



Hellabeem Sri Lanka

Activity Report

05th January till 16th Nov.

By Helene Heijen



2020 January till November

After the diploma ceremony, Subash, Kalinga, Ruwan, Dinesh, Shiran, opened their own shops or workshops in February. Ramesh works for a business where he does ads and other graphic design work. Srilal mainly works via the internet and is hoping to acquire orders from abroad. Of course, it takes time for them to build a client base and it is not exactly helpful if Covid-19 puts a spoke in their wheels. Janith was to open a simple shop with his mother, but corona has made it impossible.



- In January the hydroponics tunnel was officially opened by Durna and Piet van Os. The tunnel not only contributes to our food supply, but also serves as a tool in education. The hydroponics system semi-automatically feeds the crops with water and nutrients. This required the construction of a special pipeline from a dedicated well further afield. Our boys are made familiar with the workings of the system and with the cultivation of potted plants.



January till November

On 15th March we were compelled to close the school on account of COVID-19. The pupils were sent home, the staff worked on for a week. Under normal circumstances we always have a full month's holiday in April because of Sinhalese New Year, but this time we just advanced the holiday by a week. On 21 April the staff returned to Hellabeem to give everything a thorough cleaning and paint a lot of walls. And on 15th June we were finally allowed to welcome our pupils back!

The Sri Lankan government resolutely addressed the corona situation with an immediate lockdown for everyone. Every three to six days we were allowed to go out for a few hours to do our shopping; apart from that we had to stay home. In some districts of the country, people were not permitted go out at all. This was mainly in the capital, Colombo. We are fortunate enough to have plenty of land, but for people with small homes and little outdoor space it was an ordeal. The tourist industry, which was just beginning to recover from the blow of the Easter bombings in 2019, was ruined once again. All the little shops and businesses were closed, hotels and restaurants still are. Working online from home was the only option left, but only a very small part of the population is in a position to do so. Many people work as day laborers and they are severely hit by the strict measures.

Still, some of our employees who live in the area did get permission to come to Hellabeem and work on the grounds during the lockdown. They tended to the garden and the greenhouses and kept them watered, while the cook was there to prepare lunch for eight persons. The windmill was taken down to be sanded and given a new coat of paint. Part of the mill had to be replaced because the wood had decayed.



Drought

We were hit by extreme drought. With the exception of a single good shower in March we had no rain at all from early January to April. The grounds looked brown for lack of water.

Trainees

The psychomotor therapy students Cato and Julia were here for four months and did a good job.

Unfortunately, the corona crisis brought a premature end to the traineeship of two other PMT students from the Dutch Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, Mario van Mal and Eviroos van den Ham. They had to go home after only one month.

Very sad for them, but also for us! Thank you all so much for your work and for your gifts to Hellabeem!



Thanks to sponsors Bouwe de Boer and our former trainees, With their handsome donations we have been able to add another series of solar panels.

Hellabeem has now become net zero energy!



Lots of cleaning and gardening was done by our staff.



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16th Nov. to 04th December

By Thishantha and Shanika



Vegetable gardening by Nannies

- Kusuma, Geethika and Ranaweera involve with growing green chillies, curry chillies in tea plant area, completely done weeding and land preparation by themselves. Okra and ridge bean has planted in back side physiotherapy.

Indika cleaning coconut husks near kitchen

- Indika did clearing this area and also he helped Sameera to remove weed thrash, Dammika to plant seeds. He did repair wash basin leak in the kitchen.
- He will involve with arrange coconut husks around coconut trees.



Sameera cleaning back side physiotherapy up to biogas area

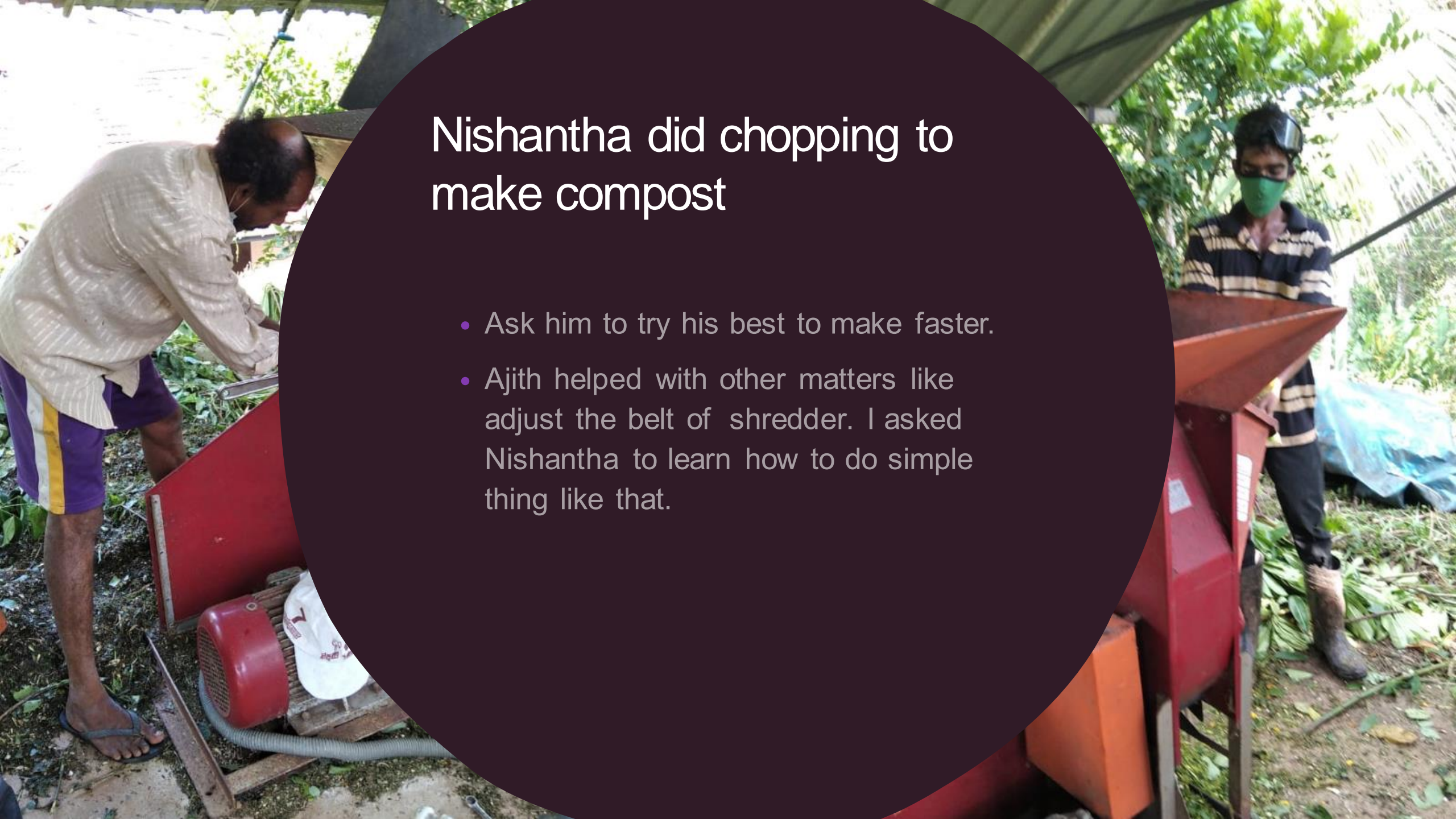


- Sameera did super cleaning completely remove weeds. So it make easy to plant vegetables. Now he is doing grass cutting.
- He is asked to review physio clients who left without informing.
- He can check the progress of our clients who has finished.

Ajith and Saman started physio roof Kitchen end

- They are doing the ridges of the corner with Amano sheets. Later found that last part of the roof completely without reefers, now they are replacing them. After that they would fix amano sheet on the top ridge.



A photograph showing a man in a light-colored shirt and purple shorts operating a red shredder machine outdoors. He is bent over, feeding material into the machine. In the background, another person wearing a green face mask and a striped shirt is standing near the machine. The scene is set in a rural or agricultural area with trees and foliage in the background.

Nishantha did chopping to make compost

- Ask him to try his best to make faster.
- Ajith helped with other matters like adjust the belt of shredder. I asked Nishantha to learn how to do simple thing like that.

Rohantha doing nice cleaning

- He is good to do neat and nice cleaning.
- He also involved with cow and chicken matters as Piyasiri is absent.



Dammika in action

- Doing different activities mostly with Dammika and involve with cow and chicken matters.



Clean Surrounding

- Need to maintain.



Dayalal in action in action

Apart from his regular activities, asked to plan special tasks.

He started with making manual for handicraft training for our students who cannot follow the advance course.

Paper bags, envelopes, Greeting cards

Extra works done (Helping for the cleaning, Clean drain from cow shed to bio gas)

Shanika in action

Work arrangement for all
the workers & supervision

Finalizing accounts –
October & November 2020

Handling other normal
daily matters

Agriculture related

Agriculture officer, Mr Chamil visited Hellabeem together with another officer.

We showed him our garden and informed about issues we have.

He answered all questions with his expertise, and he is very experienced practical officer, and he likes organic farming very much.

All the old plants took out from the hydroponic polytunnel & going to plant new ones there.

Polytunnel near the school building going well.

With repairing of Amurt polytunnel is finished with 75%. Near future we can start to grow the plants there also.

Has to apply fertilizer to the coconuts. Also we can use coconut husks as it is very good for coconut trees. Suppose to dig the floor around the coconut trees & going to put coconut husks there.

Dammika involved with these agriculture related activities

Mushroom blooming

- After the proper repair of the mushroom shed now grow bags are placed and blooming. Everyday harvest is about 1.5 kgs.
- Harvest is sold to staff.
- Dammika and Dhammikaa are mostly involved in this matters.
- Now planned to do another lot as we have enough space.



New calf born

- It looks nice and healthy cow.
- Unfortunately, the cow get Mastitis, udder disease that block milking.
- Vet doctor visited few times and given the treatment, Now 3 teats are back to normal but one is blocked. So some serious type of treatment necessary like insert a needle to clear the block and may be some kind of tissues to be removed. So vet must have some necessary equipment for that.



Animals related

- Normal routine is going with chickens.
- Podi & other dogs are behaving normally.

