

# Master of Science in Agroecology

Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture  
University of Peradeniya



In the rapidly changing world, staying ahead and gearing up for the future are keys for success as a professional. The Master of Science degree program in Agroecology offered by the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA), University of Peradeniya, provides you with the cutting-edge knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the present and the unlock boundless opportunities. With the knowledge and skills acquired through the program, you will distinguish yourself from the others and pave the way toward achieving your aspirations

The M.Sc. degree programme in Agroecology has a general objective of developing human resources equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies in the approach of agroecology. The focus of the programme is on applying agroecological concepts to promote sustainable planning and management of agroecosystems, agriculture, and food systems. The programme offers an opportunity to understand the structure and functions of complex agroecosystems, followed by the application of a system approach in studying, designing, and evaluating agricultural systems by developing creative solutions for sustainable agriculture and marketing. The programme adopts a multidisciplinary, and experiential learning approach, combining natural and social sciences with a special emphasis on Sri Lankan agriculture within the Asian and global context.

Graduates with an M.Sc. degree in agroecology will be equipped to work as sustainable agro-ecologist in various capacities, including entrepreneurs, researchers, and academia in government, private sector, and non-governmental organizations.



## Explore Sustainable Agriculture for a Resilient Future

*Are you passionate about sustainable agricultural systems and environmental stewardship*

*Do you want to play a key role in shaping the future of our food systems*



*Pursue your passion by enrolling for the*

### *Master of Science (MSc) program in Agroecology*

*where we offer a transformative learning experience that equips you with the knowledge and skills to address global challenges through sustainable agriculture practices*



**“The future of agriculture is not just about increasing yields, but about sustainable practices that protects the planet.”**

## Why Choose MSc. in Agroecology?

1

### **Interdisciplinary Approach:**

Our program blends elements from agronomy, ecology, and social sciences to provide a comprehensive understanding of sustainable agricultural systems.

2

### **Experienced Faculty:**

Learn from leading experts in the field of agroecology, who are committed for the advancement of sustainable agriculture and food security.

3

### **Hands-on Learning:**

Engage in practical fieldwork, research projects, and laboratory activities to reinforce theoretical knowledge.

4

### **Networking Opportunities:**

Connect with professionals and organizations in the agricultural and environmental sectors through industry partnerships and guest lectures.

5

### **Global Perspective:**

Gain insights into diverse agricultural systems and sustainability challenges from around the country.



## Programme Structure

The MSc in Agroecology is a two-year full-time program, consisting of a mix of core and elective courses and research project. Students will have the flexibility to tailor their studies to align with their interests and career goals.

### Core Courses:

- Agroecology
- Climate Smart Agroecosystems
- Soil Health & Management
- Eco-hydrology (Water in Landscape)
- Agroecology Practices for Farming Systems
- Landscape Ecology
- Landscape & Spatial Planning
- Environmental Laws, Policies & Regulations
- Precision Agriculture
- Design & Analysis of Agroecological Experiments
- Environmental Security & Valuation
- Communication for Landscape Ecology
- Managerial Economics
- Scientific Methods in Agroecological Research
- Environmental Aspects of Waste Management
- Ecological Entrepreneurship
- Human Ecology

### Career Opportunities:

Graduates of our MSc in Agroecology program are equipped to pursue a variety of exciting career paths, including:

- Agroecology Consultant
- Sustainable Agriculture Specialist
- Agricultural Researcher
- Food Systems Analyst
- Environmental Policy Analyst
- Conservation Agriculture Manager

This MSc program is a European Union funded Project

Project No: 610228-EPP-1-2019-1-VN-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP



## Key Features in the MSc. Programme

### Semester 3/4:

#### Group Study on Integration (1 Credit):

This course is to foster essential skills in teamwork, shared responsibilities, leadership, scientific reasoning, and critical and creative thinking within the realm of agroecology. Through engaging in problem-solving sessions, integrating subject knowledge via a systemic approach, and promoting cross-disciplinary learning and collaboration, students will be equipped to independently plan and design sustainable agricultural and food systems in real-world scenarios.

#### In-Plant Training in Agroecology (2 Credits):

This is to give students the chance to apply the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills they have acquired during their degree program in real-world settings. This hands-on training aims to enhance the employability of postgraduates by bridging the gap between their specialized learning and the industry's expectations. By integrating discipline-specific expertise with socio-emotional skills, this course equips students to thrive in professional environments and prepares them for successful careers.

#### Research Project and Master Thesis (15 Credits):

Through this process, students gain the ability to create new knowledge and develop skills to address current challenges in agroecology. They learn to design and implement innovative technologies and concepts, combining their knowledge, skills, and experiences as independent researchers. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the advancement of sustainable agriculture and food systems, ensuring their long-term viability and positive impact on the environment and society.

## Admission Requirements

An applicant with the following qualifications may be admitted to follow the Master of Science in Agroecology degree program.

1. A master degree (SLQF Level 9) in Crop Science, Agricultural Biology, Agriculture, Biosystems, Science, Environmental Science/Management, Agroecology or any other relevant discipline/field obtained from a University or Higher Education Institute (HEI) recognized by the University Grant Commission of Sri Lanka (UGC).

or

2. A postgraduate diploma (SLQF Level 8) in Crop Science, Agricultural Biology, Agriculture, Biosystems, Science, Environmental Science/Management or any other relevant discipline/field obtained from a University or other HEI recognized by the UGC;

or

3. A postgraduate certificate (SLQF Level 7) in Crop Science, Agricultural Biology, Agriculture, Biosystems, Science, Environmental Science/Management or any other relevant discipline/field obtained from a University or other HEI recognized by the UGC;

or

4. A bachelor's Honours degree (SLQF Levels 5 and 6 or equivalent to European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System - ECTS) in Agriculture, Science, Plant Sciences, Bio systems Technology, Environmental Science/Management, Agroecology or any other relevant discipline/field obtained from a University or other HEI recognized by the UGC;

or

5. Any other equivalent qualifications to above eligibility requirements, acceptable to the Senate, University of Peradeniya upon qualifying examination/ interview and recommendation of the Programme Committee and Board of Management, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

## Contact Us



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*University of Peradeniya is a globally recognized number 1 University in Sri Lanka. The Faculty of Agriculture and Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture as a part of University of Peradeniya, with a reputation for excellence within the field of agriculture and allied field.*

