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The
Ceylon
Chamber
of
Commerce

Knowledge partner:

IWMI
International Water
Management Institute



EVENT BRIEF

THE BUSINESS CASE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FOR AGRIBUSINESSES

Experience from Industry Leaders

About the Event

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Market Development Facility (MDF) is organizing a series of events titled 'The Business Case for Climate Change Adaptation for Agribusinesses' to increase the awareness of agribusinesses on climate change risks facing their business models. The event will encourage investments into adaptation strategies and bottom-line growth to stakeholders of agribusinesses and their balance sheet. The inaugural event 'Experience from the Industry Leaders' will bring together a variety of prominent Sri Lankan business leaders who have identified climate change as a risk and taken steps to adapt and create resilience.

The event will also provide information to Agribusinesses on how to access MDF funding to invest in inclusive climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

	Time	Agenda
<p>Date, Time and Location:</p> <p> 24 August 2021</p> <p> 9.00 am - 10.30 am</p> <p> Zoom</p>	<p>9.00 - 9.05 am</p>	<p>Welcome remarks Ms Momina Saqib, Country Director, Market Development Facility</p>
	<p>9.05 - 9.10 am</p>	<p>Opening of the event Ms Amanda Jewell, Australian Deputy High Commissioner to Sri Lanka</p>
	<p>9.15 - 9.25 am</p>	<p>Keynote speech Mr Dilhan Fernando, CEO, Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company</p>
	<p>9.30 - 10.05 am</p>	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Dilhan Fernando, CEO, Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company • Ms Shea Wickramasingha, Group Managing Director, CBL Group • Mr Charitha Subasinghe, President - Retail, John Keells Holdings PLC • Dr Rohan Fernando, Managing Director, Aitken Spence Plantation Managements PLC • Dr Giriraj Amarnath, Principal Researcher and RGL - Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience, International Water Management Institute <p>Moderator: Mr Nishar Cassim, Senior Journalist and Editor, Daily Financial Times</p>
	<p>10.05 - 10.25 am</p>	<p>Q&A</p>
	<p>10.25 -10.30 am</p>	<p>Closing remarks Mr Manjula de Silva, Secretary General/ CEO, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.</p>

Event Participation:

CEOs, chairpersons, managing directors and decision-makers in large private and state sector firms, agri-export associated member organizations of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce or affiliated associations. Media will also be in attendance.

Background

Impacts of climate change are felt across Sri Lanka at varying levels. The Global Climate Risk Index has consistently rated Sri Lanka in the top ten countries affected by weather-related loss events since 2017. Climate change without adaptation systems in place has the potential to destroy agricultural and fisheries livelihoods while threatening food access and security. It is imperative that agribusinesses are aware of the impacts of climate change and are equipped to adapt to a changing climate.

The event offers an opportunity for agribusinesses to learn from industry leaders about adaptation strategies and sustainable business models. Participants can explore existing solutions to the climate crisis and tap into offers that MDF has developed to promote climate resilience.



About MDF

Market Development Facility is an Australian Government funded multi-country initiative which promotes sustainable economic development, through higher incomes for women and men, in our partner countries.

We connect individuals, businesses, governments and NGOs with each other, and with markets at home and abroad. This enhances investment and coordination and allows partnerships to flourish, strengthening inclusive economic growth.

MDF is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT). It is implemented by Palladium in partnership with Swisscontact.

In Sri Lanka MDF works in on supporting the high value tourism, agriculture and fisheries sectors with cross-cutting investments to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation, access to finance and digital tools adoption .

At present, MDF is supporting partners to make their supply chains more climate resilient while scoping for partners that are willing to invest in backward linkages with farmer clusters to improve climate adaptation of smallholder farmers and fishermen. MDF is also assessing the possibility of improving Sri Lanka's smallholder farming practices to assist Sri Lankan agricultural products reach the requirements of international markets.

Knowledge Partner: International Water Management Institute (IWMI)



The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is an international, research-for-development organization that works with governments, civil society and the private sector to solve water problems in developing countries and scale up solutions. Through partnership, IWMI combines research on the sustainable use of water and land resources, knowledge services and products with capacity strengthening, dialogue and policy analysis to support implementation of water management solutions for agriculture, ecosystems, climate change and inclusive economic growth. Headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, IWMI is a CGIAR Research Center and leads the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE). www.iwmi.org.

