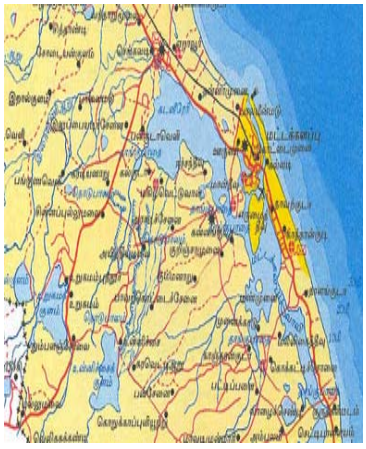
Impact Of Tsunami On Water Bodies

The tsunami which caused sea water intrusion in the coastal belt of Batticaloa region on 26th December, 2004 has not only swallowed 2840 lives but also displaced and injured 70,000 and 2,500 people respectively. All along the coast in the east it is a scene of devastation and destruction with houses and schools flattened. Huge waves resulted from Tsunami swamped nearly 1 km coastal belt of the region. Sea water intrusion in these areas disturbed ground water level, which severely affected drinking water wells, water ponds and other water reservoirs in the vicinity. This impact has severely affected the livelihood of this region. In consequence of the after math of Tsunami, people living in the coastal belt are facing tremendous difficulties for drinking water and maintaining or re-establishing vegetable crops due to salinity intrusion in the water wells and water ponds.

A team consisting Staff & Students of the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka (Dr.K.Premakumar, Dr. Pagthinathan, Mr.Sritharan & Students) visited Navalady, Dutch Bar, Kallady, Kaluthavalai, Kurukkalmadam and Cheddipalayam which are the severely affected areas in the Batticaloa District. This team immediately initiated a preliminary study on soil and water quality analysis by collecting samples. The scope of this study are as follows –

- To identify the physical and chemical qualities of soil and water after tsunami
- To find out alternate solution to alleviate the salinity problem in the drinking water wells.
- To identify any possible heavy metal contamination in the water bodies
- To identify the impact of tsunami on the proximate composition of sea & lagoon fishes.

We will be visiting Vaharai and Kalkudah area shortly. This team intend to monitor the quality of water for one year. In this context, certain analytical works are in progress. **We *need assistance or collaboration to do further analysis viz: heavy metal contamination or proximate composition of fish sample.***



Area Under Investigation

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