

**EFFECT OF FARMER WOODLOT (FWL) PROGRAMME ON  
HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOOD IN  
MATALE DISTRICT OF SRI LANKA**

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The Farmer Woodlot (FWL) programme in Sri Lanka was initiated following the global trend to conserve forest resources while providing economic benefits. However, very little is known about the role of FWL on livelihood in Sri Lanka. The study analyzed the effect of the FWL programme on the livelihoods of the participants in the *Matale* district. Two comparisons were performed by using randomly selected 40 FWL participants and 40 non-participants to achieve this objective. Two comparisons were made, where the first was with participants, before and after joining the FWL programme and the second one was between the present conditions of the FWL participants and non-participants to evaluate the impact of the FWL programme. The data were collected using a pretested structured questionnaire, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. The Sustainable Livelihood Framework Index (SLFI) was calculated using capital items owned by households to measure the programme's impact. Results revealed that SLFI was 0.46 in 2014 for participants, increasing to 0.70 in 2021. Regarding, SLFI between FWL participants and non-participants, results revealed that FWL participants (0.70) have a higher value than non-participants (0.51). The change in the natural capital demonstrates that the majority of participants engaged in the FWL programme and it helped to protect forest resources and biodiversity in surrounding localities. In terms of human capital development, the capacity building of the participants has improved skills and knowledge on non-conventional agriculture. Improvements in social capital were reflected by the formation of farmer groups and social networks. Finally, the significant improvement in household income has resulted in an increment of financial capital. Overall, the programme has been successful in developing livelihood capitals. Even though the FWL programme has shown significant success and promising results at present, more introductions such as forest-based industries, agro eco-tourism would provide more assurance to the sustainability of the FWL programme and enhance the capacity of providing future benefits to participants of FWL programmes in other localities.

**Keywords:** Farmer woodlot programme, Livelihood capitals, Sustainable livelihood framework