

Field Visit Report
Yoda Maha Wewa Rehabilitation (Phase II – CSIAP)
Southern Province

The World Bank financed Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project (CSIAP)
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation



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FIELD VISIT REPORT

YODAMAHA WEWA TANK REHABILITATION (PHASE II – CSIAP)

Date of Visit: 19/05/2025

Location: Yodamaha Wewa, Wilmantha Cascade

Project: Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project (CSIAP) – Phase II

Contractor: Ruhunu kanwell joint venture

Start Date of Work/ contractor mobilized: 03/05/2025

Visited by: Dr. Sithara Attapattu (World Bank), Ms. Sharmila Shanmuganathan (PMU), the Safeguard Team, and the Technical Team of the DPDO/SP&UP.

Yodamaha Wewa is undergoing **rehabilitation** as part of the ongoing **tank rehabilitation under Phase II of the CSIAP**. This tank supports **13 farmers** cultivating **35 acres**, primarily for **paddy cultivation**. Due to the upcoming **rehabilitation works**, farmers have agreed to **forego Yala paddy cultivation** and instead focus on **green gram cultivation** during **Mid-Season 2**, once the **artificial water drawdown** is done.



Field Observations

1. The **contractor** was in the process of **setting up a temporary hut** at the **work site** during our visit. Approximately **two laborers** were engaged in the **construction of the shelter**.
2. A **site rest house** is being set up; however, **work has temporarily stopped** due to **heavy rainfall**. During the **site visit**, **contractor representatives**, **Social Audit Committee (SAC)** members, and **Farmer Organization (FO)** members were **present and engaged in discussions**. The **contractor** has **rented a house** located **3 km away** from the **tank site** to **accommodate workers**.
3. Due to the risk of **wild animal encounters**, especially elephants, a request has been made by the contractor to install an **elephant fence** to secure the working area.



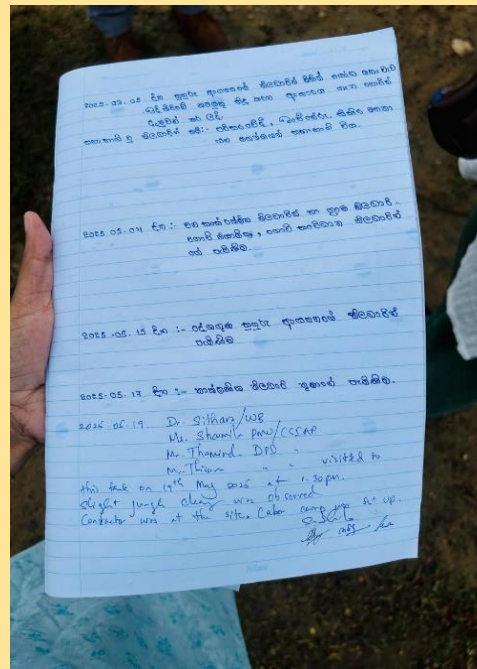
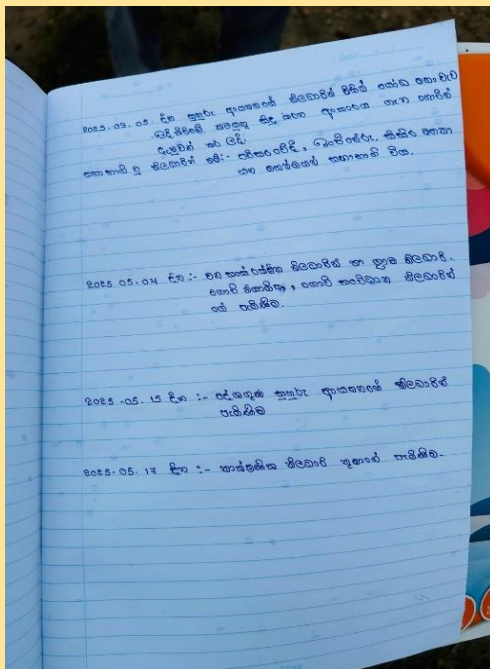
4. The **tank** is located within a **sensitive boundary**. **Elephant movement** and **crocodile sightings** were noted, particularly **elephant activity after 4:30 PM**. As a safety measure, **contractors are not permitted to work after 6:00 PM**.

5. **Farmers** and **Social Audit Committee (SAC) members** were present at the site during the visit. Due to **wildlife threats**, especially to **female SAC members**, **consistent on-site monitoring by women** remains **challenging**.



6. It was informed that **no rip-rap structure** or **spill raise** is planned for this tank. It was observed that **one common spill** exists for both **Yodamaha Wewa** and **Murunga Wewa**. **Desilting activities** are planned and will be conducted in a way that respects **ecological balance**. **Dredged material** will be provided to the **Farmer Organization (FO)** upon submission of a **request letter**. It was advised that **dredging** should only be carried out at the **current water level** to avoid negative impacts on **biodiversity** and **ecosystem health**.

7. Farmers agreed to forego Yala paddy cultivation to give priority to tank rehabilitation. As a result, a livelihood loss during the Yala season was observed. An agreement had already been reached with the farmers to forego Yala cultivation. Farmers have requested green gram seed compensation under the Livelihood Support Assistance (LSA) program. As of the visit date, no compensation had been provided. Farmers have requested compensation by June.



8. The site logbook is being properly maintained, and the Site Audit Committee (SAC) is actively involved in monitoring activities.

9. **Vegetation clearance** was observed **on-site**. A total of **28 trees** have been **identified for removal**, mainly located along the **middle of the tank bund**. **Tree removal** will be **aligned with conditions** set by the **FD and DWLC**. **Forest Departments** have agreed to provide **3-foot tree saplings** for **replanting** as part of the **restoration plan**.



Recommendations

- **Tree removal** should follow **guidelines** from the **Forest Department**.
- Finalize and implement a **comprehensive replanting plan** with **specific locations** and **native species**, ensuring **survival monitoring** post-planting.
- Expedite the **approval** and **installation** of an **elephant fence** to **safeguard workers and machinery**.
- Ensure all **workers** receive a **safety briefing** and follow **protocols** in case of **elephant sightings**.
- Keep the **Farmer Organization (FO)** and **Social Audit Committee (SAC)** updated regularly about the **project timeline**, **desilting procedures**, and **environmental commitments**.
- The contractor must display the **subproject name board** at the site to ensure public awareness and accountability of the works.

Risk Level Assessment

Taking into account that the **work has not yet started**, and the **contractor has just mobilized**, **no machinery operation** was observed during the **field visit** due to the **rainy weather**. It is important to note that the **tank is located within a protected area**, and the **required approval for rehabilitation** has been obtained from the **relevant departments**. The **tank rehabilitation activities** were initiated with the **full agreement of the farmers** to **forego cultivation** during the **Yala season of 2025**. Potential **weather-related delays** are considered **high**, and **moderate challenges** in material transportation may occur during the **rainy season**. Furthermore, **artificial water drawdowns** were carried out, and due to **heavy rain**, **additional drawdowns** may be necessary. The site is categorized as **Moderate-risk**, with a **high likelihood** of completing the rehabilitation on or before **30th September 2025**.
