

EC Partner

UNDP

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: € 90 000 (80% of the total)
- Duration: 2006 - 2008

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Agriculture

Livelihood development project in Sri Lanka

Construction of a paddy seed processing centre

"The construction of the Paddy Seed Centre has not only improved the livelihoods of the 300 paddy farmers and their families, but has also brought together communities who worked independently before. We thank the European Commission for giving us this opportunity."

President, Paddy Seed Farming Organization



Context

This project was implemented to improve the livelihoods of farmers by giving them the ability to produce good quality paddy seed through the construction of a paddy seed processing centre and storage facility. Prior to setting up the centre farmers had to transport their crop to a centre over 25kms away. Now, they are able to save on processing costs and time and generate a higher income. The project has also provided training on how to manage the centre effectively.

Objectives

- To help over 300 local paddy seed farmers produce better quality paddy seed.
- To increase the number of certified seeds and the membership base of certified paddy seed producers in the district.

Impact

- 300 farmers and their families have directly benefited from the project whilst 10 000 families have indirectly benefited.
- The centre produces 15 000 bushels of paddy seed each season.
- Increased participation of women in farming activities.
- There has been better integration between communities due to the merger of two, previously separate, farming organisations.
- The price per bag has doubled due to the production of higher quality paddy seed.

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How the paddy seed centre has improved livelihoods

"Ampara is predominantly an agricultural district with more than 60% of the families engaged in paddy cultivation. In the past, there was only one paddy seed processing centre in Ampara, which could not cater for the needs of the district. The farmers had to transport their crop far away and found it very difficult to make ends meet."

"This new centre is able to process 15 000 bushels of paddy seed per season and additionally exports part of the processed paddy seed to the southern districts of the island. Mr Jawfer sees the centre not only as an income generating project, but also as a mediating tool, helping to bring together two farming communities who have worked independently in the past."

"We have learnt to work together, and have put aside our differences. We are proud of what we have already achieved during this short period of time by improving community relations and our livelihoods. The multitude of families that have benefited from this centre are grateful to the European Commission for this opportunity."

Mr Aboobacker Mohamed Jawfar, President of the Paddy Seed Farming Organisation



Paddy Seed Farmer