



# NEWSLETTER



FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA | ISSUE 18 | 2024



## *The Dean's Message*

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

Building upon the strong foundation laid in previous editions, this issue brings you the latest developments, achievements, and milestones from across our faculty. It offers insights into our well-structured academic programs, the unwavering dedication of our academic and non-academic staff, the excellence demonstrated by our students, and the remarkable accomplishments of our alumni.

We remain deeply committed to creating a supportive environment that addresses the unique needs of each student. With the guidance of our experienced and dedicated staff and the strength of our dynamic academic programs, we empower students to thrive in their educational journey.

We aim to foster a dynamic learning environment where students, staff, and alumni are not only connected within our faculty but also actively involved in opportunities at regional, national, and international arenas. As you read through this edition, we welcome your insights, feedback, and suggestions. Your contributions are invaluable in helping shape the future direction of our faculty.

Looking to the future, we remain committed to driving the remarkable growth of our faculty. Key priorities include recruiting exceptional academic talent, enhancing our honors programs to cultivate excellence, and continuously upgrading our teaching and research laboratories. We hold the ambitious vision of elevating one or more of these research labs to gain national prominence. We will continue to share our progress toward these important objectives, along with the outstanding achievements 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 18<sup>th</sup> issue of the Faculty of Agriculture Newsletter for 2024. It is my privilege to guide you through the dynamic and inspiring world of our faculty. Within these pages, you'll uncover a wealth of knowledge, updates, and accomplishments that highlight the diversity and excellence of our collective efforts.

I extend my deepest appreciation to all our contributors, whose passion and expertise have brought this newsletter to life. Their dedication and vision allow us to celebrate the remarkable talent and achievements within our faculty community.

I trust that this issue provides a comprehensive overview of our progress and milestones throughout 2024. We warmly welcome your feedback, comments, and suggestions, and I hope you enjoy exploring this edition.

Thank you.

Ms.R.Krishnananthy

Editor/ Faculty Newsletter 2024.



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## ***6<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Agriculture 2024***

The 6<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Agriculture (NSA-2024) was successfully held on March 6, 2024, under the theme "Resilient Agriculture – A Tool for Reviving the Sri Lankan Economy." The symposium provided an important platform for researchers, agriculturists, policymakers, engineers, economists, young scientists, students, and other stakeholders to exchange their experiences, innovative ideas, and research findings in various areas of agricultural science.

The event was presided over by Prof. (Mrs.) P. Premanandarajah, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, and was graced by Prof. V. Kanagasigam, Vice-Chancellor of Eastern University, Sri Lanka. Prof. C.M.B. Demarawewa, a professor and former director (2017-2024) of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the symposium's central theme.

Throughout the event, in-depth discussions addressed current agricultural challenges and explored practical solutions for achieving sustainable agricultural practices. A total of 51 research papers were presented, fostering academic exchange and collaboration. The symposium also provided participants with the opportunity to engage with renowned experts, enhancing global discussions on self-sustaining agriculture, food security, and safety. The event was successfully coordinated by Dr. M.S. Mohamed Nafees (Coordinator, NSA-2024) and Dr. K. Prasannath (Secretary, NSA-2024).



## Orientation Programme for New Students - 2022/ 2023 Batch



The orientation programme for the incoming students of the 2022/2023 academic batch within the faculty of Agriculture was convened on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The program was meticulously coordinated by Mrs.V.Liyinthan 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*

Prof. R.F. Niranjana and Dr. K. Prasannath were involved in the School Science Day Program conducted for the Kalkudah Zonal Education School Children, jointly organized by the Eastern Chapter-SLAAS and the Committee for Popularization of Science-SLAAS on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024.



Prof (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando and Dr. K. Prasannath, attached to the Department of Agricultural Biology, have visited the Farmer Fields at Chenkalady on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 to check the farmers complaint on moss.



At the request of Dr. Christine, a member of the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society, Prof (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando, Ms. Lakshika Madhuwanthi, Management Assistant and Ms. Malki Bandara, Demonstrator attached to the Department of Agricultural Biology, have visited the citrus fields at Wasgamuwa National Park on December 11, 2024 to give remedy for the problems in citrus cultivation.





At the request of the Agrarian Department, Batticaloa, Prof. (Mrs.) Punitha Premanandarajah, Ms. R. Krishnananthu (Probationary Lecturer), Mr. M. Herushan (Technical Officer attached to the Department of Agricultural Chemistry), and other staff members visited Palugamam to observe the soil profile test study conducted for the Palugamam Lift Irrigation Sub-Cluster under the Cavendish Banana Cluster in the Batticaloa District. This study was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture through the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project, Provincial Project Management Unit, Eastern Province, Batticaloa District, as requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Sector Modernization Project, Provincial Project Management Unit, Eastern Province.



Mr. G. Niroash from Dept. Agric. Engineering was participated as a resource person in the workshop on “Establishing Arduino Clubs and Conducting Robotic Competitions” arranged to the Secondary Students and Teachers of Paddiruppu Education Zone on 24th December 2024 at Computer Resource Center, Paddiruppu.

Mr. R. Thivyatharsan and Mr. G. Niroash from Dept. Agric. Engineering were participated as resource persons in the “Island Wide Poster competition and Awareness Campaign to Commemorate the World Environmental Day 2024” organized by the Central Environmental Authority, Ampara on 05th April 2024.



Mrs. E. Delina J. Prince attended as a speaker at the Pre-conference workshop at the International Conference on Digital Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture (ICDTSA-2024) on “Smart farming: AI -Driven Solutions” on 7th October 2024 at Anna University, India.

## ***Workshops/ Seminars/ Field Visits/Conferences/ Training Programs attended by staff during the year 2024***

### ***Exploring State-of-the-Art Technologies: EUSL Staff Visit to European Higher Education Institutions under the ERASMUS+ AGRHI Project.***

Dr.R.Bawatharani participated in a series of knowledge and technology transfer programs along with Dr. K. Prasannath, across Turkey, Poland, and Greece under the ERASMUS+ AGRHI project. These visits, spanning May 4th to May 15th, 2024, aimed to bridge the knowledge gap between Asian agricultural curricula and modern technology driven farming systems.

At Middle East Technical University (METU) in Turkey, discussions focused on the digitalization of agricultural machinery and sustainable farming aligned with the European Green Deal. The visit included exposure to advanced agricultural practices, unmanned systems in smart agriculture, and sustainable energy innovations.



In Poland, Dr. R. Bawatharani and Dr. K. Prasannath collaborated with the Institute of Fluid Flow Machinery (IMP PAN) to explore the integration of renewable energy into agricultural practices. During this visit, Dr. R. Bawatharani presented the needs analysis report prepared for Asian countries. The findings of the need analysis survey and the proposed strategies were subsequently discussed in-depth by European and Asian partners, aimed at aligning Asian agricultural curricula with sustainable digital practices. The University of West Attica in Greece highlighted the role of AI and drone technology in agriculture, with practical demonstrations and brainstorming sessions on curriculum enhancement.



Mr. G. Niroash participated at the international workshop on the “Application of Agricultural Robotics” from 6th to 25th May 2024 organized by the Shandong Academy of Sciences, The People's Republic of China. The workshop mainly focused on the technologies of agricultural robots, smart agriculture, machine vision, artificial intelligence, unmanned driving and automation



Mr. R. Thivyatharsan attended the international workshop on “Agriculture Technology Transformation” held on 3rd and 4th October 2024 by the Dept. Mechanical Engineering, COEP Technological University, Pune, India.

Dr. K. Prasannath participated in a panel discussion and presented a paper at the International Conference on Digital Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture (ICDTSA-2024), held from 8 to 10 October 2024 at the Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai, Sri Lanka.



### *Participation in the International Conference on Digital Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture (ICDTSA-2024)*

Dr. R. Bawatharani participated in the International Conference on Digital Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture (ICDTSA-2024) held at VIT Chennai from October 8-10, 2024. At the ICDTSA-2024, she served as a session chair and involved in panel discussions emphasizing the integration of digital technologies like blockchain, IoT, and AI into agricultural practices. She also attended the pre-conference workshop on ‘Smart Farming: AI-Driven Solutions’ hosted by Anna University, India on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Both events were organized as part of the ERASMUS+ AGRHI project.



The Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS), in collaboration with the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL), successfully organized a workshop aimed at promoting Lab Animal Ethics and the Culture of Care (COC). Held on September 6, 2024, at 8:30 AM at the Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL, Palachchola. Participants gained valuable insights into ethical considerations, best practices, and the importance of a compassionate approach in laboratory animal research.



Miss K. Aruniya, Technical Officer, Department of crop science conducted the workshop for third year second semester crop science specialized students on Usage of Root scanner in Agriculture Research on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

Mrs. A.F. Musfira, Lecturer, South Eastern University, conducted the workshop in our faculty, on Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture - The Future of Farming in Sri Lanka.

Dr. T. Geretharan, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Crop Science, served as a Visiting Scientist at Massey University, New Zealand, during his sabbatical leave from 15th February 2024. During this period, he worked for Manawapou Landfarm and Whenua Haumanu projects. He developed methodologies for analyzing lead (Pb) contamination in tap water and conducted analyses of pasture and soil samples to measure concentrations of key elements such as cadmium (Cd), copper (Cu), and zinc (Zn). He also employed advanced techniques to analyze plant samples for metals like Gold (Au), Silver (Ag), and Copper (Cu). Additionally, Dr. Geretharan enhanced his R and Python programming skills, including using R Shiny for web-based application development, further advancing his research capabilities.



Dr. Thivahary Geretharan, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics, was on overseas sabbatical leave from February 15, 2024, to January 19, 2025. She served as a Visiting Scientist at the School of Agriculture and Environment, Massey University, New Zealand.

Her role as a visiting scientist allowed her to contribute meaningfully to the postgraduate course on Agricultural Extension and Consultancy [Course code: 119731]. She delivered guest lectures to both internal and distance-learning postgraduate students. This is especially significant, considering her focus on agricultural extension and advisory systems in developing countries, which likely offered students valuable insights and real-world applications.

Additionally, her participation in community outreach activities, where she interacted directly with farmers and key agricultural stakeholders, highlights her commitment to bridging the gap between academia and the agricultural sector. This hands-on experience would have been incredibly valuable for both her own research and the practical knowledge of those involved.





## *Training programmes / Field Visits attended by students*

The Department of Crop Science facilitated a field trip for Third year, first semester students (2019/2020) enrolled in CS 3101 Practices in Crop Production Technology. Held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to Seed and Planting Material Development Center, Karadiyanaru, led by Professor S. Sutharsan. This hands-on experience provided students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge about the seed and planting material development sector.



The Third Year Second Semester (2018/2019), students who are specializing at the Department of Crop Science have been taken to field visit to the Gherkin processing Center located in the Vakara area on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 to get the overview of the post-harvest processing techniques used for gherkins, focusing particularly on grading and preservation method. Professor S. Sutharsan guided the students on the field trip.



The Department of Crop Science facilitated a field trip for Third year, First semester students (2020/2021) enrolled in CS 3101 Practices in Crop Production Technology held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to Cavendish banana cluster and Pomegranate cluster Vellaveli, Batticaloa. Professor S. Sutharsan and S. Srikrishnah (Senior Lecturer) guided the student group throughout the trip.





The Third Year First Semester (2020/2021 Batch) Agriculture students have been taken to Regional Agriculture Research and Development Centre (RARDC), Karadiyanaru on 30.07.2024 for hands-on training in identifying the pests affecting rice crops. The visit was organized by the Department of Agricultural Biology.

The Department of Agricultural Biology organized a visit for the Third Year First Semester (2020/2021 Batch) Agriculture students to the Coconut Cultivation Board, Myllambavelly, Batticaloa, on August 6, 2024 to learn about biological control and other management practices against coconut pests.



The Third Year First Semester (2020/2021 Batch) Agriculture students have been taken to Department of Agriculture Training Centre (DATC), Sathurukkondan on September 10, 2024 for hands-on training in identifying the pests affecting vegetable crops



The Department of Animal Science organized a field visit for third-year, first-semester students enrolled in AS 3101: Practices in Farm Animal Production (2019/2020 batch). Conducted on March 7, 2024, the visit encompassed key locations, including the National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA) in Dambulla and the NLDB farm in Melseripura. A similar field visit was organized for third-year, first-semester students of the 2020/2021 batch enrolled in the same course, which took place on August 22, 2024. This experiential learning opportunity provided students with direct exposure to breeding and rearing techniques for farmed fish and livestock. The student group was accompanied and guided by Mr. S.T.D. De Silva and Mrs. V. Liyinthan, ensuring a well-structured and informative visit.



The Department of Animal Science facilitated hands-on practical training for third-year, first-semester students enrolled in AS 3101: Practices in Farm Animal Production at the Livestock Farm of Eastern University. This experiential learning opportunity enabled students to enhance their practical knowledge and skills in farm animal management, fostering a deeper understanding of livestock production practices.



Third year first semester students, as part of their farm practice course in the Department of Agricultural Economics visited Agriculture Technology Demonstration Park, Cluster village - Chenkalady, to observe the field and to learn and get the knowledge on the ISP technology on Pomegranate cultivation.

A field visit was organized by Dept. Agricultural Engineering to the Rice Mill at Koduvamadu to Agric. Engineering specialized students of 2019/2020 batch on 9th October 2024. Students were exposed to Postharvest techniques in Rice Processing. Dr. (Mrs.) R. Bawatharani, Miss. D.M.T.G. Dissanayaka and Mr. P. Ramesh guided the students in the field trip.





## *Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM) - 2024*

### ***CENSARM facilitates workshop on Mobile Application Development for Agriculture Officers and Farmers***

CENSARM organized a workshop on mobile application development for agriculture officers and farmers, led by Mr. U.W. Lahiru Madhushanka Kumarasiri from the Sugarcane Research Institute.

Held on February 8, 2024, at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, the session introduced participants to mobile technology for improving farming. Through interactive discussions and hands-on demonstrations, attendees learned how to develop and use mobile apps for tasks like crop management and market access.

CENSARM aims to enhance digital literacy and innovation in agriculture. The workshop emphasized the role of mobile technology in increasing efficiency and productivity. Participants left motivated and equipped with practical skills to integrate mobile applications into their farming operations.



### ***CENSARM / Faculty of Agriculture spearheads effort to boost Millet production in Batticaloa District***

The Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM) convened a significant meeting with government officials to advocate for expanding millet cultivation in the Batticaloa District. Held at the Batticaloa District Secretariat on February 9, 2024, the session brought together key stakeholders, including the District Secretary, Additional District Secretary, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture, Deputy Commissioner of Agrarian Services, District Director of Agriculture, Director of Planning, as well as representatives from World Vision and Anivar Private Limited.

Dr. T. Geretharan, Director of CENSARM, underscored the importance of millet farming in enhancing regional food security and resilience against climate change. Attendees gained valuable insights into the benefits of millet integration in agriculture through detailed presentations and discussions.

Participants acknowledged the need to expand millet cultivation in response to global trends in diversified and climate-resilient food systems. They pledged to support initiatives promoting millet farming through collaboration. The meeting also explored strategies to enhance market access for millet-based products, leveraging government and private sector expertise to advance millet production in Batticaloa.





### ***CENSARM hosts workshop on Drone Application Maintenance for Farmers and Agriculture Officers***

CENSARM organized a workshop on drone application and maintenance for farmers and agriculture officers, focusing on developing essential skills for operating and maintaining drones in agriculture.

Led by industry experts, the session provided hands-on training in drone maintenance, troubleshooting, and best practices to ensure optimal performance. Participants explored how drones can be effectively used for crop monitoring, pest control, and other agricultural applications.

Held at the Faculty of Agriculture on February 9, 2024, the workshop attracted enthusiastic participation, reflecting the increasing interest and potential of drone technology in modern farming.



### ***CENSARM empowers agricultural stakeholders with Community Mapping workshop***

CENSARM hosted a dynamic workshop focused on community mapping utilizing mobile applications, catering to the needs of farmers and agriculture officers. This innovative session aimed to equip participants with the necessary skills to leverage mobile technology for efficient resource mapping and management within their communities.

Held at Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka on 10th of February 2024, the workshop provided attendees with practical insights and hands-on training on utilizing mobile applications for community mapping purposes. Through interactive sessions led by experts in the field, farmers and agriculture officers learned how to effectively document and map vital resources such as farmlands, water sources, and infrastructure.

The workshop funded by Booster Grant under the Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Culture, EUSL served as a platform for fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among agricultural stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of digital solutions in enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability.

With a commitment to empowering agricultural communities with cutting-edge tools and techniques, CENSARM continues to lead the way in promoting innovation and resource optimization in the farming sector.



Dr T. Geretharan, the Director of the Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM), Faculty of Agriculture was honoured with an appreciation memento by the Department of Agriculture, Batticaloa. The accolade honours Dr Geretharan's pioneering initiatives in implementing modern agricultural methodologies and arranging seminal workshops to empower youth, agricultural officers, and farmers throughout the district



### *Career Guidance cell -2024*



The following Guest lectures were conducted to the 2nd year students (2021/2022 batch) under Faculty career guidance cell on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**“Effective personality attributes for a leadership role”** by Ms. Treshalin Sellar / Department of Management / Faculty of Commerce and Management, EUSL.

**Organizational Culture** by Dr. (Mrs.) Vanitha Prasannath/ Department of Biosystems Technology/ Faculty of Technology/ EUSL



The following Career development seminars were conducted to the undergraduate students of the Faculty of Agriculture jointly organized by the University career guidance unit & Faculty career guidance cell:

- Realizing your potential & achieving success and entrepreneurship by Dr. Sabesan Sithamparanathan / Founder/ PervasID Ltd, Uk on 28 August 2024
- Programming and AI as Tools for Active Learning in Higher Education by Mr. S. Sotheswaran/ Senior Lecturer in Computer Science/Department of Computing/ Faculty of Science/ EUSL on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024



## *Award of Scholarships, Fellowships, Prizes, Awards and Research Grants 2024*

Mr. Tharinda Dhillshan from the Department of Animal Science has been awarded a full Japanese government scholarship (Monbukagakusho) to pursue his PhD program at Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine.



Dr. K. Prasannath received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Output-Based Research of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka in 2024.

Dr. K. Prasannath received the Best Paper Award at the International Conference on Digital Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture (ICDTSA-2024), held from 8 to 10 October 2024 at the Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai, Sri Lanka.

Mrs. Brintha Karunarathna received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Output-Based Research of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka in 2024.



Mrs. S. Karunakaran, Chief Technical Officer received Meritorious Award for her 35 years of service in 2024.

Mr. Velu Shanmugarajah, Health Service Laborer, Department of Crop Science received the Meritorious Service Awards, at the Nallaiah Auditorium, Eastern University Sri Lanka held on 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2024.

## *SciDimplomatrix23 Competition*

The seven students from the 2020/2021 batch of the Faculty of Agriculture got first place in the SciDimplomatrix23 competition conducted by the Genetics and Molecular Biology Society. The Department of Agricultural Biology staff and the Director / CMR guided the students in identifying and preparing posters, which are innovative transdisciplinary solutions to prevailing crises. In that line

- 1) Automated detector and controller for insect pests and
- 2) Conflict between Elephant and Human have been identified.

For this competition, 100 posters have been received from the universities of Sri Lanka. Initially, our two posters have been selected from among 16. Finally, at the competition held on 3rd February 2024, it was declared that our posters got 1st place.





## *Inter Faculty Capital Market Quiz Competition (VARSITY BATTLES 2024)*

Faculty of Agriculture students won the Champions, first runner-up and Second-runner up in the cluster 1 competition of “Inter Faculty Capital Market Quiz Competition” (VARSITY BATTLES 2024), which was held on 15. 10. 2024 in South Eastern University, Sri Lanka. Twelve students from the faculty, participated in the quiz competition and were selected to participate in the National level quiz competition. Dr. (Mrs) Krishnal Thirumarpan (Senior Lecturer-I) coordinated and guided the students for this competition. The names of the students are given below.

Mr	Jepikumar Rishejanan	Champions
Miss	Ushanthini Kalaivanan	
Miss	Badhurdeen Hafza Farvin	
Miss	Uwais Ahamed Fathima Shimra	
Mr	Sivananthan Hanushan	First runner up
Miss.	Kaveetha Seneviratne	
Miss.	Jeyakumar Anojini	
Miss.	Lakdini Gunasekara	
Miss	Thuvaraka Mahalingam	Second runner up
Miss	L.B Maheema Maldini	
Miss	Hashini Malshanika	
Miss	D.M.H.Arachi	



## *Research Grants 2024*



EUSL, one of the key consortium partners in the EU-funded ERASMUS+ AGRHI project, has successfully marked its first year of implementation on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The project has achieved significant milestones in advancing agricultural education through a comprehensive curriculum framework, knowledge exchange, and technological integration. Over the first biannual reporting period, the project conducted extensive needs analysis surveys across India, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia to identify critical gaps in agricultural education and emerging industry trends. The collaboration with European partners has facilitated the development of the curriculum in key thematic areas, including digital and engineering technologies for agriculture, as well as agricultural entrepreneurship. Visits to European institutions and workshops in Turkey, Poland, and Greece enabled knowledge transfer on renewable energy, AI applications, and smart farming technologies, which informed the curriculum structure. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> biannual reporting period, the key milestones achieved included the development of 45 innovative courses, the establishment of social media platforms to disseminate agricultural knowledge, and ongoing efforts to set up a digital studio at the Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL. The project also engaged in international conferences and workshops, contributing to discussions on technological transformation and collaborations among European and Asian stakeholders. These initiatives collectively enhance the AGRHI project's capacity to modernize agricultural education. The project progress was reported by Dr. R. Bawatharani, ERASMUS+ AGRHI Project Coordinator (2024).



## *Collaborative Research 2024*

The staff of the Department of Agricultural Biology, in collaboration with Coconut Cultivation Board, Myllambavelly conducted a survey from October to December 2024 to assess the prevalence of coconut mites in the Batticaloa district.



## *Appointments/ Promotions/ Retirement of Staff during 2024*

Dr. K. Prasannath was appointed as the SLAAS Council Representative of the Eastern Chapter with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

Dr. K. Prasannath was selected as the President of the SLAAS-Eastern Chapter with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024.



Dr. T. M. S. Asanka Tennakoon was appointed as the Associate Editor of the Journal of AGRIEAST, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Dr. T. M. S. Asanka Tennakoon was appointed as the Coordinator for the International Symposium on Agriculture – 2025, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, with effect from 05<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Professor (Mrs.) Thayamini H. Seran has been promoted to the post of Senior Professor in Crop Science in the Department of Crop Science with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024.



Prof (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando was selected as the Secretary of the SLAAS-Eastern Chapter with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024.



Professor S. Sutharsan has been appointed as Chairman of the Digitalization Task Force of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka with effect from 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024.



Dr (Mrs) Krishnal Thirumarpan, Senior Lecturer (Grade I) (Department of Agricultural Economics) has been appointed as the Chairperson for Faculty Research Committee- Faculty of Agriculture from February 2024. She further functions as the coordinator for interfaculty courses, Member of the Senate Sub Committee for Convocation, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, Member of the Senate subcommittee for Dharmaratnam Memorial Gold Medal Award and Mylvaganam Sivasuriam Memorial Gold medal award, and Member of the Senate subcommittee for selecting candidates for Doctor Sabaratnam Prize for Interventional Research and Proctor Coomaraswamy Prize for Observational Research.

Mrs. E. Delina J. Prince was appointed as the Editor of the Journal of AGRIEAST, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024



Mr. G. Niroash was appointed as the Secretary for the International Symposium on Agriculture – 2025, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, with effect from 05<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



Dr. Premkumar, Senior Lecturer Gr I attached to the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Agriculture retired from his position with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> of the December 2024. He has rendered his service to the faculty of Agriculture as well as the university for more than 40 years.





## *Open day 2024*

The Eastern University organized an Open Day 2024 occurred on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024, from 9.00am to 4.00 pm with the full involvement of all Departments in the faculty and farm. This event was organized under the direction of the Dean/Agriculture and Heads of the Departments and coordinated by Dr. Asanka Tennakoon, Department of Agricultural Biology and Miss R. Krishnanathy, Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Agricultural Chemistry.



## *Celebration of World Food Day 2024*

On October 16, 2024, a vibrant World Food Day celebration took place at the Faculty of Agriculture, organized by CENSARM, with enthusiastic participation from 50 individuals. The event aimed to highlight the crucial relationship between food and sustainability, aligning with the 2024 theme: "Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future."

The event featured a thematic talk and an impressive showcase of innovative food products. As part of the Value Addition subject in Agricultural Chemistry, third-year, first-semester students presented a diverse range of millet-based value-added products, including millet cupcakes, pakoda, chocolate brownies, kolukattai, and chocolate cookies, showcasing their creativity and expertise in food innovation.

The Dean faculty of agriculture Prof. (Mrs) P. Premanandarajah of Eastern University, Sri Lanka, shared valuable insights, while Dr. Premakumar delivered an inspiring speech on the importance of sustainable agricultural practices and the need for inclusivity in achieving global food security.

The event successfully fostered awareness and appreciation for sustainable food production, emphasizing the role of innovation and resource management in ensuring a food-secure future for all. This event was organized under the direction of the Dean/Agriculture and coordinated by Mrs. Amuthini Sugirtharan, Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Mr. G. Nirosh, Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Agricultural engineering.



## Outcomes of Research Studies in 2024

- I.G.S. Jayakodi, S. Sutharsan and P.O.P. Weerasinghe. 2024. Different combinations of Jeewamirtha and compost on growth and yield of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* L). 6<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Agriculture 2024. 11.
- I.A.P.U. Imbulana, S. Sutharsan, M. Thenuja and P.O.P. Weerasinghe. 2024. Effects of Jeewamirtha and modified jeewamirtha on the growth and yield of green gram (*Vigna radiata*). 6<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Agriculture 2024. 13.
- S.A.P.I. Samarathunga, S. Sutharsan and P.O.P. Weerasinghe. 2024. Optimizing tomato growth by partially substituting chemical fertilizer with seaweed extract. 6<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Agriculture 2024. 14.
- W.G.C.D. Weerasinghe, Brintha Karunarathna and A.K.M.R.B. Madhuwanthi. 2024. Effect of Fish Amino acid on yield of radish (*Raphanus sativus* L). 6<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Agriculture 2024. 5.
- Rushtha, R. Krishnananth, S. Anula, T. Geretharan and S. Srikrishnah. 2024. Effect of Urea and Ammonium Sulphate on growth and yield of rice (*Oryza sativa* L). 6<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Agriculture 2024. 9.
- D.C.D. Rajapaksha, S. Anula and T. Geretharan. 2024. Impact of biotic factors on maize cultivation: A case study in Horowpothana Ds division, Sri Lanka. 6<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Agriculture 2024. 24.
- Dr. (Mrs.) R. F. Niranjana has contributed to four abstracts, one journal article, and one book.
- Dr. K. Prasannath has published six abstracts and two journal articles.
- Dr. T. M. S. Asanka Tennakoon has authored three abstracts, two journal articles, and two books.
- Mrs. S. Karunakaran has contributed to one abstract and one journal article.

## Student's activities 2024

“Arms Giving” organized by student union faculty of agriculture on 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.





On September 28th, 2024, the Faculty of Agriculture at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Negombo Recycling Club (NRC), organized a beach cleanup event at Kaluvankerny Beach. The event fostered community spirit and environmental responsibility among participants. This initiative reflected the commitment of both organizations to preserving the natural beauty of our coastal areas and promoting sustainable practices. Participants joined together to make a positive impact on the environment and enjoyed a rewarding day of teamwork and conservation.



S. Sivapriyan from the Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL, won the Silver Medal in the 67kg Men's Weightlifting category at the Inter University Games 2024. This achievement was a testament to his dedication, strength, and passion, making everyone proud. He kept lifting and kept inspiring!



On 13th August 2024, the Faculty of Agriculture student's union organized a Blood Donation Camp at the Nallaiyah Auditorium from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event witnessed active participation from students, who generously contributed to this noble cause, showcasing their commitment to community welfare and social responsibility.