

THE INITIATIVE

Protecting bio-diversity and uplifting of livelihood of rural poor by reclamation of Traditional Yam varieties.

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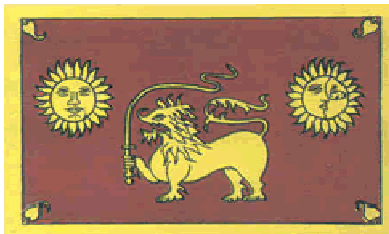
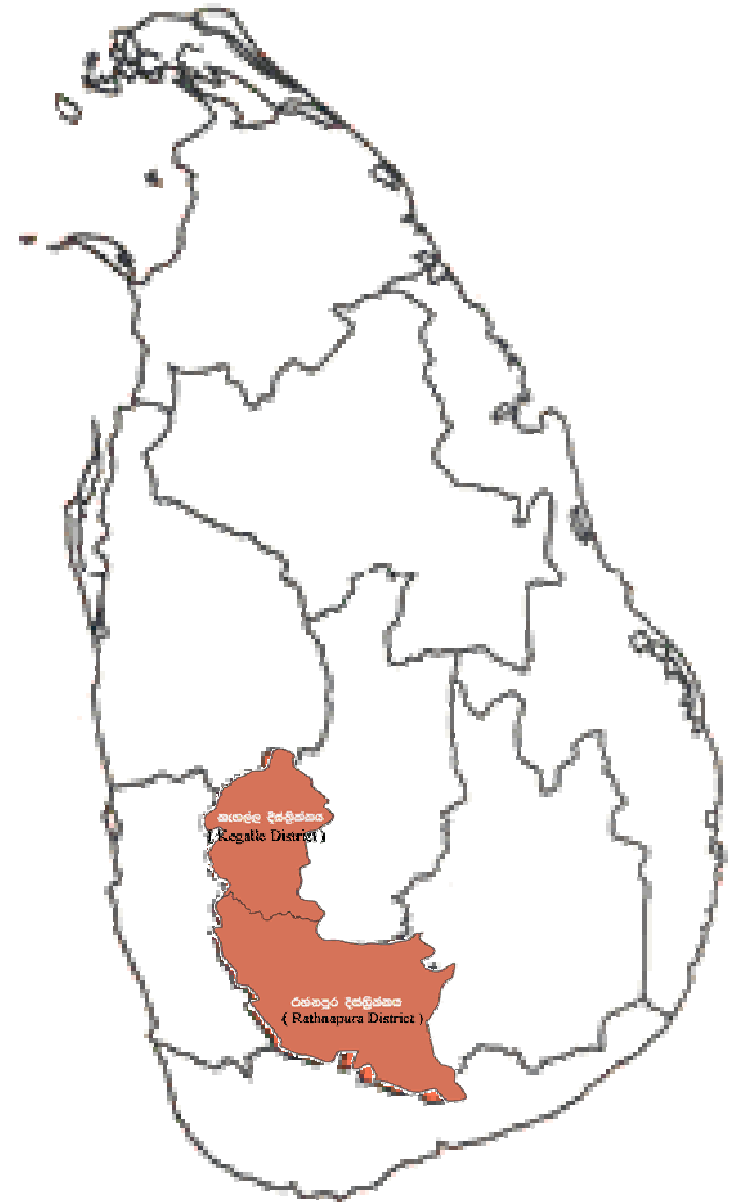
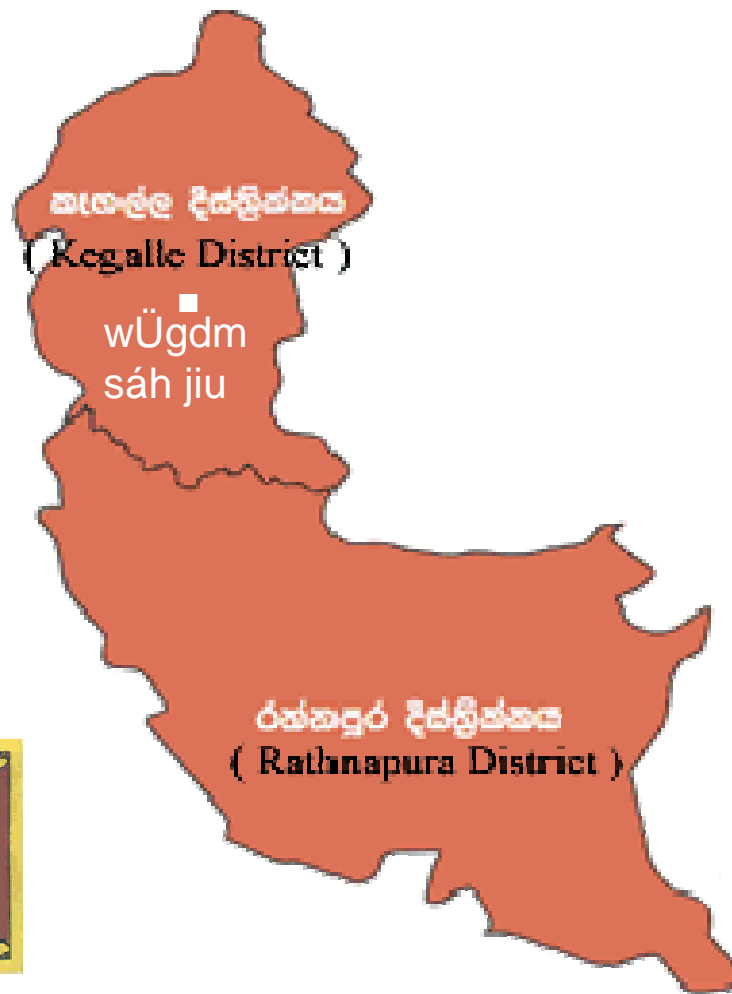
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Where we are.....



Community Development Centre

Vision

Prosperous society consisting with organic products and nature loving people

Mission

Be an effective alternative social development agency by promoting ecological farming, conservation of traditional knowledge on food and implementing research and training on it, mobilizing related institutions in order to achieve food security of the community.



Implementing Programmed



1. Bio- Diversity Conservation
2. Social Mobilization
3. Water and sanitation for rural poor
4. Kitchen Management for rural people
5. Savings and credit for rural poor

Background / Context

1. Kegalle is the one of the poor district of the Island (Sri Lanka)
2. The District his having knowledge on Traditional food(specially yams) and suitable environment for cultivating of traditional yams
3. Less food security for rural people
4. The exiting agriculture system destroying bio-diversity and traditional food verities (specially traditional yams)
5. Traditional yam verities help to protect bio-diversity and helping for poor to have food security.
6. The cultivation process is having affordable system for all economically poor people and by product of the traditional yam is potential market.
7. Women has became victims of present development process.

The initial problems

- 1. Destroying bio-diversity and it led to created environmental pollution and poverty.**
- 2. The traditional yams varieties is disappearing from the area.**
- 3. Food security of the rural poor people.**
- 4. Gender issue**
- 5. Genetically modified food and junk food infiltrate the villages**
- 6. There were no programmed for reclamation and promotion of traditional yams.**



Strategies and approaches were used to address the challenges?

1. Project proposal has forwarded to UNDP which prepared by the participation of the rural farmers.
2. Formed up small cooperative groups in village level and selected group leaders and provided necessary training to them.
3. Identified 62 yam varieties and distribute seed among the community and free training regarding traditional yams and by products.
4. Got membership NGO/GO net work and promoted the project
5. Participated the different exhibition with the community and promoted by products of the yams.
6. Setting up model farm and seed bank.
7. Promoting by products from the traditional yam in different cultural events



key obstacles



1. Other programmed which promoting chemical fertilizer.
2. Environment issues(no rain, wild animals)

Main Achievements

1. The credibility of the organization has increased.
2. Reclamation of 62 traditional yam varieties with community.
3. ensured and increased bio-diversity of the area.
4. Winning the Equator initiative prize
5. Published three (03) books on traditional yams
6. Setting up training and research centre on traditional yams
7. institutionalized traditional knowledge on yams (universities, department of agriculture has identified traditional yams has to get p





The impacts

1. There are 1000 poor families are engaging cultivation of traditional yams varieties.
2. Introduced 12 by products from the traditional yams and they are promoted to the market by village community.
3. Organic farming has started in 50 acres with the cultivation of traditional yams.
4. Produced 35 women leaders.
5. The agriculture ministries and Ministry of indigence medicine, and has invited to send experience on traditional yams varieties for consider of promoting of organic agriculture.

“ Imp cont....

- 1. The knowledge had shared with 17 district of the Island**
- 2. The message on traditional yams has sent to nearly 200,000 people**
- 3. Universities and other high education institute has stated to open their eyes on traditional yams**

2011/02/12



The lessons what we learnt

1. Development can't be imported it should come from the people them selves

2. Food security is not a big issue if you respect local knowledge

3. The women participation is critical on social development

2011/01/03

