

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Sri Lanka

Project/Initiative Title: PMHE Promoting Multi-functional Household Environments in Mahaweli settlements
1991

Scale: all levels

Nos. farmers: 5000

Hectares: 5000

Agro-Ecological Zone: I

Improvement types

1x	2	3x	4	5x	6x	7	8x	9x
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Success and Limits to spread

Success	Limits
2a	2b, 2c

A. Key Impacts

A1 – Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Rice	4000 kg/ha	5000 kg/ha	25

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

- ?? improved tree cover
- ?? recycling of nutrients
- ?? increased soil fertility
- ?? diversified cropping
- ?? better soil protection and erosion control
- ?? integration of livestock

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

- ?? farmers better organized in small (self-help) groups, including women
- ?? Farmer organizations better functioning
- ?? Farmers have developed and adapted technologies that suit their needs (integrated weed/fertility/pest management, nursery management, alley cropping etc.) as means of internalizing the problem solving process.

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

- ?? increased self confidence
- ?? leadership developed
- ?? increased capacity to solve problems
- ?? better food security
- ?? improved financial management and savings

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

- ?? by improved planning, the output per unit of capital, labour and land has increased
- ?? decreased use of external inputs and better use of locally available resources
- ?? by diversifying from rice, income and food availability ensured throughout the year
- ?? Strategies for sustainable development in settlement schemes developed
- ?? Farmers empowered
- ?? Agriculture diversified
- ?? Capacity of line ministry staff to involve farmers in development activities enhanced

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	integrated weed/fertility/pest management, nursery management, alley cropping
Type 2		
Type 3	x	
Type 4		
Type 5	x	Community mobilization, group and organizational development, establishing linkages with service organizations, and other participatory methods
Type 6	x	adult education
Type 7		
Type 8	x	several activities like parboiling paddy at farm level, clean threshing,
Type 9	x	collective marketing of paddy etc. have been undertaken

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C1 – Key Lessons Learned

- ?? Participatory approaches do not yield immediate hard results, but contribute to building capacity to generate these in the future
- ?? Small scale organizational arrangements are more effective in a settlement context than large organizations, which lack support from the membership
- ?? Field experience in developing strategies to involve beneficiaries in resource management at field level, made integration of (elements of) these strategies in a governmental set up much easier. However, above field level organizational

implications become more important than interaction methods.

- ?? The impact of training officers is higher if it is followed by backstopping and organizational support
- ?? Using participatory approaches during the planning stage of settlement may be more effective than introducing beneficiary participation at the time responsibilities have to be handed over and the carrots are finished.

C2 – Aspects of local/national context contributing to success

- ?? National policy supports participatory development
- ?? Reduced state intervention favoured participatory development

C3 – Limitations preventing spread

- ?? National policies regarding participatory development not fully implemented in line ministries
- ?? Party politics preventing empowerment

C4 – Policy issues

Operational policies and management structures within line ministries (in this case the Ministry of Mahaweli Development) to ensure participation (eg. Two way communication system between line ministry and farm families; flexibility for field staff to plan with farmers, considering the priorities of the latter etc.)

C5 – Scaling-up

- ?? Line Ministry staff trained in participatory approaches continue application and adaptation
- ?? More opportunities for exchange between farmers within settlements (which are rather isolated and widespread)

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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