



# SEWALANKA FOUNDATION

## Integrated Food Security Programme

The Wannu area - the DS Division of Vavuniya North and the Northern part of the Vavuniya DS Division, characterise the social, economic and psychological damage inflicted during the conflict between the Sri Lankan Security Forces and the LTTE prior to the 2002 cease-fire agreement.

During the conflict period, the majority of the population fled these areas and took refuge within or outside Wannu for prolonged periods. It was only after the cease-fire agreement was signed that the internally displaced families started to return to their lands. However, these returning communities experienced severe hardships as buildings and homes were destroyed, irrigation facilities dysfunctional, roads impassable, large-scale unemployment prevalent and a lack of adequate health care facilities.

In October 2003, German Agro Action (GAA) and Sewalanka Foundation initiated Phase One of the *Integrated Food Security Programme* (IFSP). The programme, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), will work with 52 villages in the worst conflict-affected areas of Wannu to secure the pre-conditions for a peaceful co-existence and achieve food security through mobilizing communities in the sustainable use of existing resources.

The programme primarily focuses on the rehabilitation of agricultural production and reconstruction of basic rural infrastructures; establishment of linkages with the regional money economy (support of trade and small businesses) and qualitative improvement of the nutritional and health status of the population residing in the project areas. Considering the success of

Sustainable Food Security is reliant on the popular participation of community members and community-based organisations (CBOs), the project will adopt participatory development principles and approaches. The IFSP will establish and/or build the institutional capacities of CBOs at village, divisional & district levels.

The Project is steered by a Committee comprising the Government, the LTTE, Sewalanka and GAA. The Project Management Unit is located at Nedunckerney (Vavuniya North) and acts as the focal point for field level implementation.

### Achievement since Project inception

- Active participation of the Government of Sri Lanka and LTTE representatives in the Project Steering Committee meetings.
- Broad-basing of the project: District & Divisional Level stakeholders' meetings were organized and 15 Field Officers were recruited and orientated in September 2003.

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# Golden Beach Community Tourism

Unawatuna is a prime tourist destination on the South Coast of Sri Lanka. Made famous by author Arthur C. Clarke in the 1970's, it has often been referred to as one of the 'worlds best beaches' due to the traditional fishing, environmental beauty and village life in the surrounding area.

Locals reminisce when tourism first began as a home-based enterprise. International visitors were treated more like family than paying guests, staying in village homes and participating in daily life. They were able to immerse themselves in the rich culture and customs of a Sri Lankan fisherman's village and enjoy a "traditional" life-style.

However, due to many reasons including, but not limited to, environmental pollution and a lack of coordination and planning, the quality of tourism provided within Unawatuna has diminished over the past thirty years.

Having realised the gravity of the situation, the community's local tourist entrepreneurs got together and held discussion with the Sri Lankan Tourist Board and Sewalanka Foundation, and arrived at a commitment to develop and implement the *Golden Beach Unawatuna Community Development Project* to restore home-based tourism to the richness of its earlier days.

The Unawatuna Golden Beach project will be driven by the community and supported through Sewalanka Foundation. A large component of the funding is yet to be secured for this project but Sewalanka is working

in partnership with the Tourist Board to secure project-by-project funding from corporate sponsors.



<< Picturesque Golden Beach, Unawatuna

### Project Aims

- Restore the rich cultural and traditional heritage of Unawatuna and to ensure that it is a quality tourism destination.
- Encourage and increase the inflow of foreign tourists, by providing exceptional catering, free from harassment and pollution, with appropriate infrastructure and sanitation facilities.
- Utilize local resources and skills to enhance the tourism industry's income and in turn benefit the community.
- Preserve and promote the rich religious and cultural values of the area.

In the short-term Sewalanka Foundation has established a community centre and sub office, in which to coordinate the project. The community centre will also double as a training centre for the awareness program and vocational training program. Sewalanka has also begun providing institutional capacity strengthening to local community based organisations.

### Vendors and Guides' Program

In August a training program for guides, shop vendors and vendors working on the beach began. The program includes dressmaking skills, as well as art classes and print-making techniques. The first course, in basic dressmaking, ran for three months each Sunday afternoon for three hours. Initially the class was attended by 19 clothing vendors but its popularity soon grew to over 25 women regularly attending. After four classes, some of the participants were already implementing the techniques learnt.

Currently clothes vendors in Unawatuna buy their clothes from outside the village, thus reducing their potential profit margin. Hence over time the program aims to enable Unawatuna clothes vendors to make their own clothes increasing their profit margin. The new training centre will act as the venue for training classes.

The class has now formed a community based organisation and is in the process of finalising their constitution and

registering their organisation. A credit and savings program is planned.

### Phase two and three

The second and third phase of the project planned to commence in 2004 will address basic infrastructure issues, like inadequate sewerage and solid waste removal. The project brief will also examine working with existing projects in the South to supply provision of pure drinking water into homes and hotels and repair interior roads. The project aims to look at establishing a tourist and environment centre and the creation of a web site to inform and attract tourists from all over the world. A series of awareness campaigns are also planned, targeting school children and other members of the Unawatuna community on the importance of environment and culture protection for the success of sustainable tourism in Unawatuna. ■



>> Participants in a recent dressmaking workshop

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## USAID project in Trincomalee

Last month saw the beginning of a new relationship between Sewalanka Foundation and the international donor, USAID/OTI (Office of Transition Initiatives) in Trincomalee District. The project aims to address basic water, sanitation and access needs in Thanganagar Village, a resettlement community in Thampalakamam Divisional Secretariat Division.

Currently the village is home for approximately 162 families from all ethnic backgrounds. In 1990, approximately 175 families were displaced due to the ethnic conflict. Most of the families went to welfare centres in Trincomalee and the Wannu.

The project arose through meetings with existing womens' organisations in the village, who identified the following issues:

- lack of toilet facilities is forcing the forest to be used for sanitary purposes, which affects the community's women as they have a feeling of being watched by patrolling army and police personnel.
- lack of functioning wells in the village, and the water in some of the wells is saline, which is caused by insufficient depth of the well. In order to get fresh water, people tap fresh water at places where the water pipeline is leaking; for bathing and washing

water the people use an irrigation canal, which contains enough water only during limited times in the year.

- main access road to the paddy fields is damaged in such a way that it is difficult for the farmers to use the road with their ox-carts and tractors. There where the road crosses the irrigation canal, the road surface and roadside are heavily damaged and partly gone.

Through the project it is confident that the sanitation level of the village can be raised and access to the paddy fields improved so that eventually the welfare of the whole community is raised.

This partnership will test a new implementation model for the donor body. As the donor will directly purchase the goods, services and intellectual products from individuals or companies and arrange delivery to the implementing partner at the project site on time. This represents a closer working relationship between the Sewalanka as the implementing partner and the donor agency. ■

# Revitalizing the Rural Economy

During 2002-03 Sewalanka Foundation, in partnership with the Japanese Government (GAGP) implemented a project to revitalize the rural economy using locally available resources in the Trincomalee district. The aim of the project was to enhance the socioeconomic status of the selected communities in the DS divisions of Gomarankadawela, Morawewa and Padavisiripura.

Like other districts in the north and east, most of the villages of Trincomalee are centred around irrigation schemes. The restoration of productive capacity of these schemes has become a primary requisite for the resettlement of returning displaced people to enable them to start and stabilize agricultural production, ensuring food security in the district.

Agriculture, being the principal economic activity of the province had been severely impaired as a result of the conflict. According to recent assessments, an estimated 40,000 ha of agricultural land had gone out of production and losses of annual production of rice and cash crops are estimated at Rs 1 billion and Rs 2 billion respectively.

The rehabilitation project provided farmers with high yielding/high productivity, less costly seed varieties. It set about boosting the knowledge base of local farmers through training programs (in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture), improved the skills on environment friendly agricultural practices; integrated pest control and fertilizer application methods and better post harvest processing and

storing. The project also assisted women to start self-employment and income-earning activities through home gardening.

## Project Outcomes

– Farmers, farming communities and

other community based organizations were provided with information and training programs to enhance their agricultural practises

- Seven (7) minor irrigation tanks were rehabilitated to ensure a consistent water supply for cultivation
- Farmers were able to produce and cultivate two crops in a year, directly increasing their income levels
- 105 acres of additional lands were brought under cultivation, as well as an increase in paddy production in the project locations
- Irrigation channels were voluntarily de-silted by the farmers. ■

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*Front Page story continued*

- IFSP Operational Plan developed through a residential workshop held in Kilinochchi involving all project staff and some of the key stakeholders.
- Completed village level awareness-forming-meeting in 52 villages.
- Established/reorganized Village Development Committees comprising representatives from existing CBOs functioning in each of the project villages.
- Village social profiles have been established based on the information collected from secondary sources.
- Participatory Rural Appraisal and Participatory Needs Assessment exercises have been carried out in all villages.
- A Nutritional Base Line Survey has been carried out by team of the Justus-Liebig-University of Giessen.
- A total of 1,250 farmers have been enabled to re-start cultivation by providing them with Agricultural inputs.
- Locations for rehabilitation and construction of safe drinking water wells and agro-wells have been identified in consultation with CBOs and community members.
- Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies stores and outlets have been identified in consultation with the government stakeholders for rehabilitation. ■



<< Pipe well, Trincomalee

# Meeting Water and Sanitation Needs

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded Rural Water Supply and Sanitation project, is now being implemented by Sewalanka Foundation in the districts of Hambantota, Anuradhapura, Monaragala, Kegalle, Puttalam and Kalutara. This is the second project of this nature implemented in Sri Lanka, the first project covering the districts of Badulla, Ratnapura and Matara.

The project is being implemented with community assistance by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB). The project aims to maximise utilisation of the available surface and ground water with maximum community participation. The commonly proposed schemes include shallow wells, gravity water supply schemes and pumping schemes in the project. Proper sanitation practices are also introduced to the target communities by the project. The other main activity of the project is to support the implementing agency, or community based organization (CBO) to continue group activities after the project has been completed.

NWSDB is doing the technical designs whilst the CBO will implement and monitor the project. The field level coordination and the community mobilization are done by the partner organisations including Sewalanka.

After successfully completing the mobilization phase in the districts of Anuradhapura, Monaragala and Hambantota, Sewalanka had submitted their proposals for the second phase in Hambantota and Monaragala districts.

The Grama Niladhari Division of Okewala is the target community in the Hambantota district project where Sewalanka is working at present. Three villages namely Ganegangoda with 66 families, Aluthwewagoda with 71 families and Okewala with 114 families are covered in this project. During a drought over 90% of the available water sources dry up in this area, however four reservoirs manage to cater to their washing and bathing needs. The main problem during a drought is obtaining safe drinking water – of which 85% of the villagers face difficulties obtaining during a drought.

The proposed project for the Hambantota district will therefore develop a pumping scheme to cater for the area covered in this project to solve their drinking water problem. Implementing sanitation controls and informing the community on safer, sanitary strategies will also be an integral part of the project.

Sewalanka has submitted the second phase technical proposal for Okewela under the guidance of the NWSDB, for implementation to the District Managers office and is currently awaiting a reply. The partner organisation manager, project officer, three community assistants and three technical officers will commence work when the approval is received. ■

## Sewalanka in the Lonely Planet!

Sewalanka received a worthy mention in the latest edition of the Lonely Planet - the "travellers bible". The article appearing on page 269, describes the Mangrove Conservation project in the Pottuvil lagoon, a project initiated by Sewalanka in 2002 in conjunction with the Hidiyapuram Fishermen's Cooperative Society.

The project established a mangrove nursery to replant different varieties of mangroves destroyed in the conflict. The nursery is supported through the 'Pottuvil Lagoon ecotour' operating out of Arugam Bay that takes tourist on a 2-hour journey of the lagoon and project. Please refer to [www.sewalanka.org](http://www.sewalanka.org) or [www.arugambay.com/pages/eco.html](http://www.arugambay.com/pages/eco.html) for further details on the project. ■

>> Tourist taking tour by local fisherman



# NECORD Project in Vavuniya

**The implementation of the North East Community Restoration Development (NECORD) Housing Project – the construction of houses to the resettled people of Awaranthulava is one of the major project activities being carried out by the Sewalanka Foundation district of Vavuniya during 2003. The project is currently focussed on constructing 41 houses for resettled families in the Awaranthulava village.**

The Awaranthulava village is situated about 18km from Vavuniya town, in the Awaranthulava C/209 GS Division in the Vavuniya South Sinhala DS Division of the District of Vavuniya. The housing project has been approved for 6 months from June 2003 with estimated project costs of Rs3,321,000. This means one house costs approximately Rs81,000 for the cost of resettling a family into a new house. Out of the estimated cost per house, Rs75,000 is funded by NECORD as a grant, Rs10,000 as a contribution by beneficiaries; other expenditures involved for mobilization activities of the resettled families are provided by Sewalanka Foundation.

The housing project activities commenced in July 2003 and at present the construction activities have progressed to the stage of the installation of roofs for the new houses. The housing project is expected to be completed by the second week of December 2003 when the houses will be handed over to the beneficiaries, the resettled families, for occupation.

It is worthwhile mentioning, though the expected contribution of the beneficiaries is Rs10,000 by each family, it is estimated the actual cost will be much higher, as the houses are being constructed with consideration to their special requests, whilst at the same time satisfying the basic accommodation needs. This is a commendable attitude of the beneficiaries as a result of the mobilization in the construction activities by our field officers and project manager.

The second NECORD project being implemented by Sewalanka is the community restoration and development project of the Sundarapuram village. This

project was commenced in July 2003 and most of the mobilization activities of the village – such as preparation of Village Social Profile (VSP) and Village Rehabilitation Profile (VRP) have been completed. The proposals for basic infrastructures identified by the village inhabitants have been prepared and submitted to the Project Monitoring Unit, NECORD, Trincomalee, for approval. Initially a Trust Building activity, the rehabilitation of one (1) km of road has been identified and a request made to NECORD. Upon the approval of the request, the project will commence. The developments of this project will be detailed in the following Sewalanka newsletter. ■


**BMZ visits Wann**

Sewalanka Foundation was pleased to host the field visit by Mr. Horst Müller, the Chief of Department for Food, Emergency, Refugee Aid and Food Security at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Mr. Müller visited Sewalanka Wann Office and projects supported by BMZ in the Wann area during 22/23 November 2003. Highlights of the visit included:

- Meeting the specialised nutritional team from Germany undertaking a survey to gauge the levels of nutrition of children under five.
- Tanks identified for rehabilitation.
- Farmers assisted with paddy inputs and crops in Periyakulam village
- Meeting communities in the Omanthai who are returning to the cleared high security zone.

BMZ has extended Emergency Relief assistance to internally displaced communities in the Wann since 1996 by meeting basic needs and providing assistance for agriculture cultivation. Since 2001, near 41,000 families have been assisted in their return to their communities. ■

>> Mr. Müller, Wann



# 'Sustainable Agriculture' Field Day

**A major focus of the Sewalanka Vavuniya District office is to develop sustainable agriculture programs within the area. German Agro Action (GAA) and OXFAM are the current project partners with GAA funding activities in 66 villages and OXFAM funding activities in 8 other villages. The main objectives of the projects are to improve the income of the beneficiaries who are solely dependent on farming activities.**

Vavuniya district office held a field day on the 31 August 2003, to improve and share knowledge about sustainable agriculture among the local farmers and our staff. This field day was funded by OXFAM. The Chairman of Sewalanka, Directors of the Agriculture department, staff from OXFAM, agriculture trainers and local farmers took part in the field day.

Local farmers were given the opportunity to address the assembled group to discuss their own experiences with their agricultural activities. This included farmers who had not succeeded in their agricultural ventures, farmers who were struggling with current ventures and farmers who were doing well. After listening to the problems and experiences of the farmers, they formed groups to discuss different aspects of sustainable agriculture. One group discussed the production and marketing of farm products, with the agriculture directors from Vavuniya Agriculture department facilitating the discussion. The other group discussed the problems and difficulties faced by the farmers, with the Director of Seeds from the Government facilitating this group discussion.

After the discussion the Chairman of Sewalanka spoke about his views and experiences in sustainable agriculture. He proposed methods on how to combine the modern agriculture and sustainable agriculture together and help the farmers who are struggling to succeed in their agricultural activities. Further in his speech he mentioned about the ways to improve the

income of the farmers. He also mentioned about the goals of the NGO's regarding improving the income of grass-root level farmers, which is a primary objective of Sewalanka.

After the Chairman's speech certificates were issued to the agriculture trainers who took part in the two-month training program provided by Sewalanka. Discussions on how to improve organic farming were held after lunch. In this discussion farmers who had successfully used organic farming methods spoke about their experience and gave advice to other farmers on how to improve their farming activities in order to generate more income. All participants then visited a farm in the Koomankulam village, which is giving a good yield by only using organic fertilizers.

The field day was a great success and provided a valuable opportunity for views and experiences to be discussed and shared between the farmers and all interested parties. More importantly, the Vavuniya district government agriculture officers recorded these views and experiences. The field day ended with the vote of thanks from Mr. Janaki Raman, Agronomist, Sewalanka Foundation Vavuniya, who organised the field day. ■



>> Field Day, Vavuniya, August 2003

# Events and Workshops

## Peace building workshops

Sewalanka received support from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to conduct Regional Peace Building workshops for religious and community leaders. By the end of 2003 four major workshop will have been completed in Vavuniya, Jaffna, Ampara and Mannar.

The workshops aim to promote coexistence between and among different ethnic groups, religious groups, IDPs, returnees and host communities whilst promoting religious leaders and civil society's participation in the ongoing conflict resolution process at the grass-roots level.



>> A recent Peace building workshop at Ampara

## Bangkok Environmental visit

The Sewalanka Director of Special Projects recently attended a Regional Environmental Management Training workshop in Bangkok. The workshop was organised by the Engineering and Environmental Services Section (EESS) of the UNHCR. The objective of the workshop was

to address environmental management issues arising during the various phases of refugee operations. The ultimate objective of the training is to improve the ability of UNHCR and partner staff to incorporate and mainstream environmental concerns into planning, management and implementation of projects and activities in the field.

## Women networking in our Region

Sewalanka's Woman Empowerment Steering Committee met with senior members of the Asian Pacific Ladies Friendship Society on 25 November 2003. The society is involved with communities - including the sick, poor and orphans as their primary targets groups - as well as providing funding for relief required due to for emergency natural disasters in Asian and the Pacific.

## Agriculture Rural Development Study

Sewalanka is continuing to assist on the North East Agricultural Research study for the Koei Research Institute of Japan. The Koei institute are conducting the research study for the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The research study is currently being conducted in nine districts the North East of Sri Lanka.



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