



# Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) University of Peradeniya



## PGIA NEWS



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## EDITOR EDITORIAL BOARD

- ❖ **Advisor:** Prof. D. K. N. G. Pushpakumara, Director, PGIA
- ❖ **Editor-in-Chief:** Vidya Nidi Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena
- ❖ **Member:** Ms. Manjula Disanayaka

## CONTACTS



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



<https://www.facebook.com/PostgraduateInstituteOfAgriculture>



<http://www.youtube.com/@pgiaofficial4152>



[dr@pgia.ac.lk](mailto:dr@pgia.ac.lk)



+94 81 238 8219

## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER



Established in 1975, the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA), affiliated to the University of Peradeniya is a prestigious Institution devoted to the development of higher-level manpower in agriculture and related areas in Sri Lanka. During its over five decades of existence, it has made tremendous progress in developing nationally and internationally important consortium of degree and non-degree programmes together with necessary infrastructure for teaching and research. Its' biggest strength is the availability of qualified and experienced staff, both from within the university and outside research and development institutes and linkages with many reputed international universities and research centers. PGIA NEWS is the main organ for the communication of various activities of the institute to the policy makers, academic community, stakeholders and the general public. It is published semi-annually and incorporates current news, research briefs and other information relating to agricultural education, research and development. The PGIA requests comments/suggestions from the readers on this newsletter if any, to improve its quality and content in the future issues.



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

### **IN 50 YEAR, LONG JOURNEY, PGIA ACHIEVE ITS MISSION TO PROVIDE EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

Since its establishment in 1975, the PGIA has served the nation for 50 long years providing higher level manpower needs of the Sri Lankan agricultural sector. It is affiliated to the most prestigious and oldest, University of Peradeniya, in Sri Lanka and functions under a Board of Management. During this period the institute has expanded and diversified its degree programs, currently offering 33 M.Sc/M.Phil programs and many Ph.D. degrees to meet the diverse changing needs of the agricultural and industrial sectors, expanded its teaching capacity with over 120 high qualifications to cover advanced agro-technologies. Its Infrastructure has been improved due to regular facilities development programs implemented by the institute and the parent university. The student admissions, both local and foreign have increased indicating its gaining popularity. Due to the dedication and commitment of past 10 Directors and currently lead by Prof. Gamini Pushpakumara, several local and international academic and research links have been developed points to its recognition as a regional Center of Excellence in postgraduate education and research in agricultural sciences. Over the past five decades, the institute has made tremendous advancements to reach the level of an academic powerhouse in postgraduate education in agricultural sciences achieving its original vision of becoming a Center of Excellence in the Asian region.

The story of the development of this institute will never be complete unless I acknowledge with deep gratitude the former Directors, late Prof. R.R. Appadurai, T.Jogaratnam and Y.D.A. Senanayake who were the architects of development whose devotion and commitments from the inception made such achievements possible. It is graceful to note this trend is beautifully continuing followed by the present Directorate and the staff to develop it further to international standards.

***“Nothing great will be ever achieved with great men, and men are great only if they are determined to do so” Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970)***

# ACADEMIC NEWS

## General Convocation 2024 University of Peradeniya

The General Convocation 2024 of the University of Peradeniya was held on 23/24 July 2025. This glorious event was presided by the Chancellor Prof. Laxman Dissanayake and organized under the direction of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith. A total of 233 PGIA students were awarded degrees which included 8 Ph.Ds and 07 M.Phils.



## Vidya Nidhi Prof. Gunasena Awarded DSc (Honoris causa)

At this General Convocation of the University of Peradeniya held on 23 July 2025 Vidya Nidhi Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena was presented for the above awarded by Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Vice Chancellor, for conferment of the DSc (*Honoris causa*) by Prof. Laxman Dissanayake, Chancellor of the above university.

In presenting the recipient, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith stated that Prof. Gunasena is an eminent academic visionary leader and transformative figure in agricultural education and research in Sri Lanka and beyond. He stated that Prof. Gunasena commenced his illustrious academic journey in 1961 and made extraordinary contributions as scholar and administrator holding responsible positions such as Professor, Senior Professor, Dean and Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture and Rector of the newly established Wayamba Campus of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.



In recognition of his outstanding contribution to national agricultural advancement, Prof. Gunasena was conferred the title *Vidya Nidhi Presidential Award* in 2017. He has also been awarded three Hony. Doctorates (DScs) by the newly established Universities of Rajarata, Sabaragamuwa and Wayamba for his

exceptional contribution as scholar, administrator national agricultural development advocate. Prof. Gunasena has also served as member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) from 1999 – 2005. Internationally, Prof. Gunasena was a prominent research figure in the Asia- Pacific region and served as Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Agricultural Research Institutes (APAARI) based in Bangkok and held prominent positions in global platforms such as the FAO, IDRC, NORAD, DFID and the World Bank. A prolific scholar, he has authored 275 scientific publications and 30 text book including Field Crop Production which received the prestigious Governor General’s award for the best scientific publication in 1980.

The Vice Chancellor Madhujith concluded that Prof. Gunasena is a towering figure in agricultural science, higher education and public policy and that his legacy is interwoven with the growth an evolution of Sri Lankan academic and research institutions. We honour not just an exceptional scholar but a true servant of the nation and humanity, he concluded.

*Prof. Gunasena, concluded that he was delighted and proud to receive this memorable award, the first after 75 years of establishment of the Faculty of Agriculture from the hand of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith who was his former student and colleague of the Faculty of Agriculture.*

## Recipients of University of Peradeniya Alumni Excellence Awards 2025 - Received by two PGIA Visiting Staff Members

At a grand ceremony held on 25, 2025 chaired by Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, *Vidya Nidhi* Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena former Dean and Director, PGIA and Prof. K.G.A Gunasekera, a former Dean and Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya were awarded the above prestigious awards. These awards recognize the exceptional contributions and dedicated services that reflect the values and spirit of the university.

The Chief Guest of this event was the Ambassador of the Netherlands Embassy in Sri Lanka. Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Institutes, many university academics and well-wishers were present at this ceremony.



# MAIN STORIES

## 37<sup>th</sup> PGIA Annual Congress - An Exclusive National Event

The 37<sup>th</sup> PGIA Annual Congress was held on 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2025. The congress provides an opportunity for postgraduate students, academia, and scientists around the world to showcase their research in agriculture-related disciplines, fostering knowledge exchange and inspiring innovation within the scientific community. The theme of the congress was *"Fostering Innovations in Agri-Food Systems for Healthy and Equitable Consumption."* The event was held with the attendance of around 250 participants. This year, the Congress received 45 abstracts, of which 41 abstracts were selected for presentation following a rigorous peer-review process. Accordingly, 32 oral and 9 poster presentations were made under five scientific sessions. The four parallel oral sessions covered the themes of Water Governance in Agriculture, Soil Health, Crop Production and Sustainable Agriculture, Animal Production Systems and Crop Development Research, and Public Health, Nutrition and Agricultural Extension. A poster session was conducted under the theme of Inclusive Knowledge Practices in Agriculture.



The inaugural ceremony was graced by Dr. Jairo Andrés Villamil-Díaz, Head of Mission, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), as Chief Guest and Mr. Rizvi Zaheed, Chairman, Sri Lanka Agripreneurs' Forum & Director, Vidullanka PLC, as the keynote speaker. The occasion was graced by the presence of Prof. Terrance Madhujith, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, and PG Directors, members of the Board of Management, PGIA Teaching Panel, Deans of Faculties, Bursar, Librarians, PGIA staff and all presenters and participants. The session included the addresses from Dr. Rasanjali Samarakoon (Congress Coordinator), Mr. Lakeesha Uthpala (President, PASA), Prof. Terrance Madhujith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. Barana Jayawardena, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, and Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, Director of PGIA.

A panel discussion was conducted under the theme "Food Systems Transformation: Policy, Innovation, and Community Action for Food Security.", The panelists included Dr. Derek Headey, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Dr. Ilmi Hewajulige, Director General/CEO, Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), Mr. Manju Gunawardana, Group CEO, Research and Innovation, LOLC Holding PLC, moderated by Prof. Buddhi Marambe. The discussion provided valuable insight into sustainable food system, innovative solutions, and the integration of policy, research, and community action to strength food security.

This year, the PGIA Annual Congress hosted the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition for the first time, coordinated by Dr. Sumali Dissanayake. A total of 22 participants delivered their presentations in the first round of the competition, held on 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 at the Diamond Jubilee Auditorium, Faculty of Agriculture. Based on the evaluations of the first round, three presenters were selected to compete in the final round, which was held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025. Certificates and cash prizes were awarded to the winner, first and second runners-up, and the recipient of the People's Choice Award. Additionally, Nine IPMP Plant Protection Gold Medal Awards were presented for the period 2022 to 2025, recognizing outstanding doctoral research in each Board of Study of the PGIA. The fifth volume of the Hanthana Essence Magazine, "PGIA Congress in Brief", was officially launched at the inaugural session of the PGIA Annual Congress 2025. Twenty-four articles, based on research papers accepted for presentation at the Congress, were published in the Magazine. The magazine is designed to communicate the research outputs of the PGIA Congress to the public, while also providing researchers with an opportunity to enhance their skills in public-oriented scientific writing. To disseminate knowledge and enhance participants' skills, three pre-congress workshops were conducted on key topics: Data Analysis Using Statistical Methods, Write Right: Effective Use of AI in Science Communication, and Professional Certificate in Food Safety Compliance and Auditing. These workshops provided practical tools and insights to empower participants and advance their research and professional expertise in agriculture.

The closing session of the congress was chaired by Dr. Rasanjali Samarkoon, the coordinator of the 37<sup>th</sup> PGIA Annual Congress. The closing session was graced by Dr. Thusitha Bandara, Director, Bogawantalawa Tea Estates PLC, who delivered the Distinguished Alumnus speech at the closing ceremony.



## Key Participants of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress



**Dr. Rasanjali Samarkoon**  
Congress Coordinator 2025



**Dr. Jairo Andrés Villamil-Díaz**  
Chief Guest  
Head of Mission  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)



**Mr. Rizvi Zaheed**  
keynote speaker  
Chairman, Sri Lanka Agripreneurs' Forum & Director,  
Vidullanka PLC)



**Dr. Thusitha Bandara**  
Alumini speaker  
Director  
Bogawantalawa Tea Estates PLC



**Panel Discussion chaired by Prof. Buddhi Marambe and attended by Dr. Derek Headey** - Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), **Dr. Iimi Hewajulige** - Director General/CEO, Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) and **Mr. Manju Gunawardana** - Group CEO, Research and Innovation, LOLC Holding PLC

## Outstanding Presenters Receiving Awards in the Technical and Poster Sessions

Winner of the Technical Session		
Technical Session	Paper Title	Name of the Winner
Water Governance in Agriculture	Seasonal CO <sub>2</sub> Flux Dynamics in Tropical Man-Made Lakes: Comparative Insights from Wet and Dry Zones of Sri Lanka	<b>Mr. G.D.D.J. Bandara</b>  Board of Study in Agricultural Engineering
Soil Health, Crop Production, and Sustainable Agriculture	Assessment of Nutritional Quality of Lettuce as Affected by Iron- and Zinc-Enriched Nutrient Management Techniques	<b>Ms. R.M.B.A. Bandara</b>  Board of Study in Crop Science
Animal Production Systems and Crop Development Research	Lactation Curve Modelling for Dairy Cattle types in Different Agroclimatic Zones and Management Systems in Sri Lanka Techniques	<b>Ms. U.D. Ramanayake</b>  Board of Study in Animal Science
Public Health, Nutrition and Agricultural Extension	Development and Validation of a PostgreSQL-Based Framework for Field-Level Data Collection to Assess Multidimensional Postmenopausal Obesity and Associated Health Complications	<b>Ms. N.K. Weerasekara</b>  Board of Study in Food Science & Technology

### Winner of the Poster Presentation

#### Poster Session Theme - Inclusive Knowledge Practices in Agriculture

Title of the poster	Name of the Winner
Deep Learning-Based Detection of Adulterants in Pepper Powder using Microscopic Imaging: A Cost-Effective Approach for Food Safety	<b>Mr. J.K.W.U.D. Karunathilaka</b>  Board of Study in Food Science & Technology

### Overall Best Presenter

**Ms. R.M.B.A. Bandara- Board of Study in Crop Science**

**Paper Title:** Assessment of Nutritional Quality of Lettuce as Affected by Iron- and Zinc-Enriched Nutrient Management Techniques

## Academic Awards

### Dr. A. W. R. Joachim Memorial Award – 2025

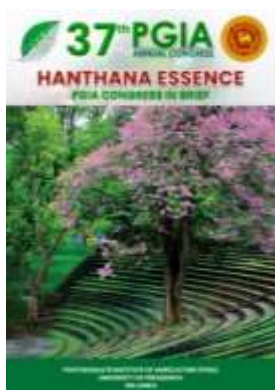
Dr. A. W. R. Joachim Memorial Award, presented annually to students with the highest GPA in their respective academic disciplines. This prestigious award shared by **Ms. T.A.K.A. Thennakoon** Board of Study in Food Science & Technology with overall of GPA of 3.96.

## PGIA Alumni Awards Winners

The Alumni Association present this award to the winners of each technical session at the congress.

Winner	<b>Ms. R.M.B.A. Bandara</b>	Board of Study in Crop Science
1 <sup>st</sup> Runner up	<b>Ms. N.K. Weerasekara</b>	Board of Study in Food Science and Technology
2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner up	<b>Ms. U.D. Ramanayake</b>	Board of Study in Animal Science

## Hanthana Essence Magazine



The 5<sup>th</sup> volume of the Hanthana Essence Magazine, “PGIA Congress in Brief”, was launched at the Congress. Twenty-four articles, based on research papers accepted for presentation at the Congress, were published in the Magazine. The magazine is designed to communicate the research outputs of the Congress to the public, while providing researchers with an opportunity to enhance their skills in scientific writing.

The Hanthana Essence Magazine can be accessed at: <http://www.pgia.ac.lk/congress/hanthana.php>

## Hanthana Essence Winners – 2025

Winner	<b>Ms. A.M.D.M. Adhikari</b> Postgraduate Institute of Science	The Hidden Strength of Endemic Wild Rice <i>Oryza Rhizomatis</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> Runner up	<b>Mr. M.G.O.S. Thilakarathne</b> Board of Study in Agricultural Biology	Drink It Right: A Perfect Harvest Time for the Best Flavour of King coconut
2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner up	<b>Mr. A.H.M.S.W.B. Abeyrathne</b> Board of Study in Agricultural Extension	Tragedy of Centralization: Transferring the Management of Village Irrigation Systems from the Community to the State

## Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition Winners

The 3MT competition was conducted in parallel with the Congress 2025. A total of 22 participants delivered their presentations in the first round of the competition, held on 18 November 2025. Based on the evaluations of the first round, three presenters were selected to compete in the final round, which was held on the congress day.

Winner & Winner of People’s Choice Award	<b>Ms. K.G.N.S. Perera - Board of Study in Animal Science</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Runner up	<b>Ms. Kalaivizhi Varathanathan- University of Jaffna</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner up	<b>Ms. S.M. Thasmeeha Marliya - Board of Study in Food Science &amp; Technology</b>

## Innovative Pesticides Marketing Pvt (IPMP) Sposored the first ever Gold Medals for Outstanding Doctoral Research (2022–2025)

The IPMP Plant Protection Gold Medal Awards for the period 2022–2025 were presented during the Congress in recognition of outstanding doctoral research conducted under each Board of Study of the PGIA. A total of nine gold medals were awarded to the most outstanding doctoral research students, representing each Board of Study. The Gold Medals were sponsored by Mr. Athauda Jayawardhana, Chairman/ CEO of Innovative Pesticides Marketing (Pvt.) Ltd. The first occasion in PGIA history that a gold medal has been awarded for outstanding doctoral research.

No.	Awardee	Board of Study
1	Dr. S. P. Rebeira	Agricultural Biology
2	Dr. S. M. M. Samarakoon	Agricultural Economics
3	Dr. A. J. Fernando	Agricultural Engineering
4	Dr. K. G. J. P. Mahindapala	Agricultural Extension
5	Dr. W. M. C. S. Wijesundara	Animal Science
6	Dr. B. S. Bandusekara	Crop Science
7	Dr. S. Sivakanthan	Food Science and Technology
8	Dr. A. N. W. S. Thushari	Plant Protection
9	Dr. H. A. N. Upekshani	Soil Science



*IPMP Gold Medal awardees with the Director of PGIA and the Congress Coordinator 2025*

## RECIPIENT OF THE RESEARCH FACILITATION FUND (RFF) IN 2025

The Research Facilitation Fund (RFF) of the PGIA was established to support research projects conducted by students enrolled in postgraduate degree programs. In 2025, 13 PGIA students received the RFF.

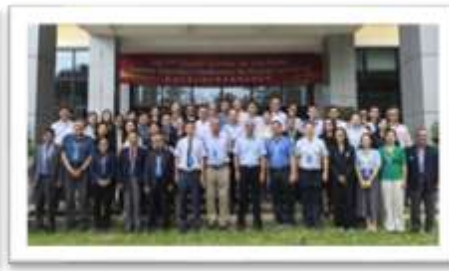
No	Name	Registration Number	Amount Approved (Rs)	Degree Programme	Board of Study
01	Mr. H.J. Preethiwardhana	24207-PDN	750,000.00	Ph.D.	Board of Study in Food Science & Technology
02	Ms. W.G.N.K. Weerasekara	20336-PDN	750,000.00	Ph.D.	Board of Study in Food Science & Technology
03	Mr. W.S.S.L. Aberathna	24378-PDN	750,000.00	Ph.D.	Board of Study in Crop Science
04	Ms. P.W.C.K. Ranthilini	19079-PDN	417,000.00	M.Phil.	Board of Study in Plant Protection
05	Ms. K.A.I.L. Kasthuri Arachchi	23117-PDN	466,300.00	M.Phil.	Board of Study in Soil Science
06	Ms. D.M.K.S. Dissanayake	23207-PDN	500,000.00	M.Phil.	Board of Study in Animal Science
07	Mr. K.D.R.C. Rienzie	24229-PDN	500,000.00	M.Phil.	Board of Study in Plant Protection
08.	Ms. R.M.B.A. Bandara	23095-PDN	455,000.00	M.Phil.	Board of Study in Crop Science
09	Ms. R.L.N. Ranathunga	23101-PDN	200,000.00	M.Sc.	Board of Study in Plant Protection
10	Ms. H.D.S.P.M. Abhayawardena	23040-PDN	250,000.00	M.Sc.	Board of Study in Agricultural Biology
11	Ms. A.R.G.T.K. Agalawela	22264-PDN	250,000.00	M.Sc.	Board of Study in Agricultural Biology
12	Ms. A.R.P.E. Athapaththu	23083-PDN	250,000.00	M.Sc.	Board of Study in Food Science & Technology
13	Mr. W.M.R.M. Weerakoon	22095-PDN	250,000.00	M.Sc.	Board of Study in Crop Science

# PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES

## Belt and Road Science & Technology Conference – China

Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya and Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, Director, PGIA, participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange held in Chengdu, Sichuan, China, from 9–13 June. Their engagement strengthened international scientific collaboration and showcased Sri Lanka’s contributions to agricultural research and innovation. They attended the Science and Technology Forum on Poverty Alleviation and conducted an official visit to Southwest University, where discussions were held with the College of Agronomy and Biotechnology and the International College on potential research cooperation, academic exchange, and joint initiatives. The visit also included exposure to pioneering agricultural research environments associated with the legacy of Yuan Longping, the globally renowned “Father of Hybrid Rice,” underscoring opportunities for collaboration in advanced crop science and food security innovation.

## General Assembly of Asia Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM)



Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, Director/ PGIA participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2023) of the Asia Pacific Forestry Education Coordination Mechanism (AP-FECM), as a member of Steering Committee, the principal decision-making body of the network, supported by APFNet.

He also attended the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held from 7–11 July 2025 in Jianfeng, Hainan Province, China, contributing to regional policy dialogue, strategic planning, and collaborative initiatives aimed at strengthening forestry education, research, and institutional partnerships across the Asia-Pacific region.

## HE Isabelle Martin Canadian High Commissioner Discuss Academic Collaboration with the University



Her Excellency Isabelle Martin, High Commissioner of Canada to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, accompanied by a delegation from the University of Manitoba, visited the University of Peradeniya for high-level discussions on academic collaboration.

Discussion focused on advancing cooperation in agriculture and greenery, with PGIA proposing the development of joint degree programmes with Canadian universities. The visit significantly strengthened prospects for strategic international partnerships and expanded opportunities for collaborative research, academic mobility, and innovation-driven education.

## AsiaFlux Conference 2025



Mr. Dilan Dileepa Bandara, a PGIA PhD student represented PGIA at the AsiaFlux Conference (Indonesia), presenting research on “*carbon dioxide flux dynamics*”. His participation was supported by the Institute’s Research Publication Facilitation Fund (RPF) scheme of the PGIA.

## AASSREC Project – PGIA Progress Review Meeting in Sri Lanka (26–31 January 2026)

The Progress Review Meeting of the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC) Project, implemented through the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, was held in Sri Lanka from 26–31 January 2026. The meeting brought together international partners from Zhejiang University, Griffith University, Institute of Policy Studies, and the University of Peradeniya. The inaugural session on 26 January 2026 featured a welcome by the Director and a keynote address by Buddhi Marambe on “*Climate Change, Agriculture, and the Imperative for Climate-Smart Investments in Smallholder Systems.*” Research teams presented their findings and progress toward project objectives, leading to constructive discussions, cross-institutional learning, and refinement of research directions. The meeting strengthened collaboration, enhanced knowledge exchange, and ensured alignment with goals of sustainable agriculture and climate resilience. Outcomes will guide the next phase of implementation under the AASSREC framework.



# PROGRESS IN QUALITY ASSURANCE DEVELOPMENTS

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (IQAC-PGIA), established in 2020 under the Centre for Quality Assurance (CQA) of the University of Peradeniya, continues to achieve excellence across all academic and administrative functions at PGIA.

## Progress and Milestones in 2025

The year 2025 has shown significant progress in the quality assurance activities:

- **Programme Review Preparations:**

A dedicated team is actively preparing the Self-Evaluation Report (SER) for the upcoming M.Phil./Ph.D. programme reviews.

- **Policy Implementation:**

The newly developed Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and by-laws for M.Phil./Ph.D. programmes have been formally approved by the Senate and the Council of the University of Peradeniya.

- **Promoting Excellence:**

The introduction of Gold Medals for outstanding Ph.D. theses of each Board of Study and the three-minute thesis (3MT) competition at the PGIA annual congress.

A new consortium has also been formed to develop multidisciplinary MSc programmes, encouraging innovative study paths.

## A Foundation of Strength

The 2025 Annual Performance Scorecard, with a score of 93/100, reflects effective progress of the IQAC. The result highlights solid operational structure, which includes clear guidelines, regular meetings, and smooth connections into the institute's strategic planning. This progress has been achieved under the leadership of PGIA Director Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, the dedicated efforts of the IQAC-PGIA committee members and IQAC coordinators, Dr. Harshani Siriwardana and Dr. Dineesha Balagalla, and the support of the institute's management.

# STAFF NEWS

## New Appointments to the Teaching Panels

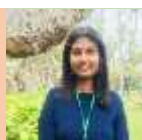
<b>Board of Study Crop Science</b> ❖ Dr. S.H. N.P. De Silva ❖ Mr. A. G.A. Bandara ❖ Mr. P. R. Dabere	<b>Board of Study Animal Science</b> ❖ Prof. M. Pagthinathan ❖ Prof. K.K. Wijesundara ❖ Dr. Lakmal Ranathunga ❖ Dr. Jagath Munasingha ❖ Dr. Thushari A Gunawardana ❖ Dr. Malinda Hulugalla	<b>Board of Study Agricultural Engineering</b> ❖ Prof. G.V.T.V. Weerasooriya ❖ Dr. N.G. P.B. Neluwala ❖ Dr. R.M. L. D. Rathnayake
<b>Board of Study Agricultural Extension</b> ❖ Dr. Sandaruwan Subasinghe ❖ Dr. Kumudu Ariyawansa ❖ Dr. M.C. Rashmin ❖ Mr. Asantha Kalyananda	<b>Board of Study Agricultural Economics</b> ❖ Prof. P. S. K. Rajapakshe	<b>Board of Study Food Science &amp; Technology</b> ❖ Dr. G.M. Somaratne
<b>Board of Study Plant Protection</b> ❖ Dr. G. Gunawardana	<b>Board of Study Business Administration</b> ❖ Mr. Ravi De Coonghe	

## New Appointments to the PGIA Staff



**Mrs. P.I.I. Pathirana**  
Deputy Registrar/ PGIA

Mrs. P.I.I. Pathirana was appointed as New Deputy Registrar of the PGIA in September 2025. Prior to this appointment, she served as Senior Assistant Registrar of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Peradeniya.



**Ms Manjula Disanayaka**  
Coordinator /PGIA

Ms. Manjula Disanayaka was appointed as Coordinator of the (PGIA) in July 2025. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Management from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and a MSc in Climate Change and Environmental Management from the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo.



**Dr. U.K.P.S. Sanjeevani**  
Temporary Senior Lecturer  
PGIA

Dr. U.K.P.S. Sanjeevani was appointed as a Temporary Senior Lecturer of the PGIA in December 2025. She holds a PhD in Soil Science and an MSc in Environmental Soil Science from the Post-graduate Institute of Agriculture. She also obtained her BSc (Hons) in Agricultural Technology and Management from the University of Peradeniya. Currently, she serves as the IQAC Coordinator of PGIA.

### Appointed New Members (Ex- Officio) to the Board of Management

- ❖ **Mr. G.S.P.K. Moraliyage** - Director (Information & Technology), Ministry of Education, Higher Education & Vocational Education
- ❖ **Dr. A.M.A.S. Attanayake**- Director (Technology Transfer & Research), Secretary, Ministry of Environment
- ❖ **Dr. W.A.R.T. Wickramarachchi** - Director General, Department of Agriculture
- ❖ **Prof. M.H.J.P. Gunarathna**- Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
- ❖ **Prof. G.Y. Jayasinghe** - Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna

## PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES AND BY-LAWS FOR MPhil AND PHD DEGREE PROGRAMMES

In the year 2025, the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture has undertaken a comprehensive academic quality assurance initiative by developing and formalizing the Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for its Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree programmes. These PLOs clearly define the expected competencies, research capabilities, and scholarly attributes of graduates, ensuring alignment with national qualification frameworks and international standards. Following extensive review and refinement, these Programme Learning Outcomes were duly submitted and approved by the Senate and the Council of the University of Peradeniya, thereby establishing a robust academic benchmark for postgraduate research degrees offered by the Institute.

In parallel, the PGIA has also developed and secured formal approval for the By-laws governing the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree programmes. These by-laws provide the legal and procedural framework for the administration of the programmes, covering aspects such as admission requirements, registration, supervision, progression, examination procedures, and degree award processes. The approval of these by-laws by the Senate and Council ensures that all postgraduate research programmes are conducted with transparency, consistency, and adherence to the provisions of the Universities Act and institutional regulations. Collectively, these developments significantly strengthen the academic governance, quality assurance, and international credibility of PGIA's postgraduate research degrees.

# SEMINARS, SHORT COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

## Pre-Congress Workshops

### ❖ Data Analysis Using Statistical Methods

The workshop on “*Data Analysis Using Statistical Methods*” was conducted on 19 July 2025 under the guidance of the Congress Organizing Committee, and coordinated by Dr. Samantha Dissanayake. The programme attracted postgraduate research students as well as officers from the government and private sectors who demonstrated a strong professional interest in the application of data analysis for research and decision-making. The workshop was attended by 28 participants. The workshop offered a comprehensive overview of experimental designs essential for research, complemented by a hands-on practical session on data analysis using Statistical Analysis Software (SAS). Participants gained valuable technical skills and insights through expert instruction, with continuous support provided by the organizing committee under the supervision of an expert panel. Prof. T. Sivanthawerl, and Prof. L. D. B. Suriyagoda, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture served as resource persons.



### ❖ Write Right: Effective Use of AI in Science Communication

The workshop on “*Write Right: Effective Use of AI in Science Communication*” was conducted on 30 August 2025. It was organized by the Congress Organizing Committee and coordinated by Dr. Dineesha Balagalla. The workshop primarily targeted postgraduate and undergraduate students, as well as officers from the government and private sectors, with a total of 59 participants. The workshop focused on enhancing participants’ capacity to effectively integrate AI tools into science communication. Key areas covered included the responsible use of AI in scientific writing, improving clarity and coherence in research communication, ethical considerations in AI-assisted content generation, and practical demonstrations of AI tools for drafting, editing, and presenting scientific information to diverse audiences. Dr. Damayanthi Herath, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, provided valuable insights and hands-on guidance on leveraging AI technologies to strengthen the quality and impact of scientific communication.



## ❖ Professional Certificate in Food Safety Compliance and Auditing

The workshop on “*Professional Certificate in Food Safety Compliance and Auditing*” was held on 18 October 2025 in collaboration with Halcyon (Pvt) Ltd. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Geeshani Somaratne of the Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. The workshop primarily targeted postgraduate and undergraduate students, as well as industrial professionals, and engaged a total of 379 participants. Mr. Rasitha Niroshana, Managing Director, and Mr. Pushpika Jayakantha, Head of Environmental Sustainability at Halcyon (Pvt) Ltd, served as the resource persons for the programme. The programme was designed to enhance participant’s understanding on food safety compliance and auditing within national and international regulatory frameworks. Key areas covered included international food safety compliance requirements, national policies and global standards, development of knowledge on compliance strategies for exports, and strengthening career pathways in food safety, trade, and policy advisory.



## ❖ Capacity-Building Workshop on “Enhancing Research Proposal Writing Skills for Scientists in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS)”

In collaboration with Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP), PGIA conducted three two-day workshops in July, September, and October 2025 on enhancing research proposal writing skills. A total of 100 scientists from National Agricultural Research System (NARS) institutions completed the programme. The training focused on research design, logical framework development, budgeting, and alignment with national priorities. This initiative strengthened the national competitiveness in securing research grants and improved the overall quality of research proposals across public research institutions.



### ❖ Three-day Training Programme - Industrial Application of Food Science & Technology in Processing and Value Addition of Agro Food Produce

The Board of Study in Food Science and Technology conducted a three-day training programme on “Industrial Application of Food Science and Technology in Processing and Value Addition of Agro-Food Produce” from 4 to 6 August 2025. The programme trained 26 Vidatha Science and Technology Officers of the Ministry of Science and Technology. This targeted capacity-building initiative strengthened the critical interface between academia, industry, and public services, enhanced technology transfer mechanisms, and fostered collaborative, innovation-driven value addition within Sri Lanka’s agri-food sector.



### ❖ Training Workshop on Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ)

A training workshop on the Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ), was organized by the Board of Study in Plant Protection in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Export Agriculture, Coconut Research Institute (CRI), Rubber Research Institute (RRI), Sugarcane Research Institute (SRI), and Tea Research Institute (TRI). The programme was held on 22 August 2025 at the PGIA and coordinated by Dr. Wikum Jayasinghe. The workshop aimed to strengthen national capacity to adopt EIQ as a robust scientific tool for sustainable pesticide regulation and environmental and human health protection.



### ❖ Short Course on Plant Protection Techniques

The Board of Study in Plant Protection conducted a short course on Plant Protection Techniques from 8 March to 4 May 2025, training 27 early-career professionals from leading state and corporate institutions. The programme provided hands-on laboratory and field training in modern diagnostic and management techniques, covering entomology, nematology, plant pathology, microbiology, novel plant protection technologies, and data analysis. By equipping participants with practical skills for accurate and rapid pest and disease diagnosis, the course significantly strengthened national technical capacity and reinforced academia–industry collaboration in sustainable crop protection.



## CAP-NET SRI LANKA - PGIA ACTIVITIES

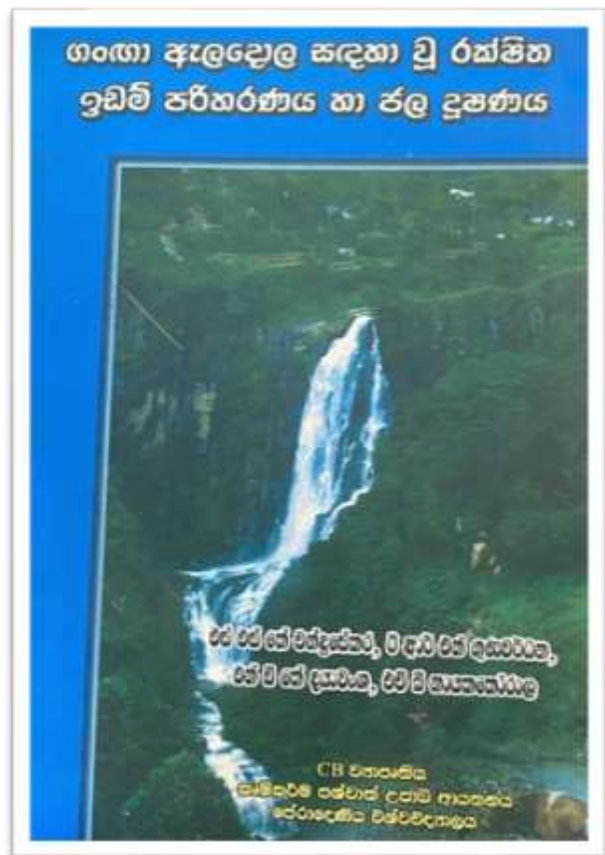
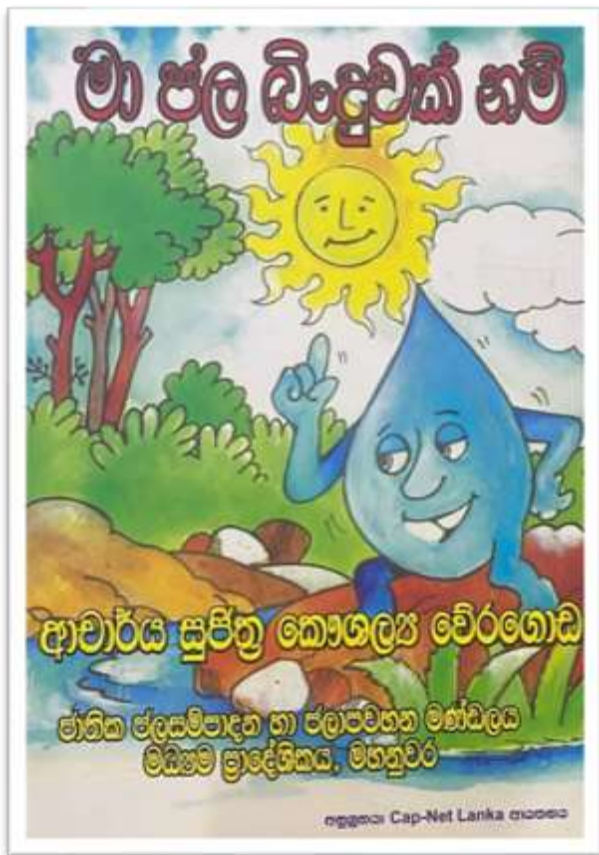
### ❖ A seminar on recombinant DNA technology for advanced level Biology stream students of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy

A seminar on recombinant DNA technology for advanced level biology stream students was conducted for Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy on 25 June 2025. Dr. Yamuna Somaratne, Department of Agriculture Biology, and Dr. SSK Chandrasekara Country Coordinator of CapNet Lanka, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture served as the resource persons. This seminar was organized at the special request of the school. Dr. Yamuna Somaratne covered the theoretical aspects of the seminar and Dr. Sewwandhi Chandrasekara presented the real-world applications of recombinant DNA technology including how the technology can be used for Integrated Water Resource Management. Nearly 200 students participated in the above seminar.



❖ **Participation in “The Library Open Day – 2025” of Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya**

The Library Committee organized the Library Open Day – 2025 on Wednesday, 16 July 2025 at the Appadurai Auditorium, Faculty of Agriculture, for the second consecutive year. The primary objective of this event was to raise awareness among Advanced Level Biology students regarding the extensive resources available at the Agriculture Library and to demonstrate how these resources can be effectively utilized to support their higher education pursuits. Furthermore, the program will provide a brief overview of the Faculty of Agriculture to the participating students. The Country Coordinator, Dr. SSK Chandrasekara participated in the event and provided the two (02) books published under CapNet Lanka for the students’ libraries in participating schools in Kandy zone. The books were “මා ජල බිංදුවක් නමි” (Ma Jala Binduwak Nam) by Dr. S. K. Weragoda and “ගංගා ඇළදොළ සදහා වූ රක්ෂිත ඉඩම් පරිහරණය හා ජල දූෂණය” (Ganga Eladola Sandaha Wu Rakshitha Idam Pariharanaya ha Jala Dushanaya) by S. S. K. Chandrasekara, E. R. N. Gunawardena, N. D. K. Dayawansa, and H. B. Nayakakorala.



# LATEST PUBLICATIONS

## Tropical Agricultural Research (TAR) Journal



The Tropical Agricultural Research (TAR) official journal of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture. It publishes high-quality original research articles covering all areas of agricultural sciences, contributing to the advancement of knowledge in the field. Volume 37 of the Journal was officially launched at the inaugural session of the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual PGIA Congress held on 21 November 2025.

**The journal is available online at:**

<https://tar.sljol.info/797/volume/37/issue/1>

## Book Launch of “Foundations of Statistics: Theory and Practice”

The Book launch ceremony of “Foundations of Statistics: Theory and Practice”, authored by Prof. S. Samita, former Director, PGIA, was held on 30 January 2025. The event was graced by the Guest of Honour, R.M.K.T. Rathnayake, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. The ceremony was further honored by the presence of Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, and Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, Director of PGIA. The occasion brought together members of the Board of Study in Biostatistics, academic staff of the Faculty of Agriculture, and members of the Institute of Applied Statistics. This publication represents a valuable addition to the discipline of statistics, bridging rigorous theory with real-world practice to support both academic learning and professional practice.



# THESIS TITLES OF STUDENTS GRADUATED IN 2025

Details of the Students	Thesis Title	Name of the Supervisor
<b>Dr. S.S. Yapa</b> Reg Num: 2015-379 BoS in Crop Science <b>PhD</b>	Mistletoe Parasitism and their Impacts on Export Agricultural Crops with Special Reference to Cloves ( <i>Syzygium aromaticum</i> (L.) Merr. & L.M. Perry) and Nutmeg ( <i>Myristica fragrans</i> Houtt.)	Prof. A.J. Mohotti Dr. K.U. Tennakoon
<b>Dr. C.A.K. Dissanayake</b> Reg Num: 16029 BoS in Agricultural Extension <b>PhD</b>	Factors associated with the adoption behaviour of value-added food technologies as self-employment	Dr. M.W.A.P. Jayathilaka Dr. H.V.A. Wickramasuriya Dr. U. Dissanayake Prof. R.E.M.R.K.B. Edirisinghe
<b>Dr. S.R. Sarathchandra</b> Reg Num: 16349 BoS in Plant Protection <b>PhD</b>	Development of a management system for rice field rates in Sri Lanka based on their diversity ecology and reproductive aspects	Dr. L. Nugaliyadda Prof. C.D.Gamage Dr. U. Dissanayake Prof. R.E.M.R.K.B. Edirisinghe
<b>Ms. Kothai Kaveevendan</b> Reg Num:20369-PDN BoS in Plant Protection <b>PhD</b>	Morphological, Biochemical and Molecular Variations of Onion ( <i>Allium</i> spp.) Varieties Cultivated in Sri Lanka towards Resistance to Anthracnose- Twister Disease	Prof. D.M. De Costa Dr. E.C. Jayaseelan
<b>Ms. V.K.A.S.M. Wanasasinghe</b> Reg Num: 19348-PDN BoS in Plant Protection <b>PhD</b>	Interaction between female moth of <i>Chilo sacchariphagus indicus</i> (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) and its native host, Sugarcane and the wild host, Erianthus	Dr. L. Nugaliyadda Prof. K.S. Hemachandra Dr. A.D.N.T. Kumara
<b>Mrs. A. Sugitharan</b> Reg Num: 10/8571 BoS in Food Science and Technology <b>PhD</b>	Cross-sectional study of nutritional status, iron deficiency anaemia and pregnancy outcome among pregnant woman in Batticaloa District, Sri Lanka	Prof. R. Sivakanesan Prof. Ananda Chandrasekara Prof. D.G.N.G. Wijesinghe
<b>Mr. R.A.C.J. Perera</b> Reg Num: 2012/19 BoS in Soil Science <b>PhD</b>	Spatio- temporal characterization of soil salinity in an irrigated cropping system in the dry zone of Sri Lanka using proximal soil sensing to mitigate the low crop productivity	Prof. W.A.U. Vitharana Dr. Srimathie Indraratne
<b>Ms. Aruni Buddhika Abeysekera</b> Reg Num: 18373-PDN BoS in Crop Science <b>PhD</b>	Combined effect of El Nino southern oscillation (ENSO) and Indian ocean Dipole (IOD) phenomena on the rainfall regime of Sri Lanka and its impact on the national paddy production	Dr. B.V.R. Punyawardane Prof. P.W.M.B.B. Marabe Dr. S. Jayawardena Prof. T. Sivananthawerl

<b>Dr. S.T.S. De Silva</b> Reg Num: 16381 BoS in Agricultural Engineering <b>PhD</b>	Geo-Citizen Information System-A Strategic Initiative and An Approach for Common Spatial and Non-Spatial Web- GIS Intelligent Platform for Private and Public Sector Development in Sri Lanka	Prof. R.P. De Silva Prof. N.D.K. Dayawansa
<b>Ms. K.V.A.I.K. Vithana</b> Reg Num: 16148 BoS in Plant Protection <b>MPhil</b>	Diversity of Wax Scale Species (Ceroptastes Spp.) and their Parasitoids Associated with Plants in Different Climatic Zones of Sri Lanka	Prof. K.S. Hemachandra Dr. U.G.A.I. Sirisena
<b>Ms. W.G.I.P. Wijayaraja</b> Reg Num: 19316 BoS in Crop Science <b>MPhil</b>	Variation of leaf gas exchange and associated functional traits of cowpea exposed to temperature and soil moisture stress in the dry zone of Sri Lanka	Prof. N. Geekyanage Prof. K.W.L.K. Weerasinghe
<b>Ms. U.I. Karunadhipathi</b> Reg Num: 20528-PDN BoS in Animal Science <b>MPhil</b>	Impact of Agronomic Management Practices on Growth, Yield and Nutritional Quality of Hybrid Fodder Sorghum Cultivated in Lowland Paddy Fields During Drier Seasons in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka	Dr. M.B.P. K. Mahipala Dr. W.M.P.B. Weerasinghe Dr. M.A.P.W.K. Malaviarachci Prof. Gaye L. Krebs
<b>Ms. S.L.R. Begum</b> Reg Num: 22103 BoS in Agricultural Engineering <b>MPhil</b>	Bioremediation of eutrophic lagoon using ecological floating bed wetland: A case study in sainthamaruthu coastal lagoon	Prof. M.I.M. Mowjood Dr. S.K. Weragoda
<b>Mr. C.B. Wijebandara</b> Reg Num: 22515-PDN BoS in Plant Protection <b>MPhil</b>	Determining the Genomic breed composition of crossbred cattle in National Cattle Breeding Program in Sri Lanka	G.L.L.P. De Silva Prof. C.M.B. Dematawewa
<b>Ms. R.M. H.V. Rajapaksha</b> Reg Num: 2015-135 BoS in Plant Protection <b>MPhil</b>	An Assessment of Total Factor Productivity and Technical Efficiency in Food and Agricultural Systems	Prof. D.V.P. Prasada
<b>Ms. A.M. Shafna</b> Reg Num:22379-PDN BoS in Bio-Statistics <b>MPhil</b>	Regional development disparity across Sri Lankan districts	Prof. N.R. Abeynayake Dr. S. Weerasooriya
<b>Ms. M.A. Wickramasinghe</b> Reg Num: 22510-PDN BoS in Agricultural Economics <b>MPhil</b>	Food Choices, Nutrient Intake, Biomarker Validation and Sociodemographic Determinants: A Study of Sri Lankan Twin Registry and Their Offspring (Cotass-3)	Prof. R. Liyanage Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith Prof. A. Sumathipala Prof. Ranil Jayawardena Dr. Helena Zavos Prof. Fruhling Rijdsdijk

<p><b>Ms. Mohamed Faleel Fathima Shuhadha</b> Reg Num: 16073 BoS in Food Science &amp; Technology MPhil</p>	<p>Association of Lifestyle Patterns and Non-Communicable Disease Risk Factors in the Academic and Non-Academic Staff of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith Ms. Isuri Jayawardhana</p>
<p><b>Ms. M.D.P. Nayanarangani</b> Reg Num:20125-PDN BoS in Soil Science MSc in Environmental Soil Science (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Impact of long-term annual and perennial crop cultivation on phosphorus and carbon status of a topical ultisol: micro catchment scale study</p>	<p>Prof. W.A.U. Vitharana Prof. D. Kumaragamage</p>
<p><b>Ms. J.K.W.U.D. Karunathilaka</b> Reg Num: 22443 BoS in Food Science &amp; Technology MSc in Food Science and Technology (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Evaluation pretrained deep learning- models performances on detecting adulterated black pepper powder using phase contrast microscopic images: A cost - effective approach for food safety</p>	<p>Prof. K.S.P. Amaratunga Mr. P.C. Arampath</p>
<p><b>Ms. J.M.I.N. Kumari Bandara</b> Reg Num: 18347-CBM BoS in Food Science &amp; Technology MSc in Food Science and Technology (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Development of an Herbal Green Sauce Using Centella Asiatica and Basella Alba L. and Determination of Physiochemical, Functional Properties and Shelf Life</p>	<p>Mr. P.C. Arampath Ms. H.M.A.H. Thilakarathne</p>
<p><b>Mr. P.K.K.S. Gunarathna</b> Reg Num: 17030 BoS in Agricultural Extension M.Sc. In Development Communication and Extension (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Effectiveness of Technology Transfer of the Rubber Smallholder Sector in Non-Traditional Rubber Growing Areas: A Case Study in Monaragala District</p>	<p>Dr. H.V.A. Wickramasuriya Dr. M.W.A.P. Jayathilaka</p>
<p><b>Ms. W.C.S. Wanasinghe</b> Reg Num: 20131-PDN BoS in Agricultural Engineering Master of Science in Integrated Water Resources Management (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Assess the Virtual Water Trade and Water Footprint to Assure Food Security of Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Prof. E.R.N. Gunawardena Prof. M.I.M. Mowjood</p>
<p><b>Ms. Thavarajah Bavithira</b> Reg Num: 18083 BoS in Agricultural Engineering Master of Science in Agricultural &amp; Bio-Systems Engineering (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Two – Stage Catalytic Activation of coconut shell derived Biochar for the removal of malachite Green from Water</p>	<p>Dr. A.K. Karunarathne Prof. N. Kannan</p>
<p><b>Mr. A.J.R.P. Pasan</b> Reg Num: 19452-CMB BoS in Food Science and Technology MSc in Food Science and Technology (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Analyzing the Relationship Between Milk Stability and Physicochemical Properties of Raw Milk to Develop an Alternative Quality Detection Device</p>	<p>Prof. B.D.R. Prasantha Prof. K.S.P. Amarithunga</p>

<p><b>Ms. A.R.I.S. Alahakoon</b> Reg Num: 20511-PDN BoS in Crop Science MSc in Horticulture (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Development of Composite Edible Coating Using Beeswax to Increase the Shelf- Life of Lime (<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>)</p>	<p>Dr. K.H. Sarananda Prof. J.P. Eeswara</p>
<p><b>Ms. M.R.C.P. Wickramasinghe</b> Reg Num: 19335-PDN BoS in Agricultural Engineering M.Sc. In Integrated Water Resources Managemen (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Hydrological modeling and non-point source pollution assessment in an ungauged catchment: A study in Mahakanumulla ancient irrigation cascade system of Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Prof. N.D.K. Dayawansa Prof. R.P. De Silva</p>
<p><b>Mr. A.P. Karunathilaka</b> Reg Num: 20198-PDN BoS in Agricultural Extension M.Sc. In Development Communication and Extension (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Fostering Technology Stewardship Approach to Promote Technology Transfer Amount Sugarcane Extension Staff in The Monaragala District Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Dr. U. Dissanayake Dr. Chandana K Jayathikaka</p>
<p><b>Ms. A.N. Tissera</b> Reg Num:20456-CMB BoS in Food Science and Technology MSc in Food Science and Technology (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Exploring the Antifungal Potential of Selected Medicinal Plant Extracts: Enhancing Their Efficacy Through Microencapsulation</p>	<p>Dr. Geeshani Somaratne Dr. Chanaka Sandaruwan Dr. Wasantha Lankathilaka</p>
<p><b>Ms. B.H.R. Fernando</b> Reg Num: 18245 BoS in Board of study in Agric Engineering MSc in Integrated Water Resources Management (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Development of An Integrated Guideline for Micro - Irrigation for Coconut Plantations of Sri Lank</p>	<p>Prof. M.I.M. Mowjood Dr. S. Pathmarajah.</p>
<p><b>Ms. Viyannalage Lakmini Punsara Amarasinghe</b> Reg Num: 25039 BoS in Food Science and Technology MSc in Food Science and Technology (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Application of probiotics as a bio- preservative to control selected foodborne bacteria in ready - to - eat <i>Centella asiatica</i></p>	<p>Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith Dr. N.S. Weerakkody</p>
<p><b>Mr. Y.B.L.W.N.S.B. Ambanpola</b> Reg Num: 20029-PDN BoS in Plant Protection MSc in Plant Protection (CW&amp;R)</p>	<p>Evaluation of cellulose dipsticks for rapid and inexpensive DNA extraction from microbial samples</p>	<p>Prof. N. Jayathilaka Prof. D.M. De Costa</p>

# LIST OF RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS OF PGIA IN 2025

1. Abeyrathne, L., Kariyawasam, T., Perera, S., Madola, I., Perera, A., Suriyagoda, L., Karunaratne, S., Dissanayake, H., Wanigarathna, T. and Jayatilake, D. (2025). **Morphological and molecular characterization of Sri Lankan nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans* Houtt.)**. BMC Plant Biology, 25,846. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12870-025-06840-z>
2. Abeyrathne, R. M. S. D. L., Nanayakkara, N. H. L. D. L. D., & Jayatilake, D. V. (2025). **Allele Mining of Major Gall Midge Resistance Genes *gm3*, *Gm4*, *Gm8* and *Gm11* in Selected Sri Lankan Rice Germplasm**. Tropical Agricultural Research, 36(2). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i2.8935>
3. Athauda, A. D. D. C., Wijesinghe, D. G. N. G., & Chandrasekara, G. A. P. (2025). **Dietary Energy Consumption Pattern and Intake of Cholesterol and Dietary Fibre among 11–13-Year-old Children in the City of Colombo**. Tropical Agricultural Research, 36(2). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i2.8932>
4. Bandusekara, B.S., Pushpakumara, D.K.N.G. and Bandaranayake, P.C.G., Ranil, R.H.G., Wimalasiri, K.M.S. and Ranawaka, R.A.A.K. (2025) **Intraspecies diversity of the bioactive compounds of wild and cultivated *Cinnamomum* species in Sri Lanka**. BMC Agric. 1, 5. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s44399-025-00004-y>
5. Bavithira, T., Kannan, N., & Karunarathna, A. K. (2025). **Two-stage catalytic activation of coconut shell biochar for effective malachite green removal from water**. Tropical Agricultural Research, 36(1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i1.8884>
6. Begum, S. R., Weragoda, S. K., & Mowjood, M. I. M. (2025). **Assessment of Pollution in Lagoons Using Water Quality Indices: A Case Study in Sainthamaruthu Coastal Lagoon**. Tropical Agricultural Research, 36(4). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i4.8996>
7. Dayarathna, P. G. N. N., & Sirimalwatta, V. N. S. (2025). **Leaf Morphological and Molecular Characterization of Selected Accessions of Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam) in the Field Gene Bank-Gannoruwa Sri Lanka**. Tropical Agricultural Research, 36(1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i1.8887>
8. De Silva, S. T. S., De Silva, R. P., & Dayawansa, N. D. K. (2025). **An Approach for Common Web GIS Platform for Agriculture Sector Modernization in Sri Lanka**. Tropical Agricultural Research, 36(1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i1.8883>
9. Devindi, K. M., Karunadhipathi, U. L., Priyantha, R., Liyanagunawardhana, N., Weerasinghe, W. M. P. B., Rajapaksha, R. G. S. C., & Kumara, M. M. (2025). **Potential of the Locally Produced *Lactobacillus* Inoculants in Ensiling Guinea Grass (*Megathyrsus maximus*) Forage**. Tropical Agricultural Research, 36(1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i1.8886>
10. Dharmaratne, P. P., Salgadoe, A. S. A., Rathnayake, W. M. U. K., & Weerasinghe, A. D. A. J. K. (2025). **Investigation of Accuracy for Rice Crop Parameters Predicted Using UAV Multispectral Imagery**. Tropical Agricultural Research, 36(1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i1.8885>

11. Fazna, R., Maithreepala, S. D., Mudiyansele, S. P. K., & Somaratne, G. (2025). **Association of Dietary Patterns and Sarcopenia in the Ageing Population in Polonnaruwa District, Sri Lanka: A Cross-Sectional Study.** *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 36(3). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i3.8918>
12. Gunasena, R. K. R. M. A., Weerasinghe, K. W. L. K., Weerakkody, W. A. P., Samita, S., & Perera, L. (2025). **Impact of Soil Suitability Class, Variety, Milling Method, and Ageing Status on Some Chemical Properties of Coco Pith.** *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 36(1). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i1.8882>
13. Janane, N., & Fouzi, M. N. M. (2025). **Impacts of Shrimp Farming on The Relative Abundance and The Biodiversity of Wild Shrimp Along the Coastal Areas of Batticaloa District in Sri Lanka.** *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 36(4). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i4.8613>
14. Karunathilaka, A. P., Dissanayeke, U. I., Jayathilake, C. K., Gow, G. A., Pottawela, D. P. W., & Gunapala, K. G. M. J. W. (2025). **Fostering Stewardship Approach to Promote Technology Transfer among Sugarcane Extension Staff in the Monaragala District, Sri Lanka.** *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 36(3). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4038/tar.v36i3.8954>
15. Kariyawasam, K.P., Somaratne, G., Senaratne, S., Jayasekara, M., Roy, D. and Walallawita, U. (2025) **A review on the holistic exploration of health benefits and technological advancements in yoghurt incorporating fruit peels.** *Journal of Dairy Research* 8:1-20. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/s002202992510174x>
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# POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH BRIEFS

## (PHD, MPhil & MSC)



**S.R. Sarathchandra**  
Ph.D  
Board of Study in Plant Protection  
Senior Supervisor: Dr. L. Nugaliyadda

### Development of a Management System for Rice Field Rats in Sri Lanka based on their Diversity, Ecology and Reproductive Aspects

This nine-year study investigated the diversity, ecology, reproductive aspects, and public health impacts of rodents in Sri Lankan rice ecosystems. Four species were identified, with *Bandicota bengalensis* being the most common. The effects of abiotic factors on rodent management were studied for the first time in Sri Lanka, showing that higher weed density increases rodent damage, while maintaining cm of standing water reduces it—highlighting the importance of proper weed and water management<sup>10</sup>. Breeding ecology findings showed that reproductive activity peaks during the booting and ripening stages, emphasizing early management to control populations effectively. Food and bait preference studies revealed that *B. bengalensis* prefers long-grain “Nadu” varieties (especially Bg 403), while *Rattus rattus* favors “Samba” varieties. Bg 403 can serve as a trap crop, and selecting suitable baits can improve trapping efficiency and reduce field damage. For storage management, covering rice bags with double-layered fish nets proved to be a simple, low-cost, and eco-friendly alternative to toxic rodenticides. Plastic barriers or fences, though effective, are recommended only for research and nursery use due to environmental concerns, while bund preparation is advised for farmers as an eco-friendly method that minimizes damage. The study also identified three *Leptospira* species and reported the first detection of *Bartonella* spp. in Sri Lanka, revealing significant public health risks. *Suncus murinus* was identified as the main reservoir host of *Leptospira*, posing risks in both agricultural and human habitats. Implementing these research-driven strategies can significantly reduce rodent damage, strengthen food security, and improve farmer livelihoods. Additionally, increasing awareness of rodent-borne diseases like leptospirosis and bartonellosis is vital to prevent infections and reduce healthcare costs in Sri Lanka.



**C.A.K. Dissanayake**  
Ph.D  
Board of Study in Agriculture Extension  
Senior Supervisor: Dr. M.W.A.P. Jayathilaka

### Factors associated with the adoption behaviour of value-added food technologies as self-employment

Although value-added technologies are preferred in training, the adoption rates in self-employment ventures are very low. Therefore, this study aimed to find the associated factors affecting the adoption decision of value-added food technologies. A field survey on perceptions on association of factors from the decomposed theory of planned behaviour and literature, toward adoption as self-employment, and a product quality evaluation was conducted. Results revealed that only 7 (4%) adopted the technologies to engage in self-employment. The common value-added products manufactured were fruit drinks, fruit jams, and spices. Preservatives were high in the fruit drinks. All other quality parameters of all product types were comparable with SLS standards. Other than attitude, all other factors considered followed the relationships depicted in the decomposed theory of planned behaviour. Factors related to person, factors related to technology, institutional factors and capital sources were also significantly associated. The adopters perceived the associations of factors different to the non-adopters. In conclusion, self-employment ventures can successfully be developed by the introduced value-added food technologies with high-quality products. With modifications, the decomposed theory of planned behavior can be used to explain the associations among different factors associated with adoption behaviour of value-added food technologies.

**Kothai Kaveevendan****Ph.D****Board of Study in Plant Protection****Senior Supervisor:** Prof. Devika M. De Costa

**Morphological, Biochemical and Molecular Variations of Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) Varieties Cultivated in Sri Lanka Towards Resistance to Anthracnose-Twister Disease and Pathogen Diversity**

Onion is one of the most important vegetable crops grown in Sri Lanka. However, farmers often face serious losses due to a fungal disease known as anthracnose-twister disease. This disease causes twisting and drying of leaves, reducing bulb size and market quality. It is especially severe during the rainy/ Maha season. This research was conducted to understand the causes of the disease and to identify onion varieties that can naturally show resistance to the fungal infection. Field studies were carried out in seven major onion-growing districts across Sri Lanka during two cropping seasons. Laboratory analyses showed that the disease is caused not by a single fungus, but by several different species of *Colletotrichum* and *Fusarium*. Some species were found to be more aggressive than others. Twelve onion varieties were tested under controlled conditions. Two varieties, TVM-6 and MICLO1, showed better resistance, while some others were highly susceptible. Resistant varieties were able to activate stronger natural defense mechanisms when attacked by the pathogen. The findings of this research are important for developing disease-resistant onion varieties, reducing the excessive use of chemical fungicides, and improving farmer income. This study provides valuable scientific knowledge to support sustainable onion production and national food security in Sri Lanka.

**Sujeeva Senarath Yapa****Ph.D****Board of Study in Crop Science****Senior Supervisor:** Prof. A.J. Mohotti

**Mistletoe Parasitism and their Impacts on Export Agricultural Crops with Special Reference to Cloves (*Syzygium aromaticum* (L.) Merr. & L.M. Perry) and Nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans* Houtt.)**

Clove and nutmeg represent two of Sri Lanka's most valuable export agricultural crops, contributing substantially to rural livelihoods and national foreign exchange earnings. In recent years, however, their productivity and quality have been increasingly constrained by mistletoe infestation, an emerging parasitic threat that has received limited scientific scrutiny. This doctoral research was undertaken to comprehensively investigate the diversity, distribution, physiological impacts, and economic damage thresholds of mistletoe infestation, with special emphasis on clove and nutmeg. Extensive field surveys conducted across the wet and intermediate zones of Sri Lanka identified seven mistletoe species infesting woody perennial crops. Among these, *Dendrophthoe falcata* and *Dendrophthoe neelgherrensis* were the most prevalent. Although mango was recorded as the most preferred host species, clove was identified as the most severely affected export crop, followed by nutmeg, highlighting the significance of the problem within the spice sector. Systematic field and laboratory evaluations revealed that mistletoe infestation markedly reduces yield and quality parameters of both crops. A clearly defined economic damage threshold was established at 10% canopy infestation. Beyond this level, significant reductions were observed in fruit weight, nut and mace weight, size, and overall market quality. Importantly, productivity decline was evident even in visually uninfested branches, indicating systemic physiological stress within affected trees. Physiological investigations demonstrated reduced photosynthetic efficiency, increased water stress, and nutrient imbalances, particularly in nitrogen and phosphorus, thereby explaining the observed decline in vigor and productivity. The findings underscore the necessity of early detection and timely intervention. Regular monitoring, maintenance of tree health, and mechanical removal of infested branches are recommended to ensure sustainable productivity and long-term resilience of Sri Lanka's spice industry.



**S. L. Rasmiya Begum**

**M.Phil.**

**Board of Study in Agricultural Engineering**

**Senior Supervisor:** Prof. MIM. Mowjoood

**Bioremediation of Eutrophic Lagoon using Ecological Floating bed wetland: A Case Study in Sainthamaruthu Coastal Lagoon**

Water quality deterioration and pollution in Sri Lanka's lagoons demand effective remediation strategies. This study focused on bioremediating the eutrophic Sainthamaruthu lagoon through systematic site selection, pollution assessment, and application of Ecological Floating Bed Wetlands (EFBs). Using Multivariate Statistical (MS) methods, eighteen sites were monitored weekly for four months (June–September 2022). Cluster Analysis (CA) and Inverse Distance Weighted (IDW) interpolation indicated that three sites—one per zone—were sufficient for efficient monitoring. Principal Component and Discriminant Analyses identified temperature, pH, turbidity, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Electrical Conductivity (EC), and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) as key parameters explaining 79% of water quality variation. Weekly monitoring of turbidity, TDS, and EC, and biweekly or monthly monitoring of temperature, pH, and DO were recommended. Water quality indices revealed severe pollution ( $CPI > 2.01$ ) in zone I during the North-East and First Inter-Monsoon seasons, mainly due to seawater mixing, effluent discharge, and wastewater release. The mesocosm experiment using EFBs planted with *Canna indica* (20 plants/m<sup>2</sup>) for 19 weeks showed high nutrient removal efficiencies—78% for  $NH_4^+$ , 35% for  $NO_3^-$ , and 90% for total phosphorus—especially during the vegetative growth stage. Biocarrier inclusion enhanced pollutant removal and plant biomass. Six EFB units were then installed in the most polluted lagoon zone, achieving higher biomass and nutrient uptake (57.2 g/m<sup>2</sup> N and 6.3 g/m<sup>2</sup> P). Harvesting plants at peak nutrient accumulation (10th week) was advised. A simple model was developed to estimate nutrient removal considering water concentration and evapotranspiration, demonstrating that EFBs can effectively bioremediate eutrophic lagoons.



**Imesha Nilanka Kumari Bandara**

**MSc (CW & R)**

**Board of Study in Food Science**

**& Technology**

**Senior Supervisor:** Mr. P.C. Arampath

**Development of herbal green sauce using *Centella asiatica* and *Basella alba* L., and determination of physico-chemical, functional properties and shelf life**

This study focused on developing an herbal green sauce using two locally available leafy greens: *Centella asiatica* (gotu kola) and *Basella alba* L. (Ceylon spinach). These plants are traditionally valued for their nutritional and medicinal properties, yet their use in daily diets is limited because preparing them fresh can be time-consuming. The research aimed to create a convenient product that retains the natural phytonutrients and functional compounds of these leaves. Different formulations were tested, and the most acceptable blend was identified as a 55:45 ratio of *Centella asiatica* to *Basella alba* L., incorporated at 55% of the total sauce. This formulation achieved the highest scores in sensory evaluation for taste, aroma, and overall preference. Nutritional analysis showed that the sauce contained higher fiber, mineral content, and antioxidant activity compared to conventional tomato and chili sauces. Importantly, the product remained stable and free of microbial growth for six weeks at room temperature, confirming its shelf life. Overall, the study demonstrates the potential of underutilized leafy greens to be transformed into functional condiments, offering both nutritional benefits and consumer acceptability.

# DEGREES AWARDED AT THE GENERAL CONVOCATION 2025

<b>Doctor of Philosophy</b>	<b>Master of Philosophy</b>
1. 2012-194 - A.M.N.T. Adikari	1. 20528 - U.L. Karunadhipathi
2. 18373 - A.B. Abeysekera	2. 16073 - M.F.F. Shuhadha
3. 16381 - S.T.S. De Silva	3. 16148 - K.V.A.I.K. Vithana
4. 19004 - R.K.R.M.A. Gunasena	4. 22510 - M.A. Wickramasinghe
5. 2012-386 - S.P. Rebeira	5. 22379 - A.M. Shafna
6. 17198 - H.A.N. Upekshani	6. 18393 - H.D.A. Tharangani
7. 2015-377 - W.M.C.B. Wasala	7. 2015/135 - R.M.H.V. Rajapaksha
8. 16313 - K.M.D.W.P. Nishantha	

## Master Degree

<b>Master of Plant Protection and Technology</b>	<b>Master of Molecular and Applied Micro-Biology</b>
1. 22199 - V.L.P.T. Hemapala,	1. 22132 - M.M.J.K. Gawarammana
2. 23144 - N.H.K.L.U.C. Nanayakkara	2. 22036 - J.B.G. Sudheema
3. 22326 - H.P.W. Nilanthi	3. 22205 - L.M.G. Bandara

<b>Master of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture</b>	<b>Master of Horticulture</b>
1. 22259 - E.D.N. Edirisinghe	1. 22358 - W.M.N. Chamathka
2. 22089 - J.R.L.D. Jayalath	2. 22316 - J.M.D.N. Jayasundara
3. 22341 - T.M.D.N. Weerarathna	3. 22035 - W.M.T.S.K. Weerasooriya
4. 22318 - W.M.S.D.K. Wijerathne	

<b>Master of Plant Biology Conservation and Breeding</b>	<b>Master of Organizational Management</b>
1. 22177 - R.M.S.D.L. Abeyrathne	1. 22218 - B.M.N.H. Basnayake
2. 22128 - K.M.K. Madarasinghe	2. 22194 - W.M.P. Weerasooriya
	3. 22200 - A.M.G.A. Amarakoon

<b>Master of Agricultural Economics</b>	<b>Master of Aquatic Bio-Resources Management and Aquaculture</b>
1. 20391- K.K.A. Kiriveldeniya	1. 22485 - R.H.K. Gammudali

<b>Master of Crop Science</b>	<b>Master of Dairy and Meat Product Technology</b>
1. 22375 - K.M.K.I. Rathnayake	1. 22357 - D.T.M. Atapattu

### Master of Business Administration

1.	20219-	K.G. Ailapperuma	23.	20379-	W.Y. Rajapakshe
2.	19347-	F.H. Al Fasy	24.	17197-	P.G.U.C. Ranasinghe
3.	20217-	H.R.U. Arawinda	25.	18173-	R.S.L.B. Ranasinghe
4.	20374-	J.H. Atapattu	26.	17183-	B.P. Randeniya
5.	16275-	W.A.T.A. Chandrawansha	27.	16329-	R.B. Ratnayake
6.	22227-	D.T. De Alwis	28.	17196-	M.I. Sajith
7.	19234-	G.G.H.M.Y.C.K. Herath	29.	22294-	M.M.A. Sawsan
8.	20562-	H.T.P. Jayarathna	30.	17182-	S.R.T.P. Senanayake
9.	17168-	N.G.S.S. Jayathilaka	31.	19135-	G.G.W. Sewwandi
10.	16327-	R.W.I. Jayawardena	32.	19134-	G.S. Sewwandi
11.	20540-	R.W.M.L.N. Kapukotuwa	33.	17218-	S. Sivakumar
12.	20550-	Y.P.D.M. Karunarathna	34.	20252-	P.Thushanika
13.	20384-	K.A.D.N. Kodagoda	35.	18313-	I.C.B. Vithanage
14.	18260-	K.A.C. Krishanthe	36.	18308-	D.R.D.S. Dasanayaka
15.	18255-	L.N.K. Kumar	37.	16251-	E.M.A.R. Ekanayake
16.	19475-	M.N.T. Mohamed	38.	16263-	H.M.I.H. Herath
17.	20276-	A. Nareshkathan	39.	20409-	M.K.D.D.S. Meegoda
18.	19350-	P.U.T.K. Pamunuwa	40.	19476-	L.W.C. Mihiruk
19.	19143-	B.P.T.T. Perera	41.	20549-	A.M.J.C. Nawarathne
20.	18334-	P.K.J. Pitawela	42.	20221-	R. Pranawya
21.	18197-	H.M.T. Priyankari	43.	20389-	H.M.S.D. Siriwardhane
22.	17167-	K.R.A.S. Rajapaksha	44.	18204-	N. Vetkaran

<b>Master of Food and Nutrition</b>	<b>Master of Food Science and Technology</b>
1. 22336 - H.D.R. Chandimala	1. 22253 - H.M.G.S. Bandara
2. 22470 - R.D. Janarth	2. 22420 - S. Deviahayshini
3. 22060 - I.G.R.I. Jayasekara	3. 22051 - P.K.S.H. Disanayaka
4. 22452 - M.S.F. Nasriya	4. 22414 - D.M.R.N. Dissanayaka
5. 22530 - N.M.A.I. Nikalansooriya	5. 22526 - B.C.J. Fernando
6. 22311 - M.A. Samarasekara	6. 22135 - G.M.S.N. Galagedara
7. 22107 - D.V.S.S. Diyapaththugama	7. 23147 - J.M.Y.U. Jayakodi
	8. 22417 - B.G.E.T. Jayashantha
	9. 22223 - S.C.N. Jayaweera,
	10. 22139 - P.K.I.G. Kankanamge,
	11. 22033 - A.P.A. Madushani
	12. 22179 - S.B.M.H.M. Mahindarathna
	13. 22092 - N.Y.G.V.K. Nikaanga
	14. 22320 - M.D. Paranamana
	15. 22249 - M.A.A. Prabhanjali
	16. 22389 - D.P. Sooriyarachchi
	17. 22213 - T.M.U.P. Thennakoon
	18. 22333 - H.M.M. Thilakshika
	19. 22397 - D.D.P. Udeshika
	20. 22203 - M.S. Wickramarachchi
	21. 22419 - M.N. Wijeweera

## Master of Science Degrees

<b>Master of Science in Organizational Management</b>	<b>Master of Science in Bio-Statistics</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 19057- H.M.K.N.B Herath</li> <li>2. 20045- D.M. Kularatne</li> <li>3. 17219- J. Simeon</li> <li>4. 20193- B.G.G.N. Dayarathne</li> <li>5. 18082- B.I.C. Rajapaksha</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 20261- R.M.A. Chamika</li> <li>2. 18350- K.P. Hansika</li> <li>3. 19429- U.G.C. Sewwandi</li> </ol>

<b>Master of Science in Floriculture and Landscape Architecture</b>	<b>Master of Science in Crop Science</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 18008 - S. Vaheesan</li> <li>2. 19280 - N.C. Weerakoon</li> <li>3. 17176 - R.M.J Rajapaksha</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 20330 - L.A.G.I. Senevirathne</li> <li>2. 19252- A.M.G.K.D. Adikari</li> <li>3. 17200 - B.G.C.A. Gamlath</li> <li>4. 18164 - U.I. Ranasinghe</li> <li>5. 19256 - V. Sivasoruphy</li> <li>6. 18068 - U.P.D.H. Pathirana</li> </ol>

<b>Master of Science in Environmental Forestry</b>	<b>Master of Science in Horticulture</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 19103 - M.T.N. Wickramage</li> <li>2. 19056 - H.N. Chathuranga</li> <li>3. 20206 - P.G.S.A. Kumarasinghe</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 19222 - D.P.S. Premathilaka</li> <li>2. 19318 - H.B.N. Wathsala</li> <li>3. 19116 - N. P. L. Galahawela</li> <li>4. 19086 - R.G.S.D. Kumari</li> <li>5. 18093 - H.M.N.D. Nawarathne</li> <li>6. 18104 - W.A.N.S. Wijesuriya</li> <li>7. 20498 - U.G.S.D.K Abeyrathna</li> <li>8. 20169 - J.D.S. Deshan</li> <li>9. 20326 - M.P.H. K. Jayaweera</li> </ol>

<b>Master of Science in Agricultural and Bio-systems Engineering</b>	<b>Master of Science in Geo-Informatics</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 20240 -V. Thirumalavan</li> <li>2. 20058 -A.K.G.R.M.N.M Abeysinghe</li> <li>3. 18324 - J.M.K.C. Wickramasingha</li> <li>4. 20097 -N. Sajuran</li> <li>5. 20096 -B. Suventhini</li> <li>6. 17220 -K.G.N.D. Dassanayake</li> <li>7. 20316 -T. Luxshana</li> <li>8. 20059 -K.M.N.M. Jayasena</li> <li>9. 18083 -B. Thavarajah</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 20200 - H.B.N. Aathika</li> <li>2. 19109 - R.A.G.C.N.M. Nawarathna</li> </ol>

<b>Master of Science in Environmental Soil Science</b>	<b>Master of Science in Plant Protection Technology</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 20066 - J.A.P.S. Jayalath</li> <li>2. 20008 - T.V.K.J. Methma</li> <li>3. 18322 - D.H. Kandage</li> <li>4. 19361 - D.M.D.J. Bandara</li> <li>5. 20324 - W.G.C. Vibhushana</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 20223 - E.J. Vinobia</li> <li>2. 19291 - S.K. Ranaweera</li> <li>3. 19043 - P.A.N.P. Pandipperuma</li> <li>4. 20053 - A. Yogalingam</li> <li>5. 18320 - R.M.G.A. Bandara</li> <li>6. 18033 - G.R.P.M. Samaranayaka</li> <li>7. 18315 - R.A.P. Ranaweera</li> </ol>

### **Master of Science in Integrated Water Resources Management**

1. 18245 - B.H.R. Fernando
2. 19335 - M.R.C.P. Wickramasinghe
3. 19294 - M.S.M. Minhajkhan
4. 20131 - W.C.S. Wanasinghe

<b>Master of Science in Food Science and Technology</b>	<b>Master of Science in Food and Nutrition</b>
1. 20532 - G.G.D.K.M. Dias	1. 19412 - R. Wahab
2. 20306 - J.W. Welagedara	2. 17204 - P. Jayasinghe
3. 19491 - U.M.V.S. Perera	3. 19415 - H.A.A. Perera
4. 19456 - M.D.M.K. Gunaratne	4. 20238 - L. Mayavan
5. 18262 - A.G.A. Bandara	5. 20256 - V. Rasathurai
6. 19227 - S.P.M.G. Gunawardhana	6. 20521 - S. Induijaa
7. 19439 - G.W.S. Chathurika	7. 20548 - P.A.D.S. Palihaderu
8. 18250 - S.V. Gunawardena	8. 17280 - P.S. Shanthakumari
9. 19211 - V.L.P. Amarasinghe	9. 19489 - S.M.T. Marliya
10. 19452 - A.J.R.P. Pasan	10. 20456 - A.N. Tissera
11. 18380 - D.M.A.G.B.U Dassanayaka	11. 17282 - S.M.S.H. Sitinayake
12. 19299 - A.P. Jayanthan	12. 20094 - D.T.G.C.N. Jayarathna
13. 20557 - W.L. Senadeera	13. 20142 - S. Mathuranthini
14. 18165 - A.N.F. Ashfa	14. 20251 - K.K.A.S. Gnanathilaka
15. 18193 - T.A.N.V. Thenuwara	15. 19408 - W.A.D.V. Ruklanthi
16. 18194 - T.K.G.N.P. Weerakoon	16. 19432 - H. Sivakumar
17. 19273 - M.A.S.N. Premachandra	17. 20481 - S.D. Dillimuni
18. 20014 - S. Dhushane	18. 19466 - W.M.K.M. Ratnayake
19. 20040 - S.A.T.K.K. Subasinghe	19. 17222 - M.K.C.P. Jayasekara
20. 20081 - P. Sathiyaseelan	20. 22470 - R.D. Janarth
21. 20222 - R.A.A.S. Ranasinghe	
22. 20233 - S.H.F. Hasna	
23. 20317 - V. Thangarajah	
24. 20473 - H.A.D.C.L. Sandipani	
25. 19382 - K.B.G.P.P. Rupasingha	
26. 19418 - N.M. Weerasinghe	
27. 19473 - S.R.M.K.P. Rajapaksha	
28. 20507 - K.M.A. Madhusanka	
29. 20510 - H.D.K. Samudika	
30. 18359 - A. Sivakumaran	
31. 18378 - V.L.K. Munadeniya	
32. 18419 - L.R. Maduwanthi	

<b>Master of Science in Molecular and Applied Microbiology</b>	<b>Master of Science in Natural Resource Management</b>
1. 20178 - P.B.D. Jeewanthi 2. 20116 - B.N.K. Rajapakshe	1. 18186 I.O. Hettiarachchi 2. 18168 N.D. Nayakaratne 3. 18191 D.S.R. Amarasinghe

<b>Master of Science in Environmental Economics</b>	<b>Master of Science in Agricultural Economics</b>
1. 17210 - P.V.B.P. Sisiranandana 2. 20117 - H.A.M.B. Dissanayaka	1. 18032 - P.S.R. Premarathna

<b>Master of Science in Plant Biology Conservation and Breeding</b>	<b>Master of Science in Dairy and Meat Product Technology</b>
1. 20286 - K.I.S. Thamali	1. 20163 - A.S.I. Ahamed

<b>Master of Science in Animal Science</b>	<b>Master of Science in Biotechnology</b>
1. 17037 - S.D.I.S. Samarathunga	1. 19346 - S.S.N. Samarasinghe 2. 19060 - M Siyama 3. 19203 - E.M.A.P. Nabadawewa

<b>Master of Science in Applied Statistics</b>	<b>Master of Science in Development Communication and Extension</b>
1. 17330 - P.D. Nanayakkara	1. 20198- A.P. Karunathilaka

## Postgraduate Diploma

<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration</b>	<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Agricultural and Bio- systems Engineering</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2015-138 - K.M.N. Nanayakkara</li> <li>2. 2015-137 - P.K.M.N. Gunathilake</li> <li>3. 2010 8474 - E.U. Weerasekara</li> <li>4. 2011- 8929 - A.I. Vithanege</li> <li>5. 2010 – 8501- W.M.C.B. Wijesinghe</li> <li>6. 19159-PDN - R.M.S.H. Rajapaksha</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 19244-PDN - J.R.P. Ranasinghe</li> </ol>
<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Food Science &amp; Technology</b>	<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Food &amp; Nutrition</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 19381-PDN- H.M.N.S. Herath</li> <li>2. 22408-CMB- B.W.K.I. Wickramanayake</li> <li>3. 17305 - S.D. Weerakoon</li> <li>4. 22441-PDN - P.H.C.J. Thennakoon</li> <li>5. 20531-CMB - R.M.A.A. Bandara</li> <li>6. 2015-63- T.N.M. Kankanamalage</li> <li>7. 20026-PDN- H.A.I.D. Hettiarachchi</li> <li>8. 18346-CMB- H.G.M. Jayasinghe</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 20447-CMB- S.M.C.S. Samarakoon</li> <li>2. 2015-342 - D.M. Dissanayake</li> </ol>
<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Biotechnology</b>	<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Animal Science</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 20024-PDN -D.R. Bamunuarachchi</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 19152-PDN - K.G.A.P. Jayarathne</li> </ol>

<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Natural Resource Management</b>	<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Integrated Water Resources Management</b>
1. 19089-PDN- D.D.D.N. Maduwanthi	1. 20371-PDN -V. Vikneshwaran 2. 19257-PDN - D.M.L.S. Bandara 3. 19192-PDN - W.M.D.S. Weerakoon

<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Bio-Statistics</b>	<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Crop Science</b>
1. 20050-PDN - G.I.C.L. De Zoysa 2. 20245-PDN -Y.S.A. Amarasena	1.16303- G.L.Y.P. Gunawardana 2. 19253-PDN- U.L.D.N.S. Gunasinghe

<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Statistics</b>	<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Plant Biology Conservation and Breeding</b>
1. 20141-PDN - K.D.N.S Kumara 2. 18009- S.A.P.T.K. Sirisena	1.20375-PDN- K.W.A. Madhushan

<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Agricultural Economics</b>	<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Geo-Informatics</b>
1. 2007-6565- R.A.S.S. Ranaweera	1. 17252- J.A.L. Rajapakse

<b>Postgraduate Diploma in Organizational Management</b>
1. 19241-PDN - L.B.H.D. Lokubalasooriya

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### One-Day Workshop on Stress Management in the Workplace

As a part of staff development programmes, one-day workshop on “Stress Management in the Workplace” was held on 7 August 2025 at the PGIA Auditorium. The programme was conducted by Dr. Rasangi Adhikaram and Mrs. Apsara Diwarathne, and organized by the Senior Management Team of PGIA. The workshop included 30 staff members and focused on stress management strategies, mindfulness, and relaxation techniques. Participants positively evaluated the programme and recommended that it be conducted annually. The programme concluded with a cultural evening, featuring music and artistic performances by PGIA staff.



### Friendly Six-a-Side Cricket Tournament

The Alumni Association of PGIA and the Postgraduate Agriculture Students’ Association (PASA) jointly organized a Six-a-Side Cricket Tournament on 30 August 2025 at the University Grounds. The event brought together students, alumni, and staff, fostering goodwill and camaraderie, and featured both men’s and women’s matches. Trophies were awarded to the winning teams. The event was coordinated by Dr. Nipuni Sirimalwatta, Dr. Dilini Hemachandra, Dr. Sewwandi Chandrasekera, and Dr. Malinda Hulugalla (Alumni Association of PGIA), together with Mr. Manoj Kodikara (PASA).



## PGIA WELCOMES THE YEAR 2026

The PGIA welcomed the year 2026 with an interfaith blessing ceremony held on 1 January 2026, seeking blessings for the continued success and prosperity of the institute, its academic and administrative staff, and students. The ceremony was followed by a New Year tea gathering attended by staff members, the teaching panel, members of the Board of Management and Boards of Study, as well as the Chairpersons and Secretaries of the respective Boards of Study. The gathering marked the beginning of the new year while fostering unity and strengthening the collective commitment to excellence in postgraduate education and research at PGIA.





## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### ❖ **PGIA Invite Application for Competitive Grant for Postgraduates Research**

Applications are invited for two prestigious competitive research grants of LKR 25 million each, to be awarded in 2026 under the PGIA Golden Jubilee Initiative. These flagship grants are designed to support high-impact, nationally relevant research to advance innovation, scientific excellence, and transformative outcomes in agriculture and allied disciplines.

### ❖ **New Admissions for the Academic Year 2025 / 2026**

The academic year 2025/2026 will commence on 21 February 2026, with the successful enrolment of postgraduate students, marking another significant milestone in the Institute's continuing academic journey and commitment to postgraduate excellence.

### ❖ **38<sup>th</sup> PGIA Annual Congress 2026**

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress is scheduled to be held on 27 November 2026.





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