

## BASELINE STUDIES IN KANDYAN FOREST GARDENS

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Kandyan Forest Gardens (KFG) occupy about 15% of the land area in the central region. Many ecological, hydrological and economical benefits are attributed to this landuse technique. We studied 100 KFG's, from 20 villages, in the Kandy district. The parameters studied were basic land ownership characteristics, management objectives, composition of trees, and product diversity. A selected sample of KFG's were studied intensively for a complete floristic composition, litter production, economic productivity and profile characteristics.

A typical KFG is about 0.2 - 0.4 ha in size, and has three to four product objectives, and contain 500 - 1250 trees per ha. A total 46 species per household (from 30 families) were observed, composed of 23 tree species, 17 herbaceous species, and 6 climber and shrub species. An average KFG has 22 medicinal species and three endemic species. The litter production is over 9 mt per ha per year, which is close to that in the natural forests in the locality. Profile diagrams produced indicate that KFG's are similar to natural forests in vertical structure.