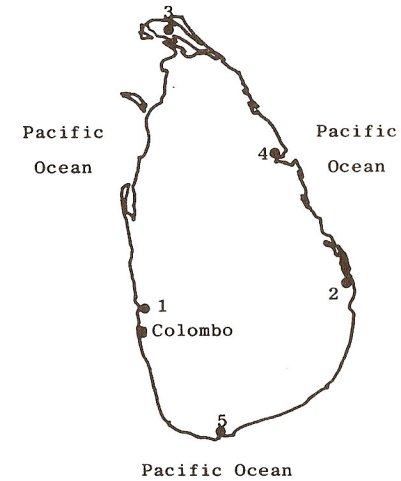


Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has to go a long way to replace the import of rice and wheat by own production. In order to achieve this objective the government is taken the following steps:

- protecting rice fields from floods by the construction of flood protecting schemes,
- reclamation of low-lying lands (marshes).

As a result of the high intensity of rainfall in the wet zone, most of the rice fields are affected by frequent flooding. Especially in the lower reaches, near the coastal belt where the lands are flat, floods cause damage to the rice fields by prolonged inundation.

Other low-lying lands (marshes) cannot be cultivated, because of poor drainage and ingress of sea water. The total affected area is estimated to be about 70,000 hectares.

1. Mutura Jawela

This is a marsh of 2,429 ha, situated on the west coast. The main marsh is traversed by a navigational canal, called the Old Dutch Canal. In 1767 the first reclamation project commenced on the orders of Iman William Flack, the then Dutch Governor of Ceylon. Several attempts to reclaim the area were made in the following years, but mostly with little success as soils often turned to become toxic (acid sulphate formation).

2. Karavakn

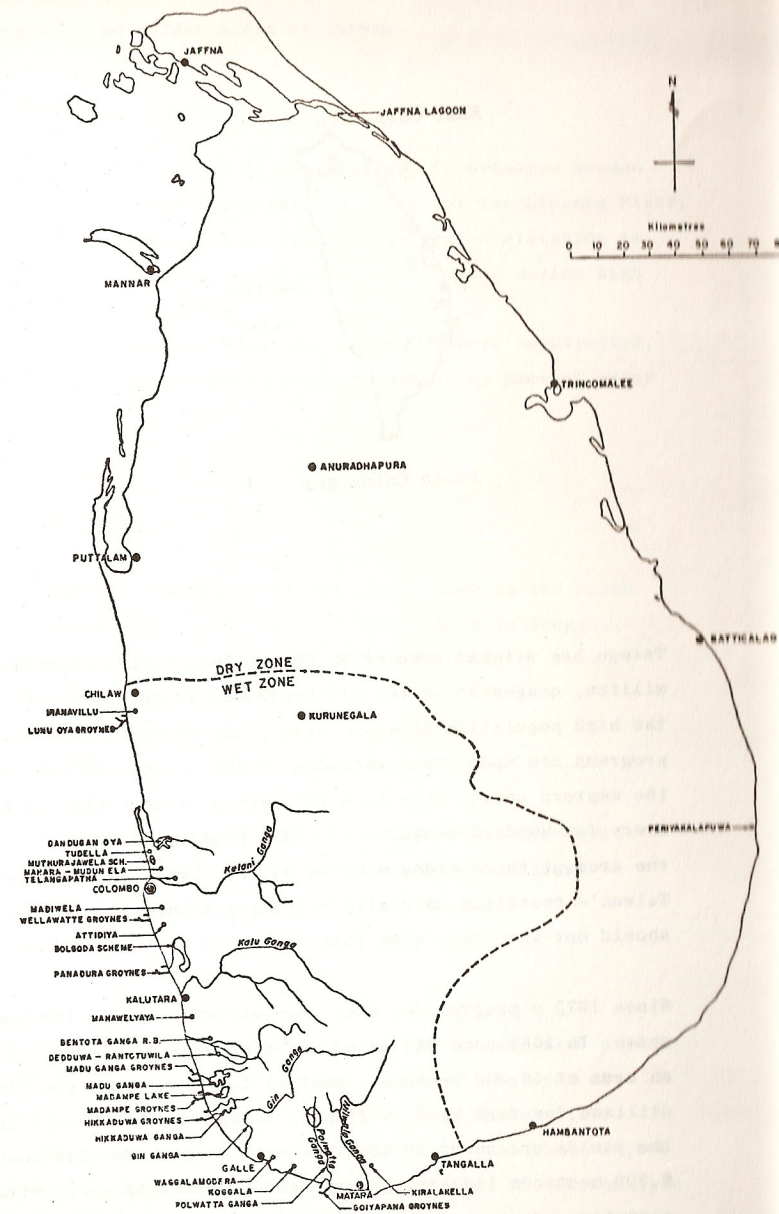
Consists of 810 ha low-lying land. The area has suffered from the influx of drainage waters from the Gal Oya project constructed in 1950's.

3. Thondamannar

The main problem of this area is salt intrusion, due to flatness of the land. Conservation of water is the main concern. Conversion of part of the lagoon into fresh water reservoir (Javna area) may help to augment the depleted ground storage. A project is envisaged for 2,000 ha.

4. Tampalakaman

This is an area of 81 hectares only situated in the delta of the Mahaweli River. Suffering from saline intrusion the soil is alluvial.

5. Kiralekele : (972 ha).

Reclamation of marshes in Sri Lanka