

**WASPA NEWSFEED**

WASTEWATER AGRICULTURE AND SANITATION FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

10TH NOVEMBER 2008

**CELEBRATING NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY WEEK  
IN KURUNEGALA**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

SEED PADDY PRODUCERS	2
PERMENENAT COMPOST BINS TO	2
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANITA-	2
DAY-19TH NOV 2008	3
WORLD TOILET DAY-19TH NOV 2008	3
VISIT BY KE-LANIYA SIGENCE FAC-	3
WILGODAPURA CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CELE-	3
POSTER COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS	4

The Kurunegala Municipal council celebrated the "National Food Safety Week" from 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2008, to highlight the importance of food safety and basic principles of food hygiene.

For this, the H800 evaluation criteria that has been used from 2007 to evaluate hotels and restaurants, was further developed by Mr.W.M.P.P Weerasinghe (PHI KMC) into an evaluation that looks into 108 factors including Location and Environment and waste disposal methods etc..

After obtaining the approval for the changes made to the evaluation by the Ministry of Health, the MOH office of the Kurunegala Municipal Council together with the PHI officers began visiting the hotels and restaurants within Kurunegala city for the evaluating t. The evaluated business places were awarded grades based on the points they received in the evaluation.

- A (100-90%)— extremely satisfactory
- B (89-80%)— satisfactory
- C (79-60%)— good
- D (59-1%)—Unsatisfactory



A ceremony was held on 29th October at the Municipal council conference hall, to give away boards displaying the Grades achieved by hotels and restaurants under the categories A & B . the boards were sponsored by the WASPA project and the occasion was graced by his lordship the Mayor of Kurunegala, District Administrator of PHIs Kurunegala, Mr. Kamal Munasinghe, Mr. Sumith Bandara, Mr. Weerasinghe CPHI and many other distinguish guests.

Dr. Gayani Dassanayake urged all hotels and restaurants that received grades A and B to keep up their best practices and also to upgrade them as much as possible, the MOH office has the power to take away the grade, as the hotels and restaurants will be monitored continuously. Moreover she said that business places that have received both C and D grades will be given a 2 month grace period to upgrade their practices, where if not found satisfactory will be addressed by taking legal action against them.

At present, many display boards have been exhibited informing the general public about this grading system in support the of the cam-



**LEARNING ALLIANCE MEETING**

ON

17TH NOVEMBER 2008 (MONDAY)

FROM 9.00 AM

ONWARDS

AT

ISB AUDITORIUM KURUNEGALA

**WASPA LEARNING ALLIANCE...**

A MULTI STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND TO ADDRESS COMMON ISSUES....

The LA can be described as a multi-Stakeholder learning platform where all these stakeholders gather to discuss and find sustainable solutions for issues that prevail in their areas.

This is expected to facilitate development & testing of innovative approaches to address complex problems such use of wastewater in agriculture, and capacity built for scaling up.

The Learning Alliance (LA) of WASPA



Kurunegala consists of members representing all the stakeholders of

the project; including Local government departments, agencies, Traders, Hoteliers and Vehicle service station owners associations as well as NGOs and Community based organizations.

The 3 visions of WASPA along with the set of Participatory Action Plans (PAPs) were also developed with the involvement of the LA members.

### A SEED PADDY PRODUCERS GROUP IN WILGODA AMUNA FARMER ORGANIZATION



Under the WASPA project, a seed paddy producers' committee was established as a group within the "Wilgoda amuna" farmers' organization with the support of provincial Department of Agriculture and agrarian service center. A revolving fund was established to obtain high quality seed paddy when necessary and to keep the sustainability of this committee.

The first distribution of the Certified Seed Paddy from the Department of Agriculture was held on November 3rd with the presence



of Deputy Director Mr. D.P. Kithsiri (Provincial DOA), Assistant Director Mr. Seelarathne (Provincial DOA), Agriculture Instructor Mr. Wijesinshe and Mr. Jayasundara (Provincial DOA), Miss.Nalifa, Mr.Jaseem and Miss.Pushpa (Agriculture Research & Promotion Assistants).

Further more, as a result of the onsite demonstration on the 15th of October in making charcoal, a silicon rich natal fertilizer using Paddy husks, 8 more charcoal making units (barrels) were distributed for three yaya according to the farmers population under the supervision of AR&PA. The units were sponsored by WASPA



Moreover, as further assistance to the livelihood development of the farmers, seeds for "Niyara wagawa" (weir cultivation) such as Maize, Me etc. was also distribute among the farmers by Agriculture Research & Promotion Assistants. The seeds were sponsored by WASPA.



### PERMENENAT COMPOST BINS FOR WILGODAWATTE RESIDENTS ...

Over 20 households in Wilgodawatte area long the irrigation canal has been active participants of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Programme that had been introduced by WASPA to prevent the pollution of the Irrigation canal that carry water to the paddy fields.

The said households have been practicing waste separation and Composting using live fences for the past 3 months with the

guidance of the Wilgodawatte Grama Niladarani Mrs. Susila Wijesinghe and Pradeshiya Sabha (PS) Environment Officer Mrs. Kumuduni Priyashanthi.

As further encouragement to the participants of the SWM programme, WASPA together with the PS, provided Cement made permanent compost bins on the 18th of September 2008. The Distribution ceremony was graced by the Chair-

man of the PS who expressed his gratitude to the participant for being a part of an activity that is of high importance in today's context.

He also expressed that the PS is now planning to scale up this SWM programme taking Wilgodawatte as the model area.

The participants contributed 25% of the cost for the bins where the rest was added by WASPA Programme.



Cement Compost Bins

### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANITATION 2008



The United Nations officially launched the International Year of Sanitation on November 21, to accelerate progress for 2.6 billion people world wide who are without proper sanitation facilities. Every year inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene contribute to the deaths of 1.5 million children.

of child mortality and poverty," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. "An estimated 42,000 people die every week from diseases related to low water quality and an absence of adequate sanitation. This situation is unacceptable."

The international Year of Sanitation, 2008, is a theme year set by the UN General Assembly in December 2006 to help put this global crisis at the forefront of the international agenda.

Though more than 1.2 billion people worldwide have gained access

to improved sanitation between 1990 and 2004, an estimated 2.6 billion people - including 980 million children - have lagged behind. The world needs to accelerate progress in order to meet the Millennium Development Goal target to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation, such as simple latrines, by 2015.

Source— <http://www.un.org.tr/arsiv/en/index.htm>

"Access to sanitation is deeply connected to virtually all the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those involving the environment, education, gender equality and the reduction

### WORLD TOILET DAY—19TH NOVEMBER 2008

19 November is World Toilet Day – a day to celebrate the humble, yet vitally important, toilet and to raise awareness of the global sanitation crisis

Imagine life without a toilet. No toilets in your home or at work, no public toilets, no toilets anywhere. Imagine the mess. Imagine the disease.

It's hard to imagine life without something we take for granted, but this is the daily reality for 2.6 billion people – 40% of the world's population.

Without toilets disease and death are

rife. Illness prevents people from working and stops children going to school. Teenage girls are too embarrassed to go to school without latrines and teachers won't work in them.

- 2.6 billion people do not have somewhere safe, private or hygienic to go to the toilet.
- One gram of faeces can contain 10 million viruses, one million bacteria, 1000 parasite cysts and 100 parasite eggs.
- The simple act of washing hands with soap and water after going to the toilet can reduce diarrhoeal diseases by over 40%.

- Safe disposal of children's faeces leads to a reduction of nearly 40% in childhood diarrhoea.



### VISIT BY KELANIYA SIGENCE FACULTY STUDENTS



The second year Undergraduates of the Environmental Conservation and Management degree programme of University of Kelaniya visited the WASPA Kurunegala project site. Their visit included visiting the Paddy fields, Wilgodapura community and also Muthugala Service stations.



### WILGODAPURA CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CELEBRATES GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY WITH WASPA

Wilgodapura Children's Society, together with WASPA Project officers celebrated the Global Hand Washing Day on 15th of October 2008.

16 members of the Children's society together with two project officers from WASPA conducted the Well-Washer game with a pocket voting. The children secretly poll their votes to the statement "Today I washed

my hands with soap before my lunch".

The children also voiced their concern on common Hygiene issues that are faced by their community and how they can help to improve the situation by practicing good hygiene behavior and sanitation practices. The children were able to highlight, the importance of hand wash-

ing, how diseases can be prevented though hand washing and what are the occasions that hand washing needs to be practiced. This also led to the identification of poor hygiene habits in their households.

The children were given a booklet of basic hygiene in the end of the program.





Global Handwashing Day  
October 15

**DISPLAY BOARDS TO  
PREVENT WATER  
POLLUTION**

WASPA Asia Kurunegala Project together with the Kurunegala Municipal Council has put up Hoardings at prominent places in Kurunegala, in order to reduce the pollution of water sources. This is an effort towards reducing the pollution to the canals, which's water is used for agriculture down stream.

50 MT of solid waste and nearly 4620 m3/day Wastewater is generated in Kurunegala city.

**සමරමු ජගත් අත් සේදීමේ දිනය !**

දැනුමට වඩා පුරුද්ද ලොකුයි... ! අපිරිසිදු දෑහ සිඹ රෝගී කිරීමට උපකාරී වේ යන්න සිඹ දන්නා බව දැනීමු. එහෙත් නිසි අවස්ථා වල දී සිඹේ දෑහ නිසිකොටම පිරිසිදු කර ගන්නවාද යන්න දන්නන් සිඹ පමණි. පිරිසිදු දෑහ නිරෝගී දිවියක පදනමයි !

Global Handwashing Day will be the centerpiece of a week of activities that will mobilize millions of people in more than 20 countries across all five continents to wash their hands with soap.

[www.globalhandwashingday.org](http://www.globalhandwashingday.org)

**IWMI** International Water Management Institute  
**WASPA ASIA** Wastewater Agriculture and Sanitation for Poverty Alleviation  
**cosi** Community of Experts

**ජලය ජීවයයි!**  
ජීවයේ අත්‍යන්තය ජලයයි. අතීතයෙන් පවිත්‍රව උරුම වූ ජලයෙහි හෙට ඉරණමි...!  
**ඔබ සංවේදීද?**

**පරිහානියේ පරිණාමය!?**

**WASPA ASIA** Wastewater Agriculture and Sanitation for Poverty Alleviation  
මගේ - ජීවිතයේ වැදගත්ම දෑහ ලෙසට හා සිංහලයාට හා සමාජයට  
අරුණකම මහලොව සහායී සහයෝගයයි.

**නවත්වන්න!**

**අලව  
කුණු  
දාන්න එපා!**

**WASPA ASIA** Wastewater Agriculture and Sanitation for Poverty Alleviation  
මගේ - ජීවිතයේ වැදගත්ම දෑහ ලෙසට හා සිංහලයාට හා සමාජයට  
අරුණකම මහලොව සහායී සහයෝගයයි.

**WASPA ASIA**

COSI Foundation  
185/3, Madawala Road,  
Katugastota

Phone: +94-812-497997  
Fax: +94-812-497998

**WASPA Range Office,  
378, Wilgoda Road,  
Yanthampalawa,  
Kurunegala**

**Phone—+948125620630**

**Poster Competition for Schools in Kurunegala**

The Kurunegala Municipal Council Together WASPA Asia project organized a Poster competition for which 84 participants from 14 schools within the city limits have been invited.

Based on the theme of International Sanitation year (2008) and the ever increasing pollution of water sources, this competition will act as an awareness campaign to all.

Date— 10th November 2008

Time— 8.30 am to 12.30 pm ( including prize distribution ceremony)

Partners—

- International Water Management Institution (IWMI)
- International Resource Center for Water and Sanitation (IRC)
- NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply, Bangladesh (NGOF)
- Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
- COSI Foundation for Technical Cooperation (COSI)

Funded by EU Asia Pro Eco II Programme

