

Who is benefited by the national water resources policy - A case study of Sri Lanka.

People depend on the resources of Earth to meet their basic and vital needs. It need hardly be said that the most important basic needs are water and foods. Water is the prime natural resource, a basic human need and a precious national asset.

Even though the promoters of the water resources policy accept that there is no water crisis at present, they seem to have an illusion about a serious crisis-taking place in the future. Despite the fact that the domestic and industrial requirements are very small when compared to Irrigation and power the promoters are manipulating to bring the proposed authority under the domestic and industrial sector so that multinational industrialists would flourish and be benefited at the expense of poor peasants who produce rice, the staple diet of the country.

The plan of the multinationals is twofold, one is to destroy the paddy cultivation and make the Sri Lankans dependent on wheat imports, thereby perpetuate dependency on Western Powers, and the other, to take over the water resources at a cheap rate for the benefit of the multinational industrialists depriving the poor peasants and the public of the power and privilege they have long enjoyed.

Our customs, culture and traditions have been built upon agriculture. To deprive the farmer of his right to cultivate the staple food of himself and his countrymen and to

make him and his descendants work as paid workers in the very land they once, tilled and earned his livelihood with dignity, is a national crime.