

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

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



21/05/2025

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FIELD VISIT REPORT

SIYAMBALAGAS WEWA REHABILITATION (PHASE II – CSIAP)

Date of Visit: 20/05/2025

Location: Siyambalagas Wewa, Yodawewa Cascade

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

Contractor: Nethmi transport & Construction

Start Date of Work/ contractor mobilized: 21st April, 2025

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

Site Preparation and Safety Measures

- **Safety signboards** have been properly displayed at necessary locations to ensure compliance with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) guidelines.



Site Preparation and Safety Measures

- A **labor camp** has been established and is equipped with **CCTV camera surveillance** for monitoring.
- Some laborers reside **overnight at the camp**, while additional accommodation has been arranged through a **rented house**.



Site Preparation and Safety Measures

- **Vegetation clearing** has commenced; minimal clearing was observed at the site.
- Due to proximity to the **forest area**, the **contractor has requested the installation of an elephant fence** to ensure the safety of workers and the site.



Construction Progress

- The following construction activities were observed:
 - Desilting
 - Spill rehabilitation
 - Canal lining
 - Bund improvement
- On the day of the visit, no machinery was operational due to **heavy rainfall**.
- **Desilting work** had already commenced prior to the visit.
- **No tree removals** were noted during the site inspection.
- Initial **water drawdown was not carried out**, but a **partial drawdown occurred after the bund breach**.
- The **bund was observed to be leaking and breached**, and **compensation** is expected to be provided to affected farmers.



- **30% of water** was reportedly saved in the tank area.



Social and Labor Aspects

- A total of **45 farmers** are currently cultivating approximately **24 acres** of agricultural land within the command area.
- The **Social Audit Committee (SAC)** is active and participated in the site visit.
 - **Male SAC members** reported that **female members face transportation difficulties**, which hinder their regular site visits.
- The **work supervisor** was present at the site during the visit and is overseeing **OHS compliance**.
- Construction work was **halted on 19th May 2025** due to continuous rainfall.
- The contractor has **not hired local villagers** for labor work, as they are **occupied with agricultural activities**, making it difficult to find available labor in the area.
 - When available, the contractor is able to engage **5–6 local laborers**.
- The contractor expressed confidence that if the weather improves, **rehabilitation works will be completed by the end of July 2025**.

- An **emergency transport facility** is available at the worksite for safety and logistics.





2. Machinery was present, but inactive on the day of the visit due to heavy rainfall earlier.



Environmental Considerations

- Siyambalagas Wewa is **adjacent to a forest**, which necessitates additional safety precautions, such as the elephant fence.
- **No burrow material has been sourced from outside to date.**
- **Soil samples have been sent to the implementing agency (RDA) for testing and quality assurance.**

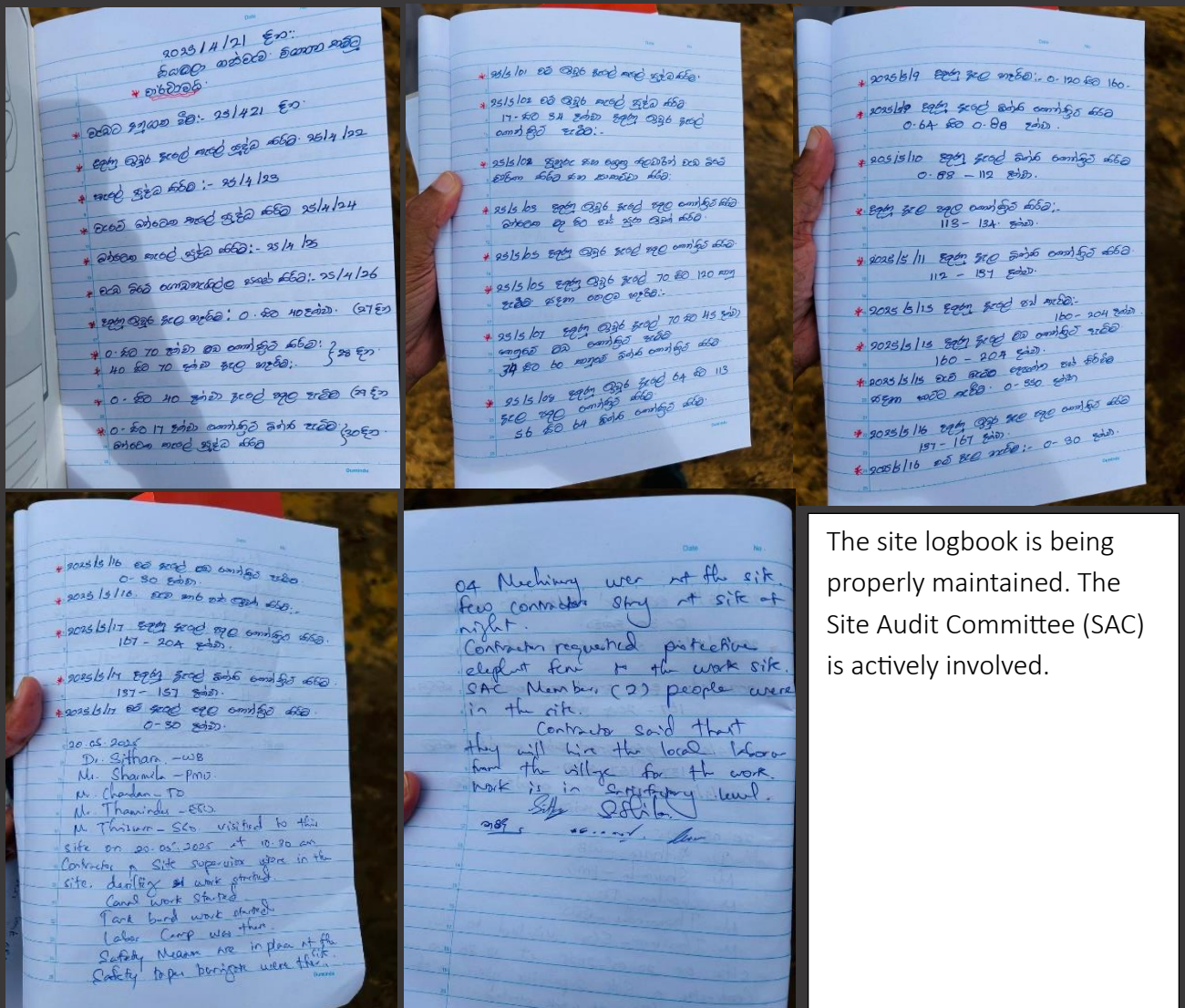




During the visit, **canal construction** was ongoing but temporarily stopped due to rain. It was observed that the **canal level is currently lower than the paddy field level**. The contractor plans to use **burrow soil to raise the level** to match the surrounding fields. The **Farmers' Organization (FO)** has **requested burrow soil** for leveling their paddy fields.

Farmers agreed to forego Yala paddy cultivation. During the visit, members of the Farmer Organization and the Social Audit Committee (SAC) were present. SAC comprises five members (3 males, 2 females); however, only male members were observed onsite due to safety concerns stemming from wildlife presence.





Recommendations

- **Repair and strengthening of the bund** should be prioritized to prevent further breaches.
- **Labor shortages** may impact progress; engaging with local CBOs/FOs for labor support or alternate solutions is advised.
- Ensure that **canal leveling and use of burrow soil** is supervised to avoid long-term water flow or irrigation issues.
- **Ongoing coordination** with farmers and SAC is essential for transparency and participatory monitoring.
- 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 is currently underway, the tank rehabilitation activities were initiated with a partially artificial water drawdown. Additionally, the bund was partially breached before the rehabilitation commenced; therefore, a full water drawdown was not necessary. Potential weather-related delays are considered low, although minor challenges in material transportation may occur during the rainy season. Since the proposed interventions are confined to both upstream and downstream areas, the site is categorized as low-risk, with a high likelihood of completing the rehabilitation on or before 30th September 2025.
