

JAFFNA DISTRICT

LOCATION

Jaffna District is the northern end of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, about 410 km away from Colombo. It consists of the peninsula and seven inhabited Island. North, East and West boundaries of the District are Indian Ocean, South is Jaffna Lagoon and Kilinochchi District. The total land area including Inland waters is 1,012.01 sq.km. Jaffna District is divided into four sub divisions. They are Islands, Valikamam, Thenmaradchy and Vadamaradchy. Jaffna District falls under dry zone. Peak rainfall is during the months of October to December during North East Monsoon and the Scattered during April to May. The inter Monsoon rain is uncertain. The District received 1120.8 mm of rain during the year 2018. The average temperature during the year fluctuated between 20.8 and 34.3 centigrade.

SOIL

The soil and water resource of the Jaffna Peninsula are both related to the lime stone geology of the land. The soils are formed on the marine deposits and sediments under the influence of sea waves and winds on lime stones. Tile lime stone being a porous rock is the source of ground water for the Peninsula. Well drained and high productive calcic Red Yellow latasol and Red Yellow latasol soil types are found in central areas (60,000 ha). Alkaline saline soil and Regasol are found in coastal areas (26,000 ha) and Alluvial soil is in ValukkaiAru area (10,000 ha). In certain areas coral lime stone is available. This different soil types offer scope for cultivation of exotic as well as local crops. Tile depth of soil varies from 90 cm- 150 cm.

WATER

Jaffna Peninsula has a source of ground water store in the sub terrain layer of limestone. The limestone is the main aquifer. This aquifer has several isolated caves and caverns capable of storing ground water without evaporation losses. It is an excellent aquifer. The entire ground water is generated from percolated rainfall and it forms a fresh water lens beneath the peninsula. It is found that the fresh water lens do not extend below the base of the lime stone. The fresh water lens is sustained by the buoyancy of fresh water in relation to sea water. Difference in density, (1.0, 1.025) giving a ratio of 40:1. That is every meter of fresh water above the sea level requires a depth of fresh water lens of 40 m when no mixing between fresh and sea water takes place. There is no sharp interface between fresh and sea water.

ADMINISTRATION

The Government Agent / District Secretary is an executive officer for the entire district. The government administration works at the levels of Central, Provincial, District, Divisions and Village level. Jaffna District is divided into 15 Administrative divisions, 435 Grama Officers divisions in this District. Seventeen Local bodies (Municipal Council - 1, Urban Councils - 3 and PradeshiyaSabhas - 13) are functioning in Jaffna district. 12 Medical Officer of Health divisions and 5 Educational Zones.

POPULATION

Estimated Total population of the Jaffna District is 613083 and female population accounted 53 % According to 2012 Census of population Out of the total population in Jaffna District 99.1% are Tamils, 0.4% are Sinhala and 0.3% are Muslims. Out of the Total population 77.7 percent are Hindus, 21.5 percent are Christian, 0.4 percent are Islam's and 0.4 percent are Buddhists.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture sector is a leading sector in Jaffna District. There are 1/3 of the families from total families in this District solely depending on agriculture including livestock and large share of the population is also involved in home gardening.

People in Jaffna district traditionally farming community. Their culture is mostly agrarian based. These traditional farmers have generations of experience about the soil, climate and agricultural technology which is unique to their system of production. They have their own cultivation techniques developed by their forefathers and the practices have been time tested and proven to be more appropriate than modern technologies. These traditional farmers never had an opportunity to practice their most unique and effective farming technology during the past three decades due to the prevailed situation Jaffna District is predominantly an agricultural area and always has enormous potential for agriculture produce such as red onion, chilies, potatoes, tobaccos, vegetables, banana and grapes cultivated for commercial purposes. Other crops cultivation such as paddy, pulses, and coconut are in substantial level. Palmyrah products also substantial source of income. Rice is produced during the Maha season under rain fed condition while vegetables are produced nearly all year around under rain fed irrigated conditions.

FISHERIES

Jaffna District is surrounded by Sea and Lagoon. The Fisheries Sector is an important sector in Jaffna District and major economic activity and the source of livelihood for about 21456 families consisting of 91,129 persons in and 22,103 persons active fisherman in Jaffna District.

EDUCATION

The long tradition of dedication to education and resulting high priority given to Education from colonial period, Jaffna has been one of the districts with high literacy rate in Sri Lanka. Education is one of the major concerns for the people of Jaffna District. There are five Education Zones in Jaffna District. There are Islands, Valikamam, Jaffna, Thenmaradchi and Vadamaradchi. Presently, 502 schools are in Jaffna District. Out of that 448 schools are functioned. The students population is 112,826 and teachers 9,051 the students, teachers ratio is 12.5

HEALTH

Jaffna Teaching Hospital is the main public health and medical institution for the people of Northern Province and for teaching of medical students of the University of Jaffna and Nursing and midwife students. All other curative institutions come under the administration of Regional Director of Health Services, Jaffna. These institutions are forming a net work in three levels, Such as:

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|---------------------------|----|
| Base Hospital (Type A &B) | 04 |
| Divisional Hospitals | 23 |
| Primary Medical Care Unit | 17 |

In addition to the above hospitals, Cancer Unit, Tellippalai and Chest Clinic, Jaffna is functioning under the administration of Regional Director of Health Services.

In the preventive sector under each MOH there are clinic centers, which provide mainly maternal and child health care services.

Regional Director of Health Services is in charge for all Promotive, Preventive, Curative and Rehabilitative health activities in this district under him heads of institutions namely Medical Superintendents, District Medical Officers, Medical Officers in Charge and Medical Officers of Heath are functioning.

INDUSTRIES

There are three level industries functioning in Jaffna District. There are Micro, Small and Medium. According to the information collected from Divisional Secretariat wise, about 2,227 industrial units are in Jaffna District. Most of them are food and beverage types industries. Secondly, wood and wood based industries and other industries such as cloth and cloth based, light engineering, palmyrah based, leather based, paper based, cement based, coir based, chemical based, metal aluminium based, etc.

TOURISM

Jaffna is an immense potential for tourism and Hotel industry. Three types of places such as Historical, Natural and Religious places are available in Jaffna district. Historical important Places such as Vedarasan fort at Delft, Hammenhein fort at Kayts, Jaffna fort, Jamuna pond, ManthiriManai (kings Palace), Entrance Arch of Jaffna. Natural places such as Chatty area at Velanai, Casuarinas' Beach at Karainagar, and coastal areas at Manatkadu. Famous religious places such as NallurKandaswamy temple, Naguleswaram Sivan temple, Vallipuram Vishnu temple, St. James Church, Dutch Church at Chankanai, Nagadeepa Buddhist Temple at Nainativu

TREE PLANTING

Jaffna district has no forest cover as in other parts of the country. There are naturally grown palmyrah trees in many parts of the district. Small scale coconut plantations, indigenous trees and fruit trees have been grown in homesteads, private lands, and common places. These tree plants components have played an important role in providing a source of income to the substantial number of families, nutritive food and protect the environment. Agro forestry is not an actual forest; it is a phenomenon influencing substantial effects on climate and environment which is favoring for agriculture and human living. Trees are providing many benefits to the communities. They provide food, medicine, shade, green manure, timber and fire wood and also function as natural cooler in different climate.

Trees are very important in maximizing and diversifying the productivity of highly fertile land. Intensive agro forestry systems are most commonly found in this district.. Tree planting scheme is being implemented as a homestead method.. Homestead have the potential for the promotion of agro forestry and social forestry programme in the district and wide variety of tree crops are planted in homesteads. The homestead is an integral element of the farming systems. The scope to intensively planting of trees in homestead for food, fuel, timber and for security.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Environmental pollution is a major problem in Jaffna district. The following Issues such as Over Extraction of Ground Water, Application of High Amount of Nitrogen Fertilizers. Over use of Agrochemicals, Oil Contamination in drinking water wells through discharge of waste from Power plant operates by heavy fuel oil Identified in Chunnakam area. E. coli contamination due to lack of sewerage system in Jaffna Municipal Council area, Improper solid waste management in Local Authorities leads to contamination of underground water, Degradation of Biodiversity and Health hazards by Parthenium Weed, Stalination due to non-maintenance of Salt water exclusion bund, Unplanned and illegal Sand mining, Climate Changes and Sea Erosion have been identified.