



NEWSLETTER



FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA | ISSUE 17 | 2023



The Dean's Message

I warmly welcome you to the seventeenth edition of the Faculty of Agriculture newsletter!

As we continue to build upon the strong foundation laid in previous issues, this edition delves into the latest news and achievements of our vibrant faculty community. Here, you'll find insights into our exceptional programs, dedicated staff, talented students, and groundbreaking faculty activities. Additionally, we showcase the remarkable contributions of our esteemed alumni.

Our unwavering focus remains on fostering an environment that caters to individual student needs. Our knowledgeable and well-informed staff, coupled with engaging programs, empower students to excel in their academic pursuits.

Furthermore, we envision a thriving community of learners who are not only connected within our walls, but also actively engaged with opportunities at the regional, national, and even international levels. As you delve into the information presented in this newsletter, I encourage you to share your valuable feedback, comments, and suggestions. Your input is instrumental in shaping the future of our faculty.

Looking ahead, we are dedicated to ensuring our faculty's continued phenomenal growth. Our core strategies include attracting world-class faculty, expanding our Honors tracks to nurture top talent, and prioritizing the ongoing renewal of our teaching and research laboratories. We hold the ambitious vision of elevating one or more of these research labs to gain national prominence. Rest assured, we will keep you updated on our progress towards achieving these vital goals, as well as the remarkable accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni.

Wishing you all continued success!

Professor (Mrs.) P. Premanandarajah,
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture.



The Editor's Message

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Faculty of Agriculture Newsletter for the year 2023, Issue 17. It is my pleasure to invite you on a journey through the vibrant landscape of our faculty community. Within these pages, you will discover a treasure trove of insights, updates, and achievements that reflect the breadth and depth of our collective endeavors. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our contributors, whose passion and expertise enrich the pages of this newsletter. It is through their dedication and vision that we are able to showcase the breadth and depth of talent within our faculty community.

I trust that this newsletter offers you a clear insight into our progress and achievements throughout the year 2023. Your feedback, comments, and suggestions are sincerely welcomed and I hope you find enjoyment in reading this issue.

Thank you.

Mrs Vanajah Liyinthan,

Editor/ Faculty Newsletter 2023.



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3rd International Symposium on Agriculture 2023

The Faculty of Agriculture at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, organized the 3rd International Symposium on Agriculture (ISA-2023) under the theme "Self-sustaining Agriculture: Way forward for food security and safety" on 9th March 2023. The event aimed to provide a platform for researchers, agriculturists, policymakers, engineers, economists, budding young scientists, students and other enthusiastic participants to exchange their experiences, novel ideas, and research findings in all aspects of agricultural science. The symposium was presided over by Prof. (Mrs.) P. Premanandarajah, Dean of Agriculture, and graced by Professor V. Kanagasigam, Vice-Chancellor of Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The distinguished keynote speakers for the 3rd International Symposium on Agriculture (ISA) were Professor W.A.J.M. De Costa, Senior Professor and Chair of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and Dr. Paramsothy Jeyakumar, Senior Research Scientist, Environmental Science Group, Massey University, New Zealand. They delivered keynote addresses titled "Sustainable Intensification of Crop Production in Sri Lanka in the Face of Climate Change and Resource Constraints" and "Trace Elements under Regenerative Management," respectively.

The honor of serving as the chief guest for the ISA-2023 was bestowed upon Prof. V. Geethalakshmi, the esteemed Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, India. Further, the meticulous coordination of the symposium was undertaken by Prof. S. Sutharsan, while the pivotal role of the symposium secretary was fulfilled by Mr. M. Rajendran. ISA-2023 extended invitations to scientists, academics, young researchers, students, and stakeholders from both national and international domains. The symposium served as a platform for comprehensive discussions concerning the practical challenges prevailing in the agricultural domain, along with proposing viable solutions aimed at attaining sustainable agricultural practices. A total of 52 research papers were presented during the symposium, fostering an environment conducive to scholarly exchange and collaborative discourse. Participants were afforded the opportunity to interact with eminent global experts, thereby enriching the international dialogue on the progression of self-sustaining agriculture, ultimately contributing to the enhancement of food security and safety measures.

Sri Lanka University Games Football- SLUG 2023



The 14th Sri Lanka University Games Football Championship unfolded with fervor from the 2nd to the 4th of September, 2023, meticulously organized by the Faculty of Agriculture at Eastern University. The event kicked off on the 2nd with a captivating opening ceremony held at the university grounds. The grand inauguration featured a vibrant cultural welcome dance performed by the talented final-year students Miss.D.D.S.N.Jayathilaka, Miss.H.M.M.O.Bandara, Mr.U.D.P.Aravinda and our staff Miss. R. Krishnananth of the Faculty of Agriculture, setting an energetic tone for the championship. The 4th, marking the conclusion of the games, witnessed a spectacular closing ceremony. Professor V. Kanagasigam, Vice-Chancellor of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, delivered an inspiring address, acknowledging the spirit of sportsmanship and the dedication showcased throughout the championship. The closing ceremony also showcased captivating cultural performances and culminated in a memorable awarding ceremony, recognizing the outstanding achievements of the participating teams and individuals.

Meeting with the Director General of the Department of Agriculture



The Department of Agriculture's newly appointed Director General undertook a visit to the Faculty of Agriculture at Eastern University, Sri Lanka on 27th January 2023. During this visit, proud alumna of our faculty, the Director General met with the Dean, academic staff, and representatives of the local farming community. The purpose of the meeting was to engage in a productive discussion concerning current agricultural issues and explore potential solutions.

Orientation Programme for New Students - 2021/ 2022 Batch



The orientation programme for the incoming students of the 2021/2022 academic batch within the Faculty of Agriculture was convened on June 12th, 2023. The program was meticulously coordinated by Mr. S.T.D. De Silva from the Department of Animal Science, who ensured its smooth execution. A comprehensive array of sessions was conducted throughout the program, featuring presentations delivered by esteemed resource persons. Feedback gathered from the participants revealed a notably positive response, with the majority of students expressing high appreciation for the orientation program.



Outreach Activities/ Programmes conducted by the faculty staff

Dr (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando and other academic staff, attached to the Department of Agricultural Biology, visited the Farmer Fields at Solayamadu on 06th May 2023 especially during the outbreak of "Rice Swarming Armyworm" to give advice to the farmers.



Dr. K. Prasannath and other staff members attached to the Department of Agricultural Biology diagnosed the yellowing rice plant samples as well as soil samples collected from the paddy fields in various locations in the Batticaloa district and the findings along with remedial measures were communicated with the farmers through the Extension Division of the Department of Agriculture, Batticaloa.

Training programmes/ Field Visits attended by students

A field visit was organized by Department of Agricultural Engineering to National Institute of Postharvest Management (NIPM), Anuradhapura to Agric. Engineering specialized students of 2017/2018 & 2018/2019 batches on 06th November 2023. Students were exposed to Postharvest and Process Engineering techniques at the institute. Dr. (Mrs.) R. Bawatharani and Mr. G. Niroash guided the students on the field trip.



Training programmes/ Field Visits attended by students

The Department of Animal Science organized a valuable field trip for third-year, first-semester students enrolled in AS 3101 Practices in Farm Animal Production (2018/2019 batch). Held on March 30th, 2023, the visit included stops at the National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA) in Dambulla and the NLDB farm in Melseripura. This immersive experience provided students with firsthand exposure to breeding and rearing techniques for farmed fish and livestock. Mr. S.T.D. De Silva and Mrs. V Liyinthan guided the student group throughout the trip, ensuring a comprehensive and informative visit.



The Department of Animal Science facilitated a field trip for third-year, second-semester students (2018/2019 batch) enrolled in a Biotechnology practical course. Led by Professor M. Pagthinathan and Mr. S.T.D. De Silva, the trip included visits to the University of Ruhuna and the Ridiyagama NLDB farm. This hands-on experience provided students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in the classroom to real-world settings.



The Third Year Second Semester (2017/2018 Batch) Agriculture students who are specializing at the Department of Agricultural Biology have been taken to HORDI, Gannoruwa on 22nd June 2023 to get training on Pesticide Residue and Heavy Metal Analysis.



Training programmes/ Field Visits attended by students

The Third Year Second Semester (2017/2018 Batch) and Third Year First Semester (2019/2020 Batch) Agriculture students have been taken to Coconut Cultivation Board, Myllambavelly, Batticaloa on 16.05.2023 and 27.11. 2023 respectively to get to know about the biological control and other management practices

The Third Year First Semester (2019/2020 Batch) Agriculture students have been taken to Karadiyan Aru on 04.12.2023 to have hands on training in identifying the rice pests.



Award of Scholarships, Fellowships, Prizes, Awards and Research Grants



Prof. (Mrs). Punitha Premanandarajah received the best presenter award at the International Symposium on Sustainable Plantation Management (ISSPM) – 2023 held on 4th August 2023.

Dr (Mrs) R.Bawatharani from Department of Agricultural Engineering worked in collaboration with an international team of academics from European and Asian Universities on “Agricultural Revitalization in Higher Education Institutions of Asian Countries (AGRHI)” under the call ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE-STRAND-2, has been awarded with ERASMUS-Lump Sum Grant of 67,767 Euros for Eastern University, Sri Lanka. This project proposal was submitted in collaboration with consortium members of Fluid Flow Machinery, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland, University of West Attica, Greece, Middle East Technological University, Turkey, College of Engineering, Pune Technological University, India, Arcedus Technologies, India, Anna University, India, Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation, Malaysia, University Malaysia Pahang, Malaysia, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, Eastern University, Sri Lanka and consortium coordinator Vellore Institute of Technology, India. She has been assigned as the Project Coordinator of this project, which is transferrable from the project proposal as per EU guidelines. The duration of this project is 3 years.



Award of Scholarships, Fellowships, Prizes, Awards and Research Grants

Prof (Mrs.) R. F. Niranjana and Dr. K. Prasannath obtained community outreach based research grant on 30.11.2023 to do research on Efficient pest management methods for maize and cowpea employing vibration exciters and botanical pesticides.

Dr (Mrs.) R. F. Niranjana obtained a research grant through University Business Linkage on 24.05.2023 for 'Formulation and Commercialization of Biopesticides using derivatives of selected plants.



Dr. K. Prasannath has been recognized for his outstanding research achievements. He received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Output-Based Research-2022 for publications in indexed journals, the Dean's Award for Outstanding Higher Degree by Research by The University of Queensland, Australia, and the Allen Kerr Postgraduate Prize by the Australasian Plant Pathology Society (APPS) for the best piece of original research relevant to Australasia by a postgraduate student in the field of Plant Pathology.



Mr. Ganeshamoorthy Hariharan, Lecturer Probationary in Agricultural Biology, received an Australasian Plant Pathology Society (APPS) student and early career researcher travel bursary to attend the APPS Conference in Adelaide, Australia. There, he was awarded the 2nd Best Student Poster Presentation Prize at the 24th conference (2023).



Mrs. S. Karunakaran received the Best Poster Presentation award at the 27th International Forestry and Environment Symposium 2023 held on 27 to 28 January 2023.

Mr. Ganeshamoorthy Hariharan (Lecturer Probationary) received the University of Queensland Research Training Scholarship to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Queensland, Australia.



Mr. M. Rajendran received scholarship to pursue PhD in Agricultural Water Resource and its Environment at the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development in Agriculture of the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences from 10.09.2023.

Dr T. Geretharan received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Output-based Research – 2022 for publications in Indexed Journals.



Appointments/ Promotions/ Retirement of Staff during 2023



Professor (Mrs.) P. Premanandarajah made history on February 28th, 2023, becoming the Faculty of Agriculture's first female dean.

Professor (Mrs.) Thayamini H. Seran was the Director / Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM) for a period of three years with effect from 3rd June 2020. She also served a member of the Jury as per the appointment made by H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to serve in the evaluation panel - "President Awards for Inventions 2017-2022" for locally patented inventions, Sri Lanka Inventors, Commission (SLIC) under the purview of the Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka.



Professor. S. Sutharsan appointed as Acting Dean Faculty of Siddha Medicine.

Dr (Mrs.) R. F. Niranjana has been promoted to the post of Professor in Agricultural Entomology in the Department of Agricultural Biology by the Council, Eastern University at its meeting held on 20.05.2023 with effect from 16.11.2021.



Dr. M. Sugirtharan has been promoted to the post of Professor in Agricultural Engineering (by Merit) in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL at the 338th Council meeting held on 28.10.2023.

Dr (Mrs.) Krishnal Thirumarpan appointed as the Head/ Department of Agricultural Economics with effect from 02. 03. 2023.



Dr T. Geretharan has been appointed as the Director/Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management [CENSARM] with effect from 4th June 2023.

Appointments/ Promotions/ Retirement of Staff during 2023

Dr. (Mrs.) R. Bawatharani is promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I in Agricultural Engineering, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL at the 336th Council meeting held on 28.03.2023.



Mrs. A. Sugirtharan appointed as Head/ Department of Agricultural Chemistry with effect from 28th May 2023.

Dr. K. Prasannath has been promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Gr. I at the Department of Agricultural Biology with effect from 29th June 2021.



Dr. T. M. S. Asanka Tennakoon has been appointed to the Department of Agricultural Biology since 1st November 2023 as Senior Lecturer Gr.II.

Miss.R.Krishnananthy appointed as Lecturer (Probationary) of Agricultural Chemistry with effect from 1st of December 2023



Dr. M. M. Mahusoon, Senior Lecturer Gr I attached to the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture retired from his position with effect from 15th December 2023. He has rendered his service to the faculty of Agriculture as well as the university for more than 40 years.



Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM) - 2023

Modern Techniques in Agribusiness and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development 2023

The Faculty of Agriculture in Palachcholaï served as the backdrop for a comprehensive three-day training program conducted by CENSARM, Faculty of Agriculture, with the supervision of CENSARM Director Dr.T.Geretharan from the 21st to the 23rd of August. The event attracted 120 participants, comprising a diverse group including farmers, SMEs, Department of Agriculture officers, and university students. Focused on "Modern Techniques in Agribusiness and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development," the training program was a collaborative effort between CENSARM and partners like the World Food Programme and Senzmate Private Limited. The engaging sessions were complemented by the generous provision of food and refreshments courtesy of WFP and Senzmate (Pvt) Ltd. The training initiative not only fostered knowledge exchange but also celebrated participants' dedication with the issuance of participation certificates, highlighting the commitment to advancing agricultural practices and entrepreneurship in the community.

MODERN TECHNIQUES IN AGRIBUSINESS AND AGRI-ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

"Nurturing Talent and Fostering Innovation"



<p>THEMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Value Chain • Precision Agriculture • Digital Marketing • Remote Sensing (Drones) • Agro-Entrepreneurship 	<p>PARTICIPANTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Students • College of Agriculture Students (NVQ 4 and above) • SMEs and Entrepreneurs • AI, Extension Officers from Batticaloa District
<p>DATE</p> <p>August 21, 22 & 23, 2023 From 9 am to 4 pm</p>	<p>VENUE</p> <p>Faculty of Agriculture Eastern University, Sri Lanka Palachcholaï</p>

COLLABORATION OF







CONTACT:

<p>Dr. T. Geretharan Director/ CENSARM Faculty of Agriculture Eastern University, Sri Lanka 077-2992928</p>	<p>Mr. G. Niroash Department of Agricultural Engineering Faculty of Agriculture Eastern University, Sri Lanka 077-6607892</p>
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Tree planting 2023

On September 4th, 2023, the picturesque landscape of the Faculty of Agriculture at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, hosted a momentous event under the theme "Wooded Country - Towards a Sustainable Future." This initiative made possible through the generous support of the Commercial Bank, stands as a pivotal contribution to the nationwide endeavor to plant 100,000 trees. Against the backdrop of this esteemed academic institution, the program signifies a harmonious union of education and environmental stewardship. Participants, including students, faculty staff, and volunteers, have converged to engage in a collective effort to foster sustainability.



The Open Day 2023

The insightful session that occurred on October 3rd, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the SDC Hall of Eastern University Lanka, provided a comprehensive exploration of the critical theme "Human and Elephant Understanding." The event specifically emphasized the utilization of technology to safeguard humans from potential interactions with elephants. Renowned experts in their respective fields led the discourse, with Mr. A.M. Riyas Ahamed, Senior Lecturer Gr.1 in the Zoology Department of Biological Sciences within the Faculty of Applied Sciences at South Eastern University Lanka, and Dr. T. Geretharan, Senior Lecturer Gr.1 in the Department of Crop Science, serving as distinguished resource persons. The event, which was thoughtfully organized by the Center for Multidisciplinary Research (CMR) and the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) at Eastern University Sri Lanka (EUSL), fell under the umbrella of the CENSARM Faculty of Agriculture. Participants experienced an engaging exploration of the complex dynamics between humans and elephants, along with discussions on technological solutions for fostering coexistence.



"OPEN DAY"
EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA

Invitation to
Human and Elephant Understanding and
Technology to Protect Humans from Elephants

Date & Time
3rd October 2023
9 am to 1 pm

Venue
SDC Hall,
Eastern University
(Main Campus)

Resource Persons
Mr. A M Riyas Ahamed
Senior Lecturer Gr. I in Zoology
Department of Biological Sciences
Faculty of Applied Sciences,
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Dr. T. Geretharan
Senior Lecturer Gr. I
Department of Crop Science
Faculty of Agriculture
Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Organized by
Center for Multidisciplinary Research (CMR) &
SLAAS Eastern Chapter, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. &
CENSARM, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka

The Agriculture Instructor Basic Training Programme 2023

The Agriculture Instructor Basic Training Programme occurred on October 12, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The venue for this comprehensive training session was the ICT Lab within the Faculty of Arts and Culture at Eastern University, Sri Lanka. This initiative was made possible through the generous funding provided by the Booster Grant Project. The entire program was meticulously organized by CENSARM, Faculty of Agriculture at Eastern University, Sri Lanka. Participants experienced an enriching program, gaining valuable insights and skills that contributed to their effectiveness as agriculture instructors, ultimately benefiting the agricultural community in the region.



12
October
2023

**OSM Basic Training for
Agriculture Instructors**

Time:
09:00am - 04:00pm

Venue:
ICT Lab,
Faculty of Arts and Culture,
Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Funded by Booster Grant Project
Organized by CENSARM, Faculty of Agriculture,
Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Celebration of World Food Day 2023

On the 16th of October 2023, a vibrant celebration of World Food Day took place at the Faculty of Agriculture, which was organized by CENSARM, the faculty of Agriculture marked by the enthusiastic participation of 50 individuals funded by World Vision Lanka. The event aimed to shed light on the crucial relationship between water and food, with the theme resonating as "Water is Life, Water is Food. Leave No One Behind." The occasion featured a thematic talk, showcasing an array of innovative "Aaniver" agricultural products, including the display of millet-based items. The esteemed Chief Guest for the event was Prof. V. Kanagasingam, the Vice Chancellor of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, who brought insights and inspiration to the gathering. The event was further enriched by insightful speeches delivered by Dr. Premakumar and Prof. M. Sugirtharan, emphasizing the importance of sustainable agricultural practices and ensuring that no one is left behind in the global pursuit of food security.



Career Guidance Cell

Mrs.E.D.J.Prince, Coordinator for Career Guidance Cell stated the following CGC activities during 2023.

A Seminar on **Employability Skills** was conducted to 2nd year students (2020/2021 batch), Faculty of Agriculture, on 15th November 2023 at the Faculty of Agriculture by the Career Guidance Unit, EUSL and Faculty Career Guidance Cell, Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL. The Resource person was Eng. S. Mohanarajah, Retired Director General of Irrigation, Dept. of Irrigation, Colombo. The students were guided with the knowledge of skills needed to be developed for employability in the government and private sectors.

A Seminar on **How to face an interview** was conducted to 3rd year students (2019/2020 batch), Faculty of Agriculture on 18th December 2023 at the Faculty of Agriculture by the Career Guidance Unit, EUSL and Faculty Career Guidance Cell, Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL. The Resource person was Mr. Kaleel Shameel, Asst. Manager – Human Resources, Brandix Apparel Ltd, Batticaloa. The students were given awareness of CV writing and preparation for an interview related to private sector.



Closing Ceremony – AHEAD ELTA-ELSE Development Projects



Professor (Mrs.) P. Premanandarajah, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture; Professor M. Pagthinathan, Program Coordinator for the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE Project/ Department of Animal Science; Dr. T. Geretharan, Program Coordinator for the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE Project/ Faculty of Agriculture; Professor (Mrs.) Thayamini H. Seran, Activity Coordinator for the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE Project/ Faculty of Agriculture; Dr. M. Sugirtharan, Activity Coordinator for the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE Project/ Faculty of Agriculture; Dr. M. S. M. Nafees, Head of Animal Science; Dr. Thivahary Geretharan, Activity Coordinator for the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE Project/ Department of Animal Science, and Mr. G. Niroash, Activity Coordinator for the AHEAD ELTA-ELSE Project/ Faculty of Agriculture; all participated in the Closing Ceremony of the Conference on ELTA-ELSE Development Projects. This ceremony took place on August 9th, 2023, at the Lotus Hall, BMICH, under the theme 'To be AHEAD in teaching and learning – From Theory to Practice, and Beyond.' The Faculty of Agriculture and the Department of Animal Science were among recipients of the project funds. The journey of these projects toward success was vividly portrayed through presentations delivered by Dr. Geretharan for the Faculty Project and Dr. Thivahary for the Department Project.



Workshops/ Seminars/ Field Visits/Conferences/ Training Programmes attended by staff during the year 2023

Workshops

Prof (Mrs.) R. F. Niranjana participated in a workshop on ‘Intellectual Property for Sri Lankan women inventors and scientists’ conducted by NIPO in the cooperation of WIPO on 13 – 14 June 2023.

Dr (Mrs.) R. F. Niranjana Participated in a workshop on ‘Subject bench Mark’ conducted by QAC, UGC on 24th January 2023.

Dr (Mrs.) R. F. Niranjana Participated in SER writers’ workshop on ‘Institutional Review’ conducted by QAC, UGC on 16th January 2023.

Dr. K. Prasannath participated in a workshop on “Student Counselling for the Student Counsellors” conducted by the Staff Development Centre, Eastern University, Sri Lanka 23rd May 2023.

Dr. K. Prasannath participated in several workshops on “Roles and Responsibilities of Postgraduate Supervisors” conducted by the Staff Development Centre, Eastern University, Sri Lanka in 2023.

Trainings

Prof (Mrs.) R. F. Niranjana participated ‘WIPO-NIPO mentoring program for Sri Lankan women scientists and researchers conducted by WIPO-NIPO from August to October 2023.

Conferences

Mr. Ganeshamoorthy Hariharan attended the 24th Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference, 2023, in Adelaide, Australia, and presented his findings at the conference.

Outcomes of Research Studies in 2023

Application of 34.3 g *Acorus calamus* rhizome powder to 1000 g cowpea and green gram seeds will prevent *Callosobruchus maculatus* infection up to 45 days without affecting the consumer preference.

The exposure of electromagnetic field through pulse electromagnetic device at 8 Hz for 20 minutes will inhibit the development of larvae and pupae of *Spodoptera mauritia*.

Weekly foliar application of *Piper longum* fruit extract at 5:1 ratio with water will reduce the infestation of spiraling white fly (*Alecurodicus dispersus*) in coconut palms.

The vermiwash prepared using indigenous variety of earth worm with neem leaves will effectively control the epilachna beetle infestation in yard long beans.

The black bean aphids on yardlong beans will be efficiently controlled by the application of vermiwash, which made up with indigenous variety of earthworm with neem leaves.

The development of *Tribolium castaneum* will be prohibited from 46°C at 70 % RH in the storage condition of rice grains and wheat flour.

Application of 5 g of rhizome dried powder of *Acorus calamus* to 100 g of paddy seeds and replacement of such application by every 45 days will protect the paddy seeds from the attack of *Sitotroga cerealella*.

Foliar application of salicylic acid suspension reduces chilli leaf curl virus disease severity in chilli crops.

Outcomes of Research Studies in 2023

2% methanolic extract of *Acorus calamus* solution completely inhibit the colony growth of banana anthracnose fungal pathogen in vitro. Lentil agar medium was adjudged as the best alternative media replacing the potato dextrose agar media for culturing *Colletotrichum* and *Botrytis* fungi.

Thenuja, M., Sutharsan, S and Rifnas, LM. 2023. Impact of different levels of Gamma irradiation on growth of *Arachis hypogaea*. 3rd International Symposium on Agriculture 2023. 33 – 37.

Nowe, MF., Sutharsan, S., Srikrishnah, S. and Rifnas, LM. 2023. Effects of Different Combinations of Cow Dung and Jeewamirtha Application on Growth and Yield of *Vigna Unguiculata* L. Asian Journal of Science and Applied Technology. Vol.12(1):12-16.

Kumarasinghe, KDL. and Sutharsan, S. 2023. Different combination of Amirthakaraisal and compost on growth and yield of *Vigna unguiculata* L.. 3rd International Symposium on Agriculture 2023. 11 - 15.

Ahamed, NN., Rifnas, LM., Vidanapathirana, NP., Rifas, AC., Sutharsan, S. and Siriwardana, AJMCM. 2023. Effect of Gamma irradiation on growth and yield of red onion (*Allium cepa* L.). Proceedings of the International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research (ICMR 2023). 11.

Imrana Farhan., I. and Sugirtharan, M. (2023). Effect of surface and drip irrigation on growth, yield and water use efficiency of okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) -A Review. Adv. Technol., 3(1), 1-19. Abstracts:

K. Sanjayan, R. Yathusa, M.Sugirtharan (2023). Assessment of Ground Water Quality in Kirankulam Area of Batticaloa, Sri Lanka with Special Reference to Cation Concentrations, pH, EC, TDS, and Turbidity. Abstracts of the Proceedings of the 1 st International Conference on Technological Research and Innovation 2023 (ICTRI – 2023), Faculty of Technology, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. P44.

K. Thevatharshan, D.M.J.K.K. Dissanayake, M. Sugirtharan (2023). Effects of Different Water Sources on Growth and Yield of Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*). Abstracts of the Proceedings of the 1 st International Conference on Technological Research and Innovation 2023 (ICTRI – 2023), Faculty of Technology, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. P46.

R.Yathusa and M. Sugirtharan (2023). Water Quality Assessment at Some Selected Farming Villages of Eravur Pattu DS Division, Batticaloa District, Sri Lanka. Abstracts of the Proceedings of the 1 st International Conference on Technological Research and Innovation 2023 (ICTRI – 2023), Faculty of Technology, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. P48.

Husna Begum, A.L., R. Thivyatharsan, R. and Muneeb M. M. (2023). Spatiotemporal variation of pollutant levels in the Sainthamaruthu coastal lagoon. Proceedings of International Conference on Science and Technology, Faculty of Technology, Southeastern University of Sri Lanka.

Sanjaya, A.L., Rajapaksha, R.T., Thivyathrasn, R and Niroash, G. (2023). Effect of soil moisture content, salinity and acidity on the persistence of soil water repellency in the Pastureland of Palachchola, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. Proceedings of International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. 21p.

Bawatharani, R and Jayatissa, D.N (2023). Evaluation of Grain Losses as Affected by Combine Forward Speed. International Journal of Research and Innovation in Applied Science (IJRIAS) doi: 10.51584/ijrias. 8 (2). 68-72.

S. Thirumaran and M. Rajendran (2023). Development of A Digital Device for the Automation of Class A Evaporation Pan Measurement Based on Modified Mayer's Formula for Local Climatic Conditions. Proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium on Agriculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka:159-162.

T. Nilojan and M. Rajendran (2023). Assessment of Groundwater Quality and Its Suitability for Drinking in Mannar Island. Proceedings of the 3rd International Symposium on Agriculture-2023, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka:145-151.

Students' Activities

Agro Day 2023

The Students Union of the Faculty of Agriculture organized Agro Day 2023 on November 4th at Nallaiah 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 3rd, 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



In a momentous event, Department of Agricultural Engineering welcomed the specialization students of 2018/2019 batch. The welcome function took place on the 13th of July 2023, marking the beginning of an exciting journey for the latest members of our academic community.

Final year research presentation for 2017/2018 batch was commenced on 15th December 2023. 09 students specialized from Department of Agricultural Engineering presented their final year research findings in the forum.

