

JOINT EVALUATION REPORT
(TERMINAL EVALUATION)

THE PROJECT ON RURAL LIVELIHOOD
IMPROVEMENT IN HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT
(SouthCAP)

Colombo, 19 October 2010



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EVALUATION REPORT

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Acronyms

APM	Assistant Project Manager
ARPA	Agriculture Research and Production Assistant
ASC	Agrarian Service Centre
CAP	Community Action Plan/ Planning
CBO	Community-based Organisation
CCS	Community Contract System
CP	Counterpart Personnel
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DS	Divisional Secretary
FGD	Focus group discussion
FY	Fiscal year
GA	Government Agent
GN	Grama Niladhari*
GO	Government Organisation
HEC	Human Elephant Conflict
HPPC	Hambantota Product Promotion Committee
JCC	Joint Coordination Committee
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JIRCAS	Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Science
JOCV	Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer
MoLGPC	Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OJT	On-the-job training
OVOP	One Village One Product
PDM	Project Design Matrix
PIC	Project Implementation Committee
PMM	Project Monitoring Meeting
PO	Plan of Operation
R/D	Record of Discussions
RCC	Regional Coordination Committee
SPC	Southern Provincial Council
TrinCAP	Agricultural and Rural Development for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Through Community Approach in Trincomalee
VCC	Village Coordination Committee
VDP	Village Development Plan

* The smallest administrative unit of Sri Lanka, or Head of Grama Niladhari Division

1. Outline of the Project

1.1. Background of the Project

Hambantota District is the largest district in the Southern Province, with the area of 2,609 km². It is divided into 12 DS divisions, which are divided further into 576 Grama Niladhari (GN) Divisions. Major sources of income for the population are agriculture, including paddy rice and field crop production, animal husbandry and fishery. However, agriculture production is not satisfactorily contributing to local economy due to multiple factors: small amount of rainfall; water shortage, low productivity; lack of infrastructure; instability of market prices; unfair profit making activities of middlemen and so forth.

It is generally understood that there have been a number of interventions for development both by national and international development actors in Southern Province. However, the results are not considered as good as they were expected. The thought-less development plans, no-sensitivity to sustainability and lack of coordination among development efforts are identified as common problems, contributing to unsatisfactory effects from these interventions.

A participatory rural development approach, so called "CAP approach" featuring Community Action Planning (CAP) and Community Contract System (CCS) was first developed and introduced by the government of Sri Lanka in the 1980s.¹ CCS has been adopted in many development projects especially for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the North and East, yet rarely for rural development in Southern Province. In this context, the Project on Rural Livelihood Improvement in Hambantota District (SouthCAP) (hereinafter referred to as "Project") was designed to strengthen the existing rural development system through the effective use of CAP and CCS, thereby contributing to livelihood improvement in the target area.

1.2. Summary of the Project

Project title

The Project on Rural Livelihood Improvement in Hambantota District (SouthCAP)

Executing Agency

Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils

Implementing Agencies

- 1) Southern Provincial Council (SPC)

¹ CAP (Community Action Planning) is a locally initiated, participatory and locally directed planning process, through which community people are encouraged to identify problems, plan, monitor and evaluate their own activities. CCS (Community Contract System) is a mechanism whereby grassroots communities are awarded construction contracts for the development of small-scale infrastructure of the communities. "CAP Approach" in the Project is defined as the participatory process of planning and management of rural development, utilizing methods of CAP as planning and management tool and CCS as a means to implement small-scale infrastructure project.

- 2) Hambantota District Secretariat's Office
- 3) Divisional Secretariat's Office
- 4) Relevant Departments and Institutions

Project Duration

From 19 March 2007 to 18 March 2011 (four years)

Project Area

8 GN Divisions in Hambantota, Sooriyawewa, and Lunugamwehera DS Divisions

Target Group

- 1) The front-line government officials/ institutions, to be directly trained, supported, supervised by the Project
- 2) The target communities, to be directly/ indirectly benefited from CAP formulation and implementation

Overall goal

Income and livelihood of the people in areas within Hambantota and Southern Province will be improved by introducing the community approach programme for participatory rural development, which is acknowledged by stakeholders through the project.

Project Purpose

The existing system and structure for the participatory rural development will be functioning through effective use of institutions and practices (e.g. Community Action Planning and Community Contract System), aiming at improving income and livelihood of the people in the project area.

Output

1. Community Action Plans (CAPs) will be prepared in selected villages, then individual projects will be identified.
2. Divisional Coordination Committees will be functioning for implementation of CAPs.
3. Villager's (CBO's) skills for construction / maintenance works of rural infrastructure are developed through implementation of identified project(s).
4. Villager's (CBO's) capacity to implement and manage productive and reproductive activities is enhanced.

Activities

- 1-1. Villagers and field level officials of related governmental organisations will learn the approach and skills that is essential for preparing CAP.
 - 1-2. Villagers' meeting will be held, with assistance of field level officials in selected GN Villages, then CAP will be formulated in each village.
 - 1-3. Individual activities will be identified based on CAPs.
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- 2-1. Functions of the Divisional Coordination Committees will be confirmed and recognized by development stakeholders.
 - 2-2. Villagers become aware of existence and functions of coordination committees.
 - 2-3. Coordination Committee meetings will be held.
 - 2-4. Outline of CAP will be explained at coordination committees and individual projects to be assisted under this cooperation will be identified.
 - 2-5. Government officials will indicate candidate projects for governmental assistance.
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- 3-1. CBOs will receive the training in construction and management of infrastructure works.
 - 3-2. CBOs will implement infrastructure works.
 - 3-3. Villagers will receive training(s) in Operation and Maintenance of infrastructure.
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- 4-1. Project will hold workshop(s) for the beneficiaries to be educated on better reproductive practices, in cooperation with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) if necessary.
 - 4-2. Project will give technical guidance to the beneficiaries on productive and reproductive activities.