



NEWSLETTER



FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA | ISSUE 16 | 2022



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Faculty Newsletter 2022

Welcome to the latest edition of our annual newsletter. Our aim is to keep you updated on the latest events and developments taking place within the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

We hope you enjoy reading about our achievements and stay informed about our exciting future.

The Dean's Message

I warmly welcome you to the 16th issue of the Faculty of Agriculture annual newsletter. Here you will find the latest news about the Faculty, its exceptional programs, staff, students, faculty activities and alumni.

Our efforts are focused on being responsive to students' individual needs by providing consistent, high-quality, timely guidance, services, and support through knowledgeable, well-informed staff and engaging programs. I envision support for a community of learners connected to opportunities in our region, nation and beyond. Please enjoy the information presented in the newsletter, and feel free to send us your valuable feedback, comments, and suggestions.

Our strategy for ensuring that our faculty remains well-positioned to maintain its phenomenal growth includes attracting world-class faculty, expanding our Honors tracks, and continuing to renew our teaching and research laboratories, with an eye toward elevating one or more of these research labs to the national level.

We look forward to keeping you posted on our progress on each of these vital fronts, and on the remarkable accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni.

Wish you all the success.

Prof.M.Pagthinathan,
Dean/ Faculty of Agriculture



<http://fag.esn.ac.lk> | <http://www.youtube.com/@fag-eusl>

The Editor's Message

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 16th issue of our Faculty Newsletter for the year 2022. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am proud to share with you our noteworthy achievements. Although the pandemic is almost over, we conducted our orientation program for new students through Zoom technology, which was successfully coordinated by us. Additionally, I recognize the severe economic crisis our country has faced post-COVID. Nevertheless, our staff has worked tirelessly towards the success of our faculty activities, achieving significant milestones in teaching, learning, research, and outreach. As the editor of this newsletter, I am grateful for the valuable inputs provided by our staff members, which have helped us highlight the achievements of our faculty members in this issue. I hope that this newsletter provides you with a clear picture of our progress and achievements in 2022. I welcome your feedback, comments, and suggestions, and I hope you enjoy reading this issue. Thank you.



G. Niroash,
Editor/ Faculty Newsletter 2022

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Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of understanding was signed between the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka and Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute. On behalf of the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, the Vice Chancellor, Professor V. Kanagasingam and on behalf of the HARTI, the Director/HARTI, Mr Malinda Seneviratne, signed the MOU on 08.08.2022 at Board Room, EUSL.

The above agreement was signed for mutually beneficial academic and scientific cooperation. This MOU aims to understand academic and scientific cooperation between the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute and the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, through an agreed strategy to optimize the mutuality of purpose.



Orientation Programme for New Students - 2020/ 2021 Batch

The orientation program for the new students of the 2020/2021 batch in the Faculty of Agriculture was held virtually from May 4-6th 2022 using Zoom technology. The program was successfully coordinated by Mr G. Niroash from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, and a series of virtual sessions were delivered by various resource persons. Based on their feedback, most of the students highly appreciated the orientation program.

Fifth National Symposium on Agriculture (5th NSA 2022)

The 5th National Symposium on Agriculture 2022 was held on 30th March 2022 as a virtual symposium. The theme of the symposium was “Ensuring Food Security through Smart Agriculture”. The Faculty of Agriculture organized and designed the symposium to deliver the physical symposium experience via virtual mode by maximizing the opportunities to discuss achieving food security through multiple smart agriculture applications.

The keynote speaker for the 5th NSA was Professor Ranjith Senaratne, Emeritus Professor, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka and Chairman/National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka. He delivered the keynote talk titled “Confluence of technologies needed for the agriculture of the future”. Dr M. Pagthinathan, Dean/ Agriculture, presided over the symposium, and the Chief Guest was Professor V. Kanagasingam, Vice-Chancellor, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. Further, the symposium was chaired by Dr (Mrs) Thivahary Geretharan, and Mr G. Hariharan served as the symposium secretary. A total of 53 research papers were presented at the symposium.



Agricultural Day 2022



The Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka organized an Agricultural Day 2022 on the theme “Sustainable agriculture through proper education” on 09th December 2022 with the full involvement of all Departments in the Faculty and Farm. This event was organised under the direction of the Dean/Agriculture and Heads of the Departments and coordinated by Dr K.Prasannath, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Biology.

For this program, the Advanced Level school students from Kalkudah Educational Zone, Batticaloa, were invited through the

formal channel. Even with the inclement weather conditions, a considerable number of students actively participated and benefited from the above event. During the programme, the Department of Agricultural Engineering displayed and demonstrated the Meteorological Instruments (Rain gauges, Anemometer, Sunshine Recorder, Pyranometer, Hygrometer, Maximum and Minimum Thermometers and Automatic Weather Station), Surveying and Levelling Equipment (Stadia, Levelling staff, Chain, Peg, Measuring Tape, Arrows and Plain Table), Farm mechanization Implements and Tools (Different types of Ploughs, Rotavator, Tine Tiller, Mud, and Puddling Wheels and Knapsack Sprayer) and Engine Models and Parts (Petrol and Diesel Engines, Two Stroke and Four Stroke Engines, Engine Block, Piston, Piston Rod and so on). The Department of Agricultural Chemistry conducted demonstrations on the

determination of soil colour, texture, pH, electrical conductivity, and density. Also, the Sauerkraut-making process was explained with a display. The Department of Agricultural Biology displayed and explained the important insect pests and the equipment, such as a laminar flow hood, autoclave, colony counter, growth chamber, Soxhlet apparatus, etc. The Department of Animal Science explained sausage and yoghurt making and the tools relevant to livestock management. The Department of Crop Science demonstrated micropropagation techniques and a hydroponic system.

The University farm has cultivated around 50 varieties of crops and 08 varieties of fodders in the new field, Palacholai, for demonstration purposes. Also, the farm demonstrated different types of compost making, nursery bed sterilization, and nursery management and explained the grafting and budding practically.



Outreach Activities/ Programmes conducted by the faculty staff

Dr Krishnal Thirumarpan (Senior Lecturer- Grade I) functioned as a member of the "South Asian Adaptation League", for "HMG Scholarships' Climate Change Policy Hackathon Event" for the goal of "Adaptation" organized by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, United Kingdom.



Completion of Postgraduate degree programmes

Dr K. Prasannath, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Agricultural Biology completed his PhD study and was conferred the award of the degree in September 2022 from The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

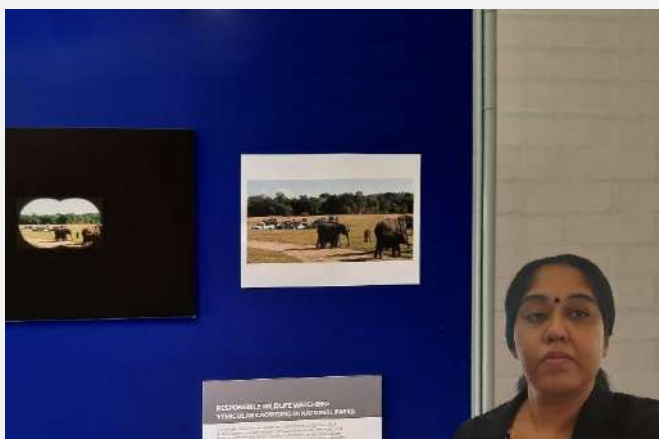


Award of Scholarships, Fellowships, Prizes and Research Grants

Mrs Brintha Karunaratna (Senior Lecturer-Grade I) received USQ International Research Stipend and Full Tuition Fees Scholarship to pursue PhD at the University of Southern Queensland, Australia.



Dr Krishnal Thirumarpan (Senior Lecturer-Grade I) won the "People's choice award" for the Best Research Image at the Doctoral Research Conference-2022, held at the University of Reading, United Kingdom on 15th June 2022.



Dr T. Geretharan (Senior Lecturer) attached to the Department of Crop Science and Dr K. Prasannath (Senior Lecturer) attached to the Department of Agricultural Biology were, both awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award - 2022 for Output-Based Research in the years 2018 and 2021 respectively.



Appointments/ Promotions/ Retirement of Staff during 2022



Prof. Thayamini H. Seran

She was a Coordinator for the Establishment of Faculty of Graduate Studies at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL) from 2015 to 2022. University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved the New Faculty of Graduate Studies at EUSL in November 2022. She also served as a Coordinator for Interfaculty courses offered by the Faculty of Commerce and Management for Agriculture Students with effect from 1st December 2020 for a period of two years.



Prof. M. Pagthinathan

Promoted as a Professor in Department of Animal Science, in 2022.



Dr T. Geretharan

Appointed as the Director of Student Support Services and Student Welfare, with effect from 1st July 2022 for a period of three years.



Mrs E. Delina J. Prince

Appointed as Head/ Department of Agricultural Engineering with effect from 01st May 2022



Prof. S. Sutharsan

Appointed as Head/ Department of Crop Science with effect from 01st December 2022.



Dr M. Sugirtharan

Appointed as Head/ Department of Multi-disciplinary Studies, Faculty of Technology, with effect from 1st February 2022 for a period of three years.



Mr G. Niroash

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary) to the Department of Agricultural Engineering with effect from 15th March 2022.



Mr S.T.D. De Silva

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary) to the Department of Animal Science with effect from 04th May 2022.



Mrs Vanajah Liyinthan

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary) to the Department of Animal Science with effect from 1st June 2022.

Training programmes/ Field Visits attended by students

The Third Year Second Semester (2016/2017) students who are specializing at the Department of Agricultural Biology have been taken to the Regional Agriculture Research and Development Centre, Department of Agriculture, Kilinochchi on 10 - 11th January 2022 to get training on Breeding Strategies of Economical Crops under Dr S. J. Arasakesary, Additional Director of Agriculture.



The Third Year Second Semester (2017/2018) students who are specializing at the Department of Animal Science have been taken to Polonnaruwa NLDB on 3rd November 2022



The Third Year Second Semester (2017/2018) students who are specializing at the Department of Animal Science have been taken to Meteorological station, Batticaloa on 6th December 2022



Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM) - 2022

Prof. Thayamini H. Seran, Director of CENSARM stated the following CENSARM activities during 2022.

Vegetable seedlings were distributed to the Community in Urani and Manchanthoduwa, Batticaloa on 26th July 2022 for promoting Home Gardening. This programme was conducted in collaboration with University Farm, the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University and the Department of Agriculture (Extension). The above seedlings were raised in polybags by staff at the University Farm for this purpose.



Study Tour for Third Year First Semester undergraduate students (2017/2018 batch) was organized under the ELTA-ELSE Faculty grant, AHEAD project for identifying the research problems related to Agriculture. The students visited the National Aquaculture Development Authority, Batticaloa and Coconut Cultivation Board, Mylambavelli on 17th August 2022.



Guidelines and application forms were sent to the Principals of 30 Schools in the Batticaloa West zone for the School Art Competition among the Grade 6-8 Students but there was no response from them during June-July 2022. This activity was coordinated by Mrs N.Vathshalyan under the guidance of the Director/CENSARM.

The Batticaloa greening project was completed by the coordinator and team members. The project report was sent by Prof. M. Pagthination, Coordinator to the funding agent (Dilmah Conservation, Colombo) in 2022.

Quiz Competition in Agriculture was conducted among the Diploma Students at the Faculty of Agriculture on 9th October 2022. This activity was coordinated by Mr G. Niroash under the direction of the Director/CENSARM.

World Food Day was celebrated on the 28th of October 2022 at the Faculty of Agriculture. The Certificates for the first three places in the Quiz competition were awarded to the Diploma students at the World Food Day Ceremony. Director/CENSARM thanked Dean/Agriculture, Mr G. Niroash and Mr P. Pragashan for their assistance to organize this event. And she thanked Mrs S. Amutheine for arranging the programme on the Assessment of the Nutritional Status of Faculty Staff on this occasion.



Consultative Workshop on Preparation of Conceptual Design for Aquaculture Industrial Parking Koralaipattu North-Vahari DS Division was organized by the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA), Batticaloa in collaboration with CENSARM, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka which was conducted at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University on 17th of November 2022. The Director of CENSARM thanked Prof. M. Pagthinathan, Dean/Agriculture and Mr S. Ravikumar, Assistant Director-Eastern Province, Coastal Aquaculture Extension and Monitoring Unit, NAQDA, Batticaloa for their assistance to organize this Workshop.



Training programme on Profitable Ice-Cream making was conducted on the 9th of December 2022 by the Department of Animal Science in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM) at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.



Details of Students

Academic Year	Male	Female	Total
2017/2018	09	39	48
2018/2019	12	44	56
2019/2020	12	64	76
2020/2021	10	64	74

Publication Details

Departments	Peer-reviewed journal Articles	Books/ Monographs	Book Chapters	Abstracts published in Conferences / Symposia/ Research Sessions	Full papers published in Conferences / Symposia/ Research Sessions
Agricultural Biology	3	1	3	3	--
Agricultural Economics	--	--	--	4	1
Agricultural Engineering	2	--	--	9	1
Animal Science	6	--	--	6	--
Crop Science	8	--	--	11	--

Workshops/ Seminars/ Conferences/ Training Programmes attended by staff

Workshops

Dr (Mrs) Thivahary Geretharan (Senior Lecturer-Grade I), Department of Agricultural Economics

Participated in the Consultative Workshop on Preparation of Conceptual Design for Aquaculture Industrial Parking Koralaipattu North - Vaharai DS Division, organized by the CENSARM, Faculty of Agriculture and the National Aquaculture Development Authority [NADA], Sri Lanka on the 17th of November 2022 at the EUSL.



She also participated in the Workshop on First 'Internal Program Review' on the 14th of July 2022, organized by the CQA, EUSL and in the Second Workshop on 'Internal Program Review' on the 5th of October 2022, organized by the CQA, EUSL.

The academic staff members, Mr G. Niroash and Mrs Vanajah Liyinthan participated in the workshop on 'Improve the current IT features' on the 2nd of October 2022 conducted by Dr Aras Arasilango, Director/CEO, Testenium Limited, organized by SDC, EUSL.

The academic staff members, Dr (Mrs) Thivahary Geretharan and Mrs Vanajah Liyinthan participated in the Workshop on 'the Introduction to (Open and Distance Learning) ODL' on the 23rd of September 2022 conducted by the Centre for External Degrees and Extension Course [CEDEC], EUSL.

The academic staff members Dr (Mrs) R. F. Niranjana, Dr K. Prasannath, Dr (Mrs) Thivahary Geretharan, Mrs N. Vathshalyan, Mr G. Hariharan, Mrs Vanajah Liyinthan, Mr S.T.D. De Silva, and Mr G. Niroash, along with many others, participated in a workshop on 'Management Information System' conducted by CICT, EUSL on 7th September 2022.

Young Researcher Forum

In the first forum on 22nd August 2022, Dr K. Prasannath discussed the "Sources and quantification of inoculum of flower blight pathogens in macadamia", while Mr G. Niroash presented on the "Assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from major municipal solid waste dumpsites in Sri Lanka".



The second forum on 6th September 2022, featured Dr (Mrs) Thivahary Geretharan's presentation on "The nature of agricultural support services in post-war Sri Lanka - voices of smallholder farmers". Mr S.T.D. De Silva also presented his research on "Measurement of serum 5 alfa pregnane-3, 20-dione (5 alfa DHP) and progesterone in female Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*)".



In the third forum on 3rd November 2022, Dr (Mrs) R. F. Niranjana shared her findings on "Bio-intensive integrated pest management (IPM) for Brinjal".



Seminars

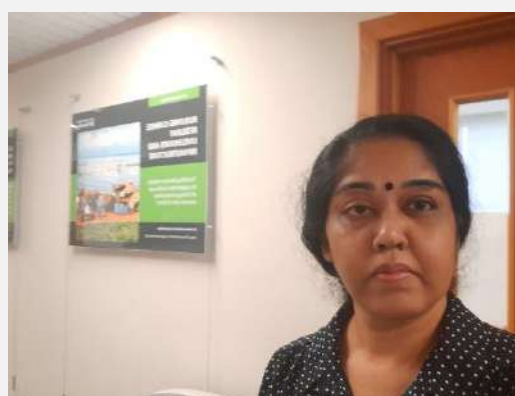
Dr (Mrs) Thivahary Geretharan (Senior Lecturer-Grade I), Department of Agricultural Economics Completed a Seminar on Poverty Alleviation and Corporation Development for South Asian Countries organized by China-South Asian Countries Poverty Alleviation and Corporation Centre held from 19th to 28th December 2022.



Dr Krishnal Thriumarpan (Senior Lecturer-Grade I), Department of Agricultural Economics

Participated in an online AFEM seminar on "Consumer behaviour and policy instruments to reduce climate impact from food consumption" held on 13th October 2022, organized by the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading, United Kingdom.

She also participated in an online AFEM seminar on "Improving diet-related health through incorporating carbon reduction policies" held on 17th November 2022, organized by the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading, United Kingdom.



Conferences

Dr Krishnal Thirumarpan presented at the AEM/ID Joint Annual Scientific Conference 2022 held on the 5th and 6th of May 2022, organized by the School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading, United Kingdom.



Dr R. Bawatharani (Senior Lecturer), Department of Agricultural Engineering presented in 1st China-New Zealand joint symposium in Horticulture, organized by Massey University, New Zealand from 24-25th February 2022, on the title of “Nitrogen loss potential governed by controlled release fertilisers and controlled traffic farming under vegetable growing conditions”.



Dr R. Bawatharani (Senior Lecturer), Department of Agricultural Engineering presented in the 34th Annual Conference of Farmed Landscape Research Centre organized by Massey University, New Zealand from 8-9th March 2022 on the title of “Characterization of traffic induced compaction in controlled traffic farming (CTF) and random traffic farming (RTF) - A multivariate approach”. (Conducted via Zoom)



Training Programmes

Mr S.T.D. De Silva. Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Animal Science, participated in a training program in "Gene cloning and Recombinant Protein Expression" at the Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Colombo (14th to 18th November 2022).



Students' Activities

Agro Day 2022

The Students Union of the Faculty of Agriculture organized Agro Day 2022 on November 6 at Nallaiha Auditorium, EUSL. The event was a celebration of the talents of our students and staff, with various performances such as song, dance, and drama. The students, as well as the staff of the Faculty of Agriculture, participated in the event and enjoyed the festive atmosphere. Agro Day provided an opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and passion for the arts, and it was a huge success thanks to the hard work and dedication of the students.



The day before Agro Day, on November 5, an exciting cricket match was held on the university playground between all four batches of students and staff of the Faculty of Agriculture. The cricket tournament was a thrilling competition, with each team giving their best to win. In the end, the students of the 2017/2018 batch emerged victorious, and their victory was celebrated by all. The cricket match was a great way to promote teamwork and sportsmanship among the students and staff of the Faculty of Agriculture.



Image Credits: EasternWaves

Vani Vizha 2022

Vani Vizha, an event organized by the Faculty of Agriculture at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka in Palachchola, was held on October 3, 2022. The event featured various activities such as dance shows, speeches, and Pooja (worship). It was attended by the staff of the Faculty of Agriculture, and by students, regardless of their religious beliefs, who participated in the Pooja ceremony. The event aimed to promote cultural and religious harmony among the faculty and students, fostering inclusivity and mutual respect within the academic community.



Image Credits: EasternWaves

Outcomes of Research Studies in 2022

- S. W. M. J. P. Wijesinghe and G. Thivahary (2022) "An analysis factors associated with turmeric yield in the Gampaha District". Proceedings of the 5th National Symposium on Agriculture - 2022 (NSA 2022), Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, 30th March 2022.
- G. P. P. N. Jayarathne and G. Thivahary (2022) "Paddy farmers' attitudes towards the adoption of paddy insurance scheme, Kantale DS division, Trincomalee District". Proceedings of the 5th National Symposium on Agriculture - 2022 (NSA 2022), Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, 30th March 2022.
- J. P. C. V. T. Jayasinghe and G. Thivahary (2022) "Consumers' awareness towards internal quality features of dairy food products". Proceedings of the 5th National Symposium on Agriculture - 2022 (NSA 2022), Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, 30th March 2022.

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