

## ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka has given a higher priority to agriculture to ensure food security for its people. One third of the labour force makes agriculture their livelihood. Most of the farmers engage in this sector live below the poverty line and have a poor standard of living. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) in Sri Lanka to address these issues.

The mandate of the (FAO) of United Nations is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. FAO has a membership of 187 nations and one member organization. The SPFS is a project that aims to help those who are living in developing countries, in particular the low income food deficit countries to improve their food security through rapid increases in food production and productivity. There are 25 project officers and management of project activities is done through a Project Management Unit which is supervised by the FAO and National Project Coordinator. The Team leader is responsible with the National Project Coordinator for implementing and managing the project, monitoring progress and reporting to the government, the steering committee and FAO. The project conducts several workshops and training programmes to assist other Farmer Organizations. The Project has been implemented in all Provinces except in the North and East. At national level, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock coordinates the Project and the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources and the Ministry of Irrigation are the other national level stakeholders.

Project activities are formulated through a participatory process and the progress is monitored by the field implementation team consisting of farmers' leaders and village level officers. Community mobilization and coordination of project activities conducts in each project sites through Community Development Officers (CDOs). At present the SPFS serves more than 10,000 beneficiaries in 17 administrative districts and 17 villages in 7 Provinces. The Programme supports to strengthen government and local efforts in improving food security in rural areas.