

## **Awareness programme on Climate Change for provincial correspondents from the Eastern province in Sri Lanka**

Lack of awareness about climate change issues, lack of relevant sources to obtain information, changing priorities of media organisations and lack of specific stories are some of the major reasons that hinder investigative journalism on climate change in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, climate change is reported mostly in English print media.

Towards building awareness on climate change among provincial correspondents and to generate human interest stories about climate change impact stories from the war ravaged eastern province, Practical Action has organised a one day awareness workshop in Batticalao.

Resource persons of this programme were journalists from the mainstream media. Seventeen journalists from print & electronic media from the eastern province participated in this programme. The topics covered in this programme included: what is climate change which includes the science & general effects & impacts of climate change and how climate change is affecting us? This programme was held at the Sarvodaya Training Centre in Sathurukondan in Batticalao on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2010.

One of the exercises identified for the journalists who participated at the workshop included developing articles on climate change. Journalists at the workshop developed articles about climate change triggered disasters happening in the eastern province and indigenous knowledge and predictions on climate change. These articles can be accessed here.....

### **Agenda of the Programme**

**Date** : 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010

**Venue** : Sarvodaya Training Centre, Batticalao

9 to 9.15a.m : Introduction to the programme:

9.15 to 9.45a.m : Distinction & definition between weather & climate change

9.45a.m to 10.30a.m : Identifying climate change patterns in groups (group exercise)

10.30a.m to 10.45a.m : Tea break

10.45a.m to 11.15a.m : Screening a short film on climate change impacts & agriculture

11.30a.m to 12.30p.m : News & feature writing

12.30p.m to 1.15p.m : Lunch

1.15p.m to 2.15p.m : An exercise on writing feature articles on climate change

2.15p.m to 3p.m : Discussion and reviewing of the articles

3p.m to 3.15p.m : Tea break

3.15p.m to 3.45p.m : An exercise on developing a news item on climate change

3.45p.m to 4p.m : Open discussion about problems & issues in reporting climate change

4 to 4.15p.m : Concluding session & explaining future engagements