

Conflict Sensitivity and Resilience

In 2021, a sudden government policy decision to switch from chemical to organic fertilisers has had a negative impact on food production and yields and hence food security in the short- to medium-term. Sri Lanka's agricultural output in 2022 has fallen dramatically with harvest yields expected as low as 50% compared to 2021. Although the ban was lifted in December 2021, import of chemical fertilizers is impeded due to lack of foreign exchange, which is likely to have an impact on the upcoming harvesting season. Two consecutive poor harvest seasons (Maha 2021/22 and Yala 2022) combined with the effect of high inflation, including on food, could aggravate the food crisis further. The success of the programme will be conditioned on solving the political crisis, the need to re-build resilience in the agricultural sector and to ensure conflict sensitivity of interventions vis-à-vis the significant needs of smallholder farmers and a transparent and equitable targeting of areas and beneficiaries.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG target(s) to "End poverty in all its forms everywhere" (goal 1), but also promotes progress towards Goal(s) "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" (goal 2) and "take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" (goal 13) This does not imply a commitment by the country benefiting from this programme.

The *Overall Objective* is to contribute to a more productive, diversified, climate resilient, market oriented and equitable agriculture in Sri Lanka.

The *Specific Objective* is to contribute to the creation of the enabling conditions for small-holder farmers in poverty stricken districts to move towards a more sustainable, resilient and productive agriculture.

The expected Results:

1. Smallholder farmers are more organised, are aware of social, environmental and economic aspects linked to farming practices, benefit from effective and innovative advisory services and have more access to credit, crop insurance schemes and market information systems, leading to a resilient farming system;
2. Smallholder farmers have access to adequate infrastructures and inputs needed to boost their productivity, competitiveness, resilience and access to market including during pandemics or agriculture crises;
3. Government has credible and relevant policies, legislation, reforms and capacities to implement its plans for a modernisation of the sector also taking into account the effects of the Covid-19 crisis.

4.2 Main activities

All activities are implemented in consultation with the programme stakeholders closest to the final beneficiaries of the specific activity;

1. District-wise assessments to identify specific needs (farm typology; cropping patterns, use of inputs, availability/cost / use of services, assessment of productive infrastructure - for example water storage, distribution, irrigation facilities, processing plants, storage and market facilities- mapping of programmes/plans addressing these needs..)
2. Design and implement tailor-made comprehensive interventions at district levels to address the specific needs identified for the farmers to get the support needed to improve productivity, sustainability and competitiveness of their products, also in times of global pandemics or agriculture crises.
3. Rehabilitation/construction of productive and market infrastructures in the selected areas.
4. Capacity building programme designed and implemented, including via distance learning, with long-term and short-term assistance focusing on transition towards more resilient and sustainable agriculture, key policy areas, public finance and macroeconomic environment, sectoral reforms, transparency and oversight of the budget.