

The Analog Forestry Program in Cuba

Repeating actions that strengthen friendships

On 7th August 1959 the first accord between an Asian Country and the revolutionary Government of Cuba was Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Hon R.G.Senanayake the minister for Commerce, representing the government of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) co-signed an accord on commercial cooperation with Commandante Ernesto 'Che' Guevara who represented the Government of the Republic of Cuba. On this day, Commandante Guevara also planted a tree to symbolize the relationship.

Fifty years later, following the anniversary of the Cuban revolution, Dr.F.R.Senanayake, nephew of R.G.Senanayake begins work with Cuban scientists and farmers to develop a new approach to the vision of land use in Cuba. Working with farmers in the arid, salt affected region of Guantanamo, he has given them a new vision. 'We were about to leave this land after years of no

return' says one farmer, 'now we have a goal and a process to take us to a productive future'.

'In many countries, such land would be abandoned' says Dr.Senanayake, but the Cuban system of providing for citizens basic needs, helps them maintain themselves, while putting their energy into restoration work'. The restoration work is done using a land management approach termed Analog Forestry, developed by Dr.Senanayake in Sri Lanka.

Fifty yeas after initiating the relationship Cuba has with Sri Lanka, when Commandante 'Che' Guevara traveled to Sri Lanka and planted a tree there to symbolize, this relationship, Dr. Senanayake returns to Cuba from Sri Lanka to plant new ideas of growing trees and forests, and confirm this relationship.

