

Field Visit Report

Kuda Thimbiri Wewa Tank Rehabilitation (Phase II – CSIAP)

Trincomalee, Eastern Province

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

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation



30/05/2025

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Project Management Unit

FIELD VISIT REPORT

Kuda Thimbiri Wewa Tank Rehabilitation (Phase II – CSIAP)

- **Date of Visit:** 26/05/2025
- **Location:** Kuda Thimbiri Wewa, Bakmeegama Cascade
- **Project:** Climate Smart Irrigated Agriculture Project (CSIAP) – Phase II
- **Contractor:** Mahesh Construction
- **Start Date of Work / Contractor Mobilized:** 02/05/2025
- **Visited by:** Mr. G. Jayantha, and Dr. Sithara Attapattu (World Bank), Ms. Sharmila Shanmuganathan (PMU), Mr. T.Sekaran (SSO/DPDO/EP), and the Technical Team of the DPDO/EP

1. Site Preparation and Access

- Work commenced on 02/05/2025.
- The scope of work includes: tank bund improvement, repair of the spill, reconstruction of the sluice, construction of access steps, and improvement of the main channel with one-side agricultural road.
- Site clearing and material storage were completed.
- Access roads were available, and no rainfall was recorded during the visit.
- At the site: farmers, SAC, FO members, heavy machinery, sufficient laborers, contractor-side supervisor, as well as implementing agency-side supervisors were present.
- Name board was displayed.
- Construction work has already commenced.





2. Construction Activities and Infrastructure Improvements

- Scope-based construction work had commenced, including sluice removal, concreting work started, and tank bund compaction initiated.
- Artificial water drawdown was not carried out, and farmers have already cultivated Yala paddy 2025.
- Heavy machinery was observed at the site.
- It was noted that the SAC and community members were actively involved.
- No delays were observed on the contractor's side; active SAC involvement and community participation were evident.
- Farmers stated that it would take approximately 1½ months to complete the paddy cultivation, after which water can be released. In the meantime, other construction works can proceed.



3. Environmental and Ecological Impacts

- The site is located near the Forest Department boundary.
- No tree removal was observed; however, minor vegetation clearing was noted.
- No flooding was reported at the site.
- Occasional elephant presence has been reported in the area.
- The site office was properly set up.



4. Social and Livelihood Impacts

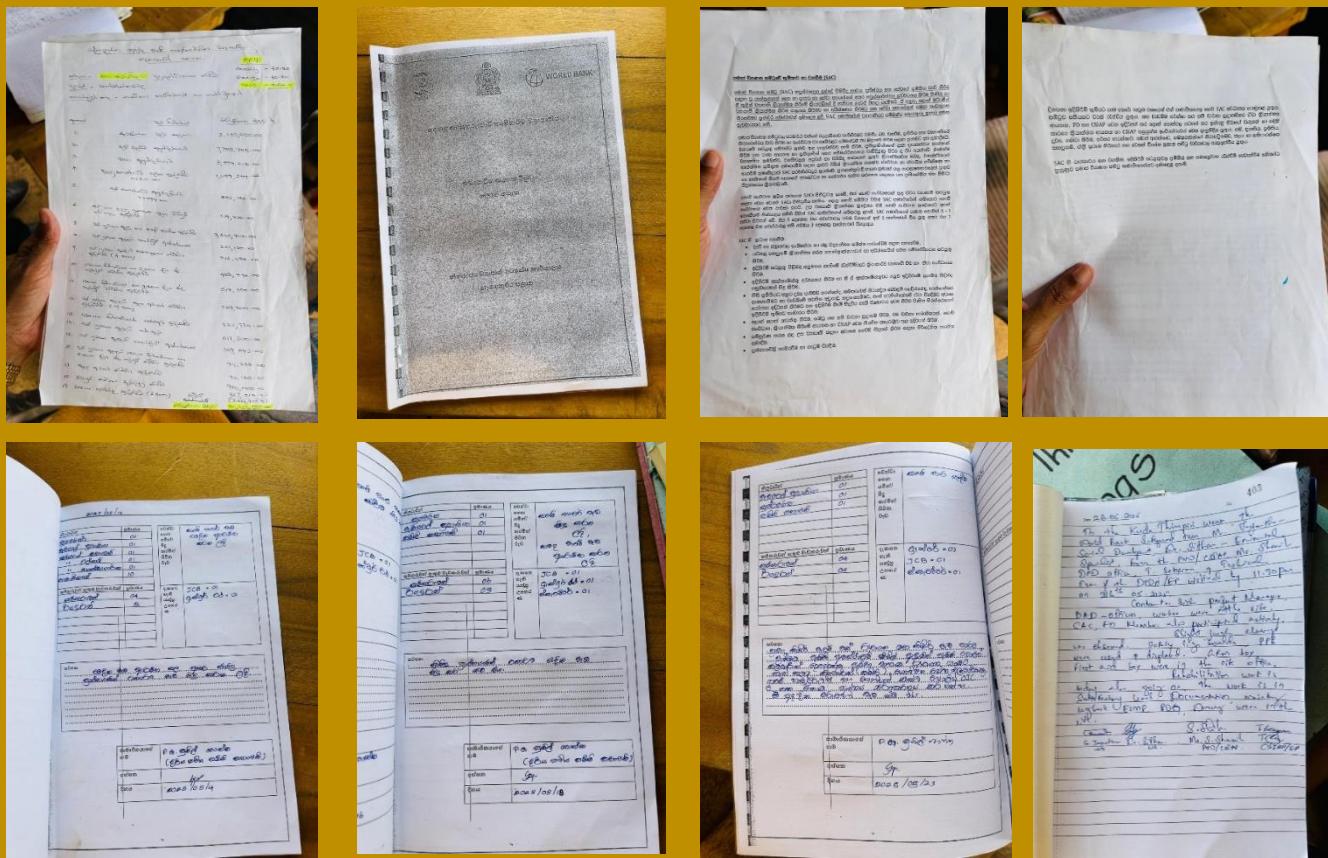
- Farmers did not agree to forego Yala 2025 cultivation for the rehabilitation; therefore, the tank rehabilitation may be delayed by approximately 1½ months.
- No one lost their livelihood due to the tank rehabilitation.
- A rented house was arranged to accommodate the laborers.
- Four local community members were hired for unskilled work.



5. Stakeholder Engagement and Community Participation

- FO and SAC members were present and actively engaged during the visit.
- Good coordination was observed between the contractor and farmers, as construction work had already started.
- The SAC is maintaining logbooks, which are available at the site.

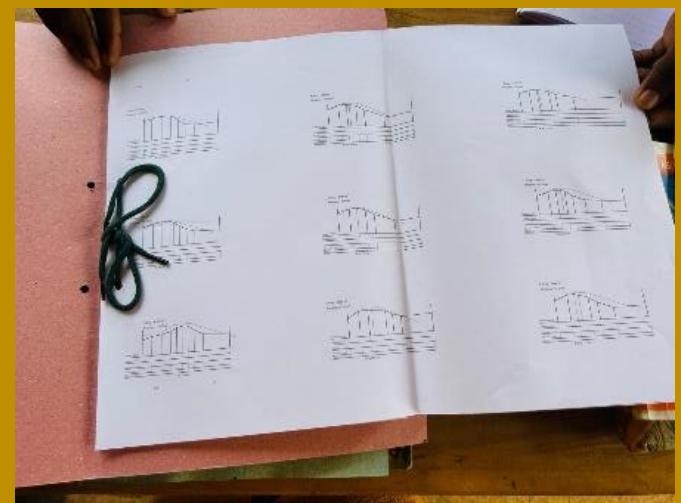
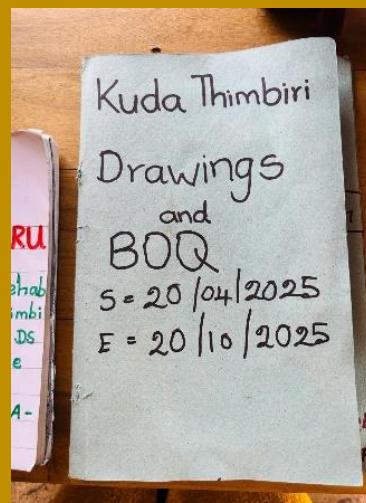
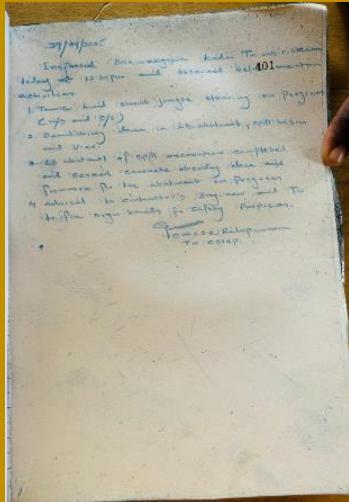
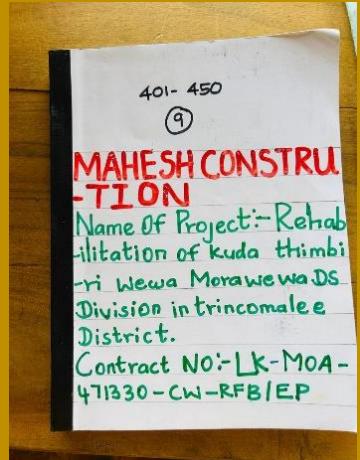
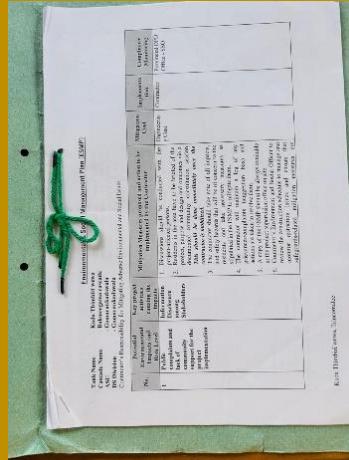
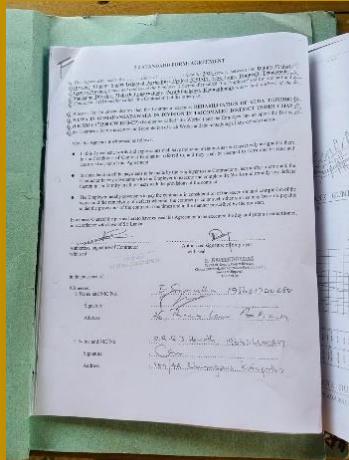
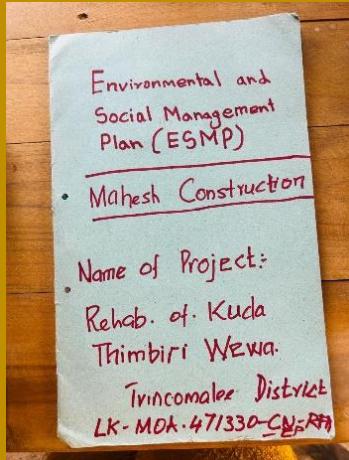
- An ESMP awareness program was conducted for the contractor and SAC members.
- SAC members reported that technical officers go off duty by 4:00 p.m. However, when concreting work extends beyond 4:00 p.m., a technical officer should remain on site, as SAC is not responsible for the duties of the technical officer.
- Therefore, the SAC requested that the technical officer stay until the concreting work is completed.
- The SAC also requested the DPDO to provide transport facilities for the technical officer, since this is a high Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) area.
- The contractor agreed to support the welfare of the technical officer when work continues beyond regular working hours.
- The estimate was provided in the local language, which was understood by the SAC members.
- The roles and responsibilities of the SAC were clearly defined and well understood by the members.
- The SAC is properly maintaining the logbook, and monitoring activities are being carried out effectively.



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

- A temporary shed was established at the site; workers are not stay at night at the worksite.
- A first aid box and grievance box were available at the site. Safety signboards were properly displayed. Material storage was observed and organized.
- OHS measures were clearly displayed, and PPE was used by the workers.
- ESMP, COC-GBV, GRM, and other awareness materials were available at the site.





7. Risk Level Assessment

Taking into account that construction work has already commenced in line with the scope, and that artificial water drawdown was not carried out due to ongoing Yala 2025 paddy cultivation, the site conditions currently reflect a manageable external risk environment. Although no rainfall was recorded in recent days and dry weather has persisted, the contractor has continued with the work. There are no significant environmental or social sensitivities affecting progress, except for the Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) issue. The interventions cover both upstream and downstream areas, and the environmental impact remains minimal. While work is progressing smoothly, a potential delay of approximately 1½ months is expected due to the ongoing cultivation. However, the contractor has prioritized available work, and construction activities are actively underway. Therefore, the site is currently assessed as being at a low or moderate risk level. Continued close coordination and monitoring by the Technical Team of the DPDO and the Implementing Agency (IA) is recommended to ensure steady progress. Assume that the rehabilitation work can be completed on or before 30th September 2025, provided that activities continue without delay.

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