



Alliance for Sustainable
Landscapes Management

MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TEA LANDSCAPES

FIELD VISIT & NATIONAL WORKSHOP

8TH & 9TH MARCH 2018



Contents

1. Background
2. Component 1
3. Component 2
4. Component 3
5. Component 4

“MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TEA PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES”



Background

The Rainforest Alliance (RA) is proud to be part of Global Environmental Facility (GEF) program to mainstream sustainable tea production in India, China, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. The project in Sri Lanka was launched in October 2014 in collaboration with Alliance for Sustainable Landscapes Management (ASLM), the consulting program coordinator for RA in Sri Lanka and will be completed in April 2018. The main objectives of this project are to reduce land degradation associated with tea production in Asia by supporting farmers and catalyzing industry and government leaders to mainstream Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM) practices. The expected end outcome of this project is building a responsible community of Tea Smallholders (TSH) in the project area that will practice responsible farming methods which would result in introducing improvements to tea production of the country whilst reversing land degradation.

This brochure presents the achievements of the Sri Lankan component of the project during the project period.

Component 1: Promote Sustainable Land Management (SLM) to mitigate and reverse land degradation in tea production landscapes:





Test/validation sites: Three pilot demonstration and training sites were set up for Herbicide Free Integrated Weed Management (HFIWM).

1. Hapugastenna estate Maskeliya. (Monitored by University of Peradeniya). The data gathered from the particular demo resulted in a number of international publications. Results of the Cost Benefit Analysis shows in table one.
2. Hunuwala Estate Pelmadulla. (138ha large farm). Failed due to severe drought prevailed in the area in 2016.
3. Dambetenna estate Haputale (monitored by Sabaragamuwa University). The trials are conducted in 6 ha of VP tea and 5ha of seedlings tea.
4. Ekerella Estate Udawela. In lieu of failed Hunuwala site Ekerella Estate 68 ha in extent and which commenced HFIWM simultaneously was replaced.

Total annual benefits/cost analysis [HFIWM Vs. non-IWM]

		First		Second		Third	
			Savings /(Additional cost/loss)		Savings /(Additional cost/loss)		Savings /(Additional cost/loss)
Cost of weeding	HFIWM	43,463		51,744		33,502	
	Non-IWM	91,188	47,725	69,504	17,760	63,000	29,498
Bio mass generated	HFIWM	125,202		230,020		54,524	
	Non-IWM	26,593	98,609	23,580	206,440	7,817	46,707
Crop value	HFIWM	94,124		83,630		58,832	
	Non-IWM	96,537	(2,413)	79,648	3,982	54,474	4,358
Total			143,921		228,182		80,563



Train-the-Trainers (TOT): Training manuals based on HFIWM was designed by the RA Training Manager and translated into local language. TOT sessions were held for 100 Tea Inspectors (TI) of Tea Smallholdings Development Authority (TSHDA) in Rathnapura, Galle, Matara and Bandarawela regions and for 71 representative of 6 private sector organizations. TOT's were done at Tea Research Institute (TRI) branches of respective regions using the TRI fields for field training.



Training of Tea Smallholders (TSH): Training modules and curriculums were developed to identify and train the TSH on site specific SLM practices and HFIWM. The TSHDA TIs' trained more than 18000 TSH in the selected regions. Modules and curriculums developed by the project were used to train TSH supplying to Regional Plantation Company Tea factories and Private Tea Factories to promote RA certification. About 98% of 15,000 RA certified TSH are now following HFIWM. 30,000 TSH have been trained on HFIWM and expecting RA certification within first and second quarters of 2018. These trainings were constantly monitored by the Project. In the districts of Matara the TSH trained by the TSHDA are asserting their requests to the private factories to obtain RA certification for them.



Benefits achieved of TSH Training:

- Retention of moisture in dry periods.
- Minimizing Greenhouse gas emissions.
- Minimizing soil erosion.
- Enhancing soil fertility.
- Habitat for predators.
- Reduction of chemical fertilizer usage.
- Reduction of weed management cost.
- Development of productivity.
- Increase of yields.
- Succulent green leaves.
- Noxious weeds used back as composted manure.
- Mulch of slashed beneficial weeds.
- Development of top soil.
- Rain water absorption.

Media coverage: In 2016, RA communication department developed a film on SLM practices in Sri Lanka including the HFIWM and the GEF test validation site at Hapugastenne Maskeliya.

Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LR7OS04RbEg>

A media team consisting of 21 international journalists to cover the activities under the project visited Sri Lanka in 2017. The visit was organized by UNEP-GEF.

On 15th March 2017 the media team visited Kahawatte Regional Plantation Company (RPC) estates in Rathnapura district. Rilhena, Opatha, Wellandura, Ekerella and Hunuwela Estates of Kahawatte Plantation PLC were RA certified in February 2017, along with 1200 TSH supplying leaf to the above factories.

This is the first time smallholders supplying to RPC factories got RA certified. All these farmers were trained on HFIWM based on the results of test validation demonstration site at Hapugastenne Estate.

On 16th March 2017 the media team visited Itthegala Henyayawatta at UdaHoupe. Mr. SamanUdaya Kumara the Manager of the tea property in extent of 17 hectares was trained on HFIWM in 2014.

- The fertilizer usage was reduced by 72%.
- Weed Management cost has reduced by 32%.
- With the transition from herbicide to HFIWM loss of yield by 900 kg increased by 4329 kg than the yield of 2015.

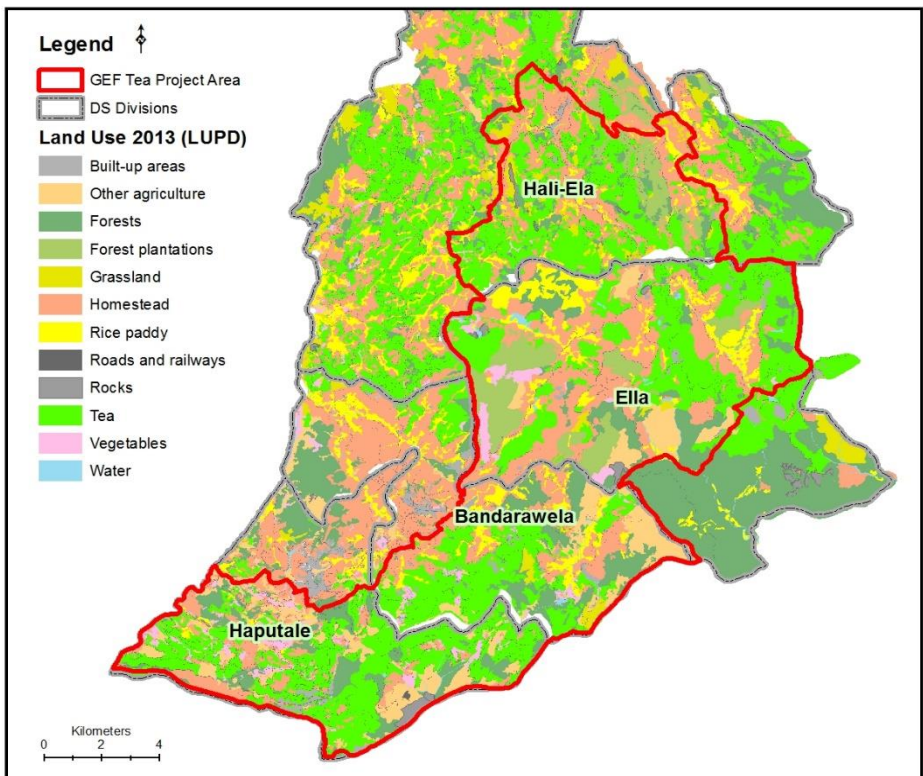
On 17th March 2017 the media team visited RA certified Bearwell Estate of Talawakellie Plantation Company and also the projects, first test validation demonstration site at Hapugastenne Estate Maskeliya managed by Maskeliya Plantation Company. HFIWM commenced in Sri Lanka at this demonstration site. The former manager of the Estate Mr. Mahendra Peiris's contribution to make this study a great success is mentioned with gratitude. The silent factory in the estate was utilized as a training center. RA training manager Ms. Reiko Enomoto assisted in developing the study. Farmer training sessions were held at the demonstration site for the farmers of the three regions under training by TSHDA extension staff.

The media visit resulted in immense publicity, internationally and locally, for the HFIWM, developed under the project.



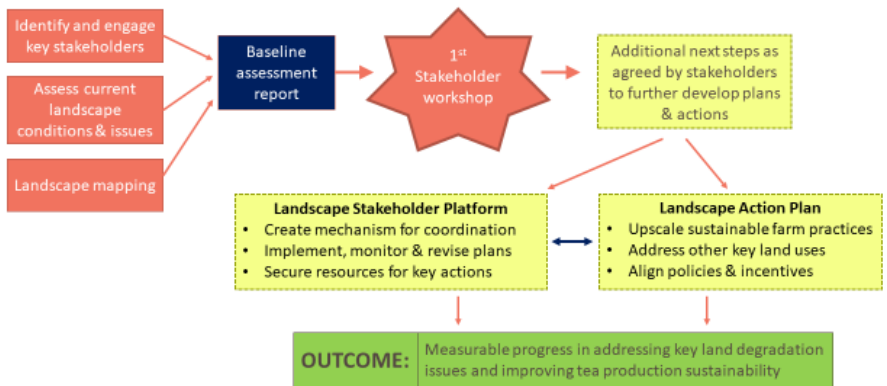
Component 2: Plan and implement integrated landscape management approaches as part of a sustainable tea production system:

Landscape context analysis: The report on “Profiling Socio-Economic, Environment and Natural Resources Baseline Conditions of Selected Tea Landscapes in Haputale/ Lipton’s Seat, Uva Province, Sri Lanka” was produced with valuable up-to-date data and information on current social, economic, environmental and climatic condition and issues based on the baseline assessment for Lipton’s Seat landscape which covered 67 Grama Niladhari Divisions (GNDs) in Haputale, Bandarawela, Ella and Hali-Ela Divisional Secretariats.



Participatory mapping and planning: Participatory landscape mapping and planning were carried out with the participation of 31 local stakeholders representing government agencies, civil society, Non-Governmental Organizations and the private sector to develop INRM implementation plans for the selected region(s). The stakeholders selected six focal issues as priorities for attention: 1) Degradation and conversion of natural ecosystems, 2) Solid waste and waste water management, 3) Landslides and soil erosion, 4) Water scarcity and pollution, 5) Low adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers and tea estates to climate change, and 6) Land ownership and tenure. In total 62 actions were identified and out of which 22 areas of collective action were prioritized and agreed upon for implementation. Some of these activities, such as micro watershed management, community education, waste management etc., are in the 2018 annual work plans with budget allocations of the stakeholders. The INRM project also assists in implementing some of the identified activities.

Landscape planning and implementation process being adopted under GEF-Tea Component 2





Demarcating watershed areas: A lack of defined boundaries in natural ecosystems, poor management and poor enforcement of laws has resulted in encroachment, conversion, dumping of wastes, and exploitation of natural resources. Existing programs to identify, map, demarcate and declare as protected, as well as ecosystem conservation programs within the RA certified large tea plantations, are good models to expand upon. Initiatives to be taken to establish pilot micro watershed natural ecosystems conservation demonstration plots in 3 selected sites in Ella DS division, which are threatened by Uma Oya project and illegal activities of the inhabitants in the landscape.





Energy efficiency measures in tea factories: The project collaborates with Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP) to share the findings of the outcome of a series of Energy Efficiency Audits undertaken in Tea Factories in Sri Lanka, North India, China & Indonesia with German Corporation for International Corporation (GIZ) in 2017. In Sri Lanka the studies were held at Norwood and Rilhena tea factories and the findings would be shared with the Tea processing sector stakeholders.



Pilot on energy efficient cook stoves: Fuelwood is the main source of energy in rural and plantation sector households. A research was undertaken at INRM landscape to understand the current status of fuel wood use in the region and a report was produced on “Household fuelwood use, cooking fuel choice and willingness to use improved cooking fuels in Lipton’s Seat Landscape”. As a pilot initiative, the Project distributed 60 sets of energy efficient fuelwood cooking stoves (Anagi II) to TSH households and plantation worker households as a measure to improve energy efficiency and thereby reduce pressure on forests and other sources of fuelwood, improve health condition and many other benefits. Most of the TSH factories that intend to obtain RA certificate implements this model as a measure to improve energy efficiency in TSH households.



Component 3: Engage key public and private institutions to mainstream SLM in the tea sector

- i) Tea SLM case studies and thematic papers developed for government and tea sector decision makers to build their understanding and support for adoption of SLM practices (including the reduction in the use of agro-chemicals)

The President's office and the Strategic Enterprise Management Agency (SEMA) invited ASLM to present its results on the HFIWM and other SLM practices. This initiative was followed by the forum discussion on the report submitted by the cabinet appointed subcommittee on the lifting the ban of Glyphosate.



- ii) Provide forum for policy makers and industry practical to discuss the viability and value of an SLM approach (through organizing thematic field visits, workshops and presentations)

On the 8th and 9th March, 2018, Rainforest Alliance (RA) and the Alliance for Sustainable Landscape Management (ASLM) will gather a diverse group of tea industry stakeholders and academics to undertake a field visit to observe some of the successful project initiatives, share the findings and lessons learnt, discuss and obtain input of the stakeholders of the tea sector for future actions in particular to reduce land degradation and natural resource conflicts while ensuring the future viability of tea production and the wellbeing of local communities.

A case study carried out by Mitsubishi Research Institute (MRI) = for MOEJ in Asia Pacific countries on climate change adaptation selected the HFIWM and TSH training by ASLM to showcase the effectiveness of private sector participation on climate change adaptation. ASLM shared the experiences of private sector engagement in climate change adaptation at the workshop



Advancing Practices in Climate Change Adaptation at National, Local, and Sectoral Levels held at Manila, Philippines in January 2018.

Component 4: Develop robust tools to evaluate sustainability and reduce vulnerability associated with SLM and INRM in tea producing landscapes

Develop new monitoring and analytical tools and subsequently apply these more broadly through project results framework and/or tea industry partners.

Three graduates from the University of Colombo were trained at Tea research Institute as enumerators.

Baseline data were collected from a statistically representative sample of farmers that received training under the GEF Tea project. 168 farmers were surveyed under this segment.

Midterm Review (MTR) report was submitted in September 2016.

The final evaluation of same sample of the baseline survey was carried out in the first quarter of 2018.



Alliance for Sustainable
Landscapes Management



Contact Us

*Alliance for Sustainable Landscapes Management (ASLM)
505/4/B, 4th Lane,
DharmapalaMawatha,
Thalawathugoda,
Sri Lanka.*

Telephone: +94 11 2 774 031

+94 778 993 180

Email: giri@aslm.lk

Website: www.aslm.lk