

Report on Training of Trainers Program (ToT)

5th and 6th September at the FARM, Puliyankulam

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Vanni Agricultural Livelihood Upscaling & Enhancement Project (VALUE)

Funded by USAID

Implemented by Green Movement of Sri Lanka INC

1. Executive Summary

The second round of the ToT training on natural agricultural practices including seed production was conducted on 5th and 6th September at the Farm, Puliyankulam with the participation of 56 persons. The program covered subjects including production of seeds and planting materials and seed storage at household level. In addition there were two special sessions on community mobilization titled strengthening project's small groups at village level. GMSL specially conducted these sessions with the view of inculcating knowledge and skills on community mobilization among ToTs who will lead the project activities at the village level.

Objective of the training program: Educate ToT persons on seed production and community mobilization.

Statement on the success/ failure of the training program

As per participants' feedback, the program has achieved its anticipated objective of imparting knowledge on skills on seed production and community mobilization. End of the program evaluation suggests participants learned new techniques pertaining to seed production and were able to identify some of the barriers that hinder their project work at village level. At the end of the program, participants were grouped according to their locality and were requested to plan how they are going to strengthen project group structure at village level. It will be followed-up through Field Oversight Officers (FOOs) in the coming months.

Additionally, the program helped to improve relationship between Tamil speaking community and Sinhala speaking community. Moreover, the participants were enthusiastic and keen to conduct farmer training programs for their fellow-farmers to transmit knowledge and skills that they gained through the training program.

The end of training evaluation suggests followings:

1. The participants have learned seed production techniques
2. The participants were very happy about the training program and they were keen to transmit knowledge and skills to their fellow farmers through farmer training programs.
3. Since the program was conducted with parallel translation, for some sessions time was not sufficient.

The training program in numbers

District	Male	Female	Total Participants from the district	Youth (below age 29)
Kilinochchi	4	13	17	2
Mullaitivu	5	12	17	7
Vavuniya	9	13	22	7
	18	38	56	16
Total training program cost	LKR 277,670.00			
Cost per trainee	LKR 4,958.39			

1. The program has trained more female persons than male persons; 38 were female out of 56 participants. A large share of female participation is good for the project activities as they can efficiently organize farmer training programs in the village by disseminating project information through their peer-networks in the village.
2. In the Kilinocchhici district female participation was more than threefold of the male participation
3. In the Mullaitivu district female participation was more than twofold of the male participation
4. There are 1.4 female persons for a male person in the Vavuniya district
5. 16 youth members were trained; this has both advantages and disadvantages. In some instances youth members do not find sufficient time to involve in project activities. The positive side is youth can attract more villagers to the project activities.
6. The total investment of the program was LKR 277,670.00 and GMSL has spent LKR 4,958.39 per trainee.

2. Summary of the program items

5th September 2015 (First Day)

The participants' registration took place between 0830 to 0845hrs.

Roshan Salinda initiated the program by welcoming participants and introducing the purpose of the program. He also provided a brief overview of the future direction of the project and concluded his remarks with the note that he will have in-depth discussion during the latter part of the day on the project progress.

Nimal Kumaratunga: why we should move in to production of own seeds and planting materials?

Nimal Kumaratunga, the project manager delivered a lecture on the topic why we should move into production of own seeds and planting materials. His speech laid the platform for the program. In a nutshell, he highlighted the benefits of producing seeds and planting materials by farmers. He also explained that if we produce our own seeds, there is a high possibility of getting higher price for produce. More often farmers buy available seed varieties in the market and therefore during the harvest period, the price of that respective crop gets down due to imbalances in supply and demand equation as supply is greater than the demand. Further, he emphasized that as farmers we can't decide what is grown in the next season. The seed availability dictates farmers' cultivation choices. So the only way that can challenge the situation is producing own seeds and planting materials.

Basic Principles of production of seeds and planting materials, M.J.P. Gayal

Mr. Gayal presented in detail theoretical background pertaining to production of seeds and planting materials. For example, he mentioned about what kind of varieties can be used for production of seeds, maturity indices and harvest indices, precise temperature ranges etc. It seemed like his lecture was too technical to the farming community but the end program evaluation suggests otherwise, as sizable number of participants selected his lecture as the favorite session.

Step by step process of production of seeds and planting materials, Soosai Alles

The second technical session was conducted by Mr. Soosai who was an ex-agricultural officer and carries wealth of experience in the agriculture field. He talked about how farmers can practically do production of seeds and planting materials at household level. His presentation introduced step by step process of seed production for crops such as tomato and chili. The session was eye opener for

many farmers as some of them are keen to produce their own seeds yet they don't have proper knowledge for it.

Seed storage at household level, Alvan Nadarajah

He explained evolution of seed storage from generations to generation and emphasized that today sophisticated technologies are in place for seed storage, yet it can be done at household level if managed carefully. Further he noted it is a tedious task to protect seeds from pest and diseases and even we complete all other steps of seed production successfully, if we fail at this step, we will not be successful. Besides his technical presentation on seed production he touched upon some of the cultural factors that dictate production of seeds at household level.

Discussion on project matters

Project's M & E Officer, Roshan conducted this session with the idea of getting to know exact field level situation related to the project. He asked from volunteers what is the situation related to farming activities, production of composting and use of liquid fertilizer manufacture kit (LFMK) by beneficiary families. In Mullaitivu district, the volunteers informed that farming activities are at a transition as farmers getting ready for the next season, composting is being done by the beneficiaries and liquid fertilizer manufacturing needs to be restarted for the upcoming cultivation season. When asked indirectly about the use of LFMKs it was revealed that beneficiaries were needed to be motivated for the maximum use of LFMKs.

Then, Roshan asked about cooperation and communication between FOOs and volunteers. The volunteers said they were guided by the FOO. When asked from the Mullaitivu FOO about the support he received from volunteers for project activities, he mentioned that he is quite happy with the support he received from the volunteers. There was one request from all the participants that they need seeds for next cultivation season.

When asked from the ToT persons about frequency of Kilinochchi FOOs visits to their village, they responded that the FOO talks to them frequently and visits their villages at least once in a two-week; Last few days the FOO visited their villages very frequently for organizing and conducting farmer training programs. Regarding the use of LFMKs, the Kilinochchi participants were little hesitant to give a concrete response and it sensed that use of LFMKs in Kilinochchi district is not at the expected level. The issue was discussed with the Kilinochchi FOO and he emphasized that composting and liquid fertilizer manufacture facilities will be ready for the next cultivation season and he will be mobilizing farmers to get maximum benefits from LFMKs. During discussion it was revealed that the communication between Kilinochchi FOO and volunteers needs to be improved.

The Vavuniya FOO is quite familiar with both Sinhala and Tamil speaking beneficiary families. The use of LFMKs and composting activities of the project are required to be boosted in the Vavuniya district as it appeared both activities are at comparatively lower level in the district.

2015 September 6 (2nd day)

Mobilizing and empowering project's small groups at village level

The lesson consisted of two sessions and it was planned with the idea of empowering FOOs, project volunteers and ToT persons with necessary knowledge and skills to deal with issue that arise with community mobilization work at the village level. Mr. Bandula explained about qualities that a leader should have for social work. There was also a debate about great personality leadership mode and relationship based leadership mode. Some participants believed the leader should have

masculine body, strong communication skills etc. Also there is a group of participants who believed leaders are better off when they are tendering, caring and listening.

The session was very lively and there were quite number of questions directed to Mr. Bandula related to issues faced by the FOOs, volunteers and ToT persons in their respective field work. Mr. Bandula highlighted that there is no uniform solution for every problem and we need to find tailor-made solutions based on the circumstances. He reiterated that the purpose of this session is giving the participants necessary knowledge and skills to find out tailor-made solutions for each and every issue that you encounter during their work.

3. Participants List

No	Name	Village	NIC No	Male/ Female	Phone Number
Kilinochchi District - 17 participants (9 from the old list and 8 new participants)					
1	M. Nagarasa	Vaddakkachchi	660732071v	Male	
2	S. Jeewatharsiny	Vaddakkachchi	897422395V	Female	777824528
3	M. Thusanthiny	Mayavanoor	798615335V	Female	773397535
4	V. Selvanithi	Ampalnakar	836592174V	Female	770595835
5	K. Sajanthini	Vaddakkachchi	838222455V	Female	779493254
6	N. Rehishan	Mayavanoor	950221542V	Female	
7	A. Vimaladevi	Ampalnakar	775894679V	Female	774056903
8	P. Adaikkappan	Malayalapuram	500415681X	Male	
9	S. Koodishwary	Maniyankulam	727363599V	Female	779095755
10	K. Sajilaya	Shanthapuram	826374373V	Female	779666445
11	T. Kirusnakumary	Malayalapuram	947891685V	Female	774695917
12	S. Jamunarani	Vinayagapuram	807955357V	Female	776673494
13	A. Yogeshwary	Konavil East	758383482V	Female	766156938
14	M. Navaraja	Akkarayan	672053757V	Female	770161552
15	L. Jokeswary	Kanthi Kiramam	825164618V	Female	776570705
16	A. Kirsnaseelan	Ramanathapuram	661180730V	Male	776318027
17	J. Rajeswaran	Periyaparathan	742864570V	Male	779673117
Mullaitivu District - 18 participants (10 from the old list and 8 new participants)					
18	N. Ponkalathevi	Ampagamam	667894425V	Female	775709392
19	V. Kamdambigai	Mankulam	606353375V	Female	775633530
20	S. Manjuladevi	Neethipuram	855473100V	Female	779313352
21	K. Sanmugam	Mankulam	431471299V	Male	779379421
22	V. Nakuleswary	Thunukkai Road	666222016V	Female	779683379
23	N. Santhirasekar	Katkuvari	743294882V	Male	772512266
24	P. Thushanthy	Olumadu	896332686V	Female	773013358
25	K. Sankeetha	Thachchadampan	946273129V	Female	774221174
26	T. Yokarani	Puthiyanagar	818055641V	Female	773517330
27	S. Majura	Sivanagar	936224318V	Female	771362317
28	A. Makeswaran	Karippaddamurippu	640311061V	Male	778365959

29	K. Renuka	Sivanagar	Does not have a NIC	Female	766067555
30	T. Ramesh	Katchilaimadu	733664797V	Male	772116160
31	S. Lukitha	Olumadu	938322430V	Female	766512648
32	S. Kajalvili	Pandarawanni	988310140V	Female	778354201
33	S. Sankeetha	Pandarawanni	918220607V	Female	775296741
34	N. Makalingam	Palampasi	682451726V	Male	776779832
Vavuniya District - 23 participants (10 from old list and 13 new participants)					
35	M. Kulasegaram	Velikkulam	602062619V	Male	770531615
36	R.P. Nandawathi	Salalihinigama	607632880V	Female	776606430
37	H. Rathnawati	Malayaparathtikulama	567693570V	Female	245684402
38	S.R. Dayana Thas	Sampalththoddam	747862192V	Female	770751217
39	T.H. Renuka shamalee	Bogaswewa	718510732V	Female	786593138
40	S.M. Disanayaka	Bogaswewa	738170423V	Female	768305091
41	D.G. Nimal Gamage	Selalihinigama	822114903V	Male	776673494
42	Chandra Navaratne	Bogaswewa	468451590V	Female	772992956
43	M.M. Herath	Bogaswewa	825531157V	Female	766452155
44	Manjula Manori	Bogaswewa	808067188V	Female	716826941
45	N.M. Indrasiri	Namalgama	621761404V	Male	77971160
46	A. Dilakshan	Maharambaikulam	973261037V	Male	776692459
47	P. Kopisha	Puthukkulam	937852546V	Female	771083484
48	K. Premakala	Puthukkulam	838090667V	Female	774331699
49	V. Gunawathi	Alagalla	815383830V	Female	7160464472
50	S. Puwananandini	Tharanikkulam	837413044V	Female	Does not have a phone
51	M. Lekarooobi	Tharanikkulam	955940610V	Female	770507891
52	I. Prasanthan	Kidachchoori	960190211V	Male	778518647
53	J. Thusyanthan	Echchankulam	931203878V	Male	772990896
54	S.Tharshan	Echchankulam	930990361V	Male	778866599
55	R.R.D. Sudarshana Rathnayaka	Alagalla	951732257V	Male	714098353
56	M.S. Zeinulapdheen	Sooduventhapulavu	602491943V	Male	754365659

4. Training Program Agenda

5 September 2015			
Time		Item	Presenter/ Assignee
From	To		
08.30	08.45	Registration	
08.45	09.15	Breakfast	
09.15	09.30	Welcome speech	R.S. Narasinghage
09.30	10.00	Why we should move in to production of own seeds and planting materials?	Nimal Kumaratunga
10.00	10.20	Morning refreshment	
10.20	12.20	Basic Principles of production of seeds and planting materials	M.J.P. Gayal
12.20	13.20	Lunch	
13.20	15.20	Step by step process of production of seeds and planting materials	Soosai Alles
15.20	16.00	Evening refreshment	
16.00	18.00	Seed storage at household level	Alvan Nadarajah
18.00	18.45	Program interval	
18.45	20.00	Addressing issues related to project grouping	Nimal Kumarathunga, R.S. Narasinghage
6 September 2015			
07.30	08.30	Breakfast	
08.30	10.30	Mobilizing and empowering project's small groups at village level (Part 1)	Bandula Karunaratne
10.30	11.00	Morning refreshment	
11.00	12.30	Mobilizing and empowering project's small groups at village level (Part 2)	Bandula Karunaratne
12.30	13.30	Lunch	
13.30	15.00	Preparing time frame for farmer training programs	Nimal Kumarathunga, R.S. Narasinghage
15.00	15.20	Evening refreshment	
15.20	16.00	Program review	Nimal Kumarathunga, R.S. Narasinghage

5. Few snapshots of the training program



Mr. M.J.P. Gayal delivering his presentation on basic principles of seed production



Participants taking notes during the presentation of Mr. Nadarajah



Section of the participants



Mr. Nadarajah making his presentation