

# **Agricultural support service provision – voices of smallholder farmers from post-war Northern Sri Lanka**

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**Thivahary Geretharan (PhD candidate)**

**Janet Reid, David Gray and Thiagarajah Ramilan**

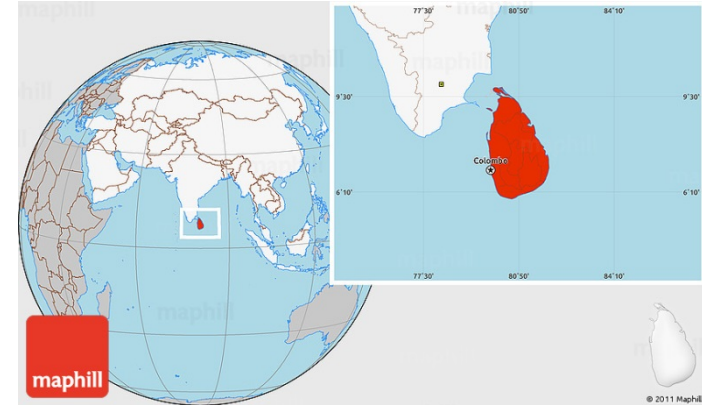
**School of Agriculture and Environment, Massey University, New Zealand**

# Presentation outline

- **Introduction**
- **Aim of the study**
- **Research methodology**
- **Preliminary findings**
- **Theoretical contribution**
- **Summary**

# Context to Sri Lankan agricultural sector

Smallholder farming



Importance of agricultural support services

- Developing countries
- Sri Lanka

Three decades of internal war

The development of smallholder farming -  
influenced by the agricultural support services

Well-organized agricultural support system -  
strengthen smallholder farmers' capabilities in  
farming

Contributes for recovery of agricultural sector  
and overall economic development

Little research – interactions between smallholder farmers and agricultural support service providers

## **Aim of the study:**

To contribute to enhancing the provision of support services to smallholder farmers in post-war Northern Sri Lanka

## **Research Questions:**

1. What agricultural support services are accessed by smallholder farmers in the post-war Northern Sri Lanka and why?
2. How are agricultural support service providers providing services to smallholder farmers in the post-war Northern Sri Lanka and why?

## Research methodology

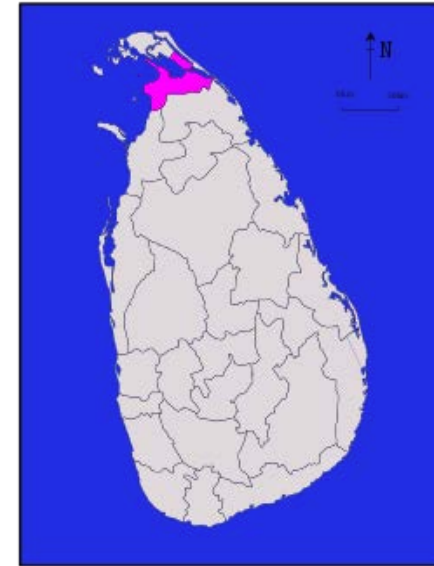
- Qualitative case study

## Data collection

- Semi-structured interviews and
- Document analysis

## Data analysis

- Qualitative data analysis



# Preliminary findings

## Service providers to smallholder farmers

### 1) Government organizations





## Service providers to smallholder farmers.....

2) Government-run organization



3) Non-Governmental organizations





## Service providers to smallholder farmers.....

### 4) Private organizations



# Preliminary findings.....

## Service provision varies - 3 different time periods

### Pre-war

- Government organizations
- Government-run organization

### During war

- Government organizations
- *De facto* government (the LTTE)
- NGOs

### Post-war

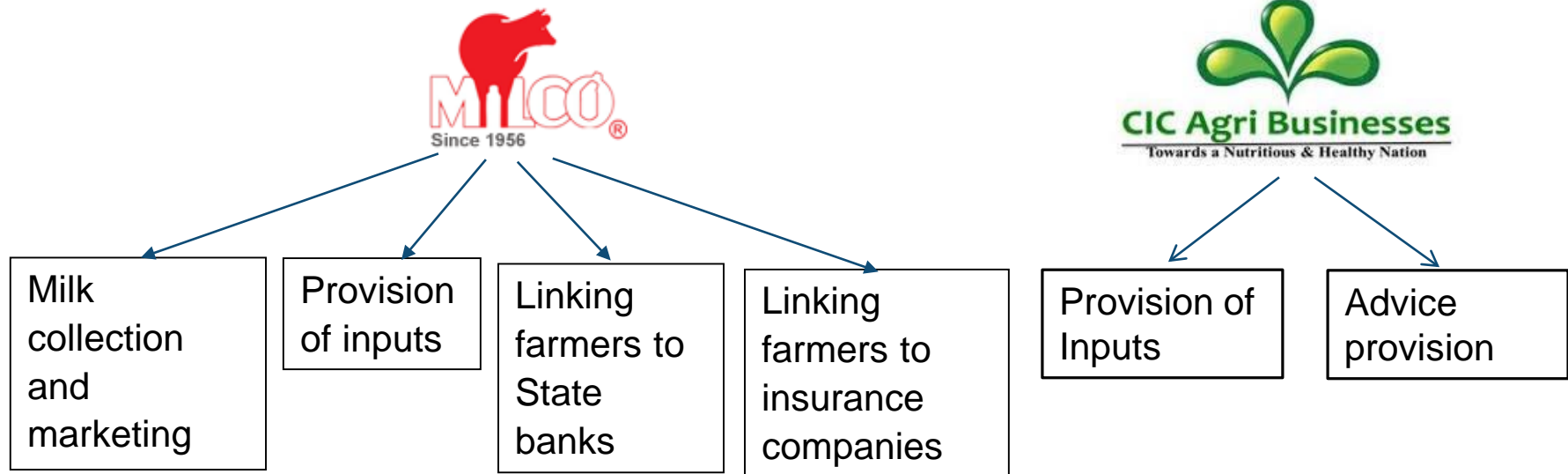
- Government organizations
- Government-run organization
- NGOs
- Private organizations

# Preliminary findings.....

Provision of mix of services

Different mix of services by different support providers

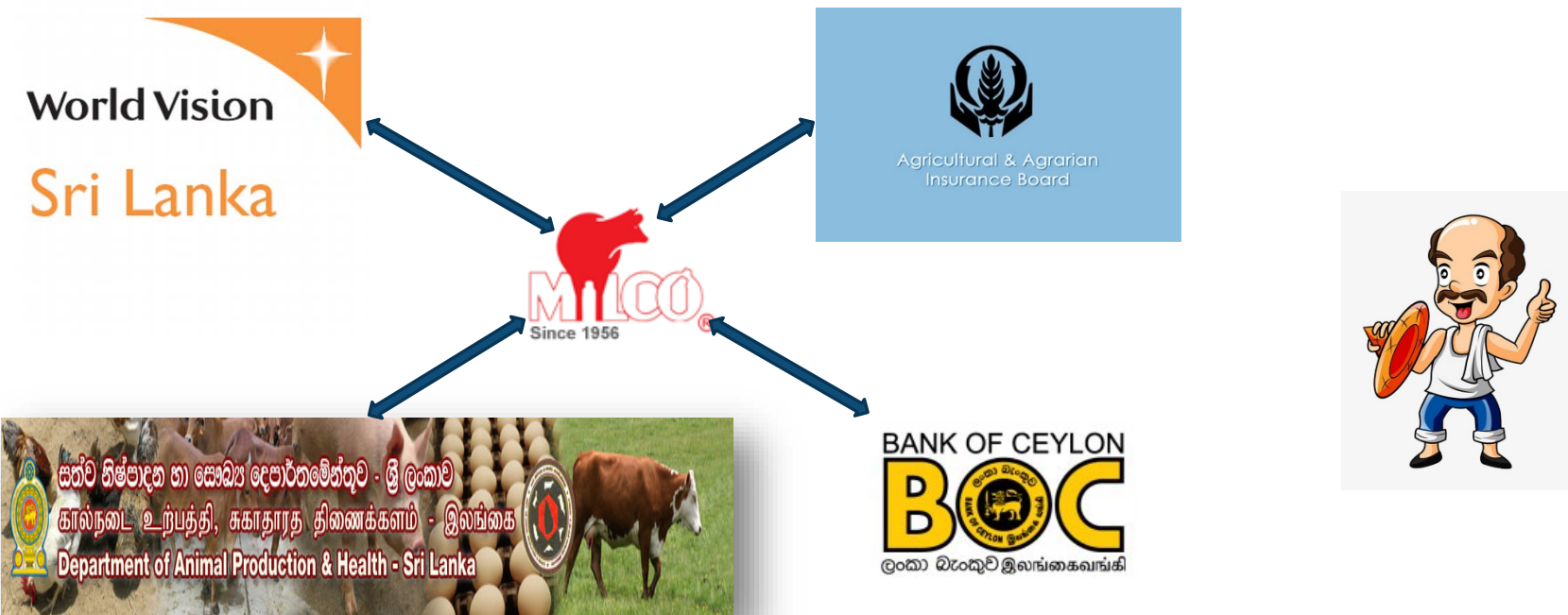
Example – Milco and Private input traders



# Preliminary findings.....

Interactions between service providers

- influence their relationship with farmers and
- how they are viewed by farmers



## Preliminary findings.....

Link between service providers and farmers – gendered in nature

Post – war context – female farmers receive more services than male

Example – Dairy farmers receive more services than paddy farmers



## Preliminary findings.....

Farmers' current expectations on service provision  
- their experience during war



Service provision during war

- regular visits to farmer's field by service providers
- duty of care
- farmer-centered services



Set a standard of service provision

Satisfied by private input traders





## Theoretical contribution

Advisory literature - interaction between farmers and advisors  
- the network between advisors

Current study - explores the agricultural support service system

Focuses on interactions between support service providers **of which advice constitute a component of service** for some providers and farmers in a post-war context



**“The understandings from the study will be used to inform the support service providers and policy makers on how they can better assist the smallholder farmers to achieve development through agriculture in the region”**

## Summary

Explores the interactions between support service providers and farmers - advice constitute a component of service

Key preliminary findings

This will expand on how different service providers are meeting and failing farmers' expectations and how this plays out in the interactions between service providers

# Thank you

