

PGIA NEWS



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ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER



Established in 1975, the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA), affiliated with the University of Peradeniya, is a leading institution dedicated to developing high-level expertise in agriculture and related fields in Sri Lanka. Over its five decades of service, PGIA has made significant strides in establishing nationally and internationally recognized degree and non-degree programs, supported by robust infrastructure for teaching and research.

The institute's greatest asset is its pool of highly qualified and experienced staff, drawn from the university and external research and development institutes, as well as its strong partnerships with renowned international universities and research centers. PGIA News serves as the primary medium for sharing the institute's activities with policymakers, academics, stakeholders, and the public. Published annually, it features updates, research briefs, and information on agricultural education, research, and development. The PGIA welcomes comments and suggestions from readers to enhance the quality and content of future editions of this newsletter.



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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

THE VALUE OF ETHICAL TEACHING IN UNIVERSITIES

The term "ethics" originates from the Greek word ethos (character), signifying principles of right and wrong behavior. Ethics are integral to all professions, particularly university teaching, where educators play a critical role in guiding students toward disciplined and ethical conduct. University teachers bear a professional obligation to uphold ethical standards, ensuring their exemplary service benefits society. As global developments in higher education reach Sri Lanka, universities have embraced reforms to enhance quality and relevance. The traditional British system of instruction gave way to the course unit system in the 1980s, and after 2020, quality assurance guidelines were introduced to standardize degree programs. The COVID-19 pandemic further transformed teaching methods, with online learning becoming more prevalent. Amid these changes, ethical education remains indispensable for meeting societal needs in a rapidly evolving world.

Incorporating ethical and moral values into university teaching has long been recognized as crucial. Many academics emphasize the importance of ethical teaching to create a well-rounded education system. Key features of ethical teaching include:

Competence in Subject Matter: University teachers must remain updated on their subject matter, ensuring their knowledge aligns with course content, objectives, and assessment procedures. Rapid advancements in knowledge require teachers to access new publications, attend professional meetings, and seek guidance from colleagues when necessary.

Pedagogical Competence: An ethically competent teacher employs effective teaching strategies that align with course objectives, prioritizing student learning. Teachers act as facilitators, using accurate and well-informed content to support student achievement. Failure to do so, such as teaching outdated or self-serving topics, undermines the learning process.

Addressing Sensitive Topics: Sensitive subjects – such as religion, race, gender, or politics – should be discussed with honesty, openness, and confidentiality. Teachers must handle these topics delicately to ensure students feel respected and supported.

Student Development: Teachers bear the responsibility of fostering students' intellectual growth, encouraging independence, and promoting equal treatment. Issues such as favoritism or exploitation undermine trust. For example, teachers should recognize students' contributions in research publications, avoiding actions that could discourage or demoralize them.

Relationships with Students: Teachers must maintain professional boundaries to avoid conflicts of interest. Personal relationships with students can lead to perceived bias or favoritism. Transparency, such as informing superiors of close relationships, helps uphold fairness, particularly during assessments or supervision. Teachers should also avoid inappropriate interactions on social media platforms, as these can compromise professionalism.

Confidentiality: Student-related information—such as grades, attendance, and referee reports—must remain confidential. Teachers must handle such data responsibly, ensuring it is used only for legitimate purposes and never to harm others.

Respect for Colleagues: Mutual respect among academic staff fosters a positive working environment, contributing to institutional dignity. Disputes, when they arise, should be resolved amicably to avoid harming student development or professional relationships.

Fair Assessment of Students: Teachers must implement reliable, transparent assessment methods that align with course objectives. Students should be informed of grading systems and assessment criteria in advance. When multiple teachers are involved in evaluations, consistent procedures must be followed to ensure fairness.

Respect for the Institution: University teachers are expected to uphold institutional policies and core values. At the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, these include the liberal pursuit of knowledge, academic excellence, accountability, and respect for cultural diversity. Teachers must align their conduct with these values to maintain educational standards and avoid conflicts, such as over-committing to external engagements or engaging in political activities.

As Potter Stewart aptly stated, “Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do.” University educators must embody this principle, ensuring their actions positively impact students, colleagues, and the broader academic community. Ethical teaching is fundamental to shaping a just and progressive society.

“Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have right to do and what is right to do” Potter Stewart

Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture starts the Year 2025 with Blessings and New Year Celebrations



The PGIA commenced the year 2025 with a blessing ceremony conducted by the Maha Sangha on 1st January 2025. This auspicious event was organized to invoke blessings for the success and prosperity of the institute, its academic and administrative community, and its students.

Following the religious observances, PGIA hosted a New Year tea party, bringing together its staff, teaching panel, Board of Management and Boards of Study members, as well as the Chairpersons and Secretaries of Boards of Study. This gathering not only marked the beginning of a new academic and administrative year but also reinforced PGIA’s commitment to excellence in postgraduate education and research, fostering unity and shared purpose among its stakeholders.

ACADEMIC NEWS



General Convocation 2023 University of Peradeniya

The 85th General Convocation of the University of Peradeniya was held in grand style at the University Gymnasium on 21–22 August 2024. During the ceremony, degrees were conferred on 196 graduates from the PGIA, including 11 Ph.D., 5 M.Phil., 151 M.Sc., and 16 MBA students.

New Admissions for the Academic Year 2024 / 2025

The academic year 2024 / 2025 began on January 04, 2025 and total of 160 students were registered as regular students at the Peradeniya branch.

PGIA Welcomes New Members (Ex- Officio) to the Board of Management

Prof. B.C Jayawardena, Dean/Faculty of Agriculture, UoP to the Board of Management in place of former Dean Prof. Sarath Kodithuwakku.

Dr. A. W Kalupahana, Dean/ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, UoP to the Board of Management in place of former dean Prof. P.G.A. Pushpakumara

Prof. M.L.M.C Dissanayake, Dean/Faculty of Agriculture, Sabaragamuwa University , in place of Prof. PMAS Karunarathne,

Prof. K Pakeerthan, Dean/Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna as member in place of Dr. S. Vaasantha Ruba.



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MAIN STORIES

36TH ANNUAL RESEARCH CONGRESS – A PREMIER SCIENTIFIC EVENT

The 36th Annual Congress of the PGIA was held on 22nd November 2024 at the Diamond Jubilee Hall, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. With the theme “Precision Agriculture Towards Resilient Food Systems,” the Congress provided a dynamic platform for researchers to present, discuss, and disseminate their scholarly work in agriculture and related disciplines to both national and international audiences.

The event was an invaluable opportunity for postgraduate students and young scientists to showcase their research to a diverse audience, including academics, researchers, PGIA alumni, and stakeholders. This year’s program featured 24 oral presentations and 11 poster presentations across five scientific sessions. Key oral sessions focused on Agronomic Interventions for Sustainable Agriculture, Advancements in Pest Management and Crop Resilience, Community and Environmental Stewardship, and Technological Innovations in Agriculture. The poster session emphasized Agricultural Production and Productivity Improvement for national development.



The Congress opened with an inaugural session attended by over 200 participants. His Excellency Mr. Eric Walsh, High Commissioner for Canada to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, graced the event as the Chief Guest, while the keynote address was delivered by Prof. Viacheslav Adamchuk from McGill University, Canada. The session also included addresses from notable speakers, including Dr. D.N. Vidana Gamage (Congress Coordinator), Mr. H.M.M.C. Herath (President, PASA), Prof. Terrence Madhujith (Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya), Prof. B.C. Jayawardena (Dean, Faculty of Agriculture), and Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara (Director, PGIA).

A major highlight of the event was a panel discussion featuring distinguished dignitaries: Mr. Abdur Rahim Siddiqui, Country Director, World Food Program, Sri Lanka; Mr. Nalin Munasinghe, Assistant Representative (Program), FAO, Sri Lanka; Dr. Athula Senaratne, Senior Agriculture Specialist, World Bank, Sri Lanka; Mr. Mizuno Tsuyoshi, Representative, JICA, Sri Lanka; Dr. Buddika Hapuarachchi, Policy Specialist and Team Lead (Climate and Environment), UNDP, Sri Lanka. The panel discussion, moderated by Prof. Buddhi Marambe, provided valuable insights into pressing challenges and opportunities in agriculture and food systems.

Additionally, Prof. Tadayuki Tsujita from Saga University, Japan, delivered a guest lecture that captivated the audience.

To support participants in enhancing their communication skills and scientific dissemination, five pre-congress workshops were conducted on topics related to research publications and presentations. These well-attended sessions provided practical knowledge and skill-building opportunities.

The Congress concluded with an inspiring Distinguished Alumnus Speech by Dr. Shamen Vidanage, Country Representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), who reflected on his professional journey and contributions to conservation.

Once again, the Annual Research Congress underscored its status as a premier scientific event, fostering innovation, collaboration, and academic excellence in agriculture and allied fields. It continues to play a pivotal role in advancing knowledge and addressing global challenges in agricultural development.



Chief Guest



Congress Coordinator



Congress Organizing Committee



Alumni Speaker



Panel Discussion Session

Best Presenters and Awardees in the Technical and Poster Sessions

Oral Presentations of the Congress

Technical Session	Title of the paper	Presenter
Agronomic Interventions for Sustainable Agriculture	Effect of Growing Environment on the Quality and Quantity of <i>Kappaphycus alvarezii</i> (Doty) Doty Yield	Mr. G.D.S.P Rajapaksha
Advancements in Pest Management and Crop Resilience	Morphological and Molecular Characterization of Leaves from Selected Accessions of Jackfruit (<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus Lam</i>) available in Sri Lanka	Ms. P.G.N.N. Dayarathna
Community and Environmental Stewardship	Relationship of Perceived Extension Worker Characteristics with the Adoption of Value-Added Technologies by the Beneficiaries	Ms. C.A.K. Dissanayake
Technological Innovations in Agriculture	Carbon Footprint of Orthodox Black Tea through Life Cycle Assessment: A Case Study of a Medium Scale Tea Factory, Sri Lanka	Ms. M. M. K. D. Manathunga

Overall Best Presenter

Ms. P.G.N.N. Dayarathna

Title: Morphological and Molecular Characterization of Leaves from Selected Accessions of Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus Lam*) available in Sri Lanka

Poster Presentations

Poster Session	Title of the poster	Presenter
Agricultural Production and Productivity Improvement	Association of Dietary Patterns and Sarcopenia in the Ageing Population in Polonnaruwa District, Sri Lanka: A CrossSectional Study	Ms. Fazna Rafeek



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ACADEMIC AWARDS

Dr. A. W. R. Joachim Memorial Award - 2024

The Dr. A. W. R. Joachim Memorial Award, presented annually to students with the highest GPA in their respective academic disciplines, recognized outstanding academic achievements for 2024. This prestigious award was shared by:

- Ms. I.S. Eshwarage, Ms. M.N.D. Vitharana, and Prof. (Ms.) C.M. Wickramathilake from the Board of Study in Food Science and Technology
- Ms. D.R.N.N. Rathnayake from the Board of Study in Bio-Statistics
- Ms. K.A.M.R.P. Atapattu from the Board of Study in Crop Science

Congratulations to these exceptional students for their hard work, dedication, and academic excellence!

PGIA Alumni Award

The Alumni Association will present this award to the winners of each technical session at the congress. The award is exclusively given to PGIA students.

Winner	Ms. P.G.N.N. Dayarathna	Board of Study in Agricultural Biology
1 st Runner up	Ms. M. M. K. D. Manathunga	Board of Study in Agricultural Engineering
2 nd Runner up	Ms. R.M.A.U. Rathnayake	Board of Study in Soil Science

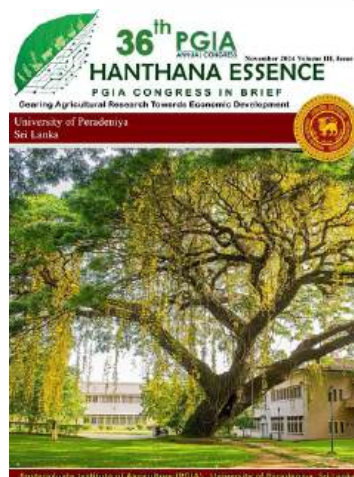


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"HANTHANA ESSENCE - PGIA CONGRESS IN BRIEF"

"Hanthana Essence - PGIA Congress in Brief" is a magazine showcasing research papers selected for presentation at the PGIA Congress. Its primary goal is to effectively communicate the research outcomes of the PGIA Congress to the general public. The following are the winners of the "Hanthana Essence - PGIA Congress in Brief".



WINNER	T.A.B.D.Sanjeewa	Current Status of Weed Management in Maize Cultivation in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka
1st Runner up	Sulaima Lebbe Rasmiya Begum	Assessment of Pollution in Lagoons using Water Quality Indices: A Case Study in Sainthamaruthu Coastal Lagoon, Sri Lanka
1st Runner up	M.M.K.D. Manathunga	Assessing the Carbon Footprint of Sri Lankan Black Tea Production
1st Runner up	T. Bavithira	Two-Stage Catalytic Activation of Coconut Shell Biochar for Effective Malachite Green Removal from Water



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NEW INITIATIVES FOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

VISIT OF JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, LIVAA POLASKA, AND KELANI VALLEY PLANTATIONS TEAM TO PGIA

On 20th November 2024, a seven-member delegation from Jagiellonian University (JU), Poland, and Livaa Polaska (LP), Poland, along with officials from Kelani Valley Plantations PLC (KVPL), Sri Lanka, visited the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) and the University of Peradeniya to initiate a collaborative partnership. The team included: Dr. hab. Agnieszka Pajdak-Stos, Prof. Dr. hab. Ryszard Laskowski and Prof. Dr. hab. Marcin Czarnoleski of Institute of Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Biology; Dr. Justyna Żabicka – Institute of Botany, Faculty of Biology; Prof. Renata Wietecha-Postuszny; Prof. Michał Woźniakiewicz; Prof. Paweł Miśkowiec; and Dr. Anuruddha Gamage of Kelani Valley Plantations PLC. The collaboration aims to promote research partnerships, staff and student exchanges, and the joint offering of a Tropical Biology short course in partnership with PGIA and the University of Peradeniya (UoP). A meeting was held at the PGIA Board Room from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, attended by the Director, Chairpersons, Secretaries, and select members of the Boards of Study. Following the meeting, the delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor of UoP. A four-party Letter of Intent (LOI) among JU, UoP, LP, and KVPL will soon be signed to formalize and operationalize the activities of this collaborative initiative.



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VISIT OF SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY DELEGATION TO PGIA

On 13th December 2024, a delegation from Southwest University, China visited the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) to explore opportunities for collaboration. The delegation included: Prof. GE Xinyong, Vice-President, Prof. CHEN Bingjun, Director, Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Prof. YANG Minghou, Director, Office of University-Local Authorities Cooperation, Ms. ZHANG Bin, Party Secretary, School of Continuing Education, Prof. QU Cunmin, Deputy Dean, College of Agronomy and Biotechnology, and Dr. LEI Ye, Staff, Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges of Southwest University. The discussions focused on potential collaborations, including student and staff exchange programs, MSc collaborations, and the development of double degree programs. The meeting was attended by the Director of PGIA, Chairpersons and Secretaries of Boards of Study, and several other members form Boards of Study. The delegation also paid a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya to further discuss the possibilities for institutional partnerships.



VISIT OF PROF. TADAUKI TSUJITA, SAGA UNIVERSITY, JAPAN

Prof. Tadauki Tsujita of the Division of Biochemistry, Department of Applied Biochemistry and Food Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Saga University, Japan visited the PGIA on 25th November 2024 for a discussion on student and staff exchange programs and also to explore opportunities for offering joint degree programs between two institutions.



VISIT OF MR. KOICHI TSURUSHIMA

Mr. Koichi Tsurushima, CEO of Miraifukeisha Ltd, Japan visited PGIA on 27th November 2024 to explore opportunities for offering short courses on landscape design and tree management.



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OVERSEAS VISITS OF THE DIRECTOR

MASUDEM Project Workshop Participation

At the invitation of the Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok, Thailand, the Director attended the "MASUDEM Project – Training at Partner Country Institution" workshop from 14–19 July 2024. This workshop, funded by the Faculty of Economics, followed the successful doctoral completion of Ms. Ravepan Sallepon, a PGIA student. Both Ms. Sallepon and the Dean expressed a strong interest in further collaboration, including postgraduate admissions, joint degree programs, and student exchanges. During the visit, a letter of intent was planned to formalize these initiatives, which aim to enhance PGIA's international engagement and offer visiting professorship opportunities for its staff.

Study Tour on Agroforestry in India

At the invitation of the IUCN Country Representative, the Director participated in a study tour from 9–12 September 2024, visiting coffee-based agroforestry sites in Karnataka, India, funded by the IUCN. Organized under the Agroforestry in Sri Lanka Project by IUCN Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Netherlands Embassy, the tour included visits to the Nescafé Demo Farm, Coffee Training Centre, Processing Centre, Coffee Research Centre, Kodagu Model Forest Trust, and tea-based agroforestry systems at the UPASI Tea Research Foundation in Ooty. The visit aimed to enhance understanding of agroforestry concepts, explore Indian agroforestry models, and study soil improvement techniques, regenerative agriculture practices, and market opportunities. It also sought to foster joint research initiatives and explore collaborative funding opportunities for a potential India-Sri Lanka program with the College of Forestry, Ponnampet.



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Participation in the 4th International Conference on Mountain Agriculture and Green Plant Protection

At the invitation of the Secretariat of the Organizing Committee for the 2024 China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW), extended by the Deputy Dean of the National Key Laboratory of Green Pesticide at Guizhou University, the Director attended the 4th International Conference on Mountain Agriculture and Green Plant Protection in Guiyang, China. This event was funded and hosted by Guizhou University and co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education of China, the Guizhou Provincial People's Government, SEAMEO, and the ASEAN-China Centre. The Director presented a paper titled "Human Resource Development Requirements for Green Plant Protection: PGIA Perspectives," highlighting opportunities for collaboration between PGIA and Guizhou University to advance green plant protection through human resource development. Discussions during the conference opened the possibility of a tripartite agreement on green plant protection between PGIA, the Faculty of Agriculture, and Guizhou University, which could bring valuable experience, research funding, and PhD opportunities. During the visit, the Director also promoted PGIA as a premier destination for postgraduate education for Chinese students, particularly for Master's programs, enhancing the institute's visibility and fostering future academic partnerships.



Participants of the 4th International Conference on “Mountain Agriculture and Green Plant Protection”



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Workshop Participation at Saga University, Japan

At the invitation of Prof. Akihiro Suzuki, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, the Director attended a workshop and exposure visit on “Human Resource Development for Rural Development under Climate Change” at Saga University, Fukuoka, Japan, from 9–13 January 2025. This workshop follows the visit of Saga University students and staff to the PGIA Annual Congress. The primary objectives of the workshop were to explore opportunities for jointly developing a Master's program on Climate Change and Landscape Management, an initiative already launched by PGIA, and to establish collaborative programs such as student and staff exchanges and joint M.Phil. and Ph.D. degree programs.



The Director/PGIA and Dean/Faculty of Agriculture met and discussed collaborative activities with Prof. Nobuo Mishima, Vice President, International Affairs of Saga University.



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QUALITY ASSURANCE

TAKE ROOT AT THE PGIA

Quality assurance in higher education is a comprehensive approach aimed at maintaining and improving standards across all institutional activities. It ensures acceptable standards in teaching, research, and education, while continuously enhancing infrastructure to achieve optimal outcomes. All employees of the institution share the responsibility of upholding quality standards, and the success of a quality assurance system depends significantly on the support provided by the management.

To ensure high-quality standards in all its activities, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC-PGIA) was established in 2020 under the Center for Quality Assurance (CQA) of the University of Peradeniya. The IQAC-PGIA is tasked with supporting and monitoring academic and administrative activities to ensure the quality of degree and non-degree programs, research initiatives, and outreach efforts, aligning them with the Strategic Plan of the PGIA.

The IQAC-PGIA has initiated several measures to streamline processes, develop new guidelines and documentation, and revise and update existing ones. Currently, the institute is focused on drafting bylaws for the M.Phil. and Ph.D. programs and preparing for internal program reviews to support the scheduled reviews in 2025. Program reviews for other disciplines under various Boards of Study will begin from 2026 onwards.

At present, the Self-Evaluation Report (SER) writing team for the M.Phil. and Ph.D. program review is preparing the SER for the internal review. The chairpersons and the PGIA representatives for the respective criteria are as follows:

No	PG Criteria	Appointed Chairperson	PGIA Representative
01	Program Management	Prof. K.S. Hemachandra	Dr. Harshani Siriwardana
02	Program Design and Development	Prof. B.E.P. Mendis	Dr. Harshani Siriwardana
03	Human and Physical Resources and Learner Support	Prof. H.M.G.S.B. Hitinayake	Ms. Nayani Dayarathna
04	Teaching-Learning and Research	Prof. S.A.C.N. Perera	Dr. Dineesha Balagalla
05	Student Assessment and Award of Qualifications	Prof. G.L.L.P. Silva	Ms. Nayani Dayarathna
06	Program Evaluation	Prof. H.L.J. Weerahewa	Dr. Harshani Siriwardana
07	Innovative and Healthy Practices	Prof. D.V.P. Prasada	Dr. Dineesha Balagalla

Currently, Dr. Harshani Siriwardana, Senior Lecturer at PGIA, serves as the PGIA-IQAC Coordinator and the institute's representative on the Management Committee of the Center for Quality Assurance (CQA) of the University of Peradeniya. Through its ongoing efforts, the IQAC-PGIA remains committed to fostering excellence and upholding the quality standards of all academic and administrative activities at the institute.

“Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intension, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution, it represents the wise choice of many alternatives”

STAFF/STUDENT NEWS

Prestigious Appointments

Prof. W. A. J. M. de Costa, member of the Board of Study in Crop Science has been appointed as Chairman, Tea Research Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Plantations Industries.

Prof. R. S. Dharmakeerthi, member of the Board of Management & Board of Study in Soil Science of the PGIA has been appointed as the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP).

New Appointments to the Teaching Panel

Board of Study Agricultural Biology- Dr. (Ms.) B.R.M.G.W.D.N. Balagalla

Board of Study Business Administration- Mr. B.C. Ravindra de Coonghe

Board of Study Animal Science- Dr. (Mr.) E. Shehan Wickremasinghe

Board of Study Agricultural Engineering- Dr. (Ms.) A. Shamila Jayasekare



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CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & TRAINING WORKSHOPS

INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA-STUDENT COLLABORATION FORUM OF PGIA (IASC FORUM-PGIA)

The Industry–Academia–Student Collaboration Forum (IASC Forum) organized parallel to the 36th PGIA Annual Congress by the (PGIA) marked a first step toward fostering meaningful partnerships among academia, industry, and students. The inaugural meeting of the forum was held on 5th November 2024. The forum acted as a platform for initiating dialogue, exchanging ideas, and creating a collaborative framework to address practical challenges through innovative research and development. This initiative showcases PGIA's commitment to bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application—a gap that has long impeded the translation of academic research into impactful industry solutions.

The forum was designed to bring together key stakeholders—industry representatives, academics, and postgraduate students—to discuss shared goals, identify challenges, and explore opportunities for collaboration. A total of 21 industry representatives from 15 organizations, 19 academic staff members, and 15 postgraduate students participated in this event.

Dr. Chandana Jayawardhana, Chairperson of the Board of Study of Agriculture Extension, delivered the opening presentation. He provided an in-depth overview of PGIA's Boards of Study, focusing on their academic and research areas. The presentation also explored past and potential industry-related activities that each BoS could undertake, emphasizing their relevance to practical problems. This session set the stage for aligning academic research with industrial needs, creating a framework for productive collaboration.

A panel discussion moderated by Prof. Chalinda Benaragama, Board of Study of Crop Science, brought together all participants to discuss operational strategies and expectations. Industry representatives highlighted the importance of postgraduate research addressing industry problems, a practice commonly seen in developed countries. They also noted the need for industry-funded research and collaborative solutions to challenges faced by various sectors. The participants acknowledged that bridging the gap between academia and industry has been a perennial issue in Sri Lanka, with limited progress made in the past. The discussion underscored the need for joint efforts to overcome this isolation, integrating academia, industry, and students into a cohesive framework for mutual benefit.



SECOND SAWA REGIONAL WORKSHOP 2025 INAUGURATED AT THE QUEENS HOTEL ON 29TH JANUARY 2025.

The Second SAWA Regional Workshop 2025 was successfully inaugurated on 29 January 2025 at Queen's Hotel, Kandy, hosted by the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA), University of Peradeniya. The event brought together scholars, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from across South Asia, with participation from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The workshop provided a dynamic platform for IDRC-SAWA Fellows to engage in meaningful discussions on sustainable water resource management, climate resilience, and policy integration. Over the course of the nine-day program, participants benefited from keynote addresses, technical sessions, and interactive group discussions, enhancing their understanding of regional water challenges and innovative solutions. Beyond knowledge-sharing, the workshop strengthened networking and collaboration among institutions and professionals, emphasizing the critical role of multidisciplinary approaches in addressing water security issues in South Asia. The inaugural session featured addresses by Prof. Gamini Pushpakumara, Director, PGIA; Prof. Dhammi Dayawansa, Project Lead – Sri Lanka; Prof. Shahjahan Mondal, Project Lead – Bangladesh; Prof. Robert Dongol, Co-Lead – Nepal; Dr. Sreenita Mondal, Regional Research Lead; and Ms. Suchita Jain, Regional Research and Training Coordinator. Their insights highlighted the importance of collaborative research and capacity-building in tackling water-related challenges in the region.



PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOPS

1. How to conduct a Systematic Literature Review

The workshop on "How to Conduct a Systematic Literature Review" was held on 29th June. It was organized by the Congress Organizing Committee and coordinated by Dr. Anuradha Jayaweera. The participants included postgraduate research students, as well as state and private sector officers interested in research policy and development. The workshop covered key areas such as the formulation of research questions, planning the research and creating a protocol, conducting a systematic literature search, reviewing research study designs, and interpreting the results of review studies. The resource person for the workshop was Mrs. Sriyani Perera, former Senior Assistant Librarian, Medical Library, University of Peradeniya.



2. Machine Learning for Advancing Research and Industry Applications

The second Congress workshop on "Machine Learning for Advancing Research and Industry Applications" was held on 28th September at the IT Unit of PGIA. It was organized by the Congress Organizing Committee of PGIA and coordinated by Dr. Pavani Dissanayake. The program targeted postgraduate students, researchers, and officers from various agricultural institutes. The workshop covered the principles and applications of machine learning techniques in agriculture, food, and allied sectors. The resource person for the workshop was Dr. Damayanthi Herath, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya.



3. Data Analyzing using Statistical Methods

The third Congress workshop, titled "Data Analysis Using Statistical Methods," took place on 19th October at the IT Unit of PGIA. Organized by the Congress Organizing Committee and coordinated by Dr. Dineesha Balagalla, the event attracted postgraduate students and officers from various agricultural institutes. The workshop provided a comprehensive introduction to experimental designs critical for research and included a hands-on practical session on data analysis using Statistical Analysis Software (SAS). Participants benefited from expert guidance and valuable insights, with the organizing committee offering support under the supervision of an expert panel. The resource persons for the workshop were Profs. T. Sivananthawerl and B.M.L.D.B. Suriyagoda, who shared their expertise to ensure an engaging and impactful learning experience.



4. Basic Statistics for Field Experiments

The fourth Pre-Congress workshop, titled "Basic Statistics for Field Experiments," was held on 26th October at PGIA, organized by the Congress Organizing Committee of PGIA and coordinated by Dr. Dineesha Balagalla. The workshop catered to undergraduates and postgraduate students, and officers from both private and public sectors. The session focused on the fundamentals of designing and analyzing data from field experiments in agriculture. Participants gained valuable knowledge on applying statistical principles to enhance the quality and accuracy of their research. The resource person for the workshop was Prof. C.M.B. Dematawewa, former Director of PGIA, who shared his expertise and provided insightful guidance throughout the session.



5. Effective Research Presentation Skills

The fifth Pre-Congress workshop, titled "Effective Research Presentation Skills," was held on 02nd November at the PGIA Auditorium. Organized by the Congress Organizing Committee of PGIA and coordinated by Dr. Lakmal Ranathunga, the workshop was designed for postgraduate and undergraduate students. The session focused on equipping participants with the skills to present their research confidently and effectively. Attendees learned techniques to enhance their communication, maintain audience engagement, and deliver their findings with clarity. The resource person for the workshop was Prof. Chalinda Beneragama, who provided guidance to ensure participants gained valuable insights into mastering research presentations.



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Cap-Net Lanka - PGIA Activities

Awareness program on "Climate Change and Water Footprint" FOR School Children

Group activity-based awareness program on "Climate Change and Water Footprint" was organized by the American Corner at the Public Library, Kandy for 50 school children in Kandy district on 13th March 2024. This event was organized to commemorate World Water Day 2024. Dr. S.S.K Chandrasekara Country Coordinator/Cap-Net Lanka served as the Resource Person of the event and donated a set of books including "**Ma jala binduwak nam**" and "**Jalaya Lokaye Jeewayai**" to each school at the end of the activity. One set of books was donated to the American Corner Public Library, Kandy.



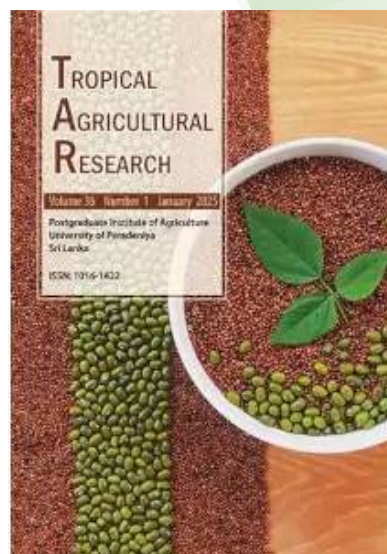
Website
<http://www.pgia.ac.lk/>



NEW PUBLICATIONS

TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (TAR) JOURNAL 36(1) 2025

TAR, the official Journal of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya was launched at the inaugural session of the 36th Annual Congress of PGIA held on 22nd November 2024. This is also available online at <https://tar.sjoi.info/793/volume/36/issue/1>



THESIS TITLES OF STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2024

Name of the Student	Registration No:	Board of Study	Degree	Thesis Title	Name of the Supervisors
Ms. A.V.C. Abhayagunasekara	2014-470	Crop Science	PhD	assessing the genetic resources of an endemic wild species of rice, <i>oryza rhizomatis</i> -, vaughan, for drought and brown plant hopper (bph) resistance in rice	Prof. P.C.G. Bandaranayake Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara Dr. W.L.G. Samarasinghe
Mr. W.M.C.B. Wasala	2015-377	Crop Science	PhD	Extension of the postharvest longevity of "Ambul" Banana through the application of 1- Methylecyclopropene (1-MCP)	Prof. C.K. Benaragama Prof. G.D. Kapila Kumara Dr. K.H. Sarananda
Mr. R.K.R.M.A. Gunasena	19004	Crop Science	PhD	The influence of raw material quality and retting method on value added coco pith products	Prof. W.A.P. Weerakkody Prof. S. Samita Prof. K.W.L.K. Weerasinghe Dr. Lalith Perera
Mr. P.W.L. Jayaratna	2011-8973	Agricultural Extension	PhD	Development of a model for dissemination of information to the domestic floriculture growers in the central province of Sri Lanka	Dr. W. Wanigasundera Prof. C. Sivayoganathan
Ms. R. Saleepon	2012-384	Agricultural Economics	PhD	Income inequality and economic growth in Thailand	Prof. C. Bogahawatte Prof. L. H. P. Gunarathne
Ms. S. Sivakanthan	20344	Food Science and Technology	PhD	Development and characterization of rice bran oil and sesame oil- based oleogels for healthy food applications	Prof. Azharul Karim Dr. Sabrina Fawzia Prof. T. Madhujith
Ms. A.M.N.T. Adikari	2012-194	Food Science and Technology	PhD	Impact of printed dietary guideline booklets on nutritional status of pregnant woman and infants in Sri Lanka	Prof. R.Sivakanesan Prof. Chandrani Liyanage Prof. D.G.N.G. Wijesinghe
Ms. H.A.N. Upekshani	17198	Soil Science	PhD	Assessing soil quality in two contrasting vegetable growing systems in Sri Lanka and effectiveness of poultry litter biochar for soil quality improvements	Prof. R. S. Dharmakeerthi Prof. W.S. Dandeniya Dr. P. Weerasinghe
Mr. S.R. Sarathchandra	16349	Plant Protection	PhD	Development of a management system for rice field rats in Sri Lanka based on their diversity, ecology, reproductive behavior and social impact	Dr. L. Nugaliyadda Prof. K.S. Hemachandra Prof. C.D. Gamage

Mr. K.M.D.W.P. Nishantha	16313	Plant Protection	PhD	Development of an efficient management system for <i>Meloidogyne</i> spp. infesting tomato (<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>) in Sri Lanka through elucidation of the host-nematode interactions with especial reference to survival mechanisms and reproductive efficiency	Dr. M.M. Nugaliyadde Prof. D.M. De Costa
Ms. S.P. Rebeira	2012-386	Agricultural Biology	PhD	Diversity of grain physical physicochemical and nutraceutical properties of selected representative traditional and improved rice varieties in Sri Lanka	Prof. B.D.R. Prasantha Dr. K.K.D.V. Jayatilake
Ms. M.K.N.W. Jayarathne	19296	Soil Science	MPhil	Ammonia volatilization in a rice growing entisol following addition of rice husk biochar under two moisture regimes	Prof. R.S. Dharmakeerthi Dr. A. Igalavithana
Mr. W.A. M. Lowe	19330	Crop Science	MPhil	Comparative analysis of climate resilient biodiversity and resilience indicators of homegarden ecosystems in different agro-ecological regions in Sri Lanka	Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara Prof. G.L.L.P. Silva
Ms. W.G.I.P. Wijayaraja	19316	Crop Science	MPhil	variation of leaf gas exchange and associated functional traits of cowpea exposed to soil moisture and temperature stress in the dry zone of Sri Lanka	Dr. N. Geekyanage Prof. K.W.L.K. Weerasinghe
Ms. K.A.N.L. Kuruppuarachchi	20508	Crop Science	MPhil	Modelling of home gardens functions to identify resilient variables for sustainability of the system	Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara Prof. G.L.L.P. Silva
Ms. R. Jeisunthar	19446	Food Science and Technology	MPhil	Comparative study on raw and processed underutilized minor millets in Sri Lanka and their suitability as wheat flour substitutes	Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith Dr. R. Liyanage
Ms. H.D.A. Tharangani	18393	Plant Protection	MPhil	Determination of possible succession during pathogenesis and molecular identification of the casual organism/s of cinnamon rough bark disease (RDB)	Prof. D.M. De Costa Dr. G.G. Jayasinghe
Ms. D. B. R Kaushalya	18377	Crop Science	M.Sc. In Horticulture	Establishment of liquid culture system to enhance growth and secondary metabolites synthesis of <i>Gyrinops walla</i>	Prof. J.P. Eeswara Prof. Lalith Jayasinghe
Ms. A.A. Edirisooriya	19376	Food Science and Technology	M.Sc. in Food Science and Technology	Development of rice bran oil incorporated table margarine and determination of its oxidative stability	Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith Mr. O.C.P.D. Silva Dr. H.P.P.S. Somasiri
Ms. J.K.D.M.P. Jayanetti	18414	Food Science and Technology	M.Sc. in Food Science and Technology	Determination of nutritional composition, antibacterial, Antioxidant, Enzyme inhibitory activities of pretreated, Dehydrated <i>Amaranthus viridis</i> L. Leaves and development of leaves powder incorporated functional cookie	Mr. P.C. Arampath Dr. C.T.J. Thambiliyagodage
Mr. A.G.A. Bandara	20343	Food Science and Technology	M.Sc. in Food Science and Technology	Physicochemical properties cooking characteristics and moisture adsorption kinetics of basmati type rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.) varieties cultivated in Sri Lanka differing in amylose content	Prof. B.D.R. Prasantha Dr. J. Senanayake
Ms. M.K.C.P. Jayasekara	17222	Food Science and Technology	M.Sc. in Food Nutrition	Nutritional intake and nutritional status of the lip, oral cavity and pharynx cancer patients in different stages of the disease	Prof. R. Silva Dr. N Jayakumaran Prof. A. Chandrasekara
Ms. K.P.Hansika	18350	Bio Statistics	M.Sc. in Bio-Statistics	Time Series modelling and forecasting on carbon dioxide emission in Sri Lanka	Prof. N.R. Abeynayake
Ms. S.D.N.M. Senadeera	19290	Agricultural Engineering	Master of Science In IWRM	Vulnerability of other field crop (OFC) Farmers in major and minor irrigation systems to Agricultural risk induced by rainfall variability	Prof. N.D.K. Dayawansa Prof. W.P.R. Premalal De Silva
Ms. W.P.U. Gunasekara	19304	Agricultural Economics	M.Sc. in Natural Resource Management	Preferences of inland fishers for different Management Attributes in village tank Cascade systems in Sri Lanka	Dr. P.M. Korale Gedara Dr. R.P.D. Gunathilake
Mr. R.S.L.B. Ranasinghe	18173	Business Administration	Master of Business Administration	Exploring attributes of consumer behavior: A study in the perspective of consumer law	Prof. D.V.P. Prasada
Ms. K.I.S. Thamali	20286	Agricultural Biology	M.Sc. in Plant Biology Conservation and Breeding	characterizing saltol – mediated salinity responses in selected Sri Lankan rice germplasm	Dr. K.K.D.V. Jayathilake Ms. Nilmini Senanayake

LIST OF RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS OF PGIA 2024

- Amarasinghe, V.L.P., Weerakkody, N.S. and Madhujith, T. (2024) Isolation and characterization of potential probiotic lactic acid bacteria (LAB) from *Centella asiatica*. *The Journal of Nutrition and Food Sciences* 3 (1): 1-12. DOI: 10.4038/tar.v36i1.8882 (PhD Student)
- Bandara, T., Marambe, B., Pushpakumara, G., Silva, P., Punyawardena, R., Manawadu, L., Premalal, S. Miah, G., Dahal, K.R. and Suriyagoda, L. (2024) Adapting mountain-farming systems to climate change by reducing food-nutrition-health vulnerability. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change* 29, 88 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11027-024-10181-x> (PhD Student)
- de Silva, S.T.S., de Silva, R.P. and Dayawansa, N.D.K. (2024) Common open source WebGIS platform for spatial and non-spatial data to enhance health services in Sri Lanka. *South Florida Journal of Development* 5 (11), 2024. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46932/sfjdv5n11-022> (PhD Student)
- Dewapriya, I. N. S., Hettiarachchi, M. H. S. M., Weerakoddy, W. A. P., Bandaranayake, A. U., Amaratunga, K. S. P., & Bandaranayake, P. C. G. (2024). Assessment of Growth and Yield Characteristics of a Greenhouse Hybrid and a Dual-Purpose Tomato Cultivar under Different Microclimatic Conditions. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(4), 317-331. DOI: 10.4038/tar.v35i4.8845. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Dharmasiri, P. G. N. H., Ranasinghe, P., Jayasooriya, P. T., & Samarakoon, K. W. (2024). Antioxidant, anti-diabetic and anti-inflammatory activities of *Passiflora foetida* grown in Sri Lanka. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(1), 24-33. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i1.8701>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Edirisinghe, I. K., Thamali, K. I. S., Nanayakkara, N. H. L. D. L. D., Dissanayake, D. M. L. N. K., Amarathunge, L. A. R., Weerasinghe, W. D. P., ... & Jayatilake, D. V. (2024). Allele profiling of bacterial blight resistance genes Xa4, Xa38, and Xa21 in selected Sri Lankan rice germplasm. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(2), 143-151. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i2.8745>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Fernando, B. H. R., Ranasinghe, C. S., Pathmarajah, S., & Mowjood, M. I. M. (2024). Performance evaluation of micro-irrigation systems in coconut plantations. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(2), 107-118. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i2.8742>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Gunasena, A., Weerakkody, W.A.P., Samita, S., Weerasinghe, L.K. and Perera, L. (2024) Optimization of particle size distribution of coco pith: implications of soil suitability classes, varietal variation, processing methods and status of aging. *Asian Journal of Agricultural and Horticultural Research* 11 (3): 115-129. DOI: 10.9734/ajahr/2024/v11i3334 (PhD Student)
- Gunasena, R.K.R.M.A., Weerasinghe, K.W.L.K., Weerakkody, W.A.P., Samita, S. and Perera, L. (2024) Impacts of soil stability class, variety, milling methods and aging status on some chemical properties of coco pith. *Tropical Agricultural Research* 36 (1): 275-287. DOI: 10.4038/tar.v36i1.8882 (PhD Student)
- Hearath, H. M. B. S., Pushpakumara, D. K. N. G., Hewson, M., & Wickramagamage, P. (2024). Unexploited potential of trees outside forest: Catchment landscape restoration through homegardens in Upper Mahaweli Catchment in Sri Lanka. *Agroforestry Systems*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-024-00973-0>. (PhD Student)
- Jayalath, K. A. T. K., Mendis, E., & Madushan, A. A. D. (2024). Evaluation of Physical and Sensory Properties of Biscuits Made from Blended Wheat Flour and Pumpkin Powder. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(4), 288-295. DOI: 10.4038/tar.v35i4.8843. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Jayanetti, M., Arampath, P. C., & Thambiliyagodage, C. J. (2024). Determination of nutritional composition, enzyme inhibitory activity, and antioxidant activity of pretreated, dehydrated *Amaranthus viridis* L. leaves. *Journal of Science of the University of Kelaniya*, 17(1), 15-26. <https://doi.org/10.4038/josuk.v17i1.8102>. (MSc Student)

- Jayarathna, M. K. N. W., Dharmakeerthi, R. S., & Igalavithana, A. D. (2024). Effects of biochar based N fertilizer application on ammonia volatilization from a rice growing soil: A laboratory scale closed chamber study. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(1), 34–45. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i1.8702>. (MSc Student)
- Jayasekara, J. M. A. U., Mowjood, M. I. M., & Dayawansa, N. D. K. (2024). Analysis of Spatial and Temporal Variation of Water Quality: A Case Study of Kotagala Wetland, Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(4), 343–354. DOI: 10.4038/tar.v35i4.8847. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Jayasinghe, C. V. L., Dassanayake, D. M. C. M. K., Madhushani, R. D. T. D., Edirisinghe, J. C., Wasana, H. M. S., & Wijewardane, M. A. (2024). Introducing a 'Postharvest Loss Index (PHLI)' for some selected high producing vegetables in Sri Lanka to enhance food security. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(3), 212–220. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i3.8543>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Karunadhipathi, U. L., Malaviarachchi, M. A. P. W. K., Weerasinghe, W. M. P. B., Jayarathna, S. R. G. H. S. M., Devindi, K. M., & Mahipala, M. K. (2024). Effect of change of agronomic practices on nutritive value of hybrid fodder sorghum cultivated in lowland paddy fields of the dry zone of Sri Lanka. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(1), 73–83. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i1.8705>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Kekulandara, D. S., Suriyagoda, L. D. B., Bandaranayake, P. C. G., Sirisena, D. N., Thilakarathne, N. S., & Samarasinghe, W. L. G. (2024). Development of high yielding rice varieties tolerant to phosphorus deficiency. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(2), 94–106. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i2.8578>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Kularathna, K. M., Gamage, D. V., Wijewardana, Y. N. S., & Herath, H. M. S. K. (2024). Effects of conversion of rubber to oil palm plantations on soil properties and hydrological dynamics in the Low Country Wet Zone of Sri Lanka. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(3), 188–211. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i3.8789>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Kumarasiri, U. W. L. M., Ariyawansa, T., & Kulasekara, B. R. (2024). Use of drone imagery to predict leaf nitrogen content of sugarcane cultivated under organic fertilizer application. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(1), 11–23. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i1.8700>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Kuruppuarachchi, N., Suriyagoda, L. D. B., Silva, G. L. L. P., & Pushpakumara, G. (2024). Climate resilience index for assessing resilience in homegardens. *Agroforestry Systems*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-024-01034-2>. (MPhil Student)
- Lansakara, L. H. M. P. R., Kodithuwakku, S. P., Himali, S. M. C., & Vidanarachchi, J. K. (2024). Effects of supplementation of insoluble dietary fiber obtained from cinnamon spent bark waste on the performance of Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) fingerlings. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(2), 131–142. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i2.8744>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Lowe, A., Kuruppuarachchi, N., Silva, P., Pushpakumara, G., Suriyagoda, L., & Weerahewa, J. (2024). Does human intervention modulate the above-ground carbon biomass of agroforestry systems? A study of homegardens in Jaffna peninsula, Sri Lanka. *Agricultural Systems*, 215, 103842. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2023.103842>. (MPhil Student)
- Madhushani, K. P. P., Subasinghe, H. M. P. A., Fonseka, R. M., & Sivananthawerl, T. (2024). Modified canopy architecture enhanced yield of black pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.) through high absorption and distribution of photosynthetically active radiation (PAR). *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(3), 175–187. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i3.8788>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Madushani, M. A., Priyadarshani, T. D. C., Madhushan, K. W. A., Tharaka, H. R. G., Menike, G. D. N., Weerasinghe, P. A., ... & Dissanayake, D. M. D. (2024). Solid formulation of *Trichoderma virens* for the management of banana anthracnose caused by *Colletotrichum musae*. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(3), 260–274. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i3.8792>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)

- Marasinghe, B. S., Vitharana, W. A. U., Chandrajith, R., Nanayakkara, N., & Fonseka, H. P. U. (2024). Spatial Analysis of Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Aetiology (CKDu) Prevalence in Badulupura Village, Sri Lanka. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(4), 355–361. DOI: 10.4038/tar.v35i4.8848. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Mayadunne, S. M. A. D. K. S., Dharmakeerthi, R. S., & Attanayake, C. P. (2024). Interaction Effects of Phosphorus and Zinc Application on Their Availability and Growth of Rice (*Oryza sativa*) in an Alfisol of Sri Lanka. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(4), 296–307. DOI: 10.4038/tar.v35i4.8844. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Nandkangre, H., Kambou, D. J., Bado, S., Zongo, K. F., Kabore, S. A., Ouedraogo, M., & Sawadogo, M. (2024). Assessment of Genetic Parameters and Diversity Organization of Ginger Accessions Cultivated in Burkina Faso as Revealed by Microsatellite Markers. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(4), 308–316. DOI: 10.4038/tar.v35i4.8633. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Nayanathara, N., & Hemachandra, D. (2024). Production and dietary diversities with seasonality in rural agricultural context in Sri Lanka: A case of Mahakanumulla village tank cascade system. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(3), 234–248. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i3.8790>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication).
- Niranjan, K., Kapilan, R., & Yapa, P. N. (2024). Composition and antimicrobial activity of different plant parts of *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(1), 84–93. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i1.8708>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication).
- Rajapaksha, G. D. S. P., Gunathilake, P. M. P. C., Nirooparaj, B., Vidanarachchi, J. K., Jayawardana, B. C., De Croose, M. D. S. T., ... & Bandaranayake, P. C. G. (2024). Comparative analysis of green and brown morphotypes of *Kappaphycus alvarezii* Doty: Morphology, total phenol content, antioxidant activity, and antimicrobial activity. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(1), 61–72. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i1.8704>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication).
- Ranasingha, A. S. Y. P., Karunarathna, A. K., Dandeniya, W. S., Nijamudeen, M. S., & Hewagama, G. N. (2024). Microplastic abundance in the locally produced commercial compost and the characteristics. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(2), 119–130. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i2.8743>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication).
- Ranil, R. H. G., Pushpakumara, D. K. N. G., & Wijesundara, D. S. A. (2024). Paving the way for a holistic conservation approach: The story of the world's only known simple frond tree fern, *Alsophilasinuata* (Hook. & Grev.) R. M. Tryon (Cyatheaceae). *Journal for Nature Conservation*, 79, 126628. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2024.126628>.
- Rathnayaka, R. A. A. S., Jananey, B., Maduranga, H. P. N., Sivananthawerl, T., Amarasena, P. G. D. S., Frossard, E., & Suriyagoda, L. D. B. (2024). Allometric Models for Estimating Above-Ground, Below-Ground and Total Biomass of Tea (*Camellia sinensis* (L.) O. Kuntze) Plants Grown in Uva and Up Country, Sri Lanka. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(4), 275–287. DOI: 10.4038/tar.v35i4.8842. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Ratnayake, S. S., Reid, M., Larder, N., Kariyawasam, C. S., Hunter, C., Hunter, D., Dharmasena, P. B., Pushpakumara, G., & Kogo, B. (2024). Sustainability and productivity of village tank cascade systems: A bibliometric analysis and knowledge mapping. *Sustainability*, 16, 3360. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su16083360>.
- Rebeira, S.P., Jayatilake, D.V., Prasantha, B.D.R., Senarathne Menike, B.M.K., Piyasiri, C.H., Weerasinghe, W.D.P., & Samarasinghe, W.L.G. (2024). Assessment of advanced breeding lines of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) for nutritional and nutraceutical grain quality characteristic. *Tropical Agriculturist*, 172(3), 16–30. (PhD Student)

- Sanjeevani, H. N., Samarasinghe, D. P., & De Costa, W. J. M. (2024). Influence of elevation and the associated variation of climate and vegetation on selected soil properties of tropical rainforests across a wide elevational gradient. *Catena*, 237, 107823. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4499666>. (PhD Student)
- Sarachchandra, P. O., Dharmakeerthi, R. S., & Karunarathna, A. K. (2024). Changes in total and available K contents in feldspar and mica co-pyrolyzed with poultry litter at different temperatures. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(3), 249-259. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i3.8791>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Selvaskanthan, S., & Eeswara, J. P. (2024). In Vitro Rooting of *Gyrinops walla* in Activated Charcoal-Containing Semi-Solid Culture and Filter Paper-Bridged Liquid Culture Systems. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(4), 332-342. DOI: 10.4038/tar.v35i4.8846. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Senaweera, Y. T., & Prasantha, B. R. (2024). Structural and elemental analysis of Waraka and Wala jackfruit seed flour samples by SEM-EDX method. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(2), 169-174. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i2.8747>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Silva, P. S. H., & Weerasooriya, S. A. (2024). Effect of socio-economic and institutional factors on different choices of food production system practiced in home gardens: A case study in Mahakanumulla village tank cascade system. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(2), 152-168. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i2.8746>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Thushari, A. N. W. S., & De Costa, D. M. (2024). Determining morphological and biochemical indices to select for smut-resistant sugarcane varieties. *Journal of Crop Improvement*, 38(2), 73-94. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15427528.2023.2284163>. (PhD student)
- Tihamiyu, A. M., Olatoye, I. O., Adedeji, O. B., & Okocha, R. C. (2024). Evaluation of *Chromolaena odorata* as a growth promoter in the African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*, Burchell 1822). *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(1), 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i1.8630>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Wasala, W. M. C. B., Benaragama, C. K., Kumara, G. D. K., Sarananda, K. H., & Dissanayake, C. A. K. (2024). Effect of 1-methylecyclopropane and Low-Temperature Storage on Postharvest Longevity of Banana cv 'Ambul'. *Journal of Agricultural Sciences (Sri Lanka)*, 19(3), 566-581. <http://doi.org/10.4038/jas.v19i3.10385> (PhD Student)
- Weththasinghe, P., & Dissanayeke, U. I. (2024). Alternative and ICT-based advisory and extension approaches in the tea sector in Sri Lanka: An explorative study. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(1), 46-60. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i1.8703>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Wijerathna, R. M. S., Prabhavi, B. U. I., Anuradha, J. M. P. N., Pinnawala, M. R., & Nissanka, S. P. (2024). Behavioral intention of paddy farmers towards adoption of organic sources for soil nutrient management consequent to policy decision to ban agro-chemicals in Sri Lanka: A case study. *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 35(3), 221-233. <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v35i3.8599>. (PGIA TAR Journal Publication)
- Wijesekara, N. M., Withanage, N., & Abeynayake, N. R. (2024). Joint modeling of correlated binary outcomes using multivariate logistic regression: Contraception and HIV knowledge in Sri Lanka. *Journal of Applied Statistics*, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02664763.2024.2363399> (MSc Student)

DEGREES AWARDED

AT THE GENERAL CONVOCATION

2024

Doctor of Philosophy

- 17001- H.M.P.S. Kumari
- 18399- H.K.N. Sanjeewani
- 18410- K.G.J.P. Mahindapala
- 2014-28- H.M.B.S Herath
- 2014-6- J.P. Marasinghe
- 16034- A.N.W.S. Thushari
- 18310- B.S. Bandusekara
- 20344- S. Sivakanthan
- 2011-8973- P.W.L. Jayaratna
- 2012-384- R. Saleepon
- 2014-470- A.V.C Abhayagunasekara

Master of Philosophy

- 19296- M.K.N.W. Jayarathna
- 19330- W.A.M. Lowe
- 19446- R. Jeisunthar
- 20508- K.A.N.L. Kuruppuarachchi
- 19391- P.W. Jeewanthi

Master's and M.Sc. Degrees

B/S in Plant Protection

- 20382- M.A. Madushani
- 18103 - W.M.S.U.K. Wijekoon
- 20485- S.M.D.C.Bandara

B/S in Animal Science

- 20046 - S.T.D. De Silva
- 20247 - S.A.U.M. Sinhalagoda
- 18022 - H.H.W.M. Somarathna
- 18143- M.K. Wickramarachchi

B/S in Bio Statistics

- 17138- N.M. Wijesekara
- 17316- E.V.D.Dilhani
- 18404- W.A.D.S.K.Wijesinghe
- 18230- W.A.K.Sandaruwani
- 17304- U.T.N.Senaratne
- 2207- R.M.D.N.K. Rathnayake

B/S in Agricultural Biology

- 22291- P.G.N.N. Dayarathna
- 19300- R.W.W.K.A.D. Rajapaksha
- 17047- I.K. Edirisingha
- 18062- N.S. Karunarathna
- 18349- P.W.M. Tharindi
- 20522- A.M.S.U.M. Attanayake
- 22250- P.B.G. Pathirana

B/S in Agricultural Engineering

- 17264- M.M.K.D. Manathunga
- 19102 -M.M.F. Haq
- 19279 -K.D.P. Sanka
- 19320- D.B.S. Kaviranda
- 19323- S.G.C. Dissanayaka
- 19345- H.M.A.P. Herath
- 19349- N.A.S.I. Neththasinghe
- 20017- K. Gnanasegaram
- 20259 -K.H.C. Sandaruwani
- 20281 -S.A.D.P. Suraweera
- 18341- D.M.S. Dissanayaka
- 19160 -R.P.G. Rajapaksha
- 19247- W.D.K. Madushanka
- 20086 -Y.G.P.D.K. Jayasekara
- 20087 -W.M.S.S. Dias
- 20090- C.S. Arambegedara
- 20108 -B.H.I.A. Jayathissa
- 20190 -A.B. Hakmana
- 18237- M.M.G.S. Dilini
- 18267- K. Pathmanathan
- 19290- S.D.N.M. Senadeera

B/S in Agricultural Economics

- 18247 - K.T.I. Wijewardana
- 18279 - M.D. Priyadarshani
- 19065 - U.W.N.N. Nayanathara
- 18058 - U.D.R. Udari
- 17111 - W.A.D. Vimukthi
- 20088 - A. Asmiya
- 20302 - M.M.S.C. Senevirathne
- 18103 - W.M.S.U.K. Wijekoon
- 20485 - S.M.D.C. Bandara
- 20211 - S.S.W.B.M.S.N.B. Ekanayake
- 19034 - W.P.U. Gunasekara
- 19325 - R.D.A.K. Ranasinghe

B/S in Agricultural Extension

- 17275 - S.W.R.M. N.H. Rajakaruna
- 19167 - R.M.C.P. Bandara
- 19342 - S.P.A.P.K. Jayarathna
- 20149 - B.S.M.K.M. Siriwardena
- 20377 - D.M. Wewelwala
- 19173 - V.G.D.T. De Silva
- 18213 - M.R.C.U. Jayaratne
- 19181 - H.M.P.M. Dayarathne
- 19197 - K.S.N. Dayananda
- 19344 - I.A.S.D. Idirimanna
- 20136 - R.D.C.R. Sandarenu.
- 20137 - L.A.I Premathilaka
- 20224- H.M.P.K. Herath
- 18010 - J.A.D.U. Premachandra
- 19187 - P.S.S.L. Wickrama
- 20226 - K.S. Pathirana

B/S in Soil Science

- 20122- B.L.R.E. Liyanage
- 20177- L. Logarasa
- 19301- A.A.D. Hansamali
- 19321- E.I.E. Sulochana
- 20102- U.W.L.M. Kumarasiri
- 22371- D.M.A. Iromi

B/S in Food Science and Technology

- 22113- T.M.N.P Thennakoon
- 17024- I.B.M.R.T.T. Muwanvella
- 18024- H.M.A.U. Hippola
- 18025- H.M.C.P.K. Herath
- 20072- H.S.S. Sandeepani
- 17209- W.N.K. Weragala
- 18041- K.A.D.M. De Silva
- 18047- P.G.P.Pathmamali
- 19019- K.M.M.L.K. Jayasundara
- 20165 -B.V.C.R. Batugedara
- 20166- T.A.K.A. Thennakoon
- 20170- H.M.N.A. Herath
- 20173- J.A.G.K. Jayasooriya
- 20288- H.J. Preethiwardhana
- 18348- U.N.J. Dahanayake
- 18433- L. Rajanayagam
- 19492- A.R. De Silva
- 20441- C. M. Wickramatilake
- 19399- R.H. Poornima
- 19404- N.K.R. Kosala
- 20472- M.R.P. Hasanga
- 20552- B.I.L.M. Mendis
- 19016- S.I. Jayathilaka
- 16379- Y. Sindujan
- 19411- N. Sobini
- 18018- W.H.J. Chandrasiri
- 18092- H.M.S.S. Senadeera
- 19207- K.M.P. Dewapura
- 20201- M.R.A. Rifath
- 20229- Y.T.H. Kumaragama
- 18181- K.L.P. Subhashini
- 18259- E.S. Mannapperuma
- 18314- G.K. Jayasooriya
- 18351- J.A.H. Abeyrathna
- 18395- L.H.G.M. Hasanthi
- 19210- H.P.G.P.S. Gunawardana
- 19283- M.A.L.S.S. Munasinghe
- 19376- A.A Edirisooriya
- 19360- W.W.M.N.K. Wijesundara
- 20077- A.H.M. Jayasingha
- 20092- P.A.M. Jayawardana
- 20120- P.G.N.H. Dharmasiri
- 20273- K.L.G. Rumesani
- 20275- R.V.C Madushani
- 20477- W.M.P.B.K Warnasooriya
- 19422- N.D.A.N. Perera
- 20438- V.G.N. Harshani
- 18365- G.D.A.U. Dayananda
- 18369- M.S.H. De Silva
- 18427- G.D.K.S. Kumari
- 19403- R.M.N.H.K Babalagama
- 19425- D.S. Nadeesha
- 19483- C.M. Jayasinghe
- 1948- H.I.S. Hiripitiya
- 19487- J.A.A.S. Jayaweera
- 18394- A. Kumudu
- 18414- J.K.D.M.P. Jayanetti
- 20445- C.A. Amarathunga
- 19166- Y.T. Senaweera

B/S in Food Science and Technology

- Atapattu K.A.M.R.P.
- 17085- W.M.D.N. Weerasekara
- 19047- U.S. Herath
- 18108- M.G.R.R.K. Senevirathne
- 19094- I.M. Wickramasinghe
- 20074- H.F.L. Upendri
- 22053- S. Sugathas
- 20100- K.A.M.R.P. Atapattu
- 17174- V. Indrakala
- 19105- R.M.T. Perera
- 19022- W.A.M.C. Weerakkody
- 19095- R.A.N.I Randeni
- 20043- L.A.D.P.C Bandara
- 20110- B.A.S. Irangani
- 20124- A.D.S.N. Dissanayake
- 20220- D.C.V.J. Wimalasena
- 20322- W.H.N. Silva
- 20343- A.G.A. Bandara
- 20359- W.A.M.P. Wickramasinghe
- 20367- N.H.B.S Amarasinghe
- 22315- H.M.I.I. Gunasekara
- 18377- D.B.R. Kaushalya
- 20278- M.A.T. Perera
- 18036- A. Elangeswaran
- 18059- R.M.E.M.K. Randeniya
- 18086- W.M.P.M. Weerakoon
- 18129- H.A.N.L. Somasinghe
- 20305- H.M.T.W. Herath
- 22015- L.T. Gayashan
- 22154- J.S.M.H.B. Senanayaka
- 22155- W.H.M.D.P. Senadheera

B/S in Business Administration (MBA)

- 2015-39- Herath H.M.Y.D.K
- 2015-307- K.Madhavan
- 2015-109- W.M.S.M. Rupasinghe
- 17172- M.N. Mazahira
- 17208- M.K.G. Morawaka
- 17253- G.G.N.M.L.C.K. Nawarathna
- 18329- W.M.T.S. Weerasekara
- 19146- I.K.P.Y. Perera
- 19147- D.S.A.W. Kodithuwakku
- 19150- Ekanayake
- 19341- M.S.M. Fiyasdeen
- 17173- M.T.F. Saheera
- 17214- L.U. Dissanayake
- 19458- A.F.I. Ahmed
- 19140- E.B.R. Weerakoon
- 19214- M.N.E. Ahmed

SOCIAL EVENTS

✓ New Year Festival - 2024



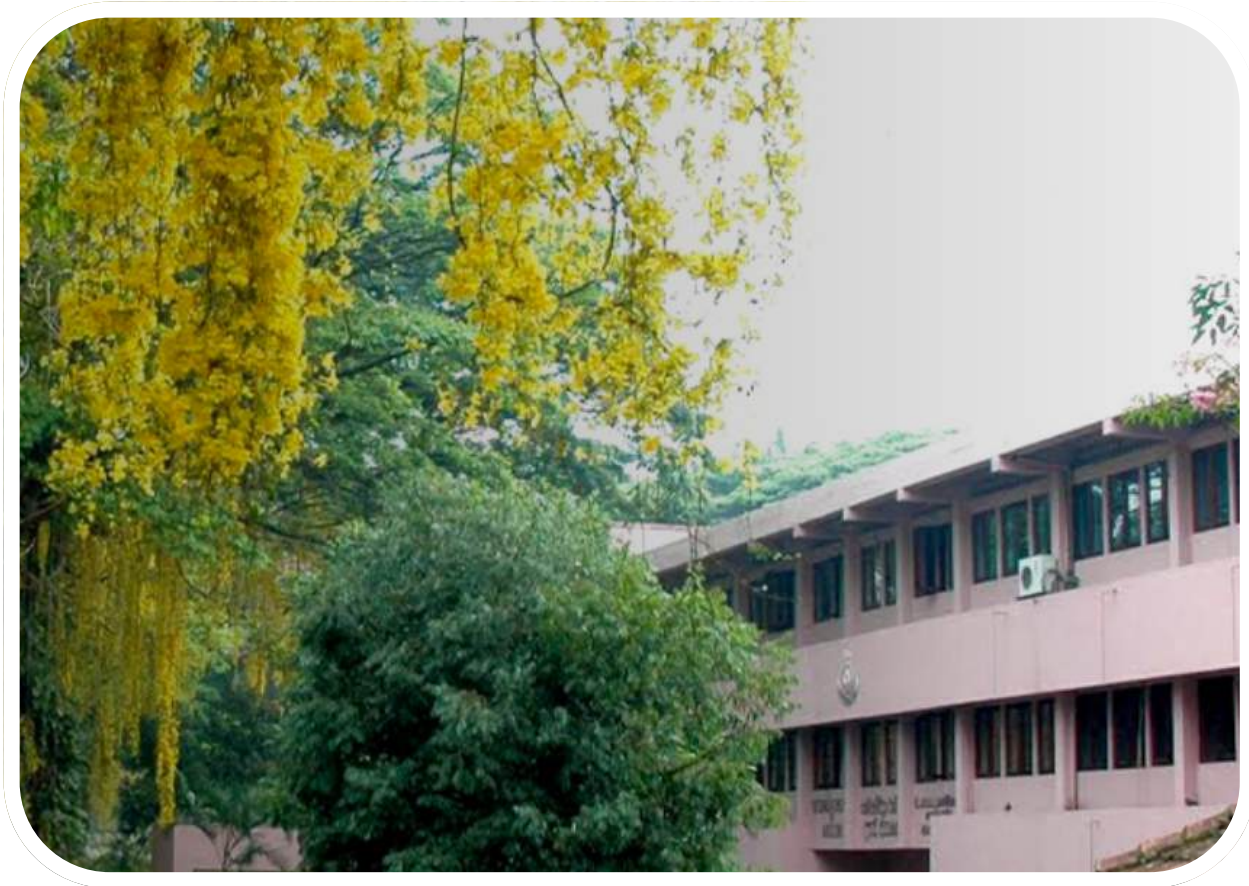
New Year (Avurudu) is the perfect time to shed all ethnic, religious & political differences and support endeavors to establish lasting peace in Sri Lanka. With the aim of strengthening the unity and peace among the staff, **Welfare Society of the PGIA** organized the Sinhala & Tamil New Year Festival at the PGIA premises on 1st of May, 2024. PGIA staff and their families joined in the event and had great fun enjoying a series of games and sharing happiness with each other.

✓ Annual Trip to the South Coast



To promote work-life balance and build stronger bonds among staff, the Welfare Society of the PGIA organized an annual trip to the Southern coast on December 14th & 15th, 2024. The two-day trip brought PGIA staff and their families together for a fun and relaxing time. They visited the Galle and Matara, creating happy memories and strengthening bond of friendships. The trip was a great event, with everyone feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

Thank You



Website

<http://www.pgja.ac.lk/>



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info@pgja.ac.lk

