



Nadhia Najeeb,
Business Adviser,
MDF Sri Lanka

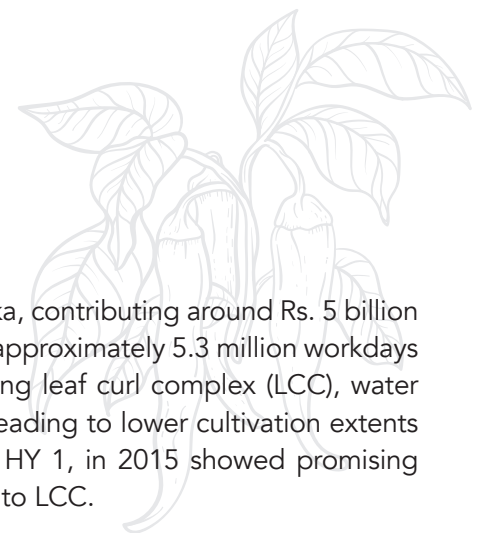


By prioritising investments in protected agriculture solutions like polytunnels for seed production, this intervention aims to secure a dependable year-round supply of high-quality seeds for Sri Lankan vegetable farmers. Moreover, concentrating efforts on developing disease-resistant seeds results in increased crop yields and better livelihoods for our farmers.

Sector:
High Value Agriculture

Partner:
DIMO

DIMO: Local Chilli Hybrid



Chilli is one of the most profitable short-term crops for smallholders in Sri Lanka, contributing around Rs. 5 billion (AUD 24 million) to the country's GDP annually and providing employment at approximately 5.3 million workdays each year. However, the cultivation of chilli faces various challenges, including leaf curl complex (LCC), water shortages, moisture stress, use of inferior quality seeds and drought issues, leading to lower cultivation extents and poor yields. However, the introduction of the local chilli hybrid, MICH HY 1, in 2015 showed promising results. Including higher yields, longer crop duration, and lower susceptibility to LCC.

In 2022, MDF partnered with DIMO to support the increased production of local hybrid chilli seeds (MICH HY1). MDF assisted DIMO in setting up four polytunnels equipped with advanced agricultural technology, including climate control and micro-irrigation systems. This technology protects the production of hybrid chilli seeds from higher temperatures and changing rainfall patterns brought about by climate change.

By championing the production of local hybrid chilli seeds, MDF is taking proactive measures to tackle the challenges arising from climate change for Sri Lanka's chilli farmers. This initiative ensures a reliable supply of 120 kg of high-quality, climate-resilient chilli seeds, sufficient for cultivating 1,200 acres of land by over 500 farmers. These seeds empower farmers to attain higher yields despite climate variability, consequently enhancing their productivity and economic well-being.



Climate Change Story