

## Drought 2004 in Sri Lanka

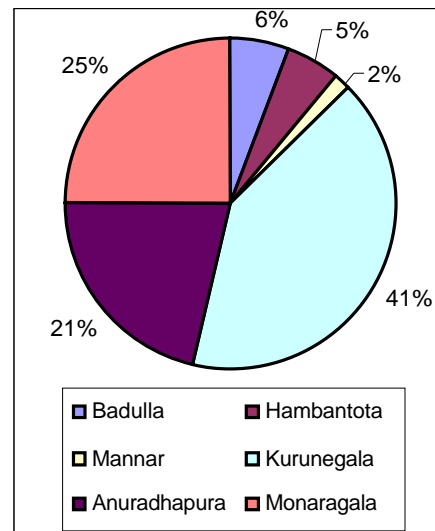
There has been a marked change in the rainfall pattern in Sri Lanka in 2004. Much of Sri Lanka was in the grip of a severe and prolonged drought causing tremendous hardships to people and their livelihood due to the continuous drought prevailing in the Districts of Hambantota, Anuradhapura, Monaragala, Badulla, Kurunegala Puttalam and Mannar.

Due to the unfavorable changes in the weather patterns during the period, September to December 2003, many parts of Sri Lanka received exceptionally low rainfall. Rainfall recorded in December at the Meteorological stations at Hambantota (0.7 mm), Colombo (6.6 mm), Kurunegala (10.8 mm), Kurunegala (10.8 mm), Nuwara eliya (19.5 mm) and Batticaloa (83.1 mm) were the lowest ever recorded for the month, since 125 years. Rainfall received in January 2004 (till 30<sup>th</sup>) has also been insignificant except in few isolated areas in the East and on eastern slopes of the central hills. October and December rainfalls were exceptionally below normal almost all over the country.

The significant loss caused up to now is the failure of the paddy crop in Maha season as reported by the District Secretaries of the seven drought affected Districts mentioned above. The chena cultivation and highland crops in these Districts too have been severely affected according to the reports received

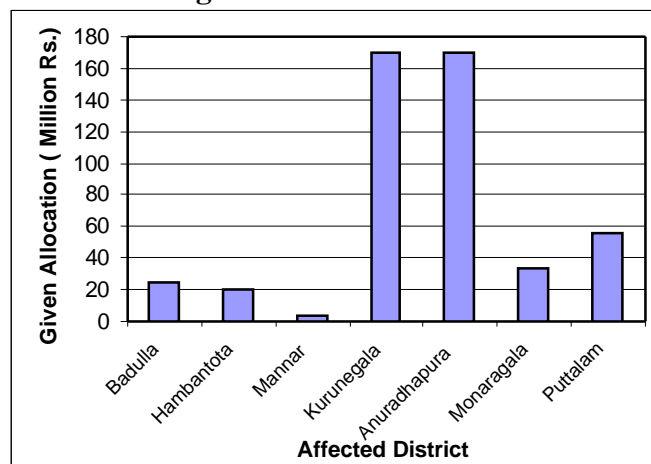
### Crop Damages by Districts

District	Crop Damaged (ha)
Badulla	3,087.00
Hambantota	2,809.70
Mannar	792.20
Kurunegala	21,561.00
Anuradhapura	11,272.00
Monaragala	13,130.00
Puttalam	N.A.
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,651.90</b>

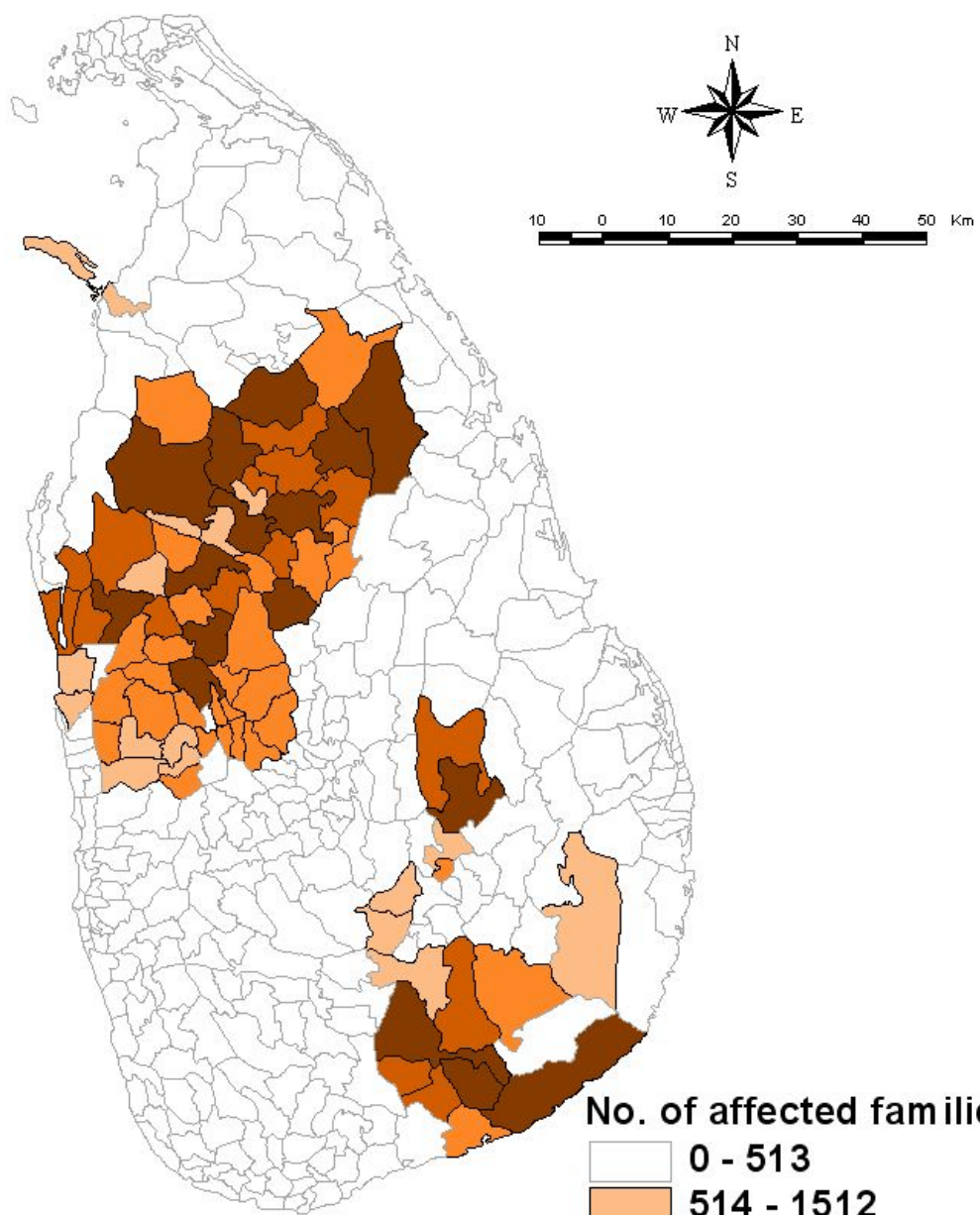


### Given Allocation for Drought – 2004

District	Given allocation (Million Rs.)
Badulla	25
Hambantota	20
Mannar	3
Kurunegala	170
Anuradhapura	170
Monaragala	33
Puttalam	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>477</b>



# Spatial Distribution of Drought 2004



No. of affected families

- 0 - 513
- 514 - 1512
- 1513 - 2849
- 2850 - 4480
- 4481 - 8412

### Affected Families by District

District	No. of Affected Families
Badulla	19741
Hambantota	16,502
Mannar	1,500
Kurunegala	76,359
Anuradhapura	76,987
Monaragala	15,776
Puttalam	24,211
<b>Total</b>	<b>231,076</b>

