Image: Farmers with livestock during an event on the Glenlivet estate
During the 2009 civil war, Sri Lanka lost approximately 50-60% of its dairy cattle. With climate change having rendered paddy field rice farming insufficient to meet the food demands of the country, it is now government policy that a move is made toward dairy farming. However, one factor limiting the progression of their dairy industry is poor fertility.

There is some anecdotal evidence to suggest that mineral deficiencies are present, but it is possible that the results of mineral supplementation have coincided with cows returning to energy balance post-calving. The aim of this project was to determine which of these two factors are most influential to cow fertility. The work was carried out with YGro, a non-governmental organisation that provides support by loaning dairy cows and training via YGro’s extension workers.