

Project name: Re-Planting the rare medicinal plants and enhancing the local livelihood in the resettlement areas of Thellipalai DS division

Grantee Organization: Kaarunya Foundation

Location: Thellipalai -Jaffna

Province: Northern

Duration: Two years

Project Number: SRL SRL/SGP/OP5/STAR/BD/2014/20

Role of TERN: Knowledge Management and Capacity Building

Concept of this project is to strengthen the thriving Siddha Ayurveda medicinal practice by growing rare medicinal plants and creating herbal plant cultivation based livelihoods through women's clubs in Thellipalai DS division Jaffna. The project location is a resettlement area, in which biodiversity and other environmental factors were neglected over a period of 30 years. The project will serve as a model which focuses on restoring biodiversity via sustainable enhancement of livelihood.

Development of the exiting model herbal garden with all components including irrigation system and a greenhouse at the hospital premises is one of the primary objectives. Promoting medicinal home gardens among 180 members of the women's club by distributing 300-400 plants per family will be the primary livelihood development activity. There are fifty farmer families engaged in home gardening under the project and they will be provided with required technical guidance in farming and processing of herbs.

The ayurveda medical staff of the Tellipalai DS and the people of the Ayurveda Conservation Board are other primary stake holders benefited from the project.

Establishment of a herb processing unit in the hospital premises is also included within the plan since quality processed herbs are one of the main expected outcomes of the project. This will create a niche market for those identified beneficiaries.