

P MANIVANNAN

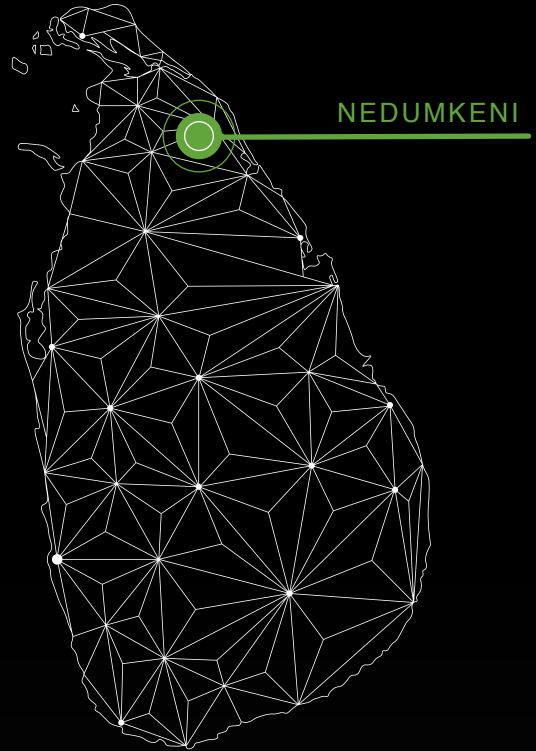
FROM MASON TO MASTER FARMER

Meet Manivannan, a dedicated farmer from Vavuniya district, Nedumkeni, who has been passionately involved in farming since he was 22 years old. Despite being 54 now, his enthusiasm and devotion towards farming have not dwindled even a bit. In the early days of his farming journey, he cultivated crops like pepper, cowpea, green grams, black gram, and tobacco, but getting quality seeds was a big challenge for him. Hence, he had to work as a mason to make ends meet.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

However, things changed when he decided to leave his mason job and focus entirely on farming. He also diversified by adding papaya, mango, and guava, which proved to be fruitful. Although a temporary ban on papaya harvesting was imposed by the government due to the spread of bacteria, Manivannan managed to produce black gram and cashew instead.





SUPPLIES
TO CARGILLS & CBL



USES LESS
CHEMICALS



32
YEARS
IN FARMING



05
ACRES
OF LAND



25+
PRODUCTS

Manivannan's connection with DevPro was a turning point in his farming career. Through them, he learned about new technologies and was taken to agricultural centers in Anuradhapura and Mannar, where he gained valuable knowledge on farming techniques and the art of making natural fertilizer. He invested more time in farming and abandoned other side hustles. **He also stopped using urea and started making his own natural fertilizers for his farm.** He was provided with equipment equivalent to having three people working with him, and **currently, he farms on 20 acres of land.**

Manivannan's family is actively involved in his farming journey. **His children work with him on the farm, and even the people in his vicinity were inspired to take up farming after witnessing his success.** In the future, he plans to grow upcountry vegetables like beetroot, potato, and radish. Recently, he attended a meeting in Nuwara Eliya with his wife, where they learned about producing natural fertilizer for upcountry vegetable cultivation.



“Farmers like me put our heart and soul into every seed we plant, and with the right support, we can nourish not just our families but our entire community.”

- P Manivannan

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Manivannan's passion for farming knows no bounds. Despite his numerous achievements, he is not content to rest on his laurels. Rather, he continues to seek new opportunities for growth and development in his chosen field. He is working closely with DevPro to further expand his career and take his farming to the next level.

With DevPro by his side, he is poised to continue making a meaningful impact in the world of agriculture for years to come.

About DevPro:

DevPro is an independent not for profit organization with the vision of 'A world where development is in service of equality'. DevPro is built on the 30 years' delivery and legacy of Oxfam in Sri Lanka. Company's work revolves around Climate Resilient Inclusive Economic Development in the areas of Agriculture, Tourism, Climate, Tech and Education, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH). DevPro currently has 5 regional offices with its head office situated in Colombo, Sri Lanka. DevPro's overarching mission is to create Inclusive Economic Development and the approach adapted would mainly be Market System Development (MSD) in the main pillars the company would work on.

About RIES (Resilient Gender Inclusive Enterprise System):

The RIES project is built to focus on agriculture-based enterprise's development, women's economic inclusion and engagement with the private sector. There is an increased focus on improving access for farmers and small and medium enterprises to national and international markets, providing opportunity for value adding and increased prices for products.