

Downstream development of Mau Ara - Malala Ara project

Over exploitation of water resources in Malala Oya basin one of the driest basins in the country has created several water shortages throughout the basin. Consequently the cropping intensity has reached 0.7 over the year and seriously there is a shortage of drinking water as the water wells go dry.

Further, almost all employment opportunities of the inhabitants within the basin is in agriculture and due to lack of water there is very little agriculture and hence there is hunger and unutilized labor. And the land resources available for development in the basin is about 20,000 ha.

Under this project a 3 km long earth dam with a radial gated spillway and a sluice to divert 140 cusecs along a 15 km long diversion canal up to Meegahajandura tank and a RB and LB to augment the existing six major/ medium schemes and 22 small schemes have been limit. In all these schemes, essential improvements to the head works and the irrigation system will also be improved.

Augmentation of the existing schemes to cultivate two seasons per year (in six major/ medium scheme and 22 small schemes) to achieve a cropping intensity of 2.0 in 1370 ha and supply of water to 350 ha of new lands to grow other food crops including fruits will be carried out now. That is now 120 ha along the feeder canal, 130 ha along the LB canal and

100 ha along the RB canal. Further 97 families now living in the elephant corridor is to be settled along the feeder canal.