



Habitat home partner Kalaivani Kannan is a widow raising two young daughters in Kaluthavalai village, Batticaloa.

Kalaivani works as a day laborer to support her family. When building her home with Habitat for Humanity, Kalaivani learned how to make a compost bin and received seeds and plants to start a home garden.

As her interest in gardening grew, so did her daily income. Kalaivani now grows banana trees in addition to her vegetable garden and earns up to USD \$20 per month selling excess produce. She is now able to pay for both of her daughter's school fees. Kalaivani was also able to use this extra income to install a water tank and connect her house to running water.

Home Gardens and Compost Bins

Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka's Home Gardens and Compost Bins provide low-income families a way to increase their savings for home improvements and home repairs by utilizing resources they can readily access.

Habitat for Humanity works with communities to maximize local resources by providing families with training on how to build and use their own compost bin. With a non-profit, microfinance loan of USD \$20, families are able to purchase seeds and plants for a home garden, as well as any materials needed for at-home composting. By eating and selling the fruits and vegetables that they grow in their home garden, families can save on average USD \$10 per month. Families can then use these monthly savings towards home repairs and home improvements.

In addition to benefiting the environment, a home garden provides families with daily savings due to reduced food costs and income generated from the sale of excess produce. As Habitat provides a variety of seeds for cultivation, families are able to have a balanced, nutritious diet of organically grown fruits and vegetables. Compost bins are easy to make and help recycle biodegradable materials by using them as fertilizer in home gardens, promoting a cleaner atmosphere for future generations.

For more information please visit www.hfhsl.org