Field Study Tour Report

18th to 20th of April 2019

Biodiversity Adaptation to Climatic Changes (BACC Project)

Introduction

Field study tour was organized by the project management unit of the Bio Diversity Adaptation to Climatic Change (BACC project) collaboration with 50 farmers who are from Galgamuwa - Gampola project site and other subordinate staff from Plant Genetic Resources Centre.

Two Community Base Organization (CBO) organizations which consist of 50 participants (Ekamuthu CBO and Parakum CBO) were participated to field study tour and it was organized as a three day programme from 18th to 20th of April 2019.

The main objective of the field tour were aware the farmers regarding technologies used by research institute for crop production and utilization , knowledge sharing and providing opportunities to get experience on major thematic areas which are interested by farmers.

Field visit to Regional Agricultural Research & Development Centre (RARDC) - Bandarawela

RARDC, Bandarawela, is situated 3 km from Bandarawela on the Road to Diyathalawa. It was established in 1972 to serve the Up Country Intermediate Zone (UCIZ), which is spread over the Badulla and Moneragala Districts.

The centre functions under the purview of HORDI, Gannoruwa and caters to the technical needs of the farming community in the Uva province and the Balangoda Agricultural segment of Rathnapura District. The mandate of the centre is to generate and disseminate cost effective and eco-friendly technology to increase production of vegetables, fruits, Root and tuber crops and flower crops grown in the UCIZ.

The centre has four sub-stations- Agricultural Research Stations at Rahangala and Maduruketiya, Adaptive Research Unit at Muthukandiya and Citrus Research Station, Bibile, which help to strengthen the location specific research and development programmes at the centre.

At the field study tour farmers were aware on Agricultural practices which are use for upcountry vegetable production , Management of floricultural crops which are use to cut flower industry in Sri Lanka and practical experience on vegetative propagation method (Budding, Grafting) for fruit crops such as orange and pears.

Seminar program and field visit at Bandarawela research institute

Bee keeping Development Unit, Bindunuwewa – Bandarawela

Bee keeping Development unit is responsible for the Development and Extension of bee keeping among farmers. In order to dissemination of modern apiculture technology and following facilities are provided by the unit.

- Training of farmers, officers and students.
- Manufacturing bee keeping equipment.
- Training and registration of bee keeping equipment, suppliers and certification.
- Technical support for government and non-governmental institutions to implement bee keeping projects.
- Research works for bee enhancement of bee keeping technology.
- Collecting of annual bee keeping & honey production data in Sri Lanka.

At field visit seminar programme was organized by the officers who representing bee keeping and development unit and discussion was fallowed on annual cycle of bee colony, Structure of bee colony, dividing of bee colony to sub colonies and constrains affected to bee keeping at households.

Seminar program at Bee keeping Development unit - Bindunuwewa

Mirijjawila Dry zone Botanical Garden

Field visit at Mirijjawila Dry Zone Botanical Garden

Mirijjawila Botanical Garden is the first Dry Zone Botanical Garden in Sri Lanka. It's located on the Colombo - Katharagama main road with Maththala Air Port on its left side and the Hambantota Harbour on its right side. The construction work of the Dry-Zone Botanic Garden commenced on 20th July 2006. This was the first time a botanic garden was set up in Sri Lanka after 130 years.

The total area of the botanical garden is about 300 acres. This land was covered with thorny shrubs and abandoned chena lands, when it allocated for this purpose in 2006. A sum of Rs. 500 million was allocated for the development of the gardens, which is in extent of 300 acres. Three water tanks named Kohombagas wewa, Malitthangas wewa and demataththa wewa, are constructed in the garden premises to preserve the moisture of the land.

The dry-zone botanic gardens consist of plants, trees and herbal plants that are grown in the dry zone, a butterfly garden, a plant nursery, a student park, a plant conservation unit, a flower garden, and ornamental bushes. The dry-zone botanic gardens at Hambantota are the only ones set up by locals using local technology and expertise.

The objectives and purpose of establishing this botanical garden is,

- Ex-situ conservation of dry and arid zone plants of Sri Lanka.
- Dry zone landscape improvement.
- Ecotourism promotion.
- Providing knowledge and training on botany and floriculture.
- Promoting medicinal herbs.
- Studies on lesser known and underutilise plants in the dry zone.

At the field visit farmers were able to identified and gain knowledge the on different agro forestry plant species, medicinal plant and its useful characters, flowering plant species which are adapted to drought environment, cactus garden, orchid garden and different landscape improvements for aesthetics value of the garden.

Field visit to Ridiyagama Safari Park

Ridiyagama Safari Park is the first ever Safari Park Zoo in Ridiyagama area of Hambanthota district, Sri Lanka. It is the 500 acre Safari Park. The park was opened to the public on 28th May 2016.

In 2008, construction work of park was started by the direction of The National Zoological Department of Sri Lanka for the expectation of tourism. It would be divided into six zones holding different animals found worldwide, where carnivorous animals will be in 4 zones and herbivores animals will be in 2 zones. Meanwhile, carnivore animals such as lions, tigers and leopards will be in 2 zones of the carnivore section .The first phase with the 35-acre African Lion Zone, 54-acre Sri Lanka Elephant Zone and 80 acres World Zone was opened to the public. African, Asian, Australian Zones and a small animal kingdom is under construction as the second phase. The officials explained they have further plans to expand the Park to include areas for Bengal tigers, Sri Lankan leopards, bears, Australian beasts and reptiles.

Field visit to Banana export village at Sooriyawewa

The field visit was organized by collaboration with extension officers at Agrarian service centre - Sooriyawewa. The field was consist with well maintain Cavendish Banana plants, hybrid Papaya and department recommended Brinjal varieties. At the field programme opportunities were provided to farmers for sharing of experience based on agricultural practises based on crop management and irrigation techniques such as sprinkler irrigation.

Farmer has selected to cultivate cavendish banana because of the cultivars have been one of the most internationally traded banana cultivars and prominent Banana cultivated in Sri Lanka. The farmer has used good management practices such as organic fertilizer application, covering of banana bunches with light penetrated polythene for improve the quality of fruits, pest and disease management practices and proper post-harvest practices for banana and papaya. Also at the field demonstration farmers were aware on marketing chain of commercially important crops and other possible areas for marketing of agricultural products.

Visit at Cavendish Banana field

Plantation of Cavendish Banana

Plantation of Brinjal