Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP)

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation

Vacancies

The Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP), a project jointly financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Government of Sri Lanka, aims to build resilience and market participation of 40,000 rural households in the climate change-affected districts of Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Matale, Mannar, Puttalam and Kurunegala. The lead programme agency is the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation, which would be establish a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) at central level and two regional hubs the implementation of SARP. Total project finance value is USD 82 Mn.

Applications are invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for the below mentioned position for Project Management Unit (Battaramulla).

1. Youth Entrepreneurship Development Specialist (Category C) – 01 Position at PMU (Battaramulla)

Salary Scale and Qualifications: Based on the Management Services Circular 02/2026.
General Conditions are applicable to the Above - Mentioned Position.
All the Qualifications should be in the relevant field of the position.

All applicants are requested to forward their applications along with a Curriculum Vitae, including details of two non-related referees, and copies of all relevant certificates. Applicants who are currently employed in the Government or Semi-Government sector should forward their Curriculum Vitae, including details of two non-related referees and copies of all relevant certificates, through the Head of their institution. All applications should be sent by registered post to the address given below on or before 23rd October 2026.

Please visit www.sarp.lk for more details about the required qualifications, experience, and as well as the TOR and application procedure.

Project Director,
Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project,
No.759/2, Thalangama South, Battaramulla.
011-2770986

11th October 2026

Recruitment of Youth Entrepreneurship Development Specialist(Category C)
Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP)
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Livestock and Irrigation

The Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP) implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigation and jointly financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Government of Sri Lanka is for a period of 6 years (2021 to 2027). This Project (SARP), aims to build resilience and market participation of 40,000 rural households in the climate change-affected districts of Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Matale, Mannar, Puttalam and Kurunegala, which would be establish a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) at central level and two regional hubs for the implementation. Total project finance value is USD 82 Mn.

Applications are invited from qualified Sri Lanka Citizens to recruit Youth Entrepreneurship Development Specialist (Category C) as per Management Service Department (MSD) Circular Number 02/2026 and Government recruitment procedures for the IFAD funded Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP).

The applicant should possess the following qualification and experience given in the Management Service Department (MSD) Circular Number 02/2026 dated 28th March 2026.

1. Youth Entrepreneurship Development Specialist (Category C) - Project Management Unit

Qualifications and experience:

Based on the Management Services Circular 02/2026.

A Brief Job Description:

The Youth Entrepreneurship Development Specialist (Category C) will work under the direct supervision of the Deputy Project Director and Project Director and will be responsible for the Youth Entrepreneurship Development related matters concerning SARP at the national level. He/ She will be responsible to provide technical support and build capacity of youth in SARP implementing areas in close collaboration with stakeholders, private sector, and all related parties, to deliver Women and Youth Entrepreneurship Projects. Under the overall guidance of the Project Director and the head of value chain the youth entrepreneurial development specialist shall deliver following tasks but not limited to

- Develop a youth strategy for SARP
- Drive towards to reach the 20% youth beneficiary target

General Conditions:

- Age Limit – Below Sixty-four (64) years on the closing date of application.
- All appointments will be initially for a period of one year and extension of services will be based on successful performance.
- Employees are required to travel to project sites depending on the need.
- Working experience in the foreign funded projects in Sri Lanka is preferable.
- Proficiency in English, Computer Literacy and familiarity with government rules and regulations.
- Salary for each position will be based on the Management Services Circular No. 02/2026 dated 28th March 2026.
- Short listed applicants based on qualifications and experience will be called for the interview.

Location:

Project Management Unit is located in Battaramulla and the Hub offices are located in Nikawaratiya and Madawachchiya. However, traveling to project locations are involved frequently.

APPLICATIONS:

All applicants are requested to forward their applications along with a Curriculum Vitae, including details of two non-related referees, and copies of all relevant certificates. Applicants who are currently employed in the Government or Semi-Government sector should forward their Curriculum Vitae, including details of two non-related referees and copies of all relevant certificates, through the Head of their institution. All applications should be sent by registered post to the address given below on or before 23rd October 2026.

- Applicants currently in government/ semi government services should forward their applications through their respective Head of Departments.
- Applied post should be clearly stated on the top left – hand corner of the envelope containing the application.
- The decision of the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Lands and Irrigations is final and conclusive on the above recruitments.

Address for Applications

Project Director,
Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project,
No.759/2, Thalangama South, Battaramulla.

For more information, please visit www.sarp.lk. (https://sarp.lk/vacancies)

Project Director,
Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project,
No.759/2, Thalangama South, Battaramulla.
011-2770986

11th October 2026

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Youth Entrepreneurship Development Specialist

Background

The Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project (SARP) is co-funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Sri Lanka is for a period of 6 years (2021 to 2027). It aims to contribute to reduce poverty among small-scale farmers and increase food security and nutrition in dry zones by building resilience and enabling rural households to access markets in geographies affected by climate change. The project is focused in select hotspots in Vauniya, Mannar, Puttlam, Kurunegala and Mathale districts aligned across the Deduru oya, Mee oya and Malwathu Oya river basins. Total project finance value is USD 82 Mn.

Scope of work:

The Youth Entrepreneurship Development Specialist will provide technical support and build capacity of youth in SARP implementing areas in close collaboration with stakeholders, private sector, and all related parties, to deliver Women and Youth Entrepreneurship Projects. Under the overall guidance of the Project Director and the head of value chain the youth entrepreneurial development specialist shall deliver following tasks but not limited to

- Develop a youth strategy for SARP
- Drive towards to reach the 20% youth beneficiary target from the total beneficiary target. Attract more youth to agri-business

Youth entrepreneurship support and resilience

- Build the capacity of youth entrepreneurs in agri-business management, financial management, marketing, and customer care skills.
- Support youth entrepreneurs to design and implement business plans that are key to their business growth.
- Connect youth led businesses to established entrepreneurs and Business Development Service providers relevant to their enterprises for mentorship and coaching.
- With project team support the Youth entrepreneurs and SMEs to form a network for sharing best practices; enhancing visibility, engagement and reputation with private sector companies.

Linkages

- Strengthen linkages with various market actors, including creating apprenticeship opportunities with prospective employers, and/or business opportunities with the private sector for youth etc.

- Support with linkages with appropriate research agencies and leaders in innovations and related technology.

Internal Reporting

- Submit activity and monthly plans and reports Program Specialist.
- Document and share success and case stories, best practices and lessons learnt.
- Provide input into quarterly and annual donor reports as needed.
- Participate in project planning and review meetings.
- Jointly with other value chain team identify and share areas of good practice.
- Any other duties assigned by the project director

Education Qualifications

1. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree preferably in Agriculture, business administration or any other related field, e.g. Entrepreneurship, youth engagement development, programme management filed or any other degree relevant to the field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka.

And

A Post Graduate Degree (Masters) Qualification in the relevant fields/ An Associate Membership or similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional body in the relevant field.

With

At least Eight (08) years post qualifying experience in the relevant field at a Managerial Level.

2. Class I officer of a Government All Island Services or a similar status in the relevant field.

And

A Postgraduate Degree (Masters) Qualification in the relevant field.

With

At least Two (02) years post qualifying experience in the Class I post or a similar status in the relevant field.

Other Required Qualifications and Experiences

- Experience in micro, small and medium entrepreneur development.
- Working together – successfully works with culturally diverse teams and develops others' team-working skills.
- Communication and influencing – inspires others by advocating plans and ideas; maintaining a wide, influential network; coaching.
- Striving for excellence – leads initiatives to improve agribusiness approaches and practices; is a role model for continuous learning and improvement.
- Managing Resources – Organizes own work to meet objectives; clarifies accountability or roles; seeks ways to create value for money in implementation of activities.
- Developing People – is a role model for coaching, mentoring and developing others.
- Delivering Results – effectively working with others to ensure timely, high-quality results. Excellent oral and written skills; excellent drafting, formulation, reporting skills.
- Solid overall computer literacy, including proficiency in various MS Office applications (Excel, Word, etc.) and email/internet;
- Excellent interpersonal skills; culturally and socially sensitive; ability to work inclusively and collaboratively with a range of partners, including grassroots community members, and youth organizations, and authorities at different levels; familiarity with tools and approaches of communications for development;
- Fluency in Sinhala and English. Ability to communicate with Tamil will be distinct advantage
- Excellent oral and written skills; excellent drafting, formulation, reporting skills;
- Ability to work and adapt professionally and effectively in a challenging environment;
- Self-motivated, ability to work with minimum supervision; ability to work with tight deadlines;

Salary Scale:
Based on the Management Services Circular 02/2026.

Location and period of execution

The Youth Entrepreneurship Development Specialist will be based in Project Management Unit at Colombo with field visits as may be required.

Duration of services

Duration of service is 1 (one) year subject to six (6) months' probation period and extension will be subjected successful performance evaluation according to the Management Service Circular 02/2026.