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Private Sector Initiatives in Agriculture

Silvermill Group



Importance of the Agriculture Sector in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Agriculture sector;



Contributes approx.
7% to Sri Lanka's GDP



Absorbs nearly 30%
of the country's
labour force



Is the livelihood to
70% of the rural
population



Utilizes 43% of the
total land area of the
country



Provides nearly 80%
of domestic food
requirement

Source: UNDP Sri Lanka

**Given the importance of the Agriculture Sector to the Sri Lankan economy,
Climate Mitigation & Adaptation is a necessity to ensure the future of the
Agriculture sector in Sri Lanka.**

Some of the Key Issues faced by farmers and rural population

Land Utilization

Low Yield and
dependence on fertilizer
subsidies

Climate Impact – Water
Availability and
dependence on rainfall /
Pollination

Soil Degradation

Land Fragmentation due
to Urbanization

Market Intelligence

Lack of know-how on
best practices in farming

Low technology
utilization

Women Employment
away from home due to
lack of opportunities
nearby and negative
impact on family life and
children

Why we choose to take action



We want to ensure that coconut farmers derive better value from their land.



National Average of coconut yield is limited to 45 coconuts per tree vs. the expectation of 100-120 coconuts.



Of the 1 million acres of coconut land – approx. 70% consists of small holder farmers.



Home gardens are expected to contribute to 30% of our coconut supplies in the future.

As a 99-year-old Agribusiness it is our responsibility to support the farmers to sustain our industry into the future keeping in line with our vision of;

“Be Sri Lanka’s most admired agribusiness group, partnering growers to provide sustainable innovative solutions to global brands”

Our Initiatives for a better future

- 'Corporate Social Responsibility- CSR', even before the term was coined has been an integral part of our business over the last 99 years, a culture inculcated by our founder, Mr. Anthony Silva.
- Following in the footsteps of our founder, we have continued to support the community through our various initiatives over the years.
- In order to bring in transparency and better governance we have now formalized all our Group CSR activities under the Silvermill Foundation, an independently operated non-profit-organization.



Silvermill Foundation

- Our CSR Programs are designed to ‘Empower People & Inspire Communities’ with the involvement of our employees, customers and external stakeholders in the three pillars of: People, Environment and Community within the 4 categories below.
- We actively encourage our customers & key stakeholders to partner in our CSR activities, as together, we can support a larger and broader ambition!



**Agriculture & Livelihood
Improvement**



**Sustainable Consumption &
Responsible Manufacturing**



**Community
Development**



**Education & Skills
Development**

Alignment to a Global Initiative

- As we wish to ensure that we take steps in our own little way that is aligned to the larger objectives, we have aligned our CSR program to the United Nations Development Program's Sustainable Development Goals that aims to end poverty and hunger by 2030.
- This is a much larger and broader ambition, and of the 17 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) we have chosen 9 SDGs; No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, to link our CSR Program to



Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement



Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement

Objective: The CSR Programs within this category aim to impart knowledge and better agricultural practices to positively impact household income.

Main Programs

- Field Demonstration Plots and Training Program
- Coconut Seedling Distribution Program
- Small Farmer Development Program
- Home Garden Program
- Composting Program
- Crop Management Training
- Bee Keeping Program
- Water and Soil Conservation Program



Silvermill Foundation

Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement

Through these programs we strive to make a positive impact on the SDGs of:



Applicable SDGs	How we support the SDGs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">No PovertyZero HungerGender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Composting Program – less spends on fertilizer, ability to charge a premium for organic produce, leading to more disposable income for farmersField Demonstration Plots & Training – maximum utilization of land for a diverse of range of crops, yield improvement, lower cost of productionCoconut Seedling Distribution Program – self-sufficiency in coconut requirement, additional source of incomeHome Garden/ Small Farmer Development Program – empower rural women with a supplementary source from their home garden, and produce free of toxins for their familiesCrop Management Training – additional revenue through mixed cropping practicesBee Keeping Program – Improved pollination, additional source of incomeDevelop new agricultural practices that will help better productivity and resource utilization



Silvermill Foundation

Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement

Applicable SDGs	How we support the SDGs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean Water and Sanitation• Affordable and Clean Energy• Climate Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote growing of Gliricidia in coconut estates to<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ As an aid for mixed cropping – pepper○ Fixes nitrogen in the soil○ Leaves used as organic fertilizer○ Creates a micro climate that reduces the temperature by 2-3C * thereby improving pollination○ Wood to be used as a sustainable fuel• Promote organic fertilizers - Reduce carbon footprint by being less dependent on chemical fertilizers• Promote better irrigation practices to conserve water – ponds (pathahak), drip irrigation, pot irrigation• Promote carbon content in soil – mulching• In our plantations and the programs we conduct for farmers/estate owners - Promote effective use of water (drip irrigation), Conserve water (rain water collection tanks/ponds, ground water replenishment, husk burial/mulching - to better withstand drought conditions)• In our Research & Development, explore newer technologies in irrigation that reduce water requirement in commercial agriculture and new technologies in hydroponics/aquaponics, vertical growing under artificial lighting etc., that reduces demand for water & improves crop yield.

Silvermill Foundation

Sustainable Consumption & Responsible Manufacturing



Sustainable Consumption & Responsible Manufacturing

Main Programs

- Wastage Reduction Program at Consumption
- Wastage Reduction Program in Manufacturing
- Water Positive Program
- Rooftop Solar Energy
- Biomass Energy Solutions



Silvermill Foundation

Sustainable Consumption & Responsible Manufacturing

Through these programs we strive to make a positive impact on the SDGs of:



Applicable SDGs	How we support the SDG
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Responsible Consumption and ProductionClimate Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wastage Reduction Program at Consumption- launched liquid Coconut Milk & frozen grated coconut product solutions in the local market, to reduce coconut wastage at consumption, enabling higher percentage of coconuts made available for value added exports.Wastage Reduction Program in Manufacturing– use of technology and lean manufacturing programs to reduce wastage in operations, including;<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reducing material & utility wastageImproving manufacturing efficiencySustainability in operations



Silvermill Foundation

Sustainable Consumption & Responsible Manufacturing

Applicable SDGs	How we support the SDG
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Affordable and Clean Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase our footprint of sustainable energy through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Elimination of furnace oil to generate steam through biomass boilersIntroduction of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) on our factory roofs (517 kWp)Generation of electricity (4 MW) from biomass through an Associate CompanyImprovement of factory operations to reduce usage of steam and electricity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clean Water and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In our factories:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drive a mind-set of no-waste and practice 3Rs (reduce, recover and re-use) in our usage of waterDevelop a program to halve the water footprint through optimum re-use of waterPromote rainwater harvestingDrive process innovations to minimize water requirement

Silvermill Foundation

Community Development



**Community
Development**

Main Programs

- Basic Sanitary Upliftment & Water Supply Program
- Community Outreach Program
- Infrastructure Development Programs – Hospitals, Places of Worship, Houses etc.



Silvermill Foundation

Community Development

Through these programs we strive to make a positive impact on the SDGs of:



Applicable SDGs	How we support the SDG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Health and Well-being Clean Water & Sanitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding to improve basic sanitation, hygiene and supply of clean water to improve the health & well-being of those in our communities. Funding to improve the hospital facilities within our community, and support patients in need of treatment and medical devices.

Silvermill Foundation

Education and Skills Development



Education & Skills
Development

Objective: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Main Programs

- Scholarship Program
- School Infrastructure Development
- Skills Development





Silvermill Foundation

Education and Skills Development

Through these programs we strive to make a positive impact on the SDGs of:



Applicable SDGs	How we support the SDG
Quality Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scholarship program for those identified through the home garden program and children of employees, infrastructure development in schoolsSilvermill provides scholarships to children of employees who have genuine difficulty in affording a university education. The children have already demonstrated their abilities by gaining entrance to Sri Lankan universities which are highly competitive.Support students from low income families to pursue higher education (Advanced Level and University education) through financial aid.
Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide equal higher education opportunities through the scholarship program



How our Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement Programs Provide Solutions to Coconut Farmers

Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement

Composting Program

Objective:

- Encourage farmers to be self-sufficient in fertilizer, value addition to household waste, help protect the environment, help develop soil sustainability, become eco-friendly and reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers thereby saving money.
- Train individuals on types of composting practices, production of compost, benefits and usage.

Highlights (2015 – 2019)

- Number of Training Programs conducted – 14
- Number of Families benefited – 1,020



Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement

Bee Keeping Program

Objective:

- Encourage farmers to maintain bee boxes to aid pollination and create a supplementary income.
- Train individuals on importance of bees in pollination, maintenance of bee boxes.

Highlights (2015 – 2019)

- Number of Training Programs conducted – 11
- Number of Families benefited – 270
- Number of Bee Boxes Distributed – 238
- Number of Families benefited – 238



Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement **Field Demonstration Plots & Training**

Objective:

- Maximize land utilization, be more self-sufficient in food needs and increase the household income of farmers
- Integrated farming demonstration plots are conducted to educate the Coconut farmers in the area.

Highlights (2015 – 2019)

- Number of Training Programs – 13
- Number of Families benefited– 860
- Number of Demonstration Plots - 12
- Number of Families benefited – 12



Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement

Coconut Seedling Distribution Program

Objective:

- Be self-sufficient in coconut needs, increase yield and increase household income
- Distribution of Coconut Seedlings to lower income families

Highlights (2015 – 2018)

- Number of Coconut Seedlings Distributed – 12,580
- Number of Families benefited– 2,516



Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement

Water and Soil Conservation and Crop Management Training

Objective:

- Increase land utilization and productivity, increase income of medium sized estates
- Trainings are conducted to reduce soil erosion and promote water conservation and integrated crop management.



Water and Soil Conservation and Crop Management Training

Highlights (2015 – 2019)

- Number of Training Programs conducted - 20
- Number of Families benefited– 1,092
- Number of Husk Pit Preparation Training Programs conducted – 10
- Number of Families benefited– 576
- Number of Husk Pits implemented - 435
- Number of Families benefited– 37
- Number of Pitcher Irrigation Projects - 2
- Number of Families benefited– 250
- Number of Drip Irrigation Projects - 13
- Number of Families benefited– 13
- Number of Agro-wells developed - 1
- Number of Families benefited - 1,000



Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement **Silvermill CSR App**

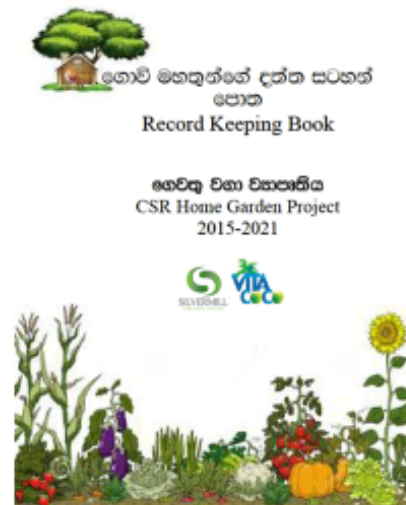


Objective:

- Capture data and provide support to Registered Smallholder/ Home Garden Farmers
- Almost 1,000 farmers registered at present
- Registered farmers are provided with benefits including free training including organic farming practices and 5 free coconut seedling each.

IT enabled field data capturing – initial development stage

Launched from September 2018



Earlier
Only Record keeping book



Current

Data collection app completed. Purchased smart devices . Completed the training for field officers. The Real time data capturing started from 1st of October '18.

Agriculture & Livelihood Improvement **Silvermill CSR App**

Data captured through App during field visit:

- Farmer location & acreage
- Contact details
- Income levels
- Family member details
- Health conditions
- Crop details including intercrops, domestic consumption and sales quantities
- Agricultural best practices implemented
- Education Level
- Training Programs attended
- Bee keeping
- Farmer Income & Expenses

Data captured is used to:

- Better understand farmer's training requirements
- Understand the improvement in the Farmer's income from Intercropping & Bee keeping and other implementation of best practices
- Intercrop availability mapping



We actively seek participation and partnership of our Stakeholders (Suppliers, Customers and Business Partners) in making a real difference to our farmer communities

**TOGETHER WE CAN
CREATE A BIGGER IMPACT!**

