

Overall achievement level of Output 3: High

The level of achievement of Output 3 should be judged as highly satisfactory. The only shortfall among the five indicators was the insufficient number of training courses on construction and the low attendance rate in the training particularly in 2008. But this shortfall was ameliorated to a large extent in 2009. The community members' accounts in the focus group discussions also corroborated the fact that they were offered sufficient amount of training opportunities on infrastructure development.

The total number of the community contracts implemented during the project period should be considered adequate and the quality of most of the construction works was exemplary. O&M plans and institutions to manage the plans were established at the community level and in most of the cases, with a very few exceptions such as the case with the Karamatiya Road and Kalawelkoliara Canal O&M in Weliwewa GN Division⁵, O&M activities were undertaken smoothly.

The interviews with government officials including DS officers, offices concerning agriculture and irrigation sectors and Department of Wildlife Conservation, etc. suggested that there was a widespread recognition that CCS for small-scale rural infrastructure development undertaken by the Project is a very useful and powerful tool for enhancing community ownership and ensuring quality work. The general understanding was that the Project's CCS, unlike other CCS undertaken by existing government programmes such as Gama Negma, precisely followed each step which requires genuine community participation. Therefore, consensus was built, sense of ownership was enhanced and quality of work was realised. All these elements, in turn, contributed to sustainable operation of the infrastructure by the community members.

The total number of direct and indirect beneficiary households as a result of CCS infrastructure development is 271 in 2008, 1,053 in 2009 and expected to be 267 for the year 2010. The cumulative number of beneficiary households for the three years' period amounts to 1,591 out of the total of 2,549 households in the target GN Divisions. These figures should be considered significant given the limited time frame and the size of the Project.

⁵ The Karamatiya village road which connects to main roads at both sides was improved with people's participation in 2008 and the living conditions of the community members improved considerably due to the upgraded infrastructure. However, due to the onset of the large-scale development in the vicinity, i.e. a construction of the international airport, harbour, sport stadium, international convention hall and connecting road networks in Hambantota, the village road started to be heavily used by construction trucks and other heavy vehicles. Now construction-related vehicles, rather than the community members, use the road much more frequently and as a result the road gets heavily damaged. The situation is beyond the control of the O&M effort by the community and the matter is now being settled by the Divisional Secretariat. It was decided that Road Development Authority will take full responsibility of the expansion and maintenance of the road in future. Therefore, it is unlikely the community will have ownership over the road once Road Development Authority formally steps in. Likewise, the Kalawelkoliara canal constructed in 2009 was experiencing an O&M problem. Owing to the same reason of large-scale development, a culvert worth 350,000 rupees was destroyed for widening the road network.

3.3.4. Output 4

Output 4, i.e. "Villager's (CBO's) capacity to implement and manage productive and reproductive activities is enhanced", was designed to be measured by the following three objectively verifiable indicators. Table 30 summarizes the indicators, the present situations and the levels of achievement concerning the indicators.

Table 30 Achievement of Output 4

Indicator	Present situation	Level of achievement
4-1 CBOs in each village hold 36 workshops/trainings (three workshops/trainings×3CBOs×4yr) with more than 70% participation of expected villagers.	47 workshops/ trainings for livelihood improvement were held, out of which 28 had more than 70% of participation from expected villagers. 157 workshops/ trainings for agriculture were held, out of which 138 had more than 70% of participation from expected villagers.	Moderate
4-2 At least 50 % of trained villagers practice introduced better practices and/or follow technical guidance.	45% of those who participated in the livelihood improvement training; 47% of those who participated in the agricultural training; and, 65% of those who received agricultural instruction with start-up materials, were following the technical guidance	Livelihood -Moderate Agriculture -High
4-3 CBOs' meetings related to development, including VCC, are held in target areas at least once a month.	All the target GN Divisions except Bogahawewa held meetings less than once a month.	Moderate
Overall achievement – Agricultural activity		High
Overall achievement – Other livelihood improvement activity		Moderate

Indicator 4-1 (Level of achievement: Moderate)

47 workshops/ trainings for livelihood improvement were held, out of which 28 had more than 70% of participation from expected villagers. As for the promotion of agriculture related activities, 157 workshops and trainings were held, out of which 138 had more than 70% of participation from expected villagers. A cumulative total of 1,070 villagers for livelihood improvement and 2,798 villagers for agriculture had taken part in the workshops and trainings offered by the Project.

The total number of the villagers in the eight target GN Divisions is 9,603. Thus, the training for livelihood improvement covered 11% of the population while the training for agriculture covered 29% of the population. Both figures combined, presumably about 40% of the villagers took either training during the last three and a half years' project period.

Indicator 4-2 (Level of achievement: Moderate for livelihood improvement, High for agriculture)

45% of those 1,070 villagers who participated in the livelihood improvement trainings were

practicing the skills they had acquired in the trainings. These figures had improved from the time of the Mid-term Review Study when the corresponding figure was 40%.

As for agriculture training, a total of 2,798 farmers received agricultural training and technical guidance thus far. 47% of those who participated in the training and 65% of those who not only took part in the training but also received start-up materials such as seeds, seedlings, seed trays for parachute transplanting, etc. were putting the acquired skills into practice.

Caveat is that those who answered that they were practicing the skills acquired in the training, particularly those who took off-farm income generation training such as sewing, handcrafting, and food processing do not necessarily using their skills for increasing their income. Rather, the majority of the participants of the income generation training are using the skills in their daily household activity without applying the skills to generate additional income.

Indicator 4-3 (Level of achievement: Moderate)

The numbers of the meetings including Village Coordination Committee (VCC) meetings, Project Monitoring Meetings (PMMs), and other meetings held in each GN Division from November 2007 to August 2010 (34 months) were as shown in Table 31. Meetings at the target GN Divisions were held once a month in Bogahawewa. Other GN Divisions held meetings less than once a month as shown Table 31.

Table 31 Numbers and types of CBO's meetings held

GN Divisions	VCC meetings	PMM	Other meetings	Total
Keliyapura	18	8	7	33
Ketanwewa	15	11	5	31
Koholankala	17	5	10	32
Weliwewa	10	4	7	21
Weeriyagama	13	9	5	27
Padawgama	19	7	6	32
Punchiappujandura	16	7	7	30
Bogahawewa	16	11	11	38
Total	124	62	58	244

Overall achievement level of Output 4: High for agriculture training and Moderate for other training

The evaluation of the level of achievement of Output 4 should be two-fold: one for agriculture training and the other for income generation training/ living condition improvement training.

The former includes activities such as Integrated Pest Management, organic fertilizer production, parachute transplanting, self seed production, fruit and vegetable cultivation, and livestock development. Most of the techniques offered to the farmers were accepted and applied to their agricultural activities and some had seen success in increasing income from the new techniques.

Those success cases included Chinese vegetables, passion fruits and mushroom cultivation and self seed production, which started to bring tangible economic benefit to the farmers in this short space of time⁶. It should be noted, however, that these success stories were often made possible in combination with other interventions such as irrigation development, introduction of innovative marketing, strategic selection of location for cultivation, and attractive packaging. Synergetic effects between CCS infrastructure development in Output 3 and agricultural training in Output 4 were evident and this synergy led to the increased effectiveness of the Project.

The latter training, i.e. training for income generation and improvement of living conditions has many challenges, particularly in the area of off-farm income generation. The participants of the training generally found the training useful and appreciated the opportunities given. However, their experience did not seem to be leading to actual improvement of their livelihood because increased household income was not realised in the majority of the cases.

Although 45% of the training participants said that they were practicing the skills they had acquired in the trainings as shown in the analysis on Indicator 4-2, the field observation and focus group discussions with community members gave the Team more in-depth information than the quantitative figure could give. There were very few participants who were actually making additional income by using the skills they learned in the training. Many of the participants dropped out of the training. Even those who completed the training did not make an effort to generate income using the skill. There seems to be multiple reasons for these situations. They include lack of capital to start a business, lack of urgent necessity to earn money (Such people are relatively well-off), and, to the contrary, dire need to earn a quick daily cash income due to severe poverty (Such people chose to work as a day labourer than engage into off-farm income generation activity in their homestead). It is true that there were some women who made some additional income of 1,000 rupees/month or so by sewing, handcrafting and selling process food. Such activity may sustain poor people and help them survive by supplementing their income, which means that the main function of the activity is to 'prevent' poverty or to prevent them falling further into poverty. But whether or not it can help people find a pathway to get out of poverty is a different matter. In order to raise income by conducting off-farm income generation activity, the villagers are required to have a strong entrepreneurial spirit as well as means to acquire marketing, quality management and packaging skills, and initial investment capital.

3.4. Achievement of the project purpose

⁶ The cumulative earnings obtained from sales of Chinese vegetables, mushroom, and passion fruits are around 1,400,000 rupees (data from a total of 44 farmers from February 2009 to September 2010), 190,000 rupees (data from a sample of one farmer from October 2008 to May 2010), and 75,000 rupees (data from a sample of one farmer from July 2009 to September 2010), respectively. The farmers did not make any earnings from these produce before the Project was launched.

The project purpose was set as “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”. There are four objectively verifiable indicators as shown in Table 32.

Table 32 Achievement of the project purpose

Indicator	Present situation	Level of achievement
1. More than 50% of the suggested activities in the formulated CAPs are implemented by the project or other development agencies (GOs and NGOs)	58% of the suggested activities were implemented.	High
2. More than 50% of PIC and CBOs members recognise the usefulness of CAPs, as comprehensive development plans.	Data not available (Analysis of qualitative data: achieved to a large extent)	N/A (Analysis of qualitative data: High)
3. More than 5 target GN Divisions receive external supports to implement identified individual projects.	All the eight target GN Divisions received external supports.	High
4. 25% of households income is increased in 8 target GN divisions.	Data not available (Analysis of qualitative data: achieved to a certain extent)	N/A (Analysis of qualitative data: Moderate)
Overall achievement		High

Indicator 1 (Level of achievement: High)

Table 31 shows the numbers of the suggested CAPs and the numbers of those implemented in each GN Divisions. In total, 224 projects were conducted out of 387 suggested projects, which indicates that 58% of all the suggested projects had been implemented either by the Project or by other government/ non-government agencies.

Table 33 Numbers of CAPs implemented

GN Division	Conducted	Suggested	Percentage
Keliyapura	27	47	57%
Koholankala	24	58	41%
Ketanwewa	32	59	54%
Weeriyagama	34	43	79%
Weliwewa	29	52	56%
Bogahawewa	29	42	69%
Padawgama	25	43	58%
Punchiappu Jandura	24	43	56%
Total	224	387	58%

Indicator 2 (Level of achievement: N/A)

Quantitative data for Indicator 2 was not available at the time of the evaluation. Thus, the Team

employed a qualitative data collection method and conducted in-depth interviews with PIC and CBO members. According to the oral accounts made by the PIC and CBO members, almost all of them recognised the usefulness of the CAP approach. They, in particular, appreciated the fact that the participatory method ensured transparency and openness, which led to possible conflicts and alienation by the intervention being avoided in many cases. The community members also pointed out that while other development initiatives, particularly ones conducted by NGOs, tended to benefit members of small groups formed by such organisations, the CAP approach benefited a wide range and different strata of community members. Such aspects of CAPs seem to be most valued and appreciated by the PIC and community members.

Indicator 3 (Level of achievement: High)

All the target eight GN Divisions received external support from organisations including CARE international, World Vision, Oxfam, Jathika Saviya (a programme by the Sri Lankan government), Gama Neguma Programme (a programme by the Sri Lankan government), Pradeshiya Sabha, DS Office, Samurdhi (a programme by the Sri Lankan government), National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Veterinary offices, and other Government institutions. At the time of the Mid-term Review, only three GN Divisions had received such external support. This indicates another four GN Divisions were able to obtain external support in the last one and a half years.

Indicator 4 (Level of achievement: N/A)

Data concerning the household income of the target communities was not available at the time of the evaluation. Therefore, it was not possible to measure whether the interventions by the Project culminated in raising the household income of 25% of the target community members in the eight GN Divisions.

As an alternative to the quantitative data, the Team relied on gathering oral accounts from the beneficiary groups by conducting focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. The anecdotal information collected indicated that those who directly or indirectly benefited from the infrastructure development such as irrigation systems, roads, and electronic fences to protect crops from elephants were often able to increase their efficiency in agricultural and other commercial activities. The participants of agricultural training were also positive about their future prospect in raising income from agriculture, with some portions of them already receiving tangible results of increased agricultural productivity. The participants of the off-farm income generation training still had a long way to go until their income increased to the point where their living standards would rise.

Overall achievement level of the Project Purpose: High

The analysis made so far indicates that the Project has been successful in producing expected effects