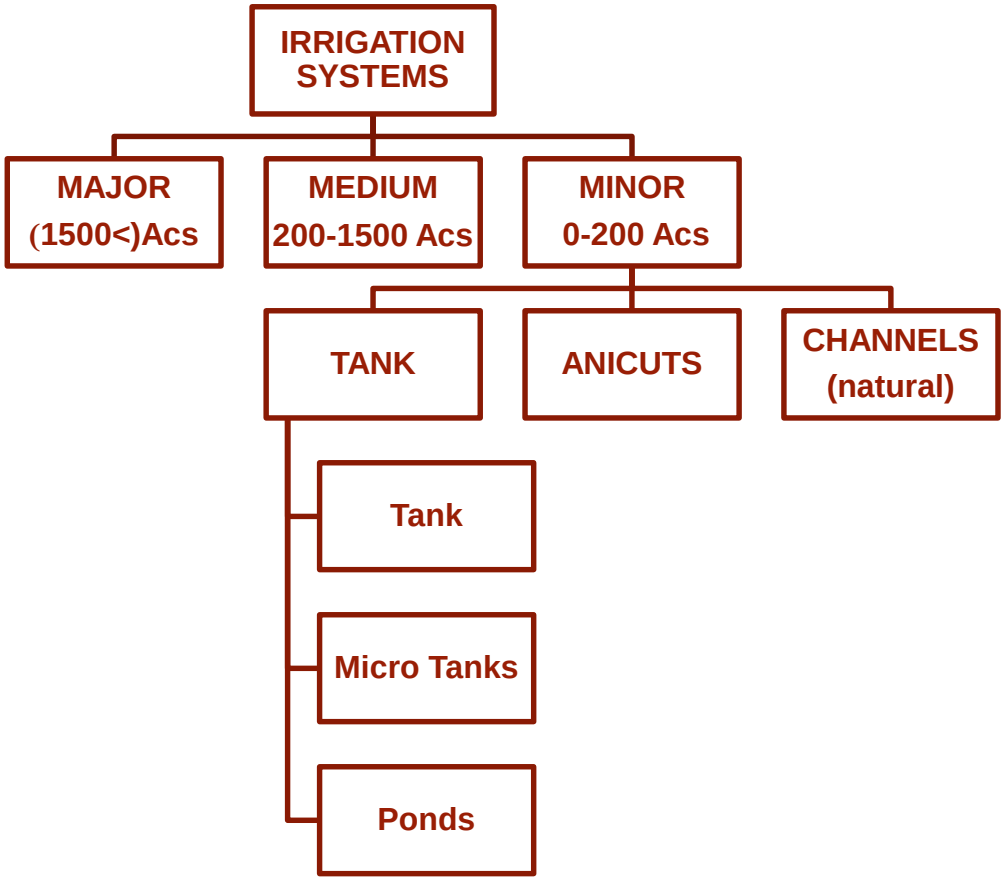
Enhancing Resilience of Minor Irrigation Systems under El Niño Conditions (2026/27)





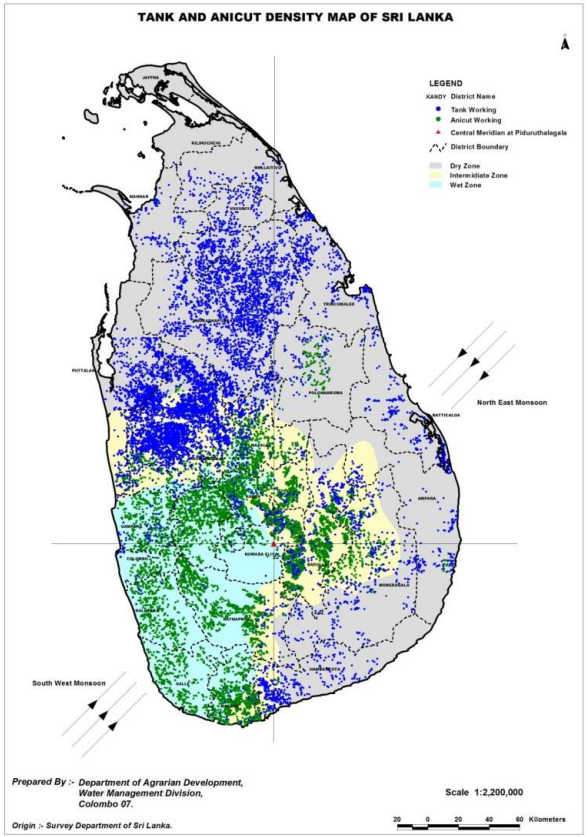
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN DEVELOPMENT

MINOR IRRGATION STATISTICS



MINOR IRRGATION DISTRIBUTION

Dis. No.	District	Minor Tanks – No.	Anicut – No.	Canal – No.
1	Colombo	3	357	1,472
2	Gampaha	62	866	1,591
3	Kalutara	6	439	820
4	Kandy	172	3,663	2,402
5	Matale	354	882	366
6	Nuwara Eliya	105	821	1,533
7	Galle	6	727	1,055
8	Matara	102	861	2,501
9	Hambantota	729	79	167
10	Jaffna	847		
11	Mannar	279	0	0
12	Vavuniya	602		
13	Mullaitivu	268	34	89
14	Batticaloa	220	47	9
15	Ampara	262	33	15
16	Trincomalee	406	18	0
17	Kurunegala	5,062	971	478
18	Puttalam	1,014	142	21
19	Anuradhapura	3,054	127	27
20	Polonnaruwa	103	147	317
21	Badulla	373	2,625	871
22	Monaragala	1,239	696	77
23	Ratnapura	84	1,367	828
24	Kegalle	18	903	1,646
25	Kilinochchi	588	2	0
	TOTAL	**15,958**	**15,807**	**16,285**



MINOR IRRGATION STATISTICS

SN	District	Total Command Area (Ha)	Tank (Ha)	Anicut (Ha)	Channels (naturals) (Ha)
1	Colombo	1895.0	20.2	835.6	1039.2
2	Gampaha	5255.7	524.3	1474.9	2936.4
3	Kalutara	3882.8	161.2	217.4	3504.2
4	Kandy	3966.2	477.5	1271.5	2319.9
5	Matale	7710.0	4749.4	1969.5	991.0
6	Nuwaraeliya	5896.5	889.3	1550.9	3456.2
7	Galle	12785.3	0.0	255.4	12529.9
8	Matara	13975.1	0.0	0.0	13975.1
9	Hambanthota	8111.9	6639.9	0.0	1472.0
10	Jaffna	14024.1	14024.1	0.0	0.0
11	Kilinochchi	464.0	464.0	0.0	0.0
12	Mannar	7728.6	7199.2	0.0	529.4
13	Vavuniya	15995.9	15794.9	201.0	0.0
14	Mullaitivu	5623.2	4022.3	1376.8	224.2
15	Batticaloa	8221.0	5060.3	2.0	3158.7
16	Ampara	3206.8	3162.8	44.0	0.0
17	Trincomalee	11859.3	11035.2	824.1	0.0
18	Kurunagala	31407.1	27374.7	4312.5	0.0
19	Puttalam	20711.5	14705.2	3801.1	2205.3
20	Anuradhapura	56091.6	54043.0	1340.8	707.8
21	Polonnaruwa	10863.4	4507.5	6270.8	85.2
22	Badulla	14966.9	1547.1	10490.0	2304.1
23	Monaragala	12151.6	8314.4	3688.6	148.5
24	Rathnapura	9295.7	727.6	7763.4	804.7
25	Kegalle	4515.8	186.0	947.1	3383.7

Total Command Area (ha)	**290,605**	
Tank (Ha)	**185,630**	**64%**
Anicut(Ha)	**48,638**	**17%**
Channels(Ha)	**41,800**	**14%**

CASCADE SYSTEMS

- Tank Cascades
- Tank Anicut Cascades
- Anicut Tank Cascades
- Anicut Clusters

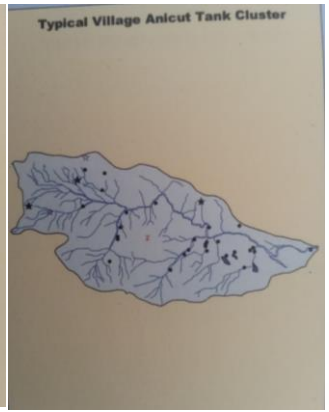
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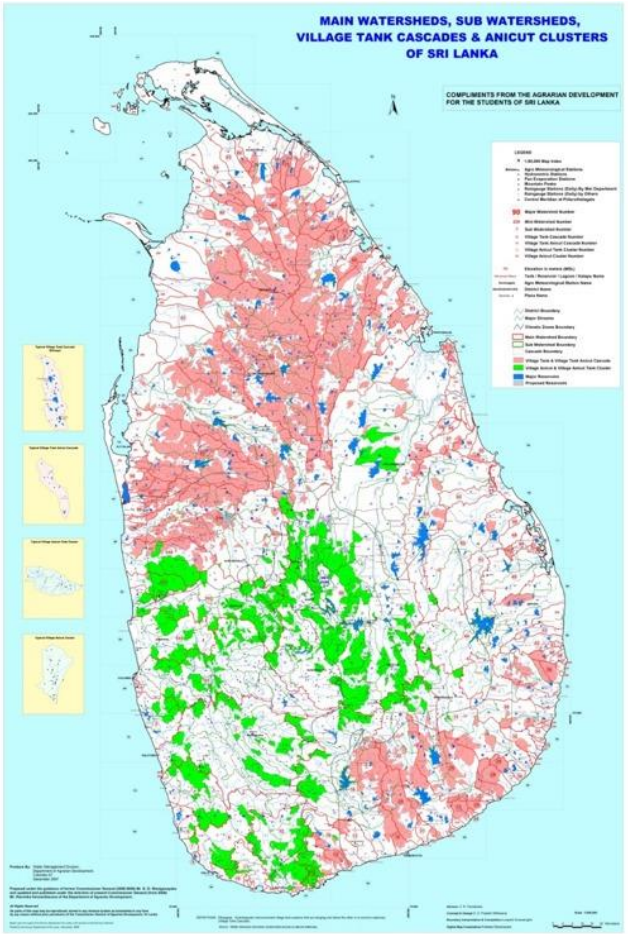
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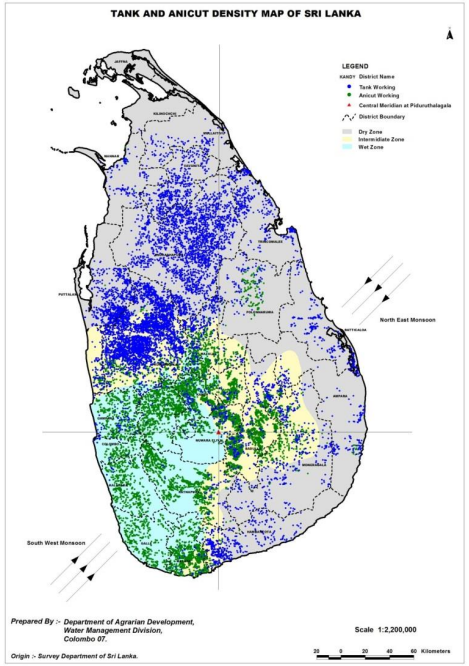








Minor Irrigation Schemes



- Minor Tanks- 15,958
- Anicuts - 15,807
- Natural Streams-16,285
- Total -48,050
- Total Command Area- 300,000 Ha

METEOROLOGICAL BRIEFINGS

- **October –December : Above Normal Rainfall**
- **January – March : Below Normal**

Long-Term Adaptive Measures for Enhancing Resilience of Minor Irrigation Systems under El Niño Conditions (2026/27 Maha Season)

1. Increase Water Storage Capacity

- Expedite tank desilting, rehabilitation, and restoration programs to ensure completion before the commencement of the Maha season.
- Prioritize interventions in irrigation schemes with reduced storage capacity and high vulnerability to drought conditions.

2.Maximize Paddy Cultivation under Favourable Seasonal Conditions

- Based on the prevailing seasonal weather forecasts and expected water availability, facilitate full-extent paddy cultivation in irrigation schemes. However, if December rainfall is comparatively low, implement staggered cultivation following the Purana Wela–Akkara Wela concept to optimize water use and minimize the risk of water shortages during the latter part of the cultivation season.

2026 /27 MAHA SEASON

3. Advance Preparation for the Maha Season

- Encourage the timely commencement of Maha cultivation.
- Promote advance cultivation planning to maximize the effective use of available rainfall and stored water resources.

4.Early Completion of Maintenance and Repair Works

- Complete all preliminary maintenance activities and minor repair works well in advance of the cultivation season.
- Ensure the proper functioning of irrigation infrastructure, including tanks, sluices, canals, field channels, and water control structures.

2026 /27 MAHA SEASON

5. Promote Alternative Wetting and Drying (AWD) Water Management

- Strengthen the adoption of Alternative Wetting and Drying (AWD) practices as a water-saving irrigation technique for paddy cultivation.
- Train 200 officers as Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) on the Alternative Wetting and Drying (AWD) methodology.
- Expand AWD implementation across the Dry Zone and Intermediate Zone irrigation schemes through farmer awareness programs and field demonstrations.

6. Strengthen Cultivation Monitoring and Review Mechanisms

- Conduct monthly review meetings at national, district, and Agrarian Service Centre levels to assess cultivation progress.
- Identify and address issues causing delays in cultivation activities, water distribution, or infrastructure operation.
- Implement timely corrective measures to minimize production risks and strengthen community-based water governance through the appointment of **Jala Palaka**(Water Masters/Irrigator) and **Assistant Water Management** Teams to support equitable water distribution, irrigation scheduling, and farmer participation in irrigation system management.

2026 /27 MAHA SEASON

7.Enhance Preparedness for Extreme Weather Events

- Develop contingency and emergency response plans for high-intensity rainfall and flood events.
- Strengthen coordination among relevant agencies for flood preparedness and response.
- Ensure that spillways, drainage channels, and flood protection structures are adequately maintained before the rainy season.
- Promote timely dissemination of weather forecasts and early warning information to farmers and local communities.

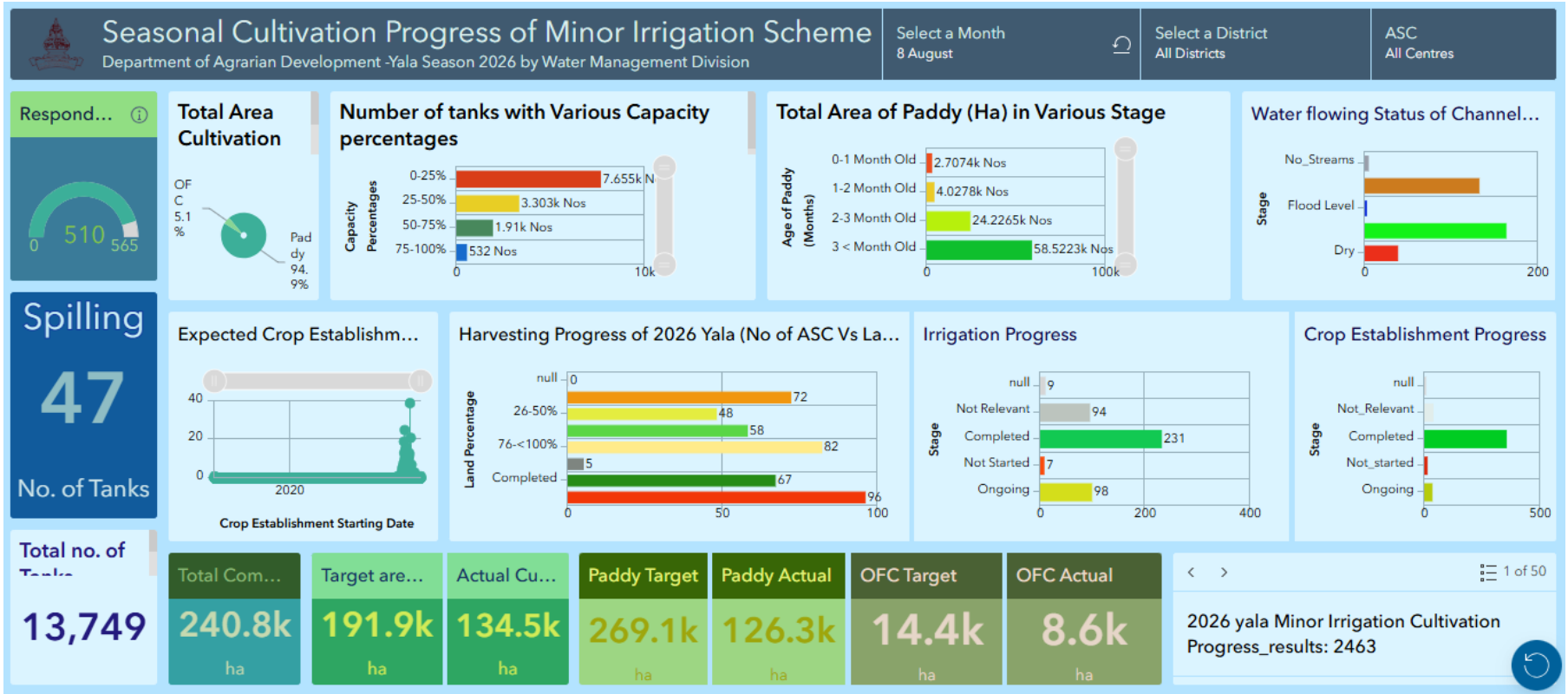
2024/25 Maha Season
Progress

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2026 Yala Progress

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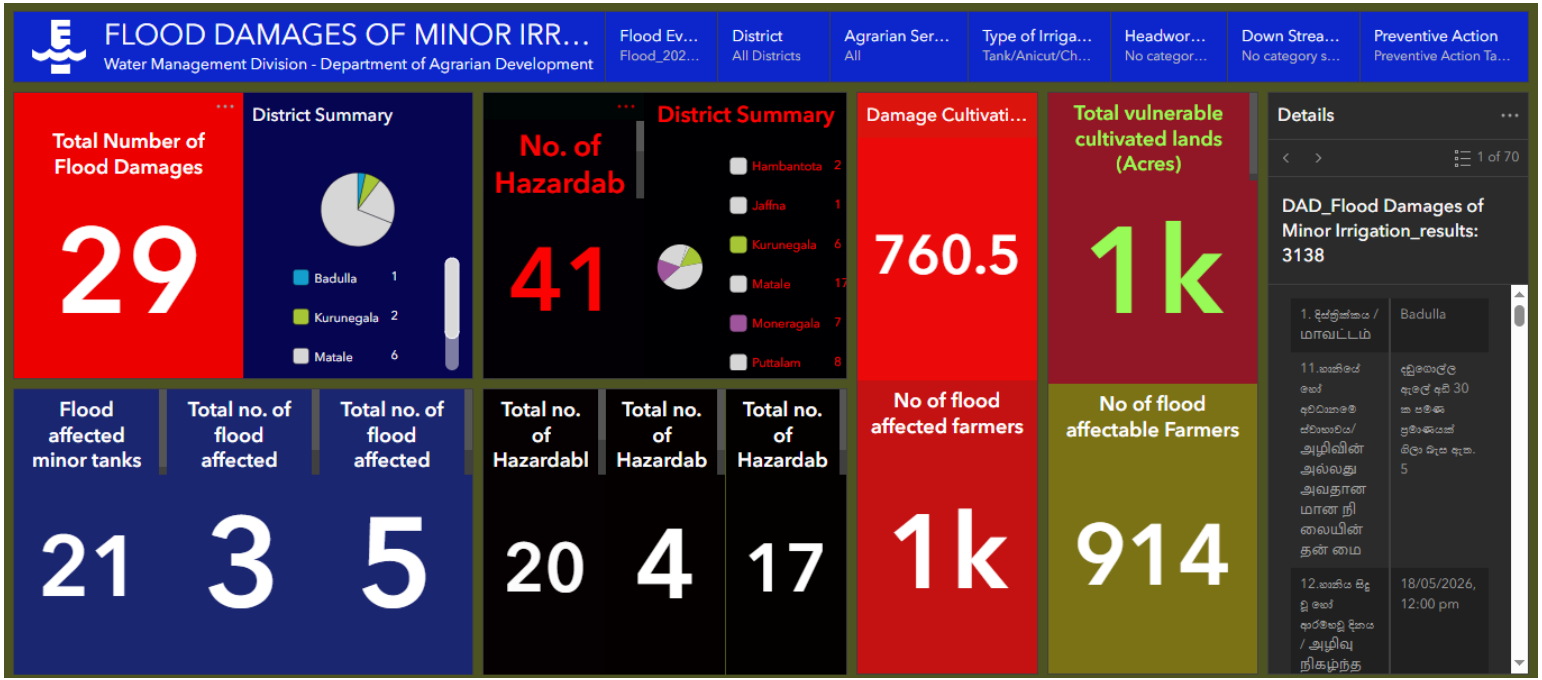
MINOR IRRIGATION KANNA PROGRESS



https://agrariandept.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/1feaff1e38e74e468b83d282a2b45358

FLOOD DAMAGE REPORTING

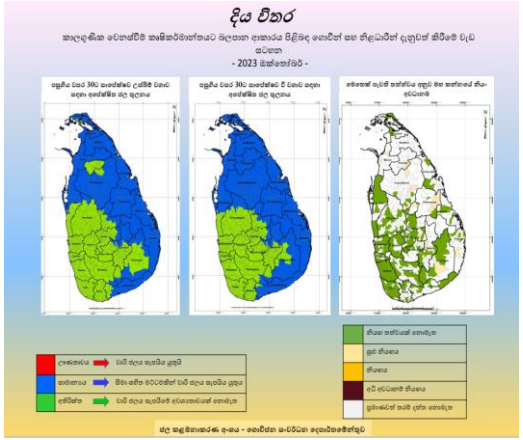
****Initial Rapid Assessment****

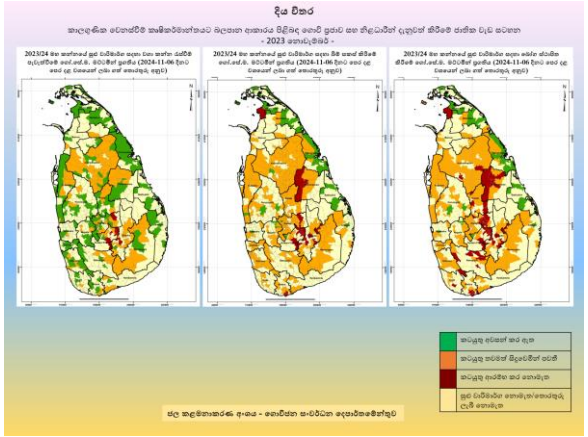


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DIYAWITHARA







THANK YOU !

