



### Message from Dean



**Dr P Sivarajah**  
Dean / Agriculture

A Faculty Newsletter is like an open window, showing to the public and stakeholders the activities of the Faculty in relation to both academic and social/community focus. In this respect the Faculty Newsletter 2019 has details of the academic, research and outreach activities that both Faculty staff and students have done over the past one year. This volume of the Newsletter provides a picturesque view of the main activities conducted at the Faculty level and also staff and students achievements in many areas of agricultural research and development. The contents would be beneficial to people to know more about the Faculty as well as its contribution to socio-economic development.

I congratulate personally the Editor, Heads of Depts., and all staff who had put in lot of valuable time and efforts to publish this Volume soon.

### Message from Editor

I am delighted to serve as an Editor for the 13<sup>th</sup> issue of Faculty of Agriculture's Newsletter. This publication contains glimpse of major events of Faculty that held in 2019. I am sure that, this small document would be helpful to recall the memorable events. I would like to thank all staff members, those who provided their valuable support for this newsletter.



**Mrs. Brintha Karunarathna**  
Editor, Faculty Newsletter-2019

### AHEAD PROJECT

Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka has won 100 million ELTA-ELSE grant (Enriching Learning, Teaching, Assessment and English Language Skills Enhancement grant) under Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) project, World bank for Faculty Development for a period of three years. The Faculty proposal for this competitive faculty grant was prepared in 2018 by the Project Team Leader (Dr. M. Pagthinathan) and Members (Prof. Thevaki Mahendran, Prof. Thayamini H. Seran, Mrs. Krishnal Thirumarpan, Mrs. Bawatharani Raveendrakumaran and Mr. K. Prasannath) in consultation with Dean of Faculty, Dr. P. Sivarajah and Heads of Departments. It has been implemented in 2019 by the following project team members.

Dr. M. Pagthinathan,  
Prof. Thayamini H. Seran  
Dr. (Mrs.) P. Premanandarajah  
Mr. M. Sugirtharan  
Prof. S. Sutharsan

Project Coordinator / Coordinator for Activity 2  
Coordinator for Activity 1  
Coordinator for Activity 3  
Coordinator for Activity 4  
Coordinator for Activity 5

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## **Students Details in the Year 2019**

Academic Year	Male	Female	Total
2014/2015	29	44	73
2015/2016	24	34	58
2016/2017	15	53	68
2017/2018	11	40	51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>250</b>

## **New Students Registration & Orientation Programme - 2019**

Orientation Programme was organized for the B.Sc (Agriculture) students by the Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL from 11<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 for the academic Year 2017/2018.



## **Orientation Programme – M.Sc. in Agriculture 2019**

Orientation Program was organized for M.Sc in Agriculture students by the Faculty of Agriculture, EUSL on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019.



## **Scholarships, Fellowships, Prizes and Research Grants received**

Mrs. Thivahary Geretharan (Senior Lecturer Gr-II in Agric. Economics) received Helen E Akers PhD Scholarship 2019 from Professor Jan Thomas, Vice Chancellor, Massey University, New Zealand under the Massey University's Academic Postgraduate Scholarships Programme.



Mrs. Tharsinithevy Kirupananthan (Senior Lecturer Gr.I in Agric. Economics) received AHEAD Scholarship to pursue PhD study at University of Reading, United Kingdom.

Mr. M.S.Mohamed Nafees (Senior Lecturer Gr-I in Animal Science) has started PhD in Animal Science at UPM, Malaysia in February 2019 under AHEAD operations.



Mr. T. Geretharan (Senior Lecturer Gr-II in Crop Science) received George Mason Sustainable Land Use Scholarship 2019 from Professor Jan Thompson, Vice Chancellor, Massey University, New Zealand under the Massey University's Academic Postgraduate Scholarships Programme.

Dr. S. Mahendran (Senior Lecturer Gr.I in Agric. Biology) and Mrs. S. Karunakaran (Chief Technical Officer in Agric. Biology) have been awarded the Meritorious Service Award – 2019 for 25 and 30 years of long service, respectively.



Mrs.M.F.U. Safaya Rifath, Assistant Registrar/Faculty of Agriculture completed the Induction Programme for Administartive Staff – 2019 at Staff Development Centre, EUSL.



Mrs. Dona Harshani Shanika Komahan (Lecturer Probationary in Agric. Biology) received PhD scholarship under AHEAD project and is pursuing PhD studies at Massey University, New Zealand



Mrs. Inthujaa Sanjayaranj (Lecturer Probationary in Animal Science) has started PhD in Animal Science at Massey University, New Zealand in August 2019 with the PhD Scholarship under AHEAD operations.



Mrs. Thivahary Geretharan (Senior Lecturer Gr.II Agric. Economics) received Professor Indira Parikh 50 Women in Education Leaders Award 2019 for women in education leaders, awarded by the World Education Congress, CMO Asia with CMO Council on 4th July 2019 at Taj Lands End, Mumbai, India.

## **Appointment / Promotion/ Retirement/ Resignation of staff**

Mr. M. Rajendran (Senior Lecturer Gr.II in Agric. Engineering) has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering of the Faculty of Agriculture with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2019.



Dr. Kumuthini.D.Harris (Senior Lecturer Gr.I in Crop Science) resigned from the post of Senior Lecturer Gr. I at the Eastern University, Sri Lanka, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 due to personal reasons.

Dr. S. Mahendran (Senior Lecturer Gr.I in Agric. Biology) has been granted a sabbatical leave for 20 months from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 and serving as Project Consultant at King Aqua Service (Pvt) Ltd., Chilaw for the 'Integrated Agri-Aqua Farming Projects in the Livelihood Development Program' in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.



## **Workshops/Seminars/ Conferences/ Training Programmes attended by staff**



Mrs. Thivahary Geretharan (Senior Lecturer Gr.II in Agric. Economics) participated and presented a paper titled “Agricultural support service provision – voices of Smallholder farmers from post-war Northern Sri Lanka” at the Australasia Pacific Extension Network (APEN) Conference held from 18 - 19 September 2019, at Mindil Beach Casino and Resort, Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia.

Ms. S. Nishanthi (Lecturer Probationary in Agric. Biology) has completed the Induction Programme of Academic Staff Members from January to May, 2019 at Eastern University, Sri Lanka.



Mr. T. Geretharan (Senior Lecturer Gr.II in Crop Science) participated the ‘Rising Soil Stars science communication’ competition at Wageningen University, The Netherlands on 28th August 2019. He has been selected as one of the 10 Soil Stars and received 100 euro, sponsored by the European Association of Geochemistry (EAG).



Dr (Mrs.) R. F. Niranjana (Senior Lecturer Gr.I in Agric. Biology) has attended a workshop on ‘Self Evaluation Report Writing’ at UGC, Sri Lanka on 22nd January 2019.



Ms. S. Nishanthi (Lecturer Probationary in Agric. Biology) participated two phases of training programme in Student Centered Learning in Higher Education (Second and Third sessions) from 5th February 2019 to 8th February 2019 and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019, respectively organized by British Council.

Mrs.L.S. David (Senior Lecturer Gr.II in Animal Science) participated and presented her research findings in the Poultry Science Association Annual meeting of 2019 in Montréal, Canada.

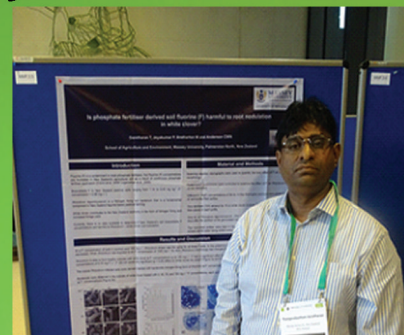




Mr. T. Geretharan (Senior Lecturer Gr.II in Crop Science) participated the training programme on “Designing Soil Models” at Wageningen University, The Netherlands on 29th August 2019.

Dr.M.M.Mahusoon (Senior Lecturer Gr.I in Animal Science) participated a workshop on Teaching portfolio from 27th – 28th June 2019 and participated a seminar on “Social and Emotional Learning in Higher Education in December 2019.

Mr. T. Geretharan (Senior Lecturer Gr.II in Crop Science) participated and presented a poster titled “Is phosphate fertiliser derived soil fluorine (F) harmful to root nodulation in white clover?” at the Wageningen Soil Conference 2019 held from 27 - 30 August 2019 at Wageningen University, The Netherlands.



### **Field visit of Students**

Third year second semester students (67) and three staff members from Faculty of Agriculture visited the Livestock NLDB Farm and AI Centre at Kaduruwella and Pelwatte Dairy Industries Ltd. on 20<sup>th</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019, respectively.



Third Year First Semester (2015/2016) Agriculture students have been taken to Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI), Batalagoda on 07<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to expose them with the current practices undertaken by the institute in managing the pests of rice.



The Third Year First Semester (2015/2016) Agriculture students have been taken to Cashew Cooperation and Cultivation Board, Kiran on 4th September 2019 to expose them with the current practices undertaken by the institute in managing the pests of cashew.



The Third Year First Semester (2015/2016) Agriculture students have been taken to Coconut Cultivation Board, Myllambavelly on 18th September 2019 to expose them with the current practices undertaken by the institute in managing the pests of coconut.



## **CENSARM ACTIVITIES**

### **Technical Seminar on Sustainable Shrimp Farming in Eastern Province**

This seminar was conducted by Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM), EUSL collaborate with National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka for community (Farmers, students and related stakeholder) on 9th April 2019.



## **World Food Day 2019**

World Food Day-2019 was celebrated by Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM), EUSL in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Batticaloa on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019.



## **Technical Seminar on Introduction of High Performing Shrimp Species**

This seminar was conducted by Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (CENSARM), EUSL in collaboration with National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka for community (Farmers, students and related stakeholder) on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019.



## **STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES**

### **Agro Premier League – 2019**

Students of the Faculty of Agriculture had participated in APL-Inter Agricultural Faculty Cricket Champion from 28<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at Wayamba University. This event was organized by the Students Union/Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, Wayamba University, Sri Lanka.



## **Agro Day-2019**

Students' Union of the Faculty of Agriculture had organized Agro Day-2019 at Nalliah Auditorium, EUSL on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019. All students and the Staff of the Faculty of Agriculture had participated in the event.



## **Thanking Function – 2019**

Second Year Students of the Faculty of Agriculture had organized Thanking Function for their senior students at Nalliah Auditorium, EUSL on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019. All students and the Staff of the Faculty of Agriculture had participated in the event.



## **Social Function-2019**

Second Year Students of the Faculty of Agriculture had organized Social Function to welcome First Year Students of the Faculty at Nalliah Auditorium, EUSL on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019. All students and the Staff of the Faculty of Agriculture had participated in the event.



## **Career Guidance Programmes**

### **HackaDev**

HackaDev is the Social Innovation Program organized by UNDP Sri Lanka to buildup the social innovators and social entrepreneurs through CGU, EUSL. The UNDP had organized ideation phase at Nallaiya auditorium, EUSL for Eastern Province participants on 05th of August 2019. Out of 343 teams, only 45 teams including three teams from the EUSL were selected for Social Innovation Challenge phase. Among three teams, two teams were from the Second Year Students of the Faculty of Agriculture and participated at Social Innovation Challenge phase with the team names of “Agro Thlaivas” and “Reflections” from 8th to 13th September 2019 in Jetwing Lake Hotel, Dambulla. T.Dilooshanan, S.Divya Akshara, S.Thirumaran, T.Nilojan and P.Mithusan represented the team “Agro Thlaivas” whilst R.Krishnananthu, M.S.Afrin, M.U.Nuha, W.H.C.Fernando and A.L.Sanjaya represented the team “Reflections”. Then these two teams were selected for Pre-Incubation Program, held on Dec 2nd and 3rd 2019 at OZO Hotel, Colombo. In addition, T.Dilooshanan and S.Divya Akshara have been selected as Ambassadors of HackaDev Programs-2020.



### **Personality Development Workshop**

Second Year First Semester Students of the Faculty of Agriculture had participated in a workshop on “Personality Development” from 17th – 18th August 2019 at Career Guidance Unit, EUSL.

