

Field Visit Report
Weheragala Anicut canal – Arabedda Canal Development/ Rehabilitation (Phase II – CSIAP)
Southern Province

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



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FIELD VISIT REPORT

ARABEDDA CANAL (DOWNSTREAM WORKS) REHABILITATION (PHASE II – CSIAP)

Date of Visit: 02/07/2025

Location: Weheragala Anicut canal – Arabedda Canal, Malala Ara Cascade

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

Contractor: Liyanage Constructions

Start Date of Work/ contractor mobilized: 25/05/2025

Field Observations during the Visit on 02/07/2025:

- The scope of work includes a 1,525-meter-long canal lining, along with the construction of an agricultural access road. This initiative is valued at Rs. 48.2 million.
- It was observed that the concrete canal lining is in progress, with approximately one-third of the work completed. Backfilling is also underway.
- The contractor informed that work on the agricultural road had not yet commenced. Currently, cultivation activities are ongoing, and road construction will begin after the harvest is completed. The contractor's team mentioned that canal road construction will start once the backfilling is completed.
- During the PMU team's field visit, officers from the implementing agency, workers, contractor's site supervisors, the DPDO technical team, and the safeguard team were present at the site.
- Construction materials, workers, a labor camp, and machinery were also observed.
- No rainfall was reported on the day of the field visit. Farmers and workers noted that there had been no rainfall for the past three consecutive weeks, which enabled smooth progress of the rehabilitation works without any disruptions.
- No grievances were reported during the field visit. Currently, two local laborers have been hired for the work.



It was observed that concrete canal lining is in progress, with approximately one-third of the work completed, and backfilling is also underway.



Officers from the implementing agency, along with workers, the contractor's site supervisors, the DPDO technical team, and the safeguard team, were present at the site.



A site office, safety signboards, and machinery were also observed.



It was observed that workers were wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) while carrying out the work.



- Farmers have cultivated their paddy fields during the Yala season 2025, and the harvest is expected in 3–4 weeks from the date of the field visit. A total of over 192 farmers are cultivating approximately 300 acres of paddy land, jointly across the Arabedda and Kokkara canals, during both the Yala and Maha seasons. Currently, water is released to the paddy fields three days per week. Therefore, work can only be carried out four days per week.
- No tree removal was observed at the worksite. Furthermore, safety signboards were visible, and workers were wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) while carrying out their tasks.
- Dredged material should be properly removed and disposed of after the rehabilitation work is completed.



Recommendations:

1. It is recommended that the contractor mobilize at least two separate teams to carry out canal lining and road rehabilitation simultaneously during non-rainy periods. This will help expedite progress, minimize delays due to adverse weather, and ensure timely completion of works before the onset of the rainy season.
2. Continue to ensure that no tree removal or other environmentally sensitive activities occur within or near the rehabilitation area.
3. The contractor must display the subproject name board prominently at the site to promote public awareness and ensure transparency and accountability.
4. Dredged material should be properly removed and disposed of in an environmentally safe manner after the completion of rehabilitation work.
5. It is encouraged to hire local laborers for the work as much as possible.

Risk Level Assessment:

Considering that the contractor has already completed a significant portion of the work as per the project scope, and that Yala cultivation for 2025 is currently ongoing, the remaining works can be completed on or before the upcoming Maha season in 2025—**provided that** the contractor should mobilize at least two separate teams to carry out canal lining and road rehabilitation simultaneously during non-rainy periods. **Therefore, the site is categorized as low risk.**
