



NEWSLETTER



Faculty of Agriculture

January – December 2025

Issue 19





FACULTY NEWSLETTER 2025

We are pleased to present the annual newsletter of the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, covering activities and achievements from January to December 2025. This edition highlights key academic events, research developments, and faculty accomplishments throughout the year.

We trust this publication will keep our readers well-informed and engaged with the continuous progress within the faculty.

THE DEAN'S MESSAGE

Warm Greetings to you!

As we move into a new chapter of our academic journey, this issue reflects the remarkable steps we have made together with dedication, creativity, and resilience that define our faculty. Over the past year, we have seen attractive examples of innovation in teaching, groundbreaking research, and meaningful community engagement.

Faculty members securing competitive grants to students presenting at national and international conferences, each achievement reflects the collective spirit that makes our faculty truly exceptional. We have also embraced new opportunities for collaboration, both across disciplines and with our external partners, which ensures that our work continues to have a real-world impact. I encourage each of you to continue sharing your ideas, successes, and challenges. Your voices shape the direction of our faculty, and together, we can ensure that our vision for excellence is not just maintained but elevated. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and for making this faculty a place where knowledge, innovation, and compassion thrive.

I'm deeply grateful for your commitment and look forward to working together to address these priorities with clarity, collaboration and purpose over the next five years.

With warm regards,
Prof. (Mrs). P. Premanandarajah
Dean / Faculty of Agriculture



THE EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

The 19th issue of the Faculty Newsletter of the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, presents the key activities and achievements of the year 2025. This edition highlights major events, including the Orientation Programme for new students, the Fourth International Symposium on Agriculture (ISA 2025), Faculty Open Day, and the Farmer Conference.

It also showcases significant initiatives under CENSARM and the ERASMUS+ AGRHI Project, along with staff and student achievements, research outcomes, training programmes, and outreach activities carried out during the year. These accomplishments reflect the dedication and collaborative efforts of our academic and non-academic staff and students.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all contributors for their valuable support in compiling this publication. I hope this newsletter provides a clear overview of the faculty's progress and achievements. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome.

Thank you

Ms. Keerthika Shakthivel
Editor / Faculty Newsletter 2025
FAG, EUSL.



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ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR NEW STUDENTS- 2023/ 2024 BATCH

The Orientation Programme for new entrants to the Academic Year 2023/2024 at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, was successfully conducted from 21 to 25 July 2025. The programme comprised inauguration sessions, departmental introductions, academic advising, student welfare services, career counselling, ICT training, and awareness programmes on health, gender equity, and anti-ragging.

Ms. Keerthika Shakthivel, Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Agricultural Biology, efficiently coordinated the programme and ensured its successful implementation.



EASTERN WAVES
FRESHERS WELCOME - 2025
ORGANIZED BY FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE



EASTERN WAVES
Official Media

FRESHERS WELCOME - 2025
ORGANIZED BY FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

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ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR NEW STUDENTS- 2023/ 2024 BATCH

During the Orientation Programme, the following students were recognized for their academic excellence by being placed on the Dean's List for the Academic Year 2022/2023.

From the Second Year First Semester (2021/2022 Batch): Ms. S. Shirome, Ms. S. Nijanthi, Ms. S. Inthuja, Ms. P. Dilani, Ms. M.F. Risla, Ms. S.M.H. Manishani, Ms. A.R. Najfa, Ms. E.M.T.S. Mudiyanse, Ms. M.M.S. Sithrathul Munthaha, and Ms. R.M.P.L. Menike.

From the Third Year First Semester (2020/2021 Batch): Ms. H.W.K. Udeshika, Ms. R. Yogarasa, Ms. M.L.F. Banu, Ms. P.P. Weerakoon, Mr. J. Rishejanan, and Ms. J.A.R. Shehara.

The Faculty congratulates these students on their academic achievements and wishes them continued success in their future studies.



CENSARM



Hayleys Solar, in partnership with Commercial Bank of Sri Lanka, has donated a solar-powered water pump and a micro-irrigation system to the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. This initiative features Sri Lanka's first flexible solar panel installation, marking a notable step in the adoption of innovative renewable energy technologies within the agricultural sector. The project aims to promote sustainable farming practices, enhance water-use efficiency, and support climate-resilient agricultural development.

The system is expected to improve irrigation reliability while reducing dependence on conventional energy sources, thereby lowering operational costs and minimizing environmental impact. It will also serve as a practical demonstration unit for undergraduate and postgraduate students, offering hands-on learning opportunities in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy applications, and modern irrigation technologies.

The project was implemented by the Department of Crop Science under the CENSARM initiative, further strengthening the faculty's commitment to research, innovation, and community-oriented agricultural development.

CENSARM

An automated protected house was established at the Eastern University Farm with the support of Commercial Bank of Sri Lanka. This modern facility is equipped with automated environmental control systems to regulate temperature and irrigation, thereby creating optimal growing conditions for high-value crops throughout the year. The protected house will serve multiple purposes, including advanced crop production, student practical training, and research in climate-resilient and precision agriculture technologies. It provides undergraduate and postgraduate students with valuable hands-on experience

in controlled-environment agriculture, fertigation management, and smart farming practices. In addition, the facility will support research trials aimed at improving crop productivity, resource-use efficiency, and sustainable production systems suited to the Eastern region. The project was implemented by the Department of Crop Science under the CENSARM initiative, further reflecting the faculty's commitment to innovation, sustainable agricultural development, and strengthened collaboration between industry and the university.



CENSARM

The Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, under the CENSARM initiative, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, successfully implemented an Agricultural Modernization Project in Vavunathivu with funding support from Commercial Bank of Sri Lanka.

The project introduced improved paddy cultivation practices, including high-yielding varieties, mechanized operations, efficient water management, and precision farming techniques. It also provided farmers with hands-on training, field demonstrations, and technical guidance, contributing to improved productivity, reduced production costs, and more sustainable agricultural practices.

This initiative strengthened collaboration among the university, government agencies, the private sector, and local farming communities, promoting agricultural modernization and climate-smart practices in the region.



CENSARM

Training of Trainer (TOT) Programme on Climate-Smart Agriculture

A TOT programme on Climate-Smart Agriculture was conducted for Agricultural Extension Officers on 26th June 2025 at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. The programme aimed to strengthen the capacity of extension officers to promote climate-resilient agricultural practices among farming communities. The sessions were conducted by academic staff members representing all departments of the Faculty of Agriculture, who served as resource persons and shared their expertise on various aspects of Climate-Smart Agriculture. The programme was organized by the Department of Crop Science through CENSARM, thereby reinforcing the Faculty's commitment to sustainable agricultural development and knowledge dissemination.



CENSARM

Workshop on the Cost of Production of Paddy

A workshop on the Cost of Production of Paddy was conducted on 21st July 2025 at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, for paddy farmers and Agricultural Extension Officers. The programme aimed to enhance participants' understanding of cost components, profitability analysis, and financial decision-making in paddy cultivation. Mr. A.F.M.M. Riswan, Assistant Director of Agriculture (Agricultural Economics), served as the resource person and provided insights into cost calculation methods and economic management practices in paddy production.

The workshop was organized by the Department of Agricultural Economics through CENSARM, thereby reaffirming the Faculty's commitment to strengthening the economic sustainability of the farming community.



Celebration of Honeybee Day

To mark Honeybee Day, Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjana Rodney Fernando organized a workshop on Beekeeping on 21st May 2025 through the SLAAS Eastern Chapter, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Batticaloa, and CENSARM at the Faculty of Agriculture, Palacholai. The programme was conducted for Agricultural Instructors and Entrepreneurs.

CENSARM

World Food Day Celebration – 2025

CENSARM, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, commemorated World Food Day on 16th October 2025 with a series of meaningful activities highlighting the importance of food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture. Dr. Sivalingam Vivekanadan from the Base Hospital, Kaluwanchikudy, delivered the theme talk, emphasizing the significance of balanced nutrition, healthy food choices, and the collective responsibility in ensuring food security for all. Adding vibrancy to the celebration, third-year second-semester students of the Faculty of Agriculture prepared a variety of nutritious food items, which were exhibited and sold during the event. The activity encouraged practical learning, teamwork, and awareness of healthy dietary practices. The World Food Day 2025 programme was coordinated by Mrs. S. Amuthenie, Lecturer in Agricultural Chemistry at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.



In celebration of World Food Day, a vibrant food stall was organized under the leadership of the 2020/2021 batch students of the Faculty of Agriculture, with the enthusiastic participation of fellow students. The initiative effectively enhanced awareness of food and nutrition while fostering teamwork, collaboration, and a strong sense of camaraderie among the student community.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AGRICULTURE 2025 (ISA 2025)

The Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, successfully hosted the 4th International Symposium on Agriculture (ISA 2025) on 6 March 2025, under the theme “*Innovative Approaches to Modernize Agriculture for Food Security.*” The event was chaired by Prof. T. Prabaharan, Acting Vice Chancellor, and co-chaired by Prof. (Mrs.) P. Premanandarajah, Dean of the Faculty.

Dr. T.M.S.A. Tennakoon served as the Symposium Coordinator, while Mr. G. Niroash served as the Secretary. Dr. (Mrs.) T. Geretharan conducted the proceedings of the Inaugural Session, introducing speakers and outlining the event agenda.



The Proceedings of the Symposium were officially launched by the Editor-in- Chief, Prof. M. Pagthinathan. The Inaugural Session was held at the Nallaiah Auditorium, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. Ms. Azusa Kubota, Resident Representative of UNDP Sri Lanka, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Keynote addresses were delivered by Dr. Anurudda Kumara Karunaratna from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (in person), and Dr. Yuguang Zhou from China Agricultural University, China (via Zoom), adding an international dimension to the event.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AGRICULTURE 2025 (ISA 2025)

The technical sessions were conducted at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka at Palachchola. A total of 115 research presentations, comprising 92 oral and 23 poster presentations, were delivered across eight thematic tracks. These included: Agricultural Economics and Extension; Crop Production and Biodiversity Conservation; Crop Protection and Biotechnology; Digital and Climate Smart Agriculture; Food and Nutrition; Medicinal Plants and Phytochemicals; Soil, Water, Energy and Environment; and Sustainable Livestock and Aquaculture Management.



The sessions concluded with closing remarks by Prof. (Mrs.) P. Premanandarajah, Dean of the Faculty. ISA 2025 reaffirmed the university's commitment to advancing agricultural research and fostering international collaboration in addressing global food security challenges.



FACULTY OPEN DAY 2025

The Faculty of Agriculture's 2025 faculty open day was successfully held on 21 July 2025 from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the Palachchola premises. The event aimed to showcase the academic strengths, research outputs, and community engagement initiatives of the faculty, while serving as a platform to engage school children, undergraduates, farmers, and institutional stakeholders. All six departments, along with the Crop Farm and Livestock Farm Units, actively participated by organizing thematic exhibits, demonstrations, and live field sessions. The event was further enriched by the enthusiastic

involvement of undergraduate students, who contributed to organizational arrangements and guided visitors. The programme was graced by the presence of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Deans of other faculties, representatives from the Department of Agriculture, and heads of government and private institutions. Nearly 2,500 visitors attended the event, including school students from leading schools in the Batticaloa District, undergraduates from other faculties of EUSL, farmers, and community members. A total of 21 external institutions and organizations participated by presenting exhibits, services, and innovations.



The Open Day significantly enhanced the visibility and outreach of the Faculty of Agriculture, thereby strengthening its engagement with the wider community.

ERASMUS + AGRHI PROJECT

Curriculum Development and Resource Enhancement

As the lead institution responsible for Knowledge Building and the Curriculum Framework of the Erasmus+ AGRHI project, EUSL has developed a comprehensive curriculum for Asian countries, incorporating state-of-the-art technologies to support agricultural advancement. This curriculum is currently being implemented across the Asian partner institutions within the AGRHI consortium.

In this context, the Faculty of Agriculture at EUSL has adopted the courses *Insect Morphology*, *Plant Disease Diagnosis*, *Agricultural Food Processing*, and *IoT in Agriculture* from the AGRHI curriculum as optional courses within the existing B.Sc. (Agric) degree program, to be implemented from 2026 onwards. These courses were developed in collaboration with the Departments of Agricultural Biology and Agricultural Engineering.



MOOC Course and Digital Studio

In support of Work Package 5 of the AGRHI project, two Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on *Insect Pest Management* and *Renewable Energy* have been successfully developed. These courses are now available on the AGRHI project's open-access digital platform for deployment across partner institutions. To facilitate the development of these MOOCs, a fully equipped digital recording studio has been established at the Faculty of Agriculture as part of the AGRHI project deliverables. The studio is fitted with state-of-the-art audio and video recording equipment, enabling the continued development of high-quality courses in the future.

ERASMUS + AGRHI PROJECT

Capacity Building Programs

As part of the capacity-building programme of the AGRHI project, the Faculty of Agriculture at EUSL, successfully organized a two-day international workshop on *Agri Tech and Digital Transformation for Sustainable Farming 2025*, held from 19th –20th May 2025. This two-day event welcomed delegates from Poland, Turkey, Greece, India, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka with over 50 participants including students and local stakeholders. The workshop provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration on sustainable agriculture and digital transformation.

Dr. M.S. Mohamed Nafees, Mrs. E.D.J. Prince, and Mr. G. Niroash from the Faculty of Agriculture attended the International Workshop on Smart and Sustainable Agriculture (EUSAT APU 2025), held at Asia Pacific University, Malaysia, under the Erasmus+ AGRHI project from 12–13 November 2025. This workshop brought academics, industry experts and international partners together with a shared goal of shaping the future of agriculture. Through hands-on workshops, live technology demonstrations and a farm visit to University Putra Malaysia (UPM), they explored how smart farming tools like drones, IoT and data-driven systems can support more sustainable and efficient agricultural practices. More than just an exchange of ideas, the workshop created meaningful collaboration between universities and industry, reinforcing a collective commitment to innovation, sustainability, and the development of a greener agricultural future.



FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE HOSTS FARMER CONFERENCE - 2025

A One-Day Farmer Conference was successfully organized by the Faculty of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, on 18th November 2025 at the District Agricultural Training Centre, Saththurukondan. The event was sponsored by the Commercial Bank of Sri Lanka, whose financial support significantly contributed to the programme's successful conduct. The conference served as an important platform to bridge the gap between research and field-level practice. A total of 29 key research studies conducted by academic staff members of the Faculty of Agriculture were presented during the event. The presentations were carefully designed to translate scientific findings into practical recommendations that could be readily adopted by farmers. The event brought together farmers, Agricultural Extension Officers, and university

academics, creating a vibrant environment for knowledge exchange and collaboration. Interactive discussions enabled participants to clarify field-level challenges and explore science-based solutions. Importantly, the programme encouraged farmers to actively share their experiences, indigenous knowledge, and success stories, fostering mutual learning and peer support. Such engagement strengthened the linkage between the university and the farming community while enhancing collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. Overall, the Farmer Conference significantly contributed to disseminating research findings, promoting evidence-based agricultural practices, and reinforcing the faculty's commitment to community outreach, technology transfer, and sustainable agricultural development in the region.



FACULTY QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

A workshop on “*Student Support Services Available at EUSL and Academic Counselling*” was conducted on 15th July 2025 for the First-Year Second-Semester (2022/2023) batch of students. The session was facilitated by Dr. T. Geretharan, Director of the Centre for Student Support Services and Welfare, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, and Dr. K. Prasannath, Academic Advisor, Faculty of Agriculture.



A workshop on “*Career Opportunities and Skill Enhancement*” was conducted on 8th July 2025 for the First-Year Second-Semester (2022/2023) batch of students. The session was delivered by Mr. M. S. M. Assam, Process Engineer at QIFEM, Qatar, and an alumnus of the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.



Two workshops on “*The Importance of Student Mentoring and Leveraging Student Feedback*” were conducted for undergraduate students.

The first workshop was held on 26th March 2025 for the Second-Year Second-Semester (2021/2022) batch and was conducted by Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjana Rodney Fernando, Coordinator/FQAC. The second workshop was held on 1st July 2025 for the First-Year Second-Semester (2022/2023) batch. The session was conducted by Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjana Rodney Fernando, Coordinator/FQAC, together with Dr. T. M. S. A. Tennakoon, Student Counsellor, Faculty of Agriculture.



VAANI VIZHA 2025

Vaani Vizha 2025 was celebrated by the staff of the Faculty of Agriculture on 1st October 2025. Faculty students also participated in the event.



ANNUAL STAFF GATHERING 2025

The Annual staff gathering of the Faculty of Agriculture was held on 31st August 2025 at Pasikkudah. Staff members from across the faculty participated enthusiastically in the event and actively engaged in a variety of games. The gathering provided a valuable opportunity for fellowship, team spirit, and strengthening professional relationships in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES / PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY THE FACULTY STAFF DURING THE YEAR 2025

Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjana Rodney Fernando, Prof. K. Prasannath, and Mrs. T. Kirupanathan served as resource persons at a workshop titled “*Capacity Building Training Programme*”, conducted by the SLAAS Eastern Chapter in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Batticaloa, at the District Agriculture Training Center, Sathurukondan, on 22 December 2025 for Agriculture Extension Officers.



Dr T. Geretharan, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Crop Science, participated as a resource person at a workshop on enhancing paddy productivity in the Polonnaruwa District. The workshop was organized under a project funded by the Commercial Bank of Sri Lanka to introduce modern techniques and best practices to improve paddy yields and support sustainable agriculture in the region.



Dr. A. M. Jiffry served as the Chairperson for the selection of best livestock farmers conducted by the Department of Animal Production and Health, Eastern Province.

Prof. K. Prasannath served as a resource person for a session titled “*Impact of Climate Change on Crop Protection*” at the workshop on Climate Smart Agriculture, held on 26 June 2025 at the Faculty of Agriculture, and for another session titled “*Determination of FEIQ*” at the EIQ Training Workshop conducted by the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture on 22 August 2025.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES / PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY THE FACULTY STAFF DURING THE YEAR 2025

Dr. T.M.S.A. Tennakoon contributed as a moderator for a zoom Webinar titled “*Step into the Future: Job Hunting, Upskilling & Winning*”.

Dr. (Mrs.) T. Geretharan from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Mrs. Amuthenie Sugirtharan from the Department of Agricultural Chemistry served as resource persons at the training on research Methodology in indigenous medicine held on 21st October 2025 at the MDTU Training Hall, Uppuveli, Trincomalee. The training programme was organized by the Eastern Provincial Department of Indigenous Medicine and was attended by ayurveda medical officers from the Eastern Province. The programme aimed to enhance participants’ knowledge and skills in research design, data collection, and scientific reporting to strengthen evidence-based practices in indigenous medicine. Their participation reflects the Faculty of Agriculture’s continued engagement in interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge sharing beyond the agricultural sector.



Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjana Rodney Fernando served as a resource person at a seminar on enhancing science education for G.C.E. (O/L) students, conducted by the SLAAS Eastern Chapter at Cheddipalayam Maha Vidyalayam in the Paddiruppu Educational Zone on August 4, 2025.



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES / PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY THE FACULTY STAFF DURING THE YEAR 2025



Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjana Rodney Fernando served as a resource person at a workshop on “*Honey Bees and Beekeeping*” conducted by the SLAAS Eastern Chapter in collaboration with Dilmah Conservation, Kalkudah, on July 17, 2025. The programme was organized for the undergraduates specializing in the Department of Zoology, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjana Rodney Fernando, Prof. K. Prasannath, Dr. (Mrs.) R. Bawatharani, and Dr. (Mrs.) T. Geretharan served as resource persons at a workshop titled “*Technology-Driven Agriculture: Pathways to Productivity and Sustainability*”, conducted by the SLAAS Eastern Chapter in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Batticaloa, at the District Agriculture Training Center, Sathurukondan, on 26 November 2025. The programme was organized for Agricultural Instructors and farmers of the Batticaloa District.



A one-day outdoor training programme on Smart Water Management Techniques was conducted on 30 October 2025 at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, upon the request of Action Unity Lanka (Guarantee) Limited, Batticaloa. Organized by the Department of Agricultural Engineering, the programme focused on smart and sustainable water management and protected agriculture practices for smallholder and community-level applications.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES / PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY THE FACULTY STAFF DURING THE YEAR 2025

Technical sessions were conducted by Mr. R. Thivyatharsan, Senior Lecturer (Gr. I), Department of Agricultural Engineering, and Mr. G. Niroash, Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Agricultural Engineering, while field demonstrations were carried out by Mr. M. Rameskaran, Farm Manager, Mr. P. Ramesh, Technical Officer, Mr. S. Kalaichelvan, Nurseryman, and Mr. M. Arulmolivarman, Technical Officer (ICT), Faculty of Agriculture. The programme covered micro-irrigation, fertigation, automated irrigation, hydroponics, net house climate control, and solar-powered irrigation, with active participation from youths of the Kiran region through hands-on demonstrations and discussions.



AWARDS OF SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, PRIZES AND RESEARCH GRANTS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 2025

Prof. K. Prasannath was awarded the Doctor Sabaratnam Prize for Interventional Research 2022 for the best research publication in the academic discipline using an interventional approach, conferred by Eastern University, Sri Lanka, in 2025. He also received the Books for the World Program Award 2025 from the American Phytopathological Society.



Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjana Rodney Fernando received an Investigator-Driven Grant 2024 of the National Research Council of Sri Lanka for the project titled "*Integration of eco-friendly management practices against the major pests of maize in the Batticaloa district*".



Dr. M.S. Mohamed Nafees was awarded the Sabaratnam Prize for Interventional Research 2023 for the best research publication in the academic discipline using an interventional (experimental) approach.



Mrs. Vanajah Liyinthan, Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Animal Science, received a Chinese Government Scholarship to pursue a PhD in Animal Nutrition and Feed Science at Jiangxi Agricultural University, China, from 01.09.2025.



WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/FIELD VISITS/CONFERENCES/TRAINING PROGRAMMES ATTENDED BY STAFF DURING THE YEAR 2025

Prof. M. Sugirtharan participated in the Seminar on Integrated Water Resources, Environmental Governance and Watershed Management Technologies held in Changsha, China (17–30 October 2025), sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of China. The programme included expert lectures and field visits on AI-based water management, pollution control, and watershed planning. The exposure strengthened international collaboration and highlighted innovative approaches adaptable to Sri Lanka's water resource management.



Browns Agriculture conducted a technical training programme under the Sisunenapahana initiative for university students at Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University on 27 November coordinated by the Department of Agricultural Engineering, with the objective of enhancing practical knowledge of modern agricultural machinery and emerging technologies. The programme focused on tractor systems, servicing, and maintenance, covering key components, routine servicing procedures, and troubleshooting practices, as well as on drone technology in agriculture, highlighting applications in crop monitoring, spraying, mapping, and precision agriculture. The sessions were conducted by Mr. KDP Sanka, Deputy Manager, and Mr. Kushan Munasingha, Senior Executive, Browns Agriculture, providing students with valuable hands-on exposure to contemporary agricultural technologies and their role in improving productivity and sustainability.



WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/FIELD VISITS/CONFERENCES/TRAINING PROGRAMMES ATTENDED BY STAFF DURING THE YEAR 2025

Dr. T.M.S. Asanka Tennakoon served as a Member of the Local Organizing Committee of the International Conference on Climate Change and Agriculture in Tropical Latitudes (CCATL 2025), Sri Lanka. He was also an Invited Plenary Speaker at the China–Sri Lanka International Symposium on Green Prevention and Control of Tea Pests (ICGPT 2025), held in Wuhan, Hubei, China. In addition, he served as a Panel Member in the session on Microbial Technology and Industrial Applications at the International Conference on Microbes and Microbial Technologies 2025, held at the Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University, Sri Lanka.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES/ FIELD VISITS ATTENDED BY STUDENTS

The Department of Agricultural Economics organized a field visit for Third Year; Second Semester students (2020/2021 batch) enrolled in EC 3101. The students, accompanied by academic staff, visited the District Agricultural Training Centre (DATC), Karadiyanaru, on 15th October 2025. The visit provided valuable exposure to the organizational structure, key functions, and community-oriented services delivered by the Centre. It offered students practical insights into the role of institutional frameworks in agricultural development.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES/ FIELD VISITS ATTENDED BY STUDENTS

A field visit was organized by the Department of Crop Science for Third-Year, First-Semester students (2021/2022 batch) as part of the course CS 3101. The visit took place at CIC Farm on 10th October 2025, with the participation of both students and academic staff. During the visit, students were introduced to several key areas, including nursery management, banana cultivation and processing, mango cultivation, hybrid seed production, and the vegetable research and development division and research laboratory facilities. This exposure enabled students to better understand the practical applications of crop science and the role of the private sector in advancing agricultural development.



The Department of Crop Science facilitated an educational field visit for Diploma students (2024/2025 batch) enrolled in DOA 1201 – Organic Farming on 12th November 2025 to ReeCha Organic Farm, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka, under the guidance of Senior Professor S. Sutharsan. The visit was organized to encourage students to become future entrepreneurs by exposing them to practical aspects of organic farming and sustainable agriculture.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES/ FIELD VISITS ATTENDED BY STUDENTS

During the visit, students gained hands-on experience in eco-friendly organic farming, including organic crop production of various crops such as cinnamon, guava, mango, and pomegranate, as well as organic liquid fertilizer preparation, ornamental plant management, animal husbandry, value addition, and marketing strategies. This experience enabled students to apply classroom-based theoretical knowledge to real-world agricultural practices and enhanced their understanding of integrated farming systems.



The Department of Crop Science organized a field visit for Third Year Second Semester students (2020/2021 batch) to the CIC farm on the 10th October 2025. The Department of Agricultural Economics accompanied with the Department of Crop Science, exposed the students to the CIC Farm's core functions and the range of services offered to the farming community, under the course EC 3101 Organizations for Agricultural Development. The experience enhanced their practical understanding of private sector involvement in agricultural development.

APPOINTMENTS/PROMOTIONS/RETIREMENT OF STAFF DURING 2025



Prof. K. Prasannath

Promoted to Professor in Agricultural Biology in the Department of Agricultural Biology with effect from 1 January 2025 and appointed as the President of the Eastern Chapter of the SLAAS for 2025.



Senior Prof. S. Sutharsan

Promoted to Senior Professor in Crop Science in the Department of Crop Science with effect from 15 May 2025.



Dr. T.M.S. Asanka Tennakoon

Associate Editor of the Journal of AGRIEAST, Coordinator of the International Symposium on Agriculture 2025, Lead student counsellor, Coordinator of the Faculty open day 2025, and Senior treasurer of the students' Union, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.



Mr. G. Niroash

Appointed as student counsellor to the Faculty of Agriculture for a period of one year with effect from 19 March 2025.

APPOINTMENTS/PROMOTIONS/RETIREMENT OF STAFF DURING 2025



Mrs. Krishnanthy Arunothayan

Appointed as Secretary of the International Symposium on Agriculture 2026 with effect from 03 April 2025, and as student counsellor to the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, with effect from 17 September 2025.



Mrs. Anula Mayuraj

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, with effect from 01 January 2025



Ms. Keerthika Shakthivel

Appointed as Lecturer (Probationary) in the Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, effective 01 January 2025, coordinator of the Orientation Programme for the Academic Year 2023–2024, and student counsellor of the Faculty of Agriculture, effective 17 September 2025.



Dr. A. M. Jiffry

Appointed as Senior Lecturer (Grade II) in the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, effective 30 June 2025.

Mr. K. Rajagobal

Retired as Senior Farm Supervisor at the University Farm, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, on 26 May 2025.

Mr. V. Shanmugarajah

Retired as Health Service Labourer in the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, on 27 July 2025.

STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES

Sarasavi Yathra Programme

The Sarasavi Yathra Programme was successfully conducted over three days on 19th, 20th, and 21st September 2025 at AM / Rajagala thanna Maha Vidyalaya, located in the Ampara District. This programme was organized to cover all subject areas relevant to the Science stream, to support school students in strengthening their subject knowledge and academic understanding.

The programme was organized by the Faculty of Agriculture Students' Union with the active leadership and participation of faculty students. Students representing all batches of the Faculty of Agriculture took part in this outreach programme, and it was successfully completed while achieving its intended objectives.



Agri Champion League 2025

The Agri Champion League 2025, a cricket tournament, was organized on 14th September 2025 with the aim of improving sports skills among students and enhancing mutual understanding and harmony between students and academic staff.

Agri Champion League 2025

The event was conducted with the participation of the Dean of the Faculty, academic staff members, nonacademic members and students representing all academic batches. The tournament was organized by the Faculty of Agriculture Students' Union with the leadership of students and was held at the University Main Playground. The event was conducted in a highly successful manner, and winning student teams were recognized at the conclusion of the tournament.



Saw Dansala Programme

The Saw Dansala programme was organized under the leadership of the 2019/2020 batch, with the participation and support of students from other batches of the Faculty of Agriculture. This welfare initiative reflected the values of social responsibility, cooperation, and unity among the faculty students and was successfully conducted.



OUTCOMES OF RESEARCH STUDIES IN 2025

Departments	Peer-reviewed journal Articles	Book Chapters	Abstracts published in Conferences/ Symposia/ Research Sessions	Full papers published in Conferences/ Symposia/ Research Sessions
Agricultural Biology	03	04	08	
Agricultural Economics	02	02	10	
Agricultural Engineering	03		15	01
Animal Science	04		15	
Crop Science	09		09	
Agricultural Chemistry	03			07

PHOTO CREDITS

Academic Staff and Students of the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, and the Eastern Wave Page for selected images used in this newsletter.

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