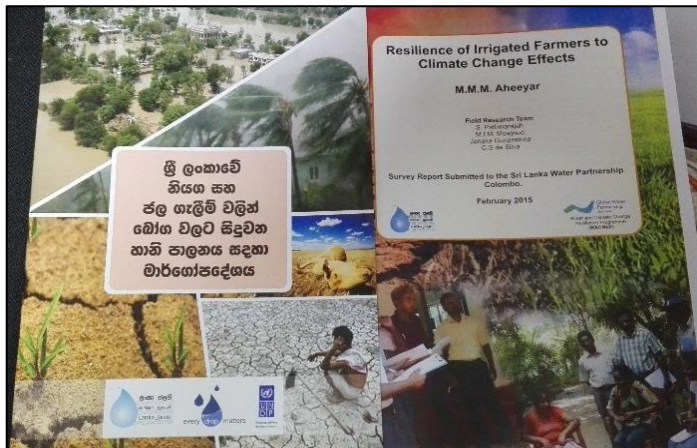


## Fresh Training Tools for Climate Change Adaptation in Sri Lanka

WACREP Activity No. 7C: Knowledge Products

Sri Lanka Water Partnership's interventions on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) by giving special focus on water started in 2002. They have initiated several local and national dialogues to raise awareness on CCA from decision makers to farmers including the youth. In 2011, Sri Lanka Water Partnership (SLWP) developed a synopsis "A guideline to minimizing crop damage from droughts and floods in Sri Lanka" in Sinhala to be distributed and used by the officials who are involved in the rural agricultural sector. The initial publication was developed and published by the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee in 2011 with the financial assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The first editorial was published both in Sinhala and English but with a limited number of copies where most of the field level Agricultural Officials were not in a position to use the publication. Therefore SLWP took the initiative to summarise the book into a booklet by choosing the most important recommendations made, with the approval of the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee. Most importantly SLWP decided to distribute the publication for free.



In 2013, SLWP implemented a coherent, integrated and a focused critical mass of activities on CCA, with the patronage of Water and Climate Resilience Programme (WACREP) of Global Water Partnership South Asia. SLWP conducted the farmer resilience survey on 'Resilience of Irrigated Farmers to Climate Change Effects' and produced a report in 2015. The objective of the Farmer Resilience Survey was to complement and reinforce the field activities of CAA by conducting a situation analysis to identify the challenges face by the irrigated farming community and also to contribute to

prepare a policy brief suggesting interventions by the various agencies that will meet the actual needs of these farmers and communities. The research team consisted of students from three Sri Lankan universities and a Technical Adviser.

The next complementary activity was producing the Film 'Thinking of water when the Well Runs Dry'. The 30 minutes video documentary discusses about CCA for irrigated agriculture. More than 300 copies of the film has been distributed among the stakeholders and the same was uploaded in the YouTube. In addition SLWP is seeking ways and means to further disseminate the video by using it as a training tool through Agrarian Services Centres and the Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka in line with the upcoming National Farmers' Week.



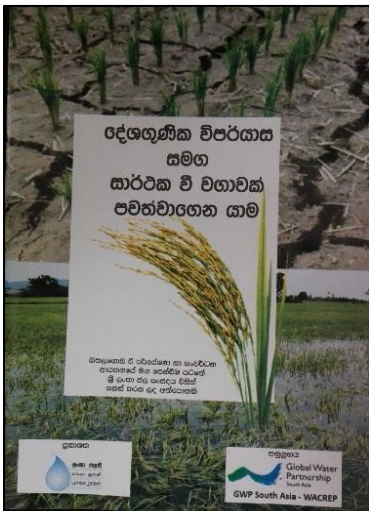
Climate Change affected the pattern and the intensity of rainfall which resulted in unexpected dry conditions, flooding and high levels of acidity conditions in the farmlands. In order to minimise these adverse effects on agriculture, the Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka is piloting research through which it is trying to introduce new agricultural technology to farmers.

## Most recent publications of SLWP:

It is evident that transferring new technology only to the farmers will not be adequate to observe rapid and effective results in the field. Therefore it was decided by the Department of Agriculture to disseminate the knowledge simultaneously among Government Officials who work in the Agriculture Sector. In this context, SLWP playing its role as a catalyst and has developed three handbooks in Sinhala (a national language) with the guidance of Department of Agriculture. These handbooks will be used as knowledge products in future trainings.

"Most importantly we produce our publications in the national languages. Our products are much in demand because, these are written in simple language, not bulky and we give it free. We always try to use most updated information in our publications by involving experts from the agricultural sector and ensure using appropriate communication methods to enhance clarity including at the grassroots level" said Mr Ranjith Ratnayake, Country Coordinator, SLWP.

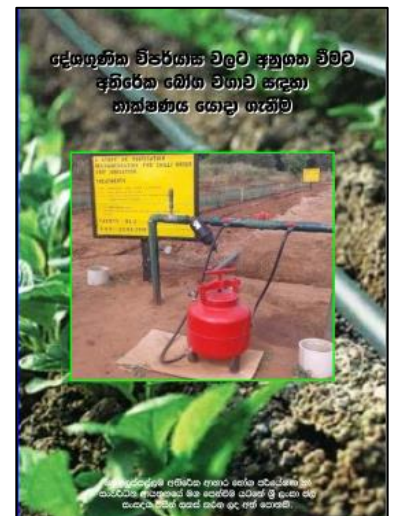
## Publication on 'Irrigated Paddy Cultivation in the Context of Climate Change'



The handbook on Irrigated Paddy Cultivation in the Context of Climate Change consists of selected practical modalities as identified and recommended by the Department of Agriculture. It further consisted of new techniques identified, tested and verified by the Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI), Bathalagoda which provided technical assistance in producing the booklet.

## Publication on 'New Technology Options and Best Practices to Cope with Climate Change in Cultivating Other Field Crops'

Government of Sri Lanka encourages farmers on crop diversification due to various reasons - the country becomes self-sufficient with rice, difficulty in providing sufficient water supply for paddy cultivation, assist farmers to get higher incomes and to guide the community towards nutritious food habits are some of them.



Limited water availability for irrigation encouraged the Department of Agriculture searching for new technology options to overcome the challenge. With the given background, SLWP developed the second technical booklet on 'New Technology Options and Best Practices to Cope with Climate Change in Cultivating Other Field Crops (OFC)' with the guidance of the Field Crop Research and Development Institute of Maha Illuppallama in July 2016.

A similar publication - "Rain Water Harvesting for Agriculture" being developed by SLWP with the collaboration of the Field Crop Research and Development Institute, Angunakolapelessa will be published shortly.

Water and Climate Resilience Programme (WACREP) is an innovative initiative of Global Water Partnership (GWP) South Asia devised to improve the climate resilience of South Asian countries to withstand the impact of climate change.

This is a Success Story documented by SLWP.

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