

Central Province Case Study - Sri Lanka

Focus CWR

- Uruwee (*Oryza nivara*)
- Wal gammiris (*Piper walkeri*)
- Wal bulath (*Piper betle*)

Methodology

- **Field visits to the specific sites and discussions with other key informants.**
 - Dolukanda
 - Deraniyagala
 - Riverston
- **Mailed survey with NGOs who has visionary obligation to conserve the threatened and endangered species.**



Diya bulath



Wal gammiris



Uru vee



Etikehel



Wal kurundu



Field observations

- Extraction of CWR is not prominent in most of the areas
- Young generations are loosing their interest.
- Even in close proximities, the general community was not aware of CWR
- Rural folks were more aware of the indigenous tree crops and medicinal herbs than that of CWR.

Outcome of the field Survey

- No market mechanism for CWR in the study areas.
- No proper cultivation: However, they support the growth.
- Economic uses of these were either medicinal or mixing with similar marketable products.
- Harvesting frequency was 3-4 times per month but the amount varied with the crop and the climatic season.
- Collectors income per collector day for Uruwee (*Oryza nivara*) Walgammiris (*Piper walkeri*) and Walbulath (*Piper betle*) were Rs. 300.00 Rs.250.00 and Rs. 400.00 obtained from middlemen.

Outcome of the mailed survey

- **Overall, less awareness among NGOs on CWR. Usually confused with medicinal herbs.**
- **Little or no CWR utilization activities by most of the NGOs.**
- **Most believe that in-situ conservation is a viable option.**
- **Some suggested to include into national home-garden program and multiplication at schools.**

Outcome of the mailed survey

- **Other suggestions**

- Maintaining an inventory of CWR together with growers.
- Promote non-monetary benefits with FFS and similar activities.
- Should link to the market with the involvement of the private sector. i.e. contract farming.
- Value addition.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- CWR are not purposely cultivated mostly in the study areas.
- However, most of the collectors admit the importance of conservation.
- Lack of incentives to cultivate CWR are due to low income share. However, high market prices may bring detrimental effects without proper propagation program.
- Therefore, benefit sharing plan is needed.
- Development of market links together with community based activities and contract farming may be beneficial.
- CWR can include into ecological farming programs that are implemented by some NGOs.
- Potential establishment of a trust fund to take care of CWR conservation i.e. Payment for Environmental services