

MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WILDLIFE
IN COLLABORATION WITH
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDEA)



**NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON
SUSTAINABLE ECO VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT
IN SRI LANKA**

MONDAY, JULY 31st, 2017, EARL'S REGENT HOTEL, KANDY



Project : Evidence Based Advocacy for Low-Carbon, Pro-Poor Sustainable “Eco-Village Development” (EVD) in South Asia



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Executive summary

The national event “National Dialogue on Sustainable Eco Village Development in Sri Lanka” with the objective of how to Integrate Sustainable Ecological Village Development (EVD) in the Sustainable Development Efforts as a Climate Smart solution for Sri Lanka, was organized by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and Integrated Development Association (IDEA), Kandy. This event was held under the patronage of Mr Meegasmulla, Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife of Sri Lanka.

The event was held on the 31st of July, 2017 at the Earl’s Regent hotel with the participation of a set of distinguished international level national experts and decision makers, who are identified as key actors in mainstreaming sustainable development and climate solutions in the country. The inauguration was done by Mr C P L Marikar, Chairman of IDEA where Mr Dumindu Herath, Project Manager of IDEA, presented the introduction and objectives of the dialogue. These two talks were followed by the Chief guest’s address.

Caption: Mr S M L Marikar, Chairman, IDEA



Caption: Mr Dumindu Herath, Project Manager, IDEA



Opening remarks by Chief guest, Mr Meegasmulla, Secretary , Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife.



Highlighting remarks by the Mr Meegasmulla

Mr Meegasmulla emphasised the commitments of Sri Lankan Government towards its contribution to the achievement of SDGs, Commitments under UNFCCC, National Commitments under Kyoto Protocol, and National Commitments under Paris Agreement and stated that Ministry of Sustainable Development and wildlife was mandated to have dedicated engagement with the different actors and

initiatives be it Government Institutions, Non- Governmental Organizations, Private Sector and Other actors. He further stressed that the thrust of the work would be on Intended National Determined Contributions (INDCs/NDCs)

In summing up his address Mr Meegamulla stressed on the expectation of the workshop to be one that gives rise to efficient and effective programmes with synergy. He reiterated the need to work with local, national and international NGOs. He further said that this should be the beginning to a process which leads to the participation of wide range of actors and also promoting and engaging in national languages, He called the Mission to be “CREATING SMART VILLAGES”

The technical session : The event structure comprised of two key sessions, the technical session and the dialogue session. The technical session was Chaired by Dr M.M.S.S.B Yalegama, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife. The session comprised of four presentations and a discussion sub session

*Panel for the technical session (From left) : Mr. Pradeep Saputhanthri, director, ministry of sustainable development and wildlife ,Dr. Sunimal Jayathunga , Director, Climate Change Secretariat , Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, **Chair** :Dr M.M.S.S.B Yalegama, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife. Mr Leel Randeni, Assistant director, environmental planning and economic affairs, Ministry of Mahaweli development and Environment, Mr. Saman Hamangoda , Director, PALTRA*



1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of Sri Lanka - Mr. Pradeep Saputhanthri, Director, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife

Highlighting Remarks:

He reiterated the commitment of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife in taking the lead forward, as shared by the Secretary in his speech along with other stakeholders at all levels.



1. National commitments on Climate Change: Dr. Sunimal Jayathunga , Director, Climate Change Secretariat , Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

Highlighting remarks:

Having shared the information on Climate change commitments in the context of Sri Lanka, Mr. Jayathunga went onto brief about the Green Smart Villages planned by the government and its relevance in meeting the INDC/NDC mandate. While winding up he invited the many actors present to join hands and strengthen the process.



2. Smart green villages program of the government – Mr Leel Randeni, Assistant Director, Environmental planning and economic affairs, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

Highlighting remarks:

With his presentation on the process of the National programme “ Development of 10,000 Smart green villages” , Mr Leel Randeni highlighted the collaboration dimension and the Strategic perspectives. He further stated that, other initiatives happening at village level due to efforts of other actors could join hands with the Smart Green Villages Programme and bring about the required synergy and help Sri Lanka to contribute towards the global mandate.



3. Sustainable Village Development planning process – Mr. Saman Hamangoda , Director, PALTRA

Highlighting remarks:

Mr Hamangoda stressed that many actors have carried out PRA exercises in many villages without follow up or any form of engagement but as an exercise primarily to gather information to meet the respective institutional mandates. This has contributed to certain forms of unhealthy attitudes and reactions from village communities. He summed up saying that there needs to be caution in using the process.



The Dialogue session

The Dialogue session was Facilitated by Mr Gamini Senanayake ,Key Expert 2 Switch-asia SCP NPSC for Sri Lanka, Environmental planning & Economics Division, Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment. This session was conducted with the aim of seeking insights on how to mainstream and scale up Eco Village Development process in national programmes, NGOs, and corporates, through the village level planning, resource mobilization and implementation.

The agreed sequence of the dialogue and their outcome are as follows;

1. Reach a National Consensus on the concept of (To get a common understanding of what we mean by) Sustainable / Smart / Green / Ecological Village (Using Flash Cards)

Outcome – National Consensus on the concept

Thanks to the “Flash Card” methodology adopted, during a period of around 20 minutes, over 75 ideas were generated. After the session, those ideas were screened, some ideas were merged and logically arranged under 5 categories including the 4 sustainability dimensions; (1) Economic aspects (2) Social aspects (3) Environmental aspects (4) Cultural & Religious aspects followed by the (5) Implementation Strategy.

Caption : Mr Gamini Senanayake (Dialogue facilitator)



Caption : Dr Yalgama, Additional Secretary MSDW , Mr Ajith Silva, Director, Landuse, MMDE, Mr W M Ananda , Div Secretary, Pellopolo



Re arranged ideas are given below which could be used to reach a national consensus on the concept of eco village. Closer look at those ideas reveals that this is not comprehensive enough to reach a national consensus. As it is not proper to fill gaps by individuals (or by the organizers) to make it comprehensive enough, it is advisable to have another brainstorming session with all possible players to finalize and validate the concept.

| Economic Aspects |
|---|
| Sustainable & resilient livelihood & built environment |
| Economic diversification for the financial stability |
| Market oriented & demand driven production |
| Productive and profitable livelihood through economies of scale |
| Optimal use of natural resources |
| Resource efficient production (materials, energy and water) |
| Product specialization |
| Optimal use of technologies |
| Optimal use of home gardens |
| Emphasis on food production |
| Seed banking system |
| Quality produce |
| Strengthened value chain (upstream and downstream) |

| Social Aspects |
|--|
| Peace, harmony & unity |
| Ethnic harmony |
| Happy and content community |
| Healthy community |
| Eco friendly |
| Self sustained & less dependent |
| Higher living standard |
| Modest |
| Education for all |
| Knowledgeable and informed community |
| Enhanced innovative capabilities |
| Self governing system & problem solving mechanism |
| Empowered & inclusive community |
| Responsible and accountable society |
| Self supporting community |
| Attitudinal and behavioral changes for sustainable consumption |

| Environmental Aspects |
|---|
| Living with nature |
| Community is mindful of the need for environmental conservation |
| Sensitive to climate change |
| Fertile and environmentally non degraded landscape |
| Eco system valued |
| Protected natural resources |
| Consolidating common spaces (Green public spaces) |
| Integrated resource (Energy, Water, Land, etc.) management |
| Clean Water |
| Protected micro catchment |
| Sustainable forestry |
| Energy self sufficiency (Renewable energy) |
| Low carbon emission |
| Integrated waste management system |
| Pollution free environment |

| Implementation Strategy |
|---|
| Integrated approach |
| Networking |
| Synergizing |
| Media support (Basic need for development) |

| Cultural & Religious Aspects |
|---|
| Adapting (Dynamic) Culture |
| Spirituality |

2. Identify Key Players & Programmes (Addressing the questions of Why – objectives, When – timeline, What – activities, Where – location, How – approach, How many – scope, How much – funding, From Where – source)

Outcome – Key Players

Six major players have been identified those who were invited / present for the session;

1. **Ministry of Sustainable Development & Wildlife** (Caption (a) Representative Dr Yalgama)
2. **Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment** (Caption (b) Representative Mr Leel Randeni)
3. **UNDP** (Caption (c) Representative Mr Sumudu Silva)
4. **CSR Programme by XY PLC** (Caption (d) Representative Mr Dinidu Endaragalle)
5. **IDEA** (Caption (e) Representative Mr R M Amerasekara, Executive Director)
6. **Prof Anoja Wickramasinghe – Buffer Zone Development, Knuckles** (Caption (f))

However, there could be other players such as Sanasa Movement those who were either not invited or participated in the session.

Caption (a)



Caption (b)



Caption (c)



Caption (d)



Caption (e)



Caption (f)



3. Situational Analysis of interventions of different players (Using flip charts)

Outcome of Situational Analysis:

Given below is the response of 6 players to the questions asked to understand the present situation of their interventions. Responses are arranged in a tabular form to compare and contrast the efforts of different players. This would be useful for future collaborations.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|--|
| | Ministry of Mahaweli Deve. & Envir. | Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife | UNDP | |
| Why | Sustainable Society Environment Conservation Better living conditions | Localize SDGs to village level as per national programme | Environment Conservation | |
| When | 2020 - 10,000 BGV ⁵ | Not decided (Pilot started) | 2020 | |
| What | Sustainable livelihood promotion Eco system restoration Energy Conservation Resilience & Pollution abatement | - Formation of village level committee - Prepare the development plan for village through PRA | UNDP-GEF-SGP (community grants) | |
| Where | Island wide | Island wide (Pilot - Makandura) | Knuckles, Mannar, Colombo, Wetlands | UNDP 7 Districts Yan oya, Mi oya Malwathu Oya river basins |
| How | Mobilizing local level administration and other stakeholders | Community empowerment | Community grants | CSO Financing Pvt., Public Partnership promotions |
| How many | 10,000 (by 2017 -2020) | At present 02 villages | Approximately 8-10 grants per Landscape | |
| How much | Not estimated yet | Not decided | Approximately 400,000 USD Per Landscape | |
| From where | National budget, Donor funding, Co-financing, CSR, in kind | GOSL | GEF GCF | |

| | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------------------|--|---|--|
| | CSR - Programme by XY PLC | IDEA | Prof Anoja Wickramasinghe: Buffer zone Development - Knuckles |
| Why | To ensure consistent and sustainable supply | Introducing an integrated concept of creating development-focused, low-carbon communities of practice in existing villages. - integration of appropriate, affordable solutions at village-level for energy, food, water, and livelihood security. | Restoration of Degraded (Buffer) |
| When | By 2020 | 2015 - 2018 | 2008- 2012 |
| What | - Organizing production units, - Skills training, - Technical transfer, - Extension services provisions , - Provision of input/ raw material, - Operational <u>buy back/Purchase systems</u> | - Village development Planning - Demonstration of Eco friendly solutions. - Developing institutional mechanism. - National/ Subnational /Divisional advocacy on Eco Village development | HG Development, Organic farming, Community - service linkages, Community organization, Livelihood development, Market linkages (Bio food outlets), Agric commercialization, Riparian restoration |
| Where | Jaffna Peninsular | 3 Villages in Matale District | KKU Mosaic |
| How | Value chain approach | Participatory /community based | Community based |
| How many | 200 Youth | 3 villages | 247 Household, Nearly 100 Hectares |
| How much | 200,000 USD | Donor funds | Over 9000\$ Local- subsidies , services |
| From where | Company CSR <u>allocation budget</u> | Denmark | D Darwin Initiatives (UK), ii- Academic Support (UP U - Aberdeen) , iii- National exp- Agric, Dept. of Agric. -MAHAWELI |

As can be seen from the above table, the interventions are very different from player to player in terms of their objectives, timeline, activities, location, approach, scope, funding, and funding sources. This diversity offers greater potential for collaborations to achieve synergy.

Way Forward

Based on the outcome of the dialogue, the following actions are suggested as a way forward;

1. Identify other players who were either not invited or participated in the session.
2. Have another brainstorming session with all possible players to finalize and validate the concept of eco village to reach a national consensus.
3. Explore the possibility for collaborations of different players by making use of their diversity of interventions to achieve synergy.
4. As there have been many national programmes ignited solely on political will, and will continue to do so, it is important to identify the capacity of officials in making decisions nationally in terms of their capacity, authority, roles and limitations they have in recommending, influencing, shaping up, developing national programmes, policies (Rural/Village development), and the process of developing national programmes / amendments to existing programmes. This review should be specifically for Ministries in charge of subjects of Environment and Sustainable Development. It is important to know how far these officials could influence ("Practically") national decision and policy making amidst heavy political influences. This would help the future advocacy in identifying the key players - political and administrative as well.

Annexes

1. Concept Note
2. Participant list
3. Agenda
4. Welcome Address : Mr S M L Marikar, Chairman, IDEA
5. Introduction and national Dialogue Objectives : Mr Dumindu Herath , Project Manager , IDEA
6. Opening Remarks and Address by Chief Guest: Mr Meegasmulla, Secretary of Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife
7. Technical Session (Chaired by Dr Yalgama, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife) , Presentations and Discussion

Annex 1

NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE ECO VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT IN SRI LANKA

CONCEPT NOTE

Despite all developmental efforts to uplift the living standards of the people; economic, social and environmental sustainability of the interventions are still at stake. In the meantime, Global Warming and Climate Change is dynamically happening, resulting in devastating events everyday hampering the lives of people all over the world. People lack resilience to disasters; one reason being lack of disaster preparedness, highlighting that there is an acute need to reduce vulnerability to natural events. On the other hand, current consumption practices devoid future generations the opportunity to live a good life with natural resources. Unless stern actions are taken, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, our children and grandchildren will have to suffer because of our own actions and inactions.

Many interventions are taking place globally; yet, the attention given to actual actions on ground level is far behind where they should be. We still need concerted efforts on community empowerment, poverty reduction, employment creation, quality education and vocational training, and skills development, while emphasizing on positive attitudes and behavioral patterns. Considering the famous proverb “Think Globally, and Act Locally”, to fine tune the plans and implement practical solutions to address these issues from the ground level, a national Dialogue with the objective of how to Integrate Sustainable Ecological Village Development (EVD) in the Sustainable Development Efforts as a Climate Smart solution for Sri Lanka has been organized by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and Integrated Development Association (IDEA), Kandy. A set of distinguished international level national experts related to these issues and solutions have been identified to be invited for this National Dialogue.

It is intended to set up a foundation to the dialogue through a couple of short presentations on the sustainable development goals and climate change discourses, National Sustainable Development Roadmap under the theme of ‘planning for an Inclusive Transformation’, plans on the 10,000 Green Smart Villages Programme, and experiences on sustainable village level planning. Afterwards, the distinguished experts would engage in a peer dialogue focused on how to mainstream and integrate Ecological Village Development process in National Programmes, NGOs, and Corporates, through the process of village level planning, resource mobilization, and implementation.

In this light, aspects such as a brief situational analysis on what are the existing opportunities, avenues and challenges for the programme, what added value EVD would bring to the existing and new programs on Sustainable Development and Climate Change mitigation / adaptation, how to supplement the existing 10,000 Green Smart Villages Programme implemented by the government, what recommendations are made by the distinguished experts on how we can apply EVD approach to overcome challenges and other suggestions as next steps shall be discussed. The invited participants shall make their intellectual contributions to enrich the dialogue with their knowledge, experience and opinion sharing.

The outcomes of the deliberations shall be synthesized and compiled into a document, and would be shared widely, while taking steps to implement the recommendation by the projects implemented by the IDEa itself and its partners across Sri Lanka and other South Asian countries, under the guidance of the Ministry of Sustainable Development & Wildlife and Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment, and their agencies, Climate Change Secretariat, Matale District Secretariat, Divisional Secretariats, and other government agencies.

Annex 2

Participant List

| | Name | Position/ Organization |
|----|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Mr. R.M.D.B. Meegasmulla | Secretary , Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wild Life |
| 2 | Dr Sunimal Jayathunga, | Director,Climate Change Secretariat , Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment |
| 3 | Mrs. R.H.M.P. Abeykoon, | Director -Bio Diversity , Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment |
| 4 | Mr. Saman Hamangoda, | Executive Director, Programme in Alternative Training (PALTRA) |
| 5 | Mr. D.P.G.Kumaradasa , | District Secretary, Matale District Secretariat, |
| 6 | Mrs. Sajeewa Withanage, | Planning Director, Matale District Secretariat, |
| 7 | Mr Ajith Silva , | Director -Land resources, Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment, |
| 8 | Ms. Dinali Jayasinghe, | National Coordinator, UNDP-GEF /SGP Sri Lanka |
| 9 | Mr Kavindu Ediriweera, | Programme Manager SLYCAN Trust |
| 10 | Mr Ranga Pallawala, | Chief Executive Officer (CEO),Janathakshan Regional Office |
| 11 | Mr. Navam Niles, | Janathakshan Regional Office |
| 12 | Mr. Gamini Senanayake, | Key Expert/ SWITCH -Asia |
| 13 | Mr. W M Ananda, | Divisional Secretary, Pallepola divisional Secretariat, Matale |
| 14 | Mr. Nishantha Karunathilaka, | Divisional Secretary, Naula Divisional Secretariat, Matale |
| 15 | Mr. Lionel Perera | Secretary ,Arunalu Community Development Centre, Matale |
| 16 | Prof. Anoja Wickramasinghe, | University of Peradeniya |
| 17 | Mr. Ranjith Wickramasinghe | NANEGE |
| 18 | Mr. Amila Balasuriya, | Research Professional, Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA), |
| 19 | Mr. Sarath Ekanayake , | Consultant IUCN |
| 20 | Mr. Leel Randeni, | Assistant Director, Environment Planning and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment |
| 21 | Mr. Pradeep Saputhanthri | Director- Sustainable Development , Ministry of Sustainable Development & Wildlife |
| 22 | Ms. H.M.N.K. Herath | Assistant Director (Planning) Kandy District Secretariat |
| 23 | Mr. U.C.N.B. Wickramasinghe | NGO Coordinator, District Office, Matale |
| 24 | Ms. Ambika Tennakon | EMO / Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment |
| 25 | Mr. M.R. Ranatunga | Deputy General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board |
| 26 | Mr. Dinidu Endaragalle | Technical Advisor CSR Sri Lanka |
| 27 | Mr. Sugath Yalgama | Additional Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife |
| 28 | Mr. Sumudu Silva | UNDP |
| 29 | Mr. L.B. Senarath | Journalist Sunday Times |
| 30 | Mr. S M L Marikar, | Chairman- IDEA |
| 31 | Mr. R M Amerasekara, | Executive Director - IDEA |
| 32 | Mr. Dumindu Herath, | Project Manager - IDEA |
| 33 | Mr. S D Abayawardana, | Programme Director - IDEA |
| 34 | Mr. Namiz Musafer, | Board Director- IDEA , Consultant to Ministry of Mahaweli development and Environment |
| 35 | Mr. Shyam Sundar | Marketing consultant, Former board member of Integrated Development Association(IDEA), |
| 36 | Mr. L G Lamasena, | Senior Technical officer - IDEA |
| 37 | Mr. A.G. Ranasinghe | Technical Officer -IDEA Part-time |
| 38 | Ms. L.G.M.I. Herath | Workshop planning assistant- Freelance |
| 39 | Ms. M. Madhu Vithanage | Administrative and finance Assistant -IDEA |

Annex 3

**NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE ECO VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT IN SRI LANKA
ORGANIZED BY MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WILDLIFE
AND
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (IDEA), KUNDASALE
DATE AND VENUE: MONDAY, JULY 31st, 2017 IN EARL'S REGENT, KANDY, SRI LANKA**

AGENDA

0830: REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

INAUGURAL

0900: WELCOME: MR. S M L MARIKAR, CHAIRMAN, IDEA

0910: INTRODUCTION AND NATIONAL DIALOGUE OBJECTIVES: MR. DUMINDU HERATH, PROJECT MANAGER, IDEA

0920: OPENING REMARKS AND ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF GUEST: MR. R.M.D.B. MEEGASMULLA, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WILDLIFE

TECHNICAL SESSION (CHAired BY DR. M.M.S.S.B. YALEGAMA, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WILDLIFE)

0930: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE CONTEXT OF SRI LANKA - MR. PRADEEP SAPUTHANTHRI, DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WILDLIFE

0945: NATIONAL COMMITMENTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE: DR. SUNIMAL JAYATHUNGA , DIRECTOR, CLIMATE CHANGE SECRETARIAT , MINISTRY OF MAHAWELI DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

1000: SMART GREEN VILLAGES PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT – MR LEEL RANDENI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF MAHAWELI DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

1015: SUSTAINABLE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS – MR. SAMAN HAMANGODA , DIRECTOR, PALTRA

1030 CLARIFICATIONS, QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

1100 TEA / COFFEE BREAK

NATIONAL DIALOGUE (FACILITATED BY ENG. GAMINI SENANAYAKE, KEY EXPERT 2 SWITCH-ASIA SCP NPSC FOR SRI LANKA, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & ECONOMICS DIVISION, MINISTRY OF MAHAWELI DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT)

1130 HOW TO MAINSTREAM AND SCALE UP ECO VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN NATIONAL PROGRAMMES, NGOS, AND CORPORATES, THROUGH THE VILLAGE LEVEL PLANNING, RESOURCE MOBILIZATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION

1315 SYNTHESIS

1330 LUNCH

1430 CONCLUSION

Annex 4

WELCOME ADDRESS: MR. S M L MARIKKAR, CHAIRMAN, IDEA

Marikkar in his opening remarks welcomed the participants and touched on the importance of the event in terms of its relevance nationally. He talked about IDEA and its commitment to the development cause. He made the audience know IDEAs contribution to stoves programme in Sri Lanka and it being a global success story – coming in for a lot of praise from many development actors nationally and internationally. In doing so he talked about Mr. R.M. Amarasekera continued commitment to the stoves work nationally and internationally.

Mr. Marikkar in his address also talked about the increasing importance of looking into Kitchen Improvement as an issue affecting women particularly and households using fuel wood for cooking in general. He pointed out that there was growing concern about the incidence of Respiratory Infection and the resultant effects on the overall health and well-being. He further emphasised that IDEA as an organisation was engaged in addressing these as issues within its development mandate.

Annex 5

INTRODUCTION AND NATIONAL DIALOGUE OBJECTIVES: MR. DUMINDU HERATH, PROJECT MANAGER, IDEA

Mr. Herath started his presentation by saying that there were many village and rural development initiatives that have been undertaken in the country by different actors. However, he said that when one looks at these projects deeply, concerns are being raised about: the resource use and impact; Cash Flow versus Productivity; extent to which these have taken on board the wider context and the situation of people; approach being top down with little or no emphasis in getting on board people's perceptions and their willingness to participate etc. Then it was pointed out by him that with the changes in development context globally and nationally mainly due to series of disasters and Climate Change one sees the need for having to address new issues at the local and national level. The way to address these issues and contextualising them also has to be looked at within a larger framework of Sri Lankan commitment to the Global agenda on climate change within the framework proposed by IPCC and also the overall global mandate through Sustainable Development Goals.

This new equation he felt has to be addressed through New Approaches with revised mandates taking on board people as key stakeholders, recognising that they need to have control over decision making and the processes that they are to be involved for the betterment of their own lives. With this thinking he shared about the Eco Village Development initiative taken forward by IDEA. Here he emphasised that the approach adopted entailed a participatory process with the constituent community from the three villages in Matale district serving as the hub of the planning process. He said EVD initiative was part of a larger effort pursued - **Evidence Based Advocacy for Low Carbon Pro poor Sustainable Eco Village Development in South Asia: 2015-2017** - in India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. In Matale (Galahitiyagama - Pallepola DS; Dalupothagama - Pallepola DS; Hapugasyaya - Naula DS) IDEA had ensured that the entire planning process was people centred and it was a Bottom-Up approach. People were engaged in a Community Based Sustainable Village Development Planning.

He defined EVD to be: ***“Eco Village Development is an integrated concept of creating development-focused, low-carbon communities of practice in existing villages. It involves the integration of appropriate, affordable solutions at village-level for energy, food, water, and livelihood security. This concept can pave the way for stronger rural communities with better livelihood-opportunities, with less adverse climate impacts, and with***

more resilience to climate change.” Further he defined the approach as being one that was **“Holistic, Integrated, Decentralized, Community based participatory, bottom-up development approach”**

Overall objective of this EVD initiative was highlighted to be as follows:

Project Objective: *The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the development to reduce poverty in ways that limit greenhouse gas emissions (mitigate climate change) in South Asia.*

The intervention objective of the project is to influence national decision-makers, including climate negotiators, to be aware of and better include local climate mitigation and adaptation solutions including sustainable EVD as important elements in their climate-related policies and in their proposals for international negotiations, including for climate negotiations.

In pursuing this mandate the thrust had been on 4 elements, namely – Environment; Socio-Economic and Spiritual; Livelihood Development; and Infrastructure. Following this the success of the effort was highlighted to be:

EVD Solutions

- ✓ **Productive and efficient utilization of Local Resources,**
- ✓ **Affordability,**
- ✓ **Appropriate,**
- ✓ **Robust,**
- ✓ **Eco friendly/ Low Carbon solutions**

Capacity and awareness building on climate resilience

- Thereafter, Mr. Herath emphasized that the larger effort was to scale-up and mainstream this experience at the national level, with the following features:
- Productive utilization of the administrative structure at community level for community based village development planning
- Flow of Information and sources finances to the grassroots
- Synergizing and empowering Institutions and Line agencies to facilitate planning and implementation of solutions
- Prioritizing bottom-up approaches and decentralized, integrated developments

Given the above context the **Objective of the National Dialogue** indicated to be as follows:

How to mainstream and scale-up Eco-Village Development process in National Programmes, NGOs, and Corporates, through the Village level planning, Resource mobilization, and Implementation

- National Commitments in terms of Climate change , SDGs, National Green village Programme and Sustainable Village planning Chaired by Dr Yalgama
- Dialogue session facilitated by Mr Gamini Senanayake – Mainstreaming and scaling – up Sustainable Eco Village Development

Annex 6

OPENING REMARKS AND ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF GUEST: MR. R.M.D.B. MEEGASMULLA, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WILDLIFE

Mr. Meegasmulle welcomed all the participants on behalf of his ministry and shared his happiness about the opportunity that the Ministry got to organize the National Dialogue along with IDEA. He said upfront that the participants should deliberate at length and help strengthen the process that Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wild Life was engaged in. He said that the Ministry was formed by the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that the diverse initiatives taken by different actors in the country is coordinated and consolidated so as to ensure that Sri Lankas overall achievements in meeting Global commitments could be heard as a single voice.

He touched on the ratification of Sustainable Development Goals and the role played by a wide range of actors. In sharing this view he also emphasised the commitments of Sri Lankan Government towards its contribution to the achievement **of SDGs, Commitments under UNFCCC, National Commitments under KP, and National Commitments under PA**. He further emphasized that his ministry was mandated to have dedicated engagement with the different actors and initiatives be it Government Institutions, Non- Governmental Organizations, Private Sector and Other actors.

He further stressed that the thrust of the work would be on **Intended National Determined Contributions (INDCs/NDCs)**

Adaptation

- Food security (Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock)
- Water
- Health
- Irrigation
- Coastal and Marine
- Biodiversity
- Tourism and Recreation
- Urban, City Planning and human Settlements

Mitigation

- Energy
- Transportation
- Industry
- Forestry
- Waste

Loss and Damage

- Disaster Management

Means of Implementation

- Finance
- Technology Development and Transfer
- Capacity Building

In pursuing this mandate he said that the emphasis of his ministry would be on:

- Evolving approaches that are localised
- Integrate efforts with the programme of the ministry on sustainable villages
- Changing the dependency equation of the community on Social, Economic and Environment fronts
- Addressing specific local and national issues on Social, Economic and Environment fronts
- Make sure that the EVD is a complementing initiative and not one that leads to conflicts.
- Optimising the use of resources

In summing up his address he stressed on the expectation of the workshop to be one that gives rise to efficient and effective programmes with synergy. He reiterated the need to work with local, national and international NGOs. He further said that this should be the beginning to a process which leads to the participation of wide range of actors and also promoting and engaging in national languages, He called the Mission to be **“CREATING SMART VILLAGES”**

Annex 7 – TECHNICAL SESSION

1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE CONTEXT OF SRI LANKA - MR. PRADEEP SAPUTHANTHRI, DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WILDLIFE

Mr. Saputhanthri during his presentation shared the efforts of the Government in its move towards addressing the global mandate on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). He highlighted the mandate of SDG to be “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity”. He shared the 17 Goals of SDG and went on to clarify the difference between concept of Sustainability and Sustainable Development to be as follows:

- **Sustainability** – Capacity of a thing, action, activity or process to be maintained indefinitely
- **Sustainable Development** – Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

He went on to add that the SDGs were accepted by all 193 member States of the United Nations on 25 September 2015, define as Global long term Development objectives that will establish a More sustainable means of economic and Social development in all countries. Furthermore, Mr. Saputhanthri said that the 2030 agenda recognizes that inter - linked globalized world and said that all goals are inter-connected so that all the goals have to be achieved together. In furthering his argument he said that **Goal 13 – Goal 17** had the mandate to influence all actors. In order to achieve this it was as a necessity, that achieving these Goals involves making very big, fundamental changes in how we live on Earth. This is called transformation. Therefore all policies have to be formulated to reflect the transformation.

He said that the thrust of the entire mandate was the **“Three related dimensions to the concept of sustainability”, namely Economic sustainability, Social sustainability and Environmental sustainability.**

Thereafter he went onto highlight the SDG s IN THE CONTEXT OF SRI LANKA and emphasized the move towards achieving the same to be:

- ☐ **Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife being the first cabinet portfolio in Asia pacific region for Sustainable Development**
- ☐ **The Ministry acts as the national focal agency coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the national commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

He said that the prime objective of this Ministry is to coordinate strategies, programs, mechanisms and tools to address Sustainable Development challenges to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainability through an integrated approach. He went on to add that the ministry understands that “The realization of the 17 SDGs is of significant relevance to Sri Lanka as it is directly related to major development challenges our society is facing. In this regard, the cooperation of the political leadership and the public agencies at the local, provincial and national levels is highly important”.

In pursuing this, the mandate of 51 ministries and 425 line agencies assumes importance stays focused on contributing towards the achievement of the 17 Goals and 169 targets and to this extent the approaches evolved will be inclusive and ensuring that no one is left behind. He said that Ministry with a special cabinet approval has appointed focal officers from all ministries, provincial councils and District planning secretariats to coordinate all SD implementation activities in their agencies and that this will be extended to all the other implementing agencies under the ministries.

He highlighted the **Need for legal framework to implement SDGs and stressed the following:**

- ☐ To promote the integration of environmental, economic and social factors in the decision making process of the government
- ☐ Incorporate 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the national planning processes, policies and strategies to achieve Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka in a holistic and inclusive approach
- ☐ Sustainable Development Council is the institutional mechanism to be established under the bill which is in the process.

Thereafter, went on to share the **Expected task of the Sustainable Development Council to be as follows:**

- ☐ To prepare National Policy and Strategy on SD in consultation and with concurrence of all ministries/departments/PCs
- ☐ To review and update the National Policy and Strategy on SD periodically
- ☐ To issue guidelines relating to SD in respect of new development projects
- ☐ To facilitate and monitor the mechanisms and progress review processes of the implementation of the National Policy and Strategy on SD

He concluded by reiterating the commitment of the Ministry in taking the lead forward as shared by the Secretary in his speech along with other stakeholders at all levels.

2. NATIONAL COMMITMENTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE: DR. SUNIMAL JAYATHUNGA , DIRECTOR, CLIMATE CHANGE SECRETARIAT

Mr. Jayathunga, touched on the presentation of the Secretary and indicated that **NATIONAL COMMITMENTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE included:** Commitments under the UNFCCC, Commitments under the KP and Commitments under the PA.

He talked about the commitment under **United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC)** to be:

- **Art. 4.1.a** : National Communications / GHG Inventories (1992, 1993)
- **Art. 4.1.d** : Increase sinks and reservoirs of all GHGs
- **Art. 4.1.e** : Preparation of Adaptation Plans
- **Art. 4.1.a** : Promote Research and Systematic Observations
- **Other paras of Art. 4** : developed countries commitments (Mols, GHG reductions, ... etc.)

Similarly he presented the Commitments under **Kyoto Protocol** to be:

- Adopted on 11th Dec 1997,
- SL ratified in 2002,
- Entered into force on 16 Feb 2005)
- 1KP : 2008-2012, 5%-1990 [IET, CDM, JM)
- 2KP : 2013-2020, 18% -1990

Followed this by stating the commitments of Sri Lanka under **Paris Agreement;**

- Was negotiated from 2011-2015 as “a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention”.
- Is a universal agreement that is applicable to all the parties to the UNFCCC.
- has come early entry into force onward 4th November 2016

He stated the objectives of PA to be:

(a). Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;

(b). Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;

(c). Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.

Mr. Jayathunga emphasized the Nationally Determined Commitments of Sri Lanka to be under four broad heads:

- Mitigation
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emission
- Adaptation
 - Building resilience to meet the adverse effects of climate change
- Means of Implementation
 - Finance, Technology development and transfer, and Capacity Building
- Loss and Damage
 - Beyond adaptation and disaster management

Given the above broad commitments Sri Lanka has specifically made negotiated submissions with UNFCCC described to be as follows:

- **Initial version of INDCS of SL Submitted to UNFCCC in Oct. 2015 and revised version submitted in April 2016**
- **NDCs submitted in Sept. 2016**
- **It intends to reduce the GHG emissions against Business-As-Usual (BAU) scenario by**
 - 20% in energy sector (4% unconditionally and 16% conditionally) within the target period 2020-2030
 - 10% in other sectors (transport, industry, forests and waste) by 3% unconditionally and 7% conditionally by 2030

In pursuing the implementation of NDCs the government has adopted the following plan with the different actors being engaged in the process with a well-defined mechanism in place.

- Inter-ministerial Steering Committee
- 14 Advisory Boards and 14 Planning and Monitoring Committees to develop strategic policies and action plans for INDCs/NDCs
- Preparation of Readiness Action Plan for INDCs (2017-2019)
- Preparation of Climate Change Act and Commission for Climate Change

Having shared the process Mr. Jayathunga went onto brief about the **Green Smart Villages** planned by the government and its relevance in meeting the INDC/NDC mandate. While winding up he invited the many actors present to join hands and strengthen the process. He indicated that his colleague from the ministry would provide the details about the Green Smart Village initiative.

3. SMART GREEN VILLAGES PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT – MR LEEL RANDENI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF MAHAWELI DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Developing Green Smart Villages under the 10,000 Blue Green Beautiful Lanka Villages Programme is an initiative undertaken by **Environment Planning & Economics Division of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment**. Background to the BGBLV programme was highlighted by **Mr. Randeniya to be:**

- Traditional wisdom and the wealth of customary sustainable uses of ancient society
- Local agriculture aligned with nature
- Unique Sustainable production Landscapes such as cascade systems, Kandyan Forest/home gardens etc.
- basis for long term prosperity
- 80% of the Sri Lankan population in villages
- green revolution, maximizing production / safe guarding environment left behind
- future generations - more intense bitter consequences

Hence, environment development and conservation assumed priority among the key development strategies. While sharing the relevance of the Green Smart Villages it was highlighted that the prime concern and focus would be on Synergizing Social Mobilization efforts. In this regard the major effort was on inter-sectoral and integrated approach for synergistic, positive and sustainable outcomes leading to:

VISION

A Blue Green Beautiful Lanka through establishing economically prosperous and ecologically regenerated eco- friendly village network where empowered communities and nature co-exist in harmony, ensuring long term sustainability of natural resources base

And

MISSION

Mobilize and empower village communities to promote natural, healthy organic lifestyles, eco-friendly green socio-economic rural growth to ensure the equitable and sustainable development safeguarding natural resources base

With this mandate the overall initiative has moved forward with the following being carried out till date:

- Villages been selected island wide
- **District level Training Programmes**
 - Jaffna, Rathnapura and Matale – Completed
 - Gampaha and Kegalle – Planned
- Planned to conduct PRA s
- **Model Villages**
 - Madirigiriya
 - Walapane
 - Siyambalangamuwa
 - Badulla

Having said about the tasks done so far the presenter highlighted the collaboration dimension and the Strategic perspectives.

Collaboration with Other Similar Initiatives

- Samurdhi Model Villages
- “පළතුරු ගම්මාන” Department of Agriculture
- Model Villages of Ministry of Housing and Construction

And other Initiatives including proposals for Donor Funding

Strategic Perspectives

- Introducing Positive Reciprocity in to Blue green Village Program
- Networking Blue Green Villages

Mr. Randeniya said, other initiatives happening at the village level due to the efforts of other actors could join hands with the Smart Green Villages Programme and bring about the required synergy and help Sri Lanka to contribute towards the global mandate.

4. SUSTAINABLE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS – MR. SAMAN HAMANGODA , DIRECTOR, PALTRA

Mr. Hamangoda presented his experience as a Specialist in Participatory Rural Planning and Development having carried out many assignments over three decades. His contribution to the National Dialogue was based on his experiences of the following three village development planning processes:

- Mahaweli System C & H
- Participation of Villagers in Governing Rural Development: Nikaveratiya Divisional Secretariat division of the Kurunegala district, Intermediate Technology Development Group (2003 – 2005)
- Gemidiriya Community Development and Livelihood Improvement Project: Galle, Matara and Polonnaruwa Districts (2006)

He shared that the process of planning entailed going through 4 steps: Training; Community Mobilization; Collecting information, analysing and prioritizing; and Evolving Village Development Plan. He emphasised that the entire process was centered on two key elements in terms of Approach – Principles and Tools.

Thereafter he went onto share in detail the major principles and tools used in the **Participatory Rural Appraisal** (PRA). Thereafter he stressed on the two approaches to arriving at Village Development Plans to be as follows:

- **Approach one:** Committee of village representatives prepare the village development plan together with stakeholders
- **Approach two:** Committee of village representatives prepare the village development plan and present to all stakeholders

Having delved into the two approaches and their effectiveness in detail he **summed up the strengths to be:**

- Community mobilization
- Use of visual techniques
- Participatory community analysis, identifying problems and potential solutions
- Strengthen the collaboration between the community and external stakeholders
- Flexibility

Following this he also put forward the following possible **limitations** that one has to recognize while choosing the approach.

- Difficulty of deploying a multidisciplinary teams to facilitate the assessment process
- Inability to provide required time for the assessment process
- The depth of analysis of problems will be limited by the knowledge, skills and attitude of facilitator or team
- Limited scope of the proposed programmes to address the priority needs of community
- Overused as an approach

While sharing his views on the over use of the approach he stressed that many actors have carried out PRA exercises in many villages without follow up or any form of engagement but as an exercise primarily to gather information to meet the respective institutional mandates. This has contributed to certain forms of reactions from village communities which though reflect their knowledge on the subject also does suggest unhealthy attitude within these constituencies. So in summing up he said that there needs to be caution in using the process. He also stressed on the limitations on Personal, professional and Institutional spaces.

He concluded his presentation by suggesting the adoption of following steps for the Village Development Planning Process:

Step 01 - Training

- Conceptual understanding of overall project
- Thorough on process, tools and facilitation

Step 02 - Community mobilization

Step 03 - Participatory assessment

- Day 01: Social/resource map, Historical Profile, Seasonal Calendar, Venn Diagram
- Day 02: Force Field analysis, Pairwise ranking
- Day 03: Data analysis

Step 04 - Prepare Village Development Plan

He thanked all the participants and indicated his willingness to help those interested in taking the process forward.

5. CLARIFICATIONS, QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Major Questions raised following the presentations were:

Question1: Concerns about the way of Incorporating Social, Economic and Environment issues into Sustainable Development Framework and SDGs, given that there could be differentials in achievement within each of these. Further, it was suggested that incorporating could become even more difficult given the different prioritisation processes adopted given the institutional and national mandates.

Answer 1: It was agreed that such prioritisation based differentials could surface and the dialogue amongst the different actors could bring about convergence in thinking and streamline the process.

Question2: Plans to engage corporate/private sector given that the Government mandate and Private Sector mandates are so diverse.

Answer 2: It was felt that the interventions should strive to establish and work on market based linkages.

Question3: Communities produce but struggle to sell. Unfair practices – meaning that companies go and sell the inputs to the farmers promoting their agenda but having succumbed to the pressure of the companies the farmers engage in production with hope but struggle having to sell their produce (with unmet promises by those corporate institutions or one sided dealings).

Answer 3: It was acknowledged that there is a gap. It was also expressed that the corporate sector lacked certain skill sets and the need to fill these skills. Similarly it was acknowledged that the NGO sector too required certain skill sets to work on this issue.

Question4: Lack of understanding of market while working in the production spaces – in deciding on produce and value addition

Answer 4: *Answer to Question 3 was emphasised again*

Question5: Responsibility of Media in the process

Answer 5: It was perceived that this was a major issue given the power of media and the possible conflicting interests that bring about counterproductive results. It was acknowledged by the Ministry of Sustainable Development that they need to work closely with the Media (along with other actors) and draw their participation in doing this journey.

Question6 How do you decide on Blue Green Villages?

Answer 6: Based on the information provided by the district administration. Focussing on issues of Livelihood and Environment - Where there is scope for improving Resilience, understanding Vulnerability to Climate Change etc.,

Question7: How does one network these villages instead of isolated ad hoc interventions?

Did not receive a specific answer. To be discussed elaborately.

Question8: What is this Smart Green Vilages?

This was coming in as an Activity of the Dialogue session