



Newsletter

Issue: 14

Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka



Opening Ceremony of New Building Complex of the Faculty of Agriculture at Palachcholai



Opening Ceremony for the New Building complex of Faculty of Agriculture at Palachcholai was held on 29th June 2020. The ceremony was graced by Prof.

F. C. Ragel, Vice-Chancellor, Eastern University Sri Lanka, Dr. M. Pagthinathan, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Registrar Mr. A. Pahirathan and Bursar, Mr M M Mohamed Fareez, Heads of the Departments, Faculty Board Members, Academic and Non-academic staff.

A Message From the Dean



I am delighted to bring greetings to this issue of the Faculty newsletter. Here, we find the latest news about the Faculty and achievements by the staff. I urge everyone to be committed to exceptional service, recognizing the diversity of our learners and team members. Our efforts are focused on being responsive to students' individual needs by providing consistent, high quality, timely guidance, services, and supports through knowledgeable, well-informed staff and engaging programs. I envision support for a community of learners connected to opportunities in our region, nation and beyond. Please enjoy the information presented in the newsletter, and feel free to send us your valuable feedback, comments and suggestions. Collaboration and shared ideas are key to the success of all our future endeavors as we all work together in creating broader visibility, presence, partnerships and success.

Dr. M. Pagthinathan
Dean/Faculty of Agriculture

A Message From the Editor

It is my privilege to pen the message for this Newsletter 2020 as the 14th Issue of Faculty of Agriculture as consisting of noteworthy flying colors achieved by the staff and from the prominent activities to outreach our commitment and services in an academic pattern to the community as well. It is the benchmark of our icons to illustrate and zoom out the progress to the outer world and set the sustainable progressive path for the determinable next years of triumphant achievement from our staff. As the editor. I hope that it will provide the pro-clear picture of our timeline in 2020.

Ms.Nishanthi Sivasubramaniam
Editor /Newsletter 2020



Time Line of Activities

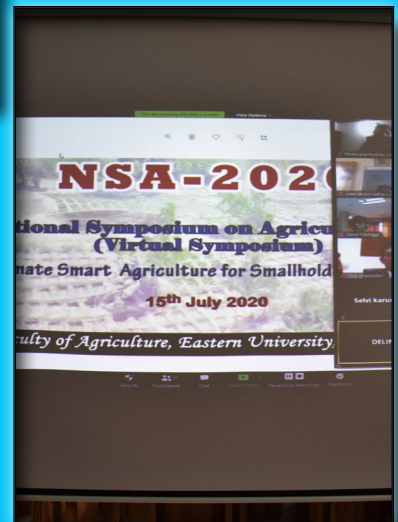
Opening Ceremony	01	Awards	04	Publication details	06
NSA 2020	02	Appointments	04	Workshops	07
Orientation	03	CENSARM activities	05	Research outcomes	08
Outreach activities	03	Student details	05		

Third National Symposium on Agriculture 2020



The Third National Symposium on Agriculture 2020 (NSA 2020), organized by the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka was held on 15th July 2020 with the theme of "Climate-Smart Agriculture for Smallholder Farmers".

The first-ever Virtual Symposium was conducted at Eastern University, Sri Lanka coordinated by Prof. (Mrs.) P. Premanandarajah. The Symposium was virtually graced by the Vice-Chancellor of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka, Prof. F. C. Ragel. It was also graced by the key-note speech by Dr. W.M.W. Weerakoon, Director General, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka, virtually



Orientation Programme for New Students 2018/2019 Batch



The Orientation Programme for new students (2018/2019 Batch) of the Faculty of Agriculture was held on 7th September 2020 at the Faculty of Agriculture, Palachchola. The Dean and staff had the pleasure to welcome all students to the Faculty.

Outreach Activities / Programmes Carried out by the Staff/ Departments in 2020



Dr (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando, Senior Lecturer Gr. I Department of Agricultural Biology, has participated a webinar on “Importance of Honeybee in Agriculture and their Pest Management” as resource persons conducted by Musiri Institute of Technology – College of Agriculture and Technology, Trichy, India on 20th August 2020.

Dr (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando and Mr. G. Hariharan, the academic staff, attached to the Department of Agricultural Biology, have attended a workshop on “Maize Fall Armyworm” as resource persons organized by the Department of Agriculture, Eastern Province at three different Farmer Fields in Paalayiadvaddai, Pullumalai, and Kommathurai Island on 22nd December 2020.

Award of Scholarships



Dr. T. Geretharan received Massey University Dean's Graduation award for his Doctoral Thesis.



Prof. (Mrs). P. Premanandarajah has been appointed as Head/ Agricultural Chemistry with effect from 01st of September 2020.



Mrs. Thivahary Geretharan received the Helen E Akers PhD Scholarship 2020 under the Academic Postgraduate Scholarships Programme of Massey University, New Zealand.



Dr. T. Geretharan has been appointed as the Project Coordinator for the "ELTA-ELSE Development Project for the Faculty of Agriculture with effect from 04th May 2020.

Appointments and Promotions



Dr. M. Pagthinathan (Senior Lecturer in Animal Science) has been appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.



Mrs. Thivahary Geretharan has been appointed as the Head / Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture with effect from 01st March 2020.



Prof. Thayamini H. Seran has been appointed as a Director of Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM) for a period of three years with effect from 03rd June 2020.



Mrs. Brintha Karunarathna has been appointed as Acting Head, Department of Bio-system Technology, Faculty of Technology with effect from 01st of August 2020.



Prof. S. Sutharsan has been appointed as Director of University of Colombo Institute for Agro-Technology & Rural Sciences from 08.06.2020 to 07.08.2021.



Mr. Ganeshamoorthy Hariharan appointed as a Lecturer (Probationary) in Agricultural Biology, Department of Agricultural Biology by the 305th Council meeting held on 09.06.2020 with effect from 06.09.2019.

CENSARM Activities in 2020

World Food Day Celebration

An essay writing competition was conducted by CENSARM in September 2020 among the A/L students (2021/ 2022 batches) in the Batticaloa Educational Zone. The title of Essay is "Impact of Climate Change on Food Production". Result of the essay competition was informed to their school and Certificates for first three places were awarded to the School students at the World Food Day ceremony which was organized on 18th of December 2020 by the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM) at the Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.



Stakeholder meetings for need analysis

Initiative Discussion on Issues and Challenges was organized by the CENSARM, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University to identify the needs of farming communities in Eastern region. This Zoom meeting was held on 22nd of December 2020 among Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Sectors with Staff, Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL.

Students Details

Students Details in Respective Academic Years

Academic year	Male	Female	Total
2015/2016	23	26	49
2016/2017	15	53	68
2017/2018	09	38	47
2018/2019	17	45	62

Patti Pongazh Celebration

Patti Pongazh celebration was held on 16th January 2020 at the Animal Farm of the Faculty of Agriculture. It was organized to say thanks to cattle's which help to farm activity year-round. Acting Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Acting Registrar, Bursar, Acting Head of the Department of Animal Science, Academic, administrative and Non-academic staff were also participated the event.



Publication Details

Type of Publications	Nos					
	Dept. of Agric Biology	Dept. of Agric Chemistry	Dept. of Agric Economics	Dept. of Agric Engineering	Dept. of Animal Science	Dept. of Crop Science
Books / Mono-graphs	--	--	--	--	--	--
Journal Articles	4	4	1	2	6	10
Abstracts published in Conferences/ Symposiums/ Research sessions	5	3	6	1	5	3
Full paper published in Conferences/ Symposiums/ Research sessions	--	1	--	--	--	1
Other: Please specify (Book chapter)	2	1	--	--	--	--

**Workshops/Seminars/Conferences/ Training Programmes
Attended by Staff in 2020**



Dr. (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando, Ms. Nishanthi Sivasubramaniam and Mr. Ganeshamoorthy Hariharan participated a webinar on "Inspection and Monitoring of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)" arranged for University Academics and Researchers, from 23rd September to 24th September 2020, conducted by Agriculture Biotechnology Centre, University of Peradeniya.

Dr. (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando, Ms. Nishanthi Sivasubramaniam and Mr. Ganeshamoorthy Hariharan participated a webinar on "Workshop on Guidelines for the Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Genetically Modified (GM) Plants in Sri Lanka" from 6th October to 8th October 2020, Conducted by National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka.



Mrs. Krishnal Thirumarpan participated in an online training session on "Effective CVs for doctoral researchers: How to impress both employers within and outside Higher Education", organized by University of Reading, United Kingdom on 11th November, 2020.

Dr. (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando, Ms. Nishanthi Sivasubramaniam and Mr. Ganeshamoorthy Hariharan participated in an online workshop on "Online Course Design and Assessment Methods for Student Centered Learning" held on 18th November 2020, conducted by The United States-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission



Ms. Nishanthi Sivasubramaniam and Mr. Ganeshamoorthy Hariharan participated a webinar on "A Discussion on Online Mode of Examination" on 24th December 2020, conducted by Staff Development Centre, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

Dr. (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando and Ms. Nishanthi Sivasubramaniam participated a webinar on "Effective Online Teaching and Distance Mode Assessment Procedures (on-line assessments)" on 27th December 2020, conducted by Staff Development Centre, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.



Outcomes of Research studies in 2020

Dr. (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando and Ms. M. T. F. Rumaisa found the efficacy of Piper longum and Acorus calamus in protecting the green gram seeds against Callosobruchus maculatus.

Dr. (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando and Ms.A.P.T.H.Pihilladeniya found the efficacy of methanol extract of Cymbopogon citratus in protecting the cowpea seeds against Callosobruchus maculatus.

Dr. (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando and Ms.D.M.N.Dissanayake found the efficacy of ethanol extract of Moringa oleifera in protecting the cowpea seeds against Callosobruchus maculatus.

Dr. (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando and Ms.M.G.M.Samanthikka found the efficacy of ethanol extract of Piper nigrum seeds in protecting the cowpea seeds against Callosobruchus maculatus.

Dr. (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando and Ms.D.H.K.H.Upathissa found that many farmers in the Nuwara Eliya district use the pesticides in vegetable cultivation without considering the recommendation and safety measures.

Dr. (Mrs). Niranjana Rodney Fernando and Mrs. S. Karunakaran found the efficacy of paddy husk ash in protecting the cowpea seeds against Callosobruchus maculatus.

Ms. Nishanthi Sivasubramaniam and Mr. Ganeshamoorthy Hariharan published a book chapter titled Sustainable Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes: An Overview from Conventional Practices to Modern Techniques in Management of Phytonematodes: Recent Advances and Future Challenges at Springer. The Chapter provides an insight into the economic importance of plant-parasitic nematodes, and the necessity and methods of nematode diagnosis, emphasizing the existing strategies used to manage plant-parasitic nematodes from conventional measures to modern techniques.

Mr. Ganeshamoorthy Hariharan, Ms. Nishanthi Sivasubramaniam and Kandeeparoopan Prasannath published a book chapter titled RNA interference as a promising strategy for plant disease management in Food Security and Plant Disease Management at Elsevier. The Chapter emphasizes the potential of RNAi mechanism as a promising tool for managing major phytopathogens in agriculture. It explores RNAi's efficiency in plant protection against several pathogens, the pros and cons of different strategies to induce RNAi in current technology.