

Completed of UNDP SGP-GEF funded project the Restoration of the Agricultural biodiversity through the dissemination of organic Agriculture

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Project Name: The Restoration of the Agricultural biodiversity through the dissemination of organic Agriculture-

Grant Recipient: Lanka Organic Agriculture Movement

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Location of Project: Regional Centers

Project Start and end Dates (as originally proposed) Dec 2008---Dec2009

Changes (if any) in Start or End Dates Up to Dec2010

Period Covered by Report :2008 Jul-2011 Jan

Report Submitted by:

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1.1 Project activities completed in this period:

- Monitoring and evaluating visits to regional resource centres
 - East - (Kalmunai / Panama, NSRC)
 - South (Hambantota, Ruhuna) UOR
 - Central - (Welisara)
 - North West - (Colombo Urban OA)
 - Sabaragamuwa - (Farmer federation Homagama)
 - Uva (BRIT)

All the above regional centers were monitored by LOAM members and it was reported by them as gently satisfaction. All of them are keeping Demonstrational models still as they proposed.

Farmer federation

The Farmer federation for conservation traditional seeds and agri- resources is the organization has the office premises seed bank and small marketing. Especially traditional paddy seeds, traditional vegetable and fruits and few medicinal value plants conservation in fully organic based.

In the office area they have good demonstrational models for conservation of traditional yams, vegetables, fruit crops and medicinal plants and seed paddy by using traditional techniques.



Traditional paddy cultivation Trial



traditional seed collection



Seed packets (traditional varies of vegetables) for market

Uva (BRIT)

During the field visit it could able to have a discussion between many more farmers who were involving in the demonstrated organic farming. For organic production of paddy, home gardening and small scale vegetable cultivation. All of them are well managing under the organic conditions and they have requested the organic certification from the local certification body.

Farmers who are practicing organic paddy by using the traditional paddy varieties and selected farmers engaging the conventional paddy farming. These farmers' and 50 home gardeners have been trained and instructed to maintain organic home gardens by the Bio Diversity Research Information and Training Institute (BRIT) Badulla and the farmers are in Sirimalgoda village.

All most they have 2 home base seed banks and more than 10 seed conservation units also.



When chat with farmers'



Home gardening



Seed collections Units

South (Hambantota, Ruhuna)

The University of Ruhunu did well what are commitments, Maintenance of the existing organic crop field. Maintenance of traditional varieties construction of compost reactors Green manure crops establishment, wire mesh fences establishment were its activities. Pheromone traps had been established for crop management. They have established one farmer's society and farmers were trained. They have a nice plot for the banana germplasm conservation also, even they are struggling to manage with the labour wage to the well management.



Wire mesh fence establishment



Green manure crop establishment



Vermiculture compost reactors



Traditional yam plot



Traditional Germplasm of Banana

Neo Synthesis Research Centre-Kalmunai

The Kalmunai peninsula is a low-lying sand peninsula located at North west Coast of Srilanka. Eco farming Demonstration and maintaining old Eco farming systems were handled by NSRC with the facilitating of LOAM in Kalmunai with the involving of local community members and the trained farmers. The training also provided by NSRC.

Impact of these Eco farming activities. Bioremediation is self sustaining. This clean technology is simple and easily adopted by the community. It is affordable. Then people are benefitting from the adoption of Eco farming by way of food, woodfuel, timber and medicine

Eco planting activities



During the farmers training



Navy camp premises Welisara - Organic Garden

Efforts were made to establish an Organic agro garden in the Navy camp premises Welisara. Initially basic crops were grown here, then the scope has the idea to expand it, however to include all Organic agricultural related activities to this park.

In this section demonstrate the dendro power generation from the Gliricidia.

An area for entrepreneurs to sell their products (horticultural plants, vegetable seedlings for home garden, Flesh Organic vegetables, organic fertilizer etc.)is demarcated



Urban Organic Agriculture in Colombo

Crops cultivation under organic condition has been demonstrated under this section. Application and practical knowledge of organic liquid fertilizers, organic pesticides as well as organic fungicide can be taken from this section. Also we can get experience of crops management in urban area in this same field in this section.

To help families in Sri Lanka establish and maintain high-output home gardens, a model home garden was created. According to, Dr.Geegana Arachige, the model garden was created to help people increase their knowledge of gardening techniques through viewing a visible success.

Germplasm collection of traditional varieties, propagation techniques, Production techniques, various systems of field planting &management, mulching, different systems of bunch covering could be seen in this section.



North

Other than the above LOAM has visited to Jaffna, to the work shop “the work shop on development of the northern Agriculture. After 3 decades it was the great forum in North all stake holders of Agriculture were participated, and LOAM also had that contribution`

- Publication of a newsletter in Sinhala, Tamil and English on Organic Agriculture.

During the project period LOAM published two news letters. Which were enriched with timely valuable events and information of organic agriculture.

- Hosting a website on organic agriculture

A systematic web site was hosted for the LOAM and it is processing and updating with the current information of organic agriculture in the world.

- Publication of a manual /directory for organic agriculture.

This organic agriculture directory includes all most all the organic lands in the country. The information was collected by doing a survey in all over the country.

- Exhibition and Trade Fair on organic agriculture.
Mainly under this World environment day, The Organic Blooming, and the PGS (participatory Guarantee System) Exhausting programme in Srilanka was done
- Prizes for the progressive farmers.

According to the farmers contribution to the organic sector, under the continuous observation and well logic by LOAM there are 15 farmers were selected they will be awarded on the Annual General meeting of the LOAM.

Problems or difficulties in project implementation:

All of the regional centers are comparatively outlying from LOAM office, due to that it is somewhat tricky to field visits and, there was another indicator to develop the capacity of the farmers and the institutions that are involving in to the organic agriculture.

It could not be able to observe any progress from Isuru sanwardane’s project implementation through previous visits.

How have these problems/difficulties been addressed?

The above difficulties were found out throughout the field visits, monitoring and evaluation and the domestic conversation with the all bodies, producer, beneficiaries, and the end user. The allocated remaining funds for Isuru was transferred to the Tea Research Institute (TRI) to manage their organic plots.

Gami Sevasevana they did the project well, even they did not depend on LOAM’s funding, therefore that fund was used to develop the organic farm at welisara NAVY camp in Gampaha District.

LOAM contribution of Trade fair and Exhibition activities

1. Organization of awareness program in North region

With the ending of the Civil war in Northern Region, The government and other stake holders had the attention to develop organic agriculture in rescued area, with this new stance ,It is projected to do the further public awareness programmes, training programmes, workshops and exhibitions, further wished to increase the publications and scope the accomplishment ability of the knowledge to all level.

2. Introduction of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)

Participatory Guarantee Systems are locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange.

PGS is a new concept to Sri Lanka, and then it is the obligation to LOAM to facilitating participatory guarantee systems for organic Agriculture in Sri Lanka in order to that LOAM had the introduction IFOAM-PGSOIC-LOAM INITIATIVE at Piliyandala, Sri Lanka, from 16th December to 18th December in 2009. And ongoing programme regards PGS is conducted by LOAM in all part of the nation currently.

PGS COUNCIL OPENING



WORKSHOPS

3. Conducting of National event on Organic Agriculture with the participation of IFOAM representatives

Under this perception LOAM had a massive contribution on national event and the training programme in Organic Agriculture by the name of “The Blooming tomorrow with Organics in Sri Lanka” from 7th to 16th of January 2010 and it was content the following notions.

- International status of Organic Agriculture and Future trends
- Asian trends of Organic Streams and the importance of an Asian Collaboration
- Organic Agriculture Development and recent trends in Sri Lanka
- Organic Agriculture way forward in Sri Lanka

A seminar entitled ‘The Blooming of Organic Agriculture in Sri Lanka’ has conducted on the 8th January 2010 at Lakshman Kadiragamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies. More then 250 participant participated in this seminar.

International delegates from China, Italy, Indonesia, India, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam shared their personal and country’s experiences regarding the development, expansion and diversification of organic agriculture at this event.

Dr. Keerthi Mohotti from LOAM(Tea Research Institute) and Dr. Sarith Ranawera from Bio Food presented the present situation and the organic Agriculture development in Sri Lanka.

The seminar has been jointly organized by the Sri Lanka Export Development Board, Lanka Organic Agriculture Movement, Sri Lanka Nature Forum, Practical Action, Sewalanka Foundation and Sricert.



Few important events of the program

Throughout the LOAM activities, not only the organic agriculture, other sectors also have benefits and sustainable development owns self, Such as Marketing and Tourism etc. Some of the demonstrational models are still available and most of the partners are continuing the same activities without stopping.