

# Sustainable Organic Waste Value Chains through Circular Economies

## Networking and knowledge forum SUMMARY

This summary document provides an overview of multi-stakeholder networking forum held in Colombo Sri Lanka, 17 November 2022, that sought to build links between waste management, agriculture, and government agencies to strengthen circular economies. The forum included 46 representatives relevant to organic waste value chains - from government, civil society, private sector, academia, and development partners.

### About the Research Partnership

The forum was hosted by a research partnership exploring barriers and opportunities for circular economies in waste-food value chains in Sri Lanka. The partnership is between the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS-ISF), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Janathakshan (GTE) Ltd, and Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL).

The research is funded under the Knowledge and Linkages for an Inclusive Economy (KLIE) Grants Program of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

See work from the research partnership to date date: [Click here.](#)

### Forum Overview

Participants were welcomed to the forum by Simon Langan, Country Director IWMI and Erika Seymour, First Secretary Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Professor M Esham, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences from SUSL provided an overview of research activities carried out 2019-2022 and up-coming phase 2 of the research project. He highlighted the research nexus – bringing together multiple disciplines and an organic waste value chain which seeks to draw together often siloed sectors of waste management and treatment, production, storage, transport and retail of compost and compost use by farmers for food production and food security.



### Participant reflections

*'I am able to engage with such a diverse range of stakeholders at once – thanks for organising.'*

*'We need better coordination in waste management - this forum helps us to know what is happening and better coordinate.'*

*'Its good to bring the academics and research and practical sides together.'*



### Forum outcomes

The Forum provided the basis for future connection and collaboration – bringing together different stakeholder groups working in different places and spaces relevant to organic waste value streams.

The Forum took stock of what is already happening across the country by different stakeholders and identified strategies to achieve change in organic waste value chains.

The Forum provided key inputs for the research partnership to continue to contribute to circular economies in waste-food value chains in Sri Lanka.

### Networking – exchange and learning

Forum participants were invited to consider together key questions:

From your experience, what are **success stories** of organic waste management – for circular economies - that could be expanded in the future?

What are the **challenges or barriers** your organisation / projects has faced to maximise use of organic waste?

What are your **future organisational priorities** to maximise organic waste to a resource – circular economies?



What is your **vision for 2050** for a transformed organic waste system in Sri Lanka?



What would be a **significant change** to achieve that vision?

### Invitation for continuing engagement



Our research partnership welcomes continuing multi-stakeholder engagement. To reach us please email: [SLorganicwastevaluechains@uts.edu.au](mailto:SLorganicwastevaluechains@uts.edu.au)