

## FINDING A FUTURE IN SRI LANKA

Categories: Community Development/Regaining Livelihoods/Psycho-Social Care/Community Building

### BE A PART OF THE PROJECT: PARTNER WITH JEN AND CONTRIBUTE

<http://www.jen-npo.org/en/contribute>

#### Community Development

#### Creation of Cooperative Societies



*Above: Society members testing the chopper*

JEN is in support of agricultural cooperative societies, which not only aim to hold workshops, but to also bring community members together in order to create a tighter bond within the society. By allowing for members to connect with one another, the community will ultimately rely on one another as opposed to external aid.

As a part of the establishment of the cooperative societies, JEN further created a compost making yard in order to allow for society empowerment through its management. In addition, a tractor and chopper were provided, and a hut was constructed to hold all the machinery and materials.

The beneficiaries of the cooperate society have already been trained to use the machinery to create compost, thus they are essentially at the center of community empowerment. In fact, some members were so determined that they brought to light ideas such as selling their products to better their economy. A bright future ultimately awaits such idealistic notions.

#### Regaining People's Livelihoods

#### March Marks New Beginnings

In March, JEN initiated a new project in the Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi Districts under funding from the Japanese government. The district community urgently required outside aid, and that was when JEN stepped in.

The project itself includes two primary components: agricultural and community rehabilitation programs. The agricultural rehabilitation program consists of three key ideas. The support for the consistency of a water supply to the communities through the construction of agro-wells and pumps; the support for agricultural productivity through workshops detailing the importance of farming techniques; the support for socioeconomic growth through marketing workshops to spread knowledge on finance distribution.

On the other hand, the community rehabilitation program essentially focuses on the establishment of a number of groups, including the Well Maintenance Community and an Agricultural Cooperative Society. These two groups are ultimately split into smaller groups, each with different tasks.

It is within JEN's best wishes that the projects will continue smoothly. By educating the local people about the importance of self-reliance, perhaps independent communities will eventually develop and rise out of its conflicted past.

#### Psycho-Social Care

#### Returning Home

Following the period of internal civil unrest in Sri Lanka, thousands of people were ultimately displaced from their homes. One such person

**COUNTRY: SRI LANKA**

was Mrs. M. Selvarani from Barathi Puram village in Visumandu East GN division. Prior to the civil war, Mrs. Selvarani was a famous farmer in her village – before she lost everything. She not only lost her home, but a son and daughter as well.

Mrs. Selvarani did not return to her former land until 2010, however as a displaced person, all she had was a tent to live in. Economic difficulty was inevitable, and her husband was too mentally and physically hurt to attempt returning to their previous life.

However, at her time of need, JEN entered her life and proceeded to help her regain her livelihood. She joined a cooperative society started by JEN, in which she became an influential community member. Through her hard work and determination, she was slowly regaining what she had lost so long ago. In fact, Mrs. Selvarani’s dream is to see the growth of a healthy and new generation, and to also see her village prosper both economically and socially.

farmer, he depended on harvests, however lack of rain prevented him from vegetable cultivation.

Yet JEN soon provided him access to water, allowing for him to begin his cultivation. “I consider this as ‘JEN’s Year,’” he said. “To respect JEN Organization.” Furthermore, through JEN’s cooperative society, he began to generate income by selling chemical-free compost to cultivate chemical-free vegetables.



*Above: A JEN staff member and an interviewee*



*Above: Mrs. Selvarani and others collecting materials*

**Community Building**

**Building Connections**

In many regions in Sri Lanka, people depend on agriculture in order to maintain a livelihood. However, due to internal instability, this has become much more difficult to ensue, leaving many people to fall behind in socioeconomic status.

One such farmer, who remains anonymous, mentioned in an interview that after the war, he returned to his previous home only to find that it was nearly impossible to create links with aid organization and even the government to receive assistance and to restart his life. As a traditional



**The 7 EN’s of JEN**

- Engage
- Entrust
- Encourage
- Endeavor
- Enjoy
- Encounter
- Enable

**DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!**

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