

Abstract

Industrial Services Bureau (ISB) was established as a Statutory Body under the North Western (Wayamba) Provincial Council in mid 1990 with the sponsorship of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) of Germany with the objective of accelerating the industrial development of the Province. Subsequently, ISB diversified its activities and now functionally an autonomous industrial and business services delivery institution, based in Kurunegala, operating island wide and internationally. ISB now provides industrial services, agriculture services, business promotion services, information technology (IT) services and environmental management services along with its affiliated organizations.

Kalpitiya area which comprises all three ethical races is prominent for its trades, agriculture and fishing from the Dutch era. The majority of Kalpitiya people consider agriculture as their backbone. Many varieties of local and foreign vegetables and tuber crops are grown here while coconut cultivation is mainly undertaken. To suit well a vast extent of fertile land and the resource of under ground water which never goes dried are conveniently available. The farmers of this area have adapted to the use of pipe-irrigation for their cultivation from their water wells and tubes wells since the introduction of water pumps. As this pipe-irrigation is done from the very early days and economically very cheap the farmers are mostly switching to this system. Although the initial cost to establish this irrigation system seems to be very less the labour cost, fuel cost and other indirect cost to put into practice is very high and as such the farmers confront a great difficulty and the cultivation is seeing a real setback day by day. When we look on another aspect this irrigation system is endangering the health situation of Kalpitiya area. Blue Baby Symptoms is the best example to this effect. Hence the water management is very important to this area. This can be established only through micro-irrigation system. Although various attempts are made by the government and private organization to promote this micro-irrigation system this system has not yet reached to the farmers. Although there are many reasons for this, the main reason is the financial instability of the farmers to purchase this irrigation system. The loan schemes which came into effect for this purpose but it did not come into practice as expected. Therefore while the government taking steps to grant subsidiary for this irrigation system, the private organizations can promote this system by allowing the installment payment to the farmers on a low cost.