### RESILIENT WOMEN AGRIPRENEUR

# BALASUNDARAM SANDRAWATHINIE FROM SEEDS TO SUCCESS: THE STORY OF A FAMILY FARM



Balasundaram Sandrawathinie and her husband are the proud owners of a thriving 5-acre farm in Puthukulam, where they grow and sell a variety of crops such as cashew, eggplant, pepper, pumpkin, and onion in the bustling market of Vavuniya. With the help of their three children, they work tirelessly to ensure that their farm is always producing high-quality, fresh vegetables that stand out from the competition.

## FARMING SUCCESS WITH DEVPRO

Sandrawathinie credits much of her success to the training she received from DevPro. The organization taught her how to package her products effectively and produce high-quality vegetables on her farm. Additionally, Oxfam has provided her with various tools and machines, particularly those that help in fertilizer production. Sandrawathinie believes that these resources have helped her to achieve a level of efficiency and quality that sets her apart from other farmers in the area. Sandrawathinie's husband has been working on the farm for over 30 years, and his experience has been invaluable in developing their farming techniques. **One** such technique involves the use of packets to grow their plants. They reuse these packets for other plants, which has proven to be a highly efficient method that they believe is the best way.

## SANDRAWATHINIE SETS SIGHT ON CASHEW

Looking to the future, Sandrawathinie hopes to expand her farm's production of cashew nuts with the help of DevPro. She plans to purchase a cashew-producing machine to help increase her output and better meet the growing demand for this product. With hard work and dedication, Sandrawathinie and her family continues to build a successful farming business that is both profitable and sustainable.



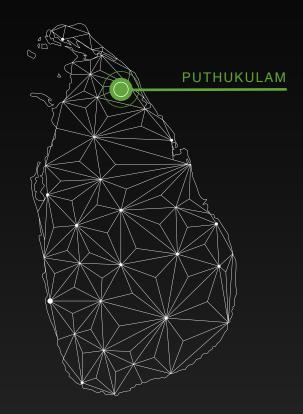


OF FARMING



**CULTIVATING** 





The fertilizer machine we received has helped us significantly improved our productivity and allowed us to produce higher quality crops

- Balasundaram Sandrawathinie



#### 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.







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