

Sri Lanka

Climate Change effects

As global temperatures rise, sea levels will rise not only due to melting ice in the Arctic, Antarctic and Greenland but also due to the expansion of the oceans as they warm. This will flood coastal regions resulting in mass movement and evacuation of people from the coastal regions.

There will be a severe effect on people's livelihoods as much of the land used for cultivation of crops will become flooded with sea water and the lives of people involved in the fishing industry will need to adapt.



Practical Action Project

In Sri Lanka the land around the coast is very low. As the sea level rises due to climate change, sea water enters rice paddies making the water in the rice paddies salty. Rice doesn't grow very well in salty water.

Salt tolerant rice

Practical Action has done some research and found that there are some rice varieties that are tolerant to salt in the water. A selection of ten modern and traditional Asian rice varieties have been grown in salty water by local farmers with the help of Practical Action. Four of the varieties were found to grow well in salt. These four varieties are now available for farmers to grow if their rice paddies are getting more salty. As sea levels get higher more farmers will need to change to the new varieties of rice.



Personal Story



Mrs Ranjith grows rice, and she says,

'The Changing climate is wiping out our crops but thanks to Practical Action's help, varieties of rice are now salt tolerant and I'll be able to harvest a high yield and keep a 5,000 rupee profit.'