

INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KURUNEGALA DISTRICT

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"Perhaps more than any other institution in the World, the World Bank is helping large number of people more out of absolute poverty towards a more decent life."

Robert S. McNamara
World Bank President

The aim is to develop Kurunegala district on an integrated basis. The cost is estimated to be 30 million dollars (Rs. 465 million)

The project was inaugurated by His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka on 4.5.79 at Batalagoda.

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT

The aim is to improve the income and production levels, health and education standards, create avenues of employment, within a targetted period of 5 years. This should improve the living rural conditions of the population in the district.

1. The Kurunegala district covers 1850 square miles (approximately 1.2 million acres) and has the largest acreage of paddy cultivated for both seasons.
2. It has the largest number of Agrarian Service Centres (50).
3. Its density of population is high.

- iv. It has the largest number of farm families compared to other districts (165,000).
- v. The district includes the three major agro-climatic zones of the Dry, Wet and Inter - mediate of the country.
- vi. Of the total extent of 1.1 million coconut land in the island, Kurunegala district has 380,000 acres. This project envisages the rehabilitation and improvement of the coconut lands.

Implementation of the Project Programme :

This project involves the work of 11 ministries and 19 state agencies including several corporations. The main components are .

Component	Amount
(1) Irrigation ..	124,500,00
(2) Coconut Development & Minor Export Crops ..	81,750,000
(3) Agricultural Extension ..	20,000,000
(4) Agricultural Credit ..	118,050,000
(5) Livestock ..	3,100,000
(6) Ground Water Exploration	9,650,000
(7) Rural Roads ..	17,000,000
(8) Rural Water Supply ..	13,350,000
(9) Rural Electrification ..	15,600,000
(10) Education ..	14,500,000
(11) Health ..	6,400,000

To serve the farmers more efficiently :

Under this project the extension personnel are to be increased so that every 600 farm families will have the services of a Krushikarma Vyapthi Sevaka (K.V.Ss). The various agricultural practices will be coordinated and unified. Modern improved methods to raise agricultural production will be introduced to the farmers through the Training and Visits Programme. The farmers will be provided with specialized knowledge of scientific methods of agriculture using services of Subject Matter Officers. (Paddy, Horticulture, Other Field Crops etc.) Training and Visits Programme will be used intensively.

