

Field Visit to North Western Province Canal Project

The postgraduate student group following the course module on Social Impact Assessment (SIA), offered by the B/S in Agricultural Extension visited the North Western Province Canal Project (NWPCP) sites in Galewela on early March.

NWPCP is a part of the Mahaweli Water Security Investment Programme (MWSIP) funded by the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Sri Lanka. The programme aims to divert Mahaweli water to the target irrigable areas in the North Western Province. The students observed the social issues on various NWPCP sites including places of religious and archaeological importance, schools, agricultural and homelands directly affected by the project. They also had an interactive session with officials and public stakeholders. The visit enabled the students to develop skills related to SIA activities, reporting, while exposing them for the possible measures to be taken to minimize the social impact. The visit was coordinated by Dr. Wijaya Jayatilake (Course Coordinator), Dr. Shamen Vidanage (Programme Coordinator, IUCN), Mr. Padmasiri Moonamale (Environment Specialist, MWSIP) and the staff of NWPCP.

.