

## Field Visit Report

Wali Ara Downstream Development / Rehabilitation (Phase II – CSIAP)

Uva Province

The World Bank financed Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project (CSIAP)

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation



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Prepared by

Ms. Sharmila Shanmuganathan

Safeguard Division

Project Management Unit

## FIELD VISIT REPORT

### Wali Ara Downstream Development / Rehabilitation (Phase II – CSIAP)

- Date of Visit: 20/05/2025
- Location: Wali Ara, Eththiliwewa Cascade
- Project: Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project (CSIAP) – Phase II
- Contractor: CISS Engineering
- Start Date of Work / Contractor Mobilized: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May, 2025
- Visited by: Dr. Sithara Attapattu (World Bank), Ms. Sharmila Shanmuganathan (PMU), the Safeguard Team, and the Technical Team of the DPDO/SP&UP

#### 1. Site Preparation and Access

- No tree removal or significant vegetation clearing observed at the site.
- The site is not located within Forest Department (FD) or Department of Wildlife Conservation (DOWLC) boundaries.
- Signboards were present and clearly visible at the site.
- Road access to the site exists; however, due to muddy conditions and slight flooding, vehicular movement is restricted.
- Farmers have cultivated paddy in the surrounding lands, which limits access to some canal sections during the rainy period.
- Contractor reported that transportation of construction materials is currently being done manually due to high water levels and continuous rainfall.
- **The contractor must display the subproject name board at the site to ensure public awareness and accountability of the works.**



#### 2. Construction Activities and Infrastructure Improvements

- Canal rehabilitation work had already commenced.
- Work involves concrete lining of canals, which cannot proceed during rainy conditions.
- Contractor reported potential to conduct parallel work on different canals, but access challenges—especially for canals in the middle of paddy fields—delay progress.
- No machinery was observed at the site during the visit.
- Material storage is taking place at a rented house nearby.





### 3. Environmental and Ecological Impacts

- No tree cutting or clearing of protected vegetation observed.
- No dredging or large-scale excavation taking place at the moment.
- Slight flooding and muddy terrain reported.
- Elephant movement in the area was mentioned by farmers; however, no direct conflict or sighting was recorded during the visit.
- Environmental risk level associated with the site is considered moderate, primarily due to delays from weather conditions and animal movement risks.



### 4. Social and Livelihood Impacts

- Farmers have cultivated paddy in the canal vicinity and expect to harvest within 1.5 months.
- Farmers expressed willingness to allow use of their land for vehicle movement post-harvest.
- No land acquisition or removal of assets required at this stage.
- No reported damage or threat to cultural or community properties.





## 5. Stakeholder Engagement and Community Participation

- Farmer Organization (FO) and SAC members were present and engaged during the visit.
- Farmers are aware of the project activities and have shared constraints due to weather.
- No grievances were reported yet. SAC was established as grievance redress mechanism at grassroot level, community presence and feedback were active.



## 6. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Camp Management

- Contractor has rented a house to accommodate laborers.
- On the day of the visit, 3 workers and the contractor were present.
- No campsite-related waste or occupational hazards were observed.
- Material storage is being managed in the rented accommodation.
- No machinery operation or active hazardous work was observed during the visit.
- Safety sign boards were properly placed at the worksite.



## 7. Risk Level Assessment

Taking into account that **work has just started** and **Yala cultivation is ongoing**, a **delay in rehabilitation** may be observed due to the **agricultural activities**. Additionally, **water issuance is required a couple of days per week**, which could affect the **scheduling of civil works**. The **subproject site lies outside protected zones**, and **potential weather delays are moderate**, indicating **manageable external risks**. However, there are **transportation difficulties** during **material mobilization** due to the **clay soil condition**, which may cause **logistical challenges**. On the positive side, there are **no notable environmental or social sensitivities**, and **safety and communication protocols are in place**, ensuring **compliance and stakeholder engagement**. Since the **proposed activities are limited to downstream interventions**, the site is assessed as a **moderate-risk** for completing the rehabilitation **on or before 30th September 2025**, with a **potential delay** due to the **overlap with cultivation activities**.