

Project: Rehabilitation of the Yalpotha tank and canals
Grantee Organization: Nature Conservation foundation
Location: Pansalgoda, Lahugala
Province: South Western Province
Period: (2014-2015) 18 months (Completed)
Project Number: SRL/SGP/OP5/STAR/CC/2014/02
Role of TERN: Knowledge Management and Capacity Building

This project focuses on the community of the Pansalgoda village bordering the Lahugala national park. The village consists of 410 community members who have severely suffered both from terrorism and poverty. Since the water scarcity is one of the major problems of the community, Nature Conservation foundation funded by GEF/SGP/OP5 has been focusing since March 2014 on rehabilitation of the Yalpotha tank, the main source of water for the paddy fields.

As a preliminary step, the tank bund has been reconstructed and the eroded tank boundary is also being repaired in order to strengthen the bund by minimizing the risks. Three Channels that distribute the tank water to the village has renovated jointly with the government program “Eka gamakata Eka wawak”. The spill was concreted and elevated to increase the flow towards the Pansalgoda village. After the rehabilitation the tank stored rain water in last monsoon providing water for the cultivation of 220 acres of paddy which is four times than the previous. Also the Aquatic vegetation of the tank dominated by “Beru” turf has regenerated, restoring the food chains, reestablishing the ecosystem stability. Sixty one families were selected as the beneficiaries out of 100 families in the surrounded area based on their level of poverty. Each of them has a land of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre minimum which was encouraged and facilitated by the Nature Conservation Foundation for the sustainable home gardening. Their enthusiasm and the home gardening knowledge improved through trainings and campaigns while distributing agro tools, seeds and required vegetable & fruit plants to initiate the work in home gardens. A women’s savings scheme has been established and registered under the name of “Diriya Kantha” credit organization with newly elected female office bearers.