

Red Chillies



Background Information

In Sri Lanka, women are extensively involved in agricultural activities. However, the knowledge and attitudes gain by them in a conservative environment are no longer valid to face the challenges. They suffer from inability to obtain fair prices for their produce. Mainly due to the relaxation of import restriction, the situation has declined in prices, especially at harvest times. Due to lack of price and market information, and in the absence of proper storage facilities, they are compelled to sell their produce at a low price. They internally are in debt to the middle man. Though they are given loans at preparatory stages, they are unable to repay them due to crop failure on account of droughts. In a situation where a specific strategy to empower farmers is not in existence, the violence associates with devaluation and disempowerment. Despite these obstacles, Sri Lankan women have a great desire to continue farming. It is in this context, the invaluable presence of co-operatives brighten their lives.

Rohana Warnakulasooriya, Director



Rohana Warnakulasooriya, born in 1969, had his education at St. Joseph Vass College, Wennappuwa. He entered the film industry by undergoing one year full-time course in film directing conducted by the Government Film Unit of Sri Lanka. He learnt stage theatre at German Cultural Institute of Colombo. Rohana worked as a documentary producer at Sri Lankan TV channels. So far, he has done three (3) short films and many documentaries. His first short film, "Burning Ice" was screened several times in a local TV channel and at film festivals conducted by State Film Corporation. In 2008, he won the 1st place for his documentary film "Road to City" at the Youth New Wave International Film Festival held in Colombo and also secured the 1st place at the short film competition held by the National Film Corporation, Sri Lanka.

He is well-known as a short story writer, a poet and a freelance media personality.