

SAVE THE LADY MANNING BRIDGE

Huge waves resulted from *Tsunami* swamped nearly 1 km coastal belt of the Batticaloa District, swallowing the entire human population who lived along this belt. Fishing boats were flung far in to the mainland, motors and engines all broken, sailed in tatters and nets all were torn. All along the coast in the east was a scene of devastation and destruction with houses and schools flattened. While sea water from Navalady, Dutch Bar, and Kallady areas surged into the Batticaloa lagoon, it created huge waves in the lagoon too. This waves passed through the bottom of ***Lady Manning Bridge(Popularly known as Kallady Bridge)*** and ravaged the market of the Batticaloa town and low lying villages in the vicinity of lagoon . Batticaloa lagoon is polluted with debris and decomposing human and animal carcasses.



Lady Manning Bridge at Kallady .

Tsunami has already swallowed the bridge at Panichchenkerni and causeway at Koddai Kallar. But this bridge was intact . We must thank God for safe guarding this bridge. However, people in the area suspect that huge waves passed through the bottom of the ***Lady Manning Bridge*** might have caused severe impact to the seven pairs of pillars in the basement of this bridge. This might have further aggravated by the flow of sea water, debris of broken houses, engine boats and other heavy items that were floating during the surging of sea into the Batticaloa lagoon. *Since this bridge was not properly maintained in the past two decades owing to civil unrest prevailed in the district, it may on the verge of collapse due to the impact of waves created by the tsunami in the Batticaloa lagoon.* Authorities turn blind eye on the importance of doing ***Immediate Impact Assessment of the Bridge***, we earnestly request the international community to look into this matter and provide necessary assistance to safe guard this popular bridge from the possible collapse. In view of the increasing number of humanitarian partners for providing assistance to the Tsunami victims, it is true that priority will be given to rehabilitation works of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) . ***However, need of the hour is to get the expertise assistance in order to do the Tsunami Impact Assessment of the Lady Manning Bridge to avoid possible collapse of this bridge in near future.***



Posted by : Dr. K. Premakumar, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL.