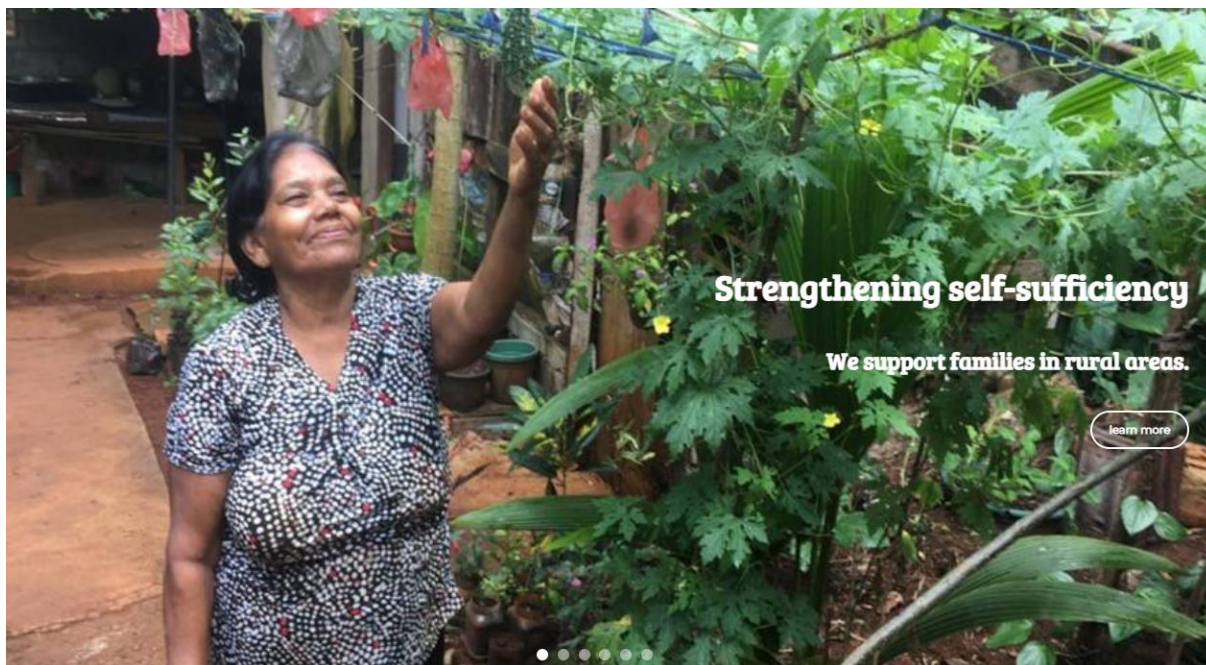




# Sri Lanka Verein Hamburg e.V.

## Organic Gardening



Due to the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka, the number of people living below the poverty line has increased significantly in recent years. Many families, especially in rural areas, are affected by high prices for basic foodstuffs, fuel, electricity, and water. Significantly increased costs for artificial fertilizers and shortages of pesticides, fungicides, and other chemicals also make it difficult for them to achieve sufficient harvests.

With the aim of improving the living conditions of rural families, a partnership was established with the Schöck Family Foundation, which also finances development projects in Sri Lanka. The joint project pursues a holistic approach to sustainable organic gardening to secure the nutrition of rural families and improve their financial situation by selling any surplus vegetables or fruit. The target group is generally women, as they are responsible for establishing and maintaining their home gardens.

The measures have been implemented initially in two selected project regions: During the first phase (2021/22), 152 families from seven villages in the Dambulle district were supported, and in a second phase (2023/24), a further 300 families from seven villages in the Matale region were supported. Our project team ensures the coordination and implementation of the activities:

1. Contact and communication with village administrations ensure the necessary acceptance and formal support.
2. Interested villagers are informed about project goals and measures at public meetings.
3. Families who express their active participation in the project are identified and registered.
4. Innovative practices for organizing and sustainably managing home gardens are presented.
5. Specific knowledge about seed use in organic vegetable cultivation is imparted through training sessions.
6. Materials for compost pits are procured and distributed, and practical training is provided on their installation as well as on compost production and use.
7. Seeds for vegetables and plants, as well as accompanying advice during sowing, cultivation, and harvesting, are procured and distributed.
8. Training is provided on pest and disease identification and control.



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9. Training in positive thinking and financial counseling are offered to give women greater self-esteem and confidence in their daily lives.
10. The results achieved are evaluated with awards for the "best farmers."

The 452 families already participating in the project confirm that:

- food security is better ensured,
- surpluses can be sold on the roadside,
- families and neighborhoods are strengthened through collaboration in the garden, and harmony in the villages is improved,
- families share experiences of failures and successes in farming,
- other families express interest in continuing the project.

A third phase, in which additional families in the Dambulle/Matale area can participate in the project, is in preparation.







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