

FINDING A FUTURE IN SRI LANKA

Categories: Education Assistance/Emergency Support/Community Development/Community Building

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

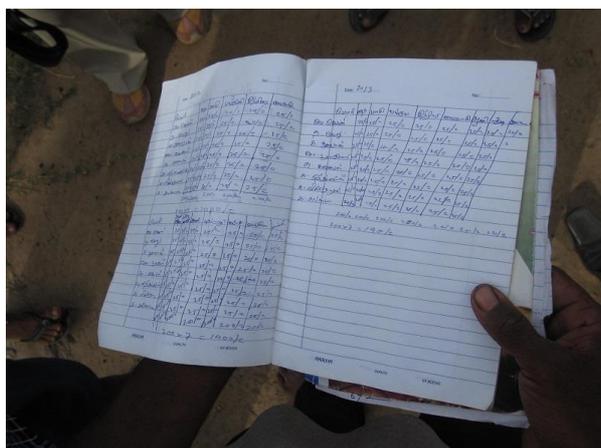
<http://www.jen-npo.org/en/contribute>

Community Building

Monitoring Projects in the East

In September, JEN staff members traveled to Batticaloa in Eastern Sri Lanka in order to evaluate how much the community had progressed since 2011, when JEN had helped build an agro-well within the community, before leaving the local people to do what they wished in order to maintain the well. JEN staff members were surprised to find a number of new discoveries within the community.

The community members had in fact built a new pump on their own, which enabled many to expand their farmland. Furthermore, almost everything that JEN had taught them in workshops – how to make composts, how to promote efficiency in cultivation, and so on – had been put to good use over the last two years. The community members also had a book to keep notes and accounts on their progress, which eventually introduced a cycle that increased individual income. Within two years, the average monthly income had grown from 500 – 2000 Rs (approx. 4-15 US Dollars) to 5000 – 10,000 Rs (approx. 38 – 77 US Dollars).



Above: Notes on the progress within the community

Community Building

Adversity versus Success



Above: Local community workers from Mullaitivu

In September, the JEN field staff paid a visit to an ongoing project in the Mullaitivu district, located in the north-eastern coast of Sri Lanka. The current construction is funded by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and consists of the construction of agro-wells as well as workshops to impart community members on how to maintain and share their water resources.

However, the road to success is not necessarily simple. Construction remains a difficult task at hand, for the geology in the north is quite different from that of the east. In the Mullaitivu district, a drill is required due to the hard bedrocks that characterize the northern region, however once a hole is dug, the soft soil that surrounds the bed rock tends to collapse into the excavated hole.

Furthermore, the community itself is not necessarily keen on the idea of sharing the well. Thus, JEN ultimately has a duty to create a safe and trustworthy environment among community members. Thus, JEN has established a group of community workers who will work as liaisons

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between the beneficiaries and community members in order to garner trust amongst one another. This will surely take some time, but success cannot be easily achieved. We must build relationships with the community members in order for the projects to thrive.

Community Building

Agricultural Workshop Strengthens Confidence

In Eastern Sri Lanka, JEN is not only providing support through the construction of wells, but also through agricultural workshops – supported by the Agricultural Department – in order to empower and enforce individual productivity, in addition to garnering confidence among farmers.



Above: Participants at JEN's agricultural workshop

The workshops include a multitude of activities, thus beneficiaries are not merely listening to lectures. In fact, they have the opportunity to conduct hands-on practices, and are able to share and discuss their issues with one another.

Although the participants are often quite nervous at the start of the workshop, discussion-based activities have allowed them to express their thoughts and eventually feel more comfortable participating and communicating with one another.

Agricultural Assistance

Regaining Livelihoods

While the number of Japanese NGOs is comparatively small to other international aid organizations in Sri Lanka, the contribution for

internal development by the Japanese is much higher, with JEN leading the list in assisting numerous projects.

JEN initially began its agricultural assistance in Batticaloa, in the Eastern region of Sri Lanka, in order to provide assistance following the end of the three decade long civil war that ended in 2009. So far, JEN has helped to construct 100 agro-wells in Batticaloa, which has provided for over 800 households, along with 6000 other indirect beneficiaries. With the help of such wells, communities have been able to rebuild their livelihoods through cultivation and fishing. In addition to Batticaloa, JEN has also set up a project in the Mullaitivu district in the north. This region was once famous for its vegetables, however the civil war had destroyed peoples' assets as well as psychological determination to continue agriculture. JEN is continuing to provide physical as well as psychological aid to these communities.



The 7 EN's of JEN

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

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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