

# SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

**Country: Sri Lanka**

Project/Initiative Title: IPM in Vegetables and rice - CARE

Nos. farmers: 55,000                      Hectares: 33,000  
households

Agro-Ecological Zone: I

Improvement types

1x	2	3x	4x	5x	6x	7	8	9
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## A. Key Impacts

### ***A1 – Productivity***

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Rice	3000-3500 kg/ha	4000-5000 kg/ha	30-50%
Chilli	1445 kg/ha	2076 kg/ha	44%
Aubergine	22,000 kg/ha	23694 kg/ha	8%
Potato	9534 kg/ha	10216 kg/ha	7%

### ***A2 – Impacts on natural capital***

- ?? Decreased use of pesticides, increased use of botanical pesticides
- ?? Improved land and water management practices

### ***A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)***

130 FFS to train core group of 4300 farmers – technologies then spread independently to others (10 fold increase)

### ***A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)***

- ?? Substantial increase in per hectare income (reduced costs of pesticides plus small increase in yields)
- ?? Reduced pesticide poisoning

### ***A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system***

- ?? Insecticide applications down:
- ?? Rice – 2.9 to 0.5 / season
- ?? Vegetables - down 65%

## B. Types of Sustainable Agriculture Improvements

Type 1: Better use of available renewable natural capital

Type 2: Intensification of single sub-component of farm system

Type 3: Diversify by adding new productive natural capital and regenerative components

Type 4: Better use of non-renewable inputs and technologies

Type 5: Social and participatory processes leading to group action for making better use of natural capital

- Type 6: Human capital building through training-learning programmes  
 Type 7: Access to Finance  
 Type 8: Add value by processing to reduce losses and increase returns  
 Type 9: Add value by direct or organised marketing of produce to consumers

	Yes/No	Narrative
Type 1	x	
Type 2		
Type 3	x	
Type 4	x	
Type 5	x	
Type 6	x	
Type 7		
Type 8		
Type 9		

#### **D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative**

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#### **E. Project Narrative**

##### **Integrated Pest and Crop Management, Sri Lanka<sup>1</sup>**

The INTEGRATED project is an IPM extension programme working in a wide range of agro-ecological zones of Sri Lanka. It is implemented by Care International, with funding from the EU and DFID. The project was originally designed to reduce the exposure of farmers to hazardous pesticides, but the prevailing view of farmers was that reducing pesticide use would inevitably lower crop yields.

The project adopted farmer field schools to promote IPM. A FFS is a participatory learning approach facilitated by an external professional that builds farmer knowledge of their own agroecosystems and empowers them to intervene in new ways. A FFS generally lasts a season, with regular field meetings once each week. Over four years, the project trained 4287 farmers in 130 FFS, 93 on rice and 27 on 13 types of vegetables. It began with a remit to build knowledge on IPM, but also dealt with land preparation, water management and other cultivation practices. It is estimated from studies of lateral spread that some 55,000 farm households have adopted more sustainable practices on some 22-44,000 hectares.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Jones (1999)

There have been significant increases in crop yields: 12-44% for rice, and 744% for vegetables. These increases are partly attributed to the IPM element, and partly to the overall improvement in management of land and water resources. Income increases were greater (more than doubling for rice), largely because of decreased input costs – average insecticide applications on rice fell from 2.9 to 0.5 per season, and fell by two-thirds on vegetables. Additional benefits arise from switching to alternative botanical pesticides (eg neem and garlic) in place of synthetic products.

If the rice yield increase seen on these IPM farms were to occur in all Sri Lankan rice, Jones (1999) estimates that this would increase annual rice production by 189-555,000 tonnes, a per capita increase in rice availability of some 10-30 kg.

Data for this project is in hard copy format and is not currently available electronically. If you would like further information please contact Keith Jones.