



Affiliated to

SLS TRUST

Sustainable Living Solutions

Incorporated in Sri Lanka as a Company Limited by Guarantee

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Registered as an incorporated association in NSW

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Proposal to Tamil Engineers Foundation

Priority needs of the Model Farm

Introduction:

The Model Farm in Maviddapuram has been in operation for almost 2 years. This integrated organic farm is a pioneering effort to promote water saving, crop diversification and organic farming in the North and East of Sri Lanka. Funded by private individuals out of strong conviction of the role it can play for the sustainability of land, water and public health, this 'not for profit' venture has already shown great promise through what it has achieved.

The Ministry of Agriculture of Northern Province has awarded first prize to this farm by choosing it as the best organic farm in the Jaffna District. The Agriculture Minister Mr K. Sivanesan is due to present the award at a function to be held in Veerasingam Hall in Jaffna on the 27th of February 2018.

While this recognition is a strong endorsement of the role and potential of this farm, its growth itself has been constrained by shortage of funds. We have identified the items outlined below as some of the priority needs of the farm. We are planning to utilize the \$2000.00 allocated by TEF to implement the **Proposal 1** given below. We would appreciate if the TEF committee considers supporting Proposal 2 and Proposal 3 in the future.

Proposal 1

Goat Farming



Being an integrated farm to educate and train farmers, we want to establish a Goat Farming Unit in this Model Farm. Highly successful Indian models to be adapted. Our immediate need is a basic shelter for the goats. This will be achieved in a cost effective way by constructing an extension to an existing verandah.

We already have a few goats tied to ropes. The idea is to free them into an enclosed yard and let them multiply. We will be promoting Goat Farming techniques to families.

Cost Estimate:

Construction cost for a basic shelter

Rs 140,000

Purchase of 4 goats @25,000

Rs 100,000

Total

Rs 240,000

Proposal 2

Drip Irrigation

(Extending the Drip Irrigation system in the Model Farm)

The Model Farm already has an established drip irrigation system in a section of the farm. This needs to be expanded.



We have sourced a stock of abandoned pipes and components that can be used for this purpose. More parts will have to be purchased to complete the installation.

Cost Estimate:

Purchase of second hand stock	Rs 50,000
New components	Rs 20,000
Plumbing services	Rs 10,000
Total	Rs 80,000

Proposal 3

Growbags

(Promotion of organic Home Gardening through supply of Growbags)



Experimentation with Growbags within the farm is now complete and we are ready to extend the concept.

We will be supplying families with established plants in Growbags. We will also provide the necessary supplementary manure, growth promoters and pesticides (all organic).

We are also working on a plan to establish a marketing network to buy back excess production.

Cost Estimate:

Cost per family for supply of 30 Growbags (including follow up service)	Rs 8,000.
Estimated benefit in 4 months	Rs 12,000 (in low season) / Rs 25,000 (in high season)

The number of families that can be assisted through this project is unlimited and we are hoping to support the development of more service providers.

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