

University Business Linkage (UBL) Cells — Sri Lanka's AHEAD Technology-Transfer Network

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Sri Lanka

Quality score: 76/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Sri Lanka's World Bank-backed AHEAD project built University Business Linkage Cells in 15 state universities, generating 228 patent applications, 77 licence agreements and 42 market-ready products (2019–2023), with revenue shared 50–80% back to inventors.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	2/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[Ministry of Higher Education, Sri Lanka / University Grants Commission — AHEAD Project \(University Business Linkage Cells\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[World Bank — Sri Lanka \\$100M AHEAD credit signing \(2017\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[World Bank — AHEAD results \(2026\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[Sri Lanka Journal of Social Sciences — UBL Cell commercialisation study](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

[Uva Wellassa University — 10th UBL licensing agreement](#) — accessed 2026-07-14

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