

# Conduct research in SRI LANKA

## SBC Food For Progress Sustainability Assessment Introduction

The Stakman-Borlaug Center is conducting a sustainability assessment of three closed Food for Progress agriculture assistance projects. The SBC works closely with our evaluation partners at The Improve Group, to design evaluation questions, create an overall evaluation methodology and plan, and over the winter/spring of 2019 will be conducting field visits to gather data before writing the final reports in summer 2019.

This sustainability assessment is using case study research methods to answer questions related to the sustainability of project and intervention results.

### Goal of case study research

The fundamental goal of case study research is to conduct an **in-depth analysis** of an issue, within its context with a view **to understand the issue from the perspective of participants**. The essential requisite for employing case study stems from one's motivation to illuminate understanding of **complex phenomena**.

*Seek the particular more than the ordinary*

## Project Information

### Sri Lanka

We are looking for students with expertise in: Small scale integrated and organic production of tropical fruits and vegetables, community forestry, small scale animal husbandry including cattle, goats, chicken and fish and community development.

### Background

Sri Lanka is an island nation located along major maritime trade routes in the Indian Ocean. Following democratic elections in 2015, the end of 26 years of conflict in 2009 and a decade of recovery from a devastating tsunami in 2004, the country has entered a new era. Sri Lanka now focuses on strengthening its democracy, promoting reconciliation and fostering sustainable economic growth.

### World Vision International Food For Progress Project 2005-2009

This project led by World Vision International focused on training farmers and farmer leaders in "Integrated Farming and Sustainable Agriculture" technology. This included improving soil fertility, integrated pest management, and improving animal husbandry and aquaculture practices. Objectives of this project included improving production and marketing capacity, and business development skills for farmers.



Objectives of the project we are evaluating

- Capacity building for farmers - **Capacity building on various topics:** organic ag., soil fertility, conservation, IPM, timber and fruit tree production, winter harvesting, micro-irrigation, animal husbandry, aquaculture, agriculture processing and general crop marketing.
- Agriculture production technology – seed, livestock, water harvesting, **Agricultural Production Technology:** provide seeds and fruit/timber tree seedlings; tools, inputs to implement land improvement and IPM, animal stocks and fingerlings; establishment of irrigation systems, and establishment of mobile agricultural resource library kits.
- Marketing and business development services- Organize 160 farmer marketing groups

## Evaluation Questions

What existing conditions are needed for sustainability?

- Are results more sustainable in low, or middle-income countries?
- What conditions set up market linkages for success?
- How does the combination and sequencing of activities influence sustainability?

What factors of the design lead to sustainability?

- What types of project design are most conducive to success?
- To what extent were local stakeholders involved in project activity design?

What factors about the implementation lead to sustainability?

- How do local partnerships contribute to sustainability?
- What factors lead to training results being sustained?

How valuable to communities are the project activities or practices that have been sustained?

- To what extent have project activities or knowledge, attitude, behaviors continued?

How valuable to communities are the project impacts that have been sustained?

- To what extent have project impacts (positive or negative) continued? (e.g. wellbeing, youth engagement, urban migration, school attendance, diet diversity, market health, environment, income)
- How did beneficiaries respond to subsequent shocks? Is that response attributable (for good or bad) to the project?

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