



## Dimanthi Jayatilake

B.Sc. Agriculture Hons. (Peradeniya), M. Sc. Agronomy (USA), Ph.D. Sciences (Australia)

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### Teaching and Research Philosophy

#### Teaching Philosophy

Students come in to my class with various knowledge and skill levels. My teaching philosophy is to set a learning environment in which they learn through active participation where learning becomes a positive experience rather than a frame that limits their critical thinking, and ones learning capacity is not limited/overwhelmed by their peers performance.

#### Research Philosophy

Science becomes fascinating, when one has the urge to explore the numerous possibilities behind an observation and think beyond your know how to gather evidence to come up with a reasoning. My research philosophy is never to limit myself to what I already know, as there is more to science than what our eyes meet.

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### Work Experience

#### Senior Lecturer| 2016 - Present

Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

#### Visiting Lecturer| 2016 - Present

Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

#### Senior Lecturer (Temporary)| 2014 - 2016

Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

#### Research Assistant| 2008 - 2010

Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, USA

#### Lecturer (Temporary)| 2007 - 2008

Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

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### Contact Details

#### Address:

363A, Udagama, Ampitiya

#### Email:

djayatilake@agri.pdn.ac.lk

#### Phone:

+94776767393

#### Web profiles:

##### University webpage:

[http://agri.pdn.ac.lk/abo/staff\\_profile?dr-dv-jayatilake&xqrt=27](http://agri.pdn.ac.lk/abo/staff_profile?dr-dv-jayatilake&xqrt=27)

##### ResearchGate:

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dimanthi-Jayatilake>

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### Research Interests

- Crop Improvement
  - Molecular Plant Breeding
  - Gene Mapping
  - Germplasm Characterization
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### Academic Qualifications

#### Doctor of Philosophy in Sciences

University of Adelaide | Australia

- A three year research based degree
- Research work on: fine mapping of two resistance genes *Rlnn1* and *Cre8* against the plant parasitic nematodes *Pratylenus neglectus* and *Heterodera avenae*

#### Master of Science in Agronomy

Kansas State University | USA

- A two year research based degree
- Research work on linkage mapping of a novel resistance gene against *Fusarium* Head Blight
- GPA: 4.0/4.0

#### Bachelor of Science in Agriculture

University of Peradeniya | Sri Lanka

- A four year honors degree
- Specialized in Agricultural Biology
- GPA: 3.77/ 4.0

## PUBLICATIONS

Rebeira, SP, Prasantha, BDR, **Jayatilake, DV**, Dunuwila, GR, Piyasiri, CH, and Herath, HMKWP, (2022) **A comparative study of dietary fiber content, In vitro starch digestibility and cooking quality characteristics of pigmented and non-pigmented traditional and improved rice (*Oryza sativa* L.)**, Food Research International, Volume 157, 2022, 111389.

Adikari, AMMU, Priyashantha, H, Disanayaka, JNK, **Jayatilake, DV**, Kodithuwakku, SP, Jayatilake, JAMS. and Vidanarachchi, JK, (2021) **Isolation, identification and characterization of Lactobacillus species diversity from Meekiri: traditional fermented buffalo milk gels in Sri Lanka.** *Heliyon*, p.e 08136.

Nanayakkara, D, **Jayatilake, D**, & Kodithuwakku, S (2020) **Development of a single nucleotide polymorphism-based DNA marker for fall armyworm (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) biotyping: a case study from the fall armyworm outbreak in Sri Lanka.** *The Canadian Entomologist*, 1-10.

Nanayakkara, D, Edirisingha, I, Dissanayake, L, Weerasinghe, D, Suriyagoda, L, Herath, V, Perera, C. and **Jayatilake, D** (2020). **A novel intragenic marker targeting the ectodomain of bacterial blight-resistance gene *Xa21* for marker-assisted selection in rice.** *Journal of Crop Improvement*, 1-18.

De Zoysa, M, Nanayakkara, D, Herath, V, & **Jayatilake, D** (2020). **Allelic diversity of flowering-time regulatory gene *Hd3a* in rice.** *Journal of Crop Improvement*, 34(2), 206-217.

Edirisingha, IK, Ekanayaka, EMTP, **Jayatilake, DV** and Herath, HMVG (2019). **Comparative analysis of leaf vein density in Sri Lankan traditional rice varieties.** *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 30(1) 56–68.

Nanayakkara, NHLD LD, Herath, V. and **Jayatilake, DV** (2018). **Haplotype analysis of bacterial leaf blight resistance gene *Xa21* in rice.** *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 30(1) 56–68.

Senavirathne, WMA, **Jayatilake, DV**, Herath, V, and Wickramasinghe, HAM (2017). **Evaluation of genetic diversity of cis-acting elements of Abscisic acid responsive element binding protein (ABRE-BP) in selected Sri Lankan rice varieties.** *Tropical Agricultural Research*, 28(2) 120–132.

Nagalla, AD, **Jayatilake, DV**, Herath, V, and Wickramasinghe, M (2017). **The molecular evolution of *Ghd7* orthologs is not in line with the speciation events in genus *Oryza*.** *Journal of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka*, 45(3), 229–237.

Nagalla AD, **Jayatilake DV**, Herath V and Suriyagoda L (2016). **Evaluating the growth performance of two *Azotobacter* spp. in liquid glucose broth and tryptic peptone broth as an inoculation media for the production of bio-fertilizers.** *Journal of Tropical Agricultural Research*, **28** (1):100-106

Nagalla AD, **Jayatilake DV**, Herath V, Suriyagoda L and Wikramasinghe, HAM (2016). **Clustering of selected Sri Lankan rice cultivars based on plant architecture and evaluation of their association to relative water content under drought.** *Journal of Tropical Agricultural Research*, **28** (1):100-106

Jayaweera JKPTP, Herath HMVG, **Jayatilake DV**, Udumulla GS and Wickramasinghe HAM (2016). **Physiological, biochemical and proteomic responses of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) varieties *Godaheenati* and *Pokkali* for drought stress at the seedling stage.** *Tropical Agricultural Research* 2016, **27** (2): 159– 170

**Jayatilake DV**, Tucker EJ, Brüggemann J, Lewis J, Garcia M, Dreisigacker S, Hayden M, Chalmers K and Mather DE (2015). **Genetic mapping of the *Cre8* locus for resistance against cereal cyst nematode (*Heterodera avenae* Woll.) resistance in wheat.** *Molecular Breeding*, **35**(2):1-12

**Jayatilake DV**, Tucker EJ, Bariana H, Kuchel H, Edwards J, McKay AC, Chalmers K, Mather DE (2013). **Genetic mapping and marker development for resistance of wheat against the root lesion nematode *Pratylenchus neglectus*.** *BMC Plant Biology*, **13**:230

**Jayatilake DV**, Bai GH, Dong YH (2011). **A novel quantitative trait locus for *Fusarium* head blight resistance in chromosome 7A of wheat.** *Theoretical and Applied Genetics*, **122**(6):1189-1198

## BOOK CHAPTERS, ABSTRACTS AND POPULAR ARTICLES

### Book Chapters

**Jayatilake, D.**, Kariyawasam, T. (2022). DNA Markers: An Essential Tool for Cis-genic Improvement of Rice. In: Chaurasia, A., Kole, C. (eds) *Cisgenic Crops: Potential and Prospects. Concepts and Strategies in Plant Sciences*. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06628-3\\_10](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-06628-3_10)

**Jayatilake, D** and Herath, V (2020). **Breaking the Mould: Pave the Way for Future Cereals** In: *Agricultural Research for Sustainable Food Systems in Sri Lanka - Volume 1: A Historical Perspective*. Eds: Marambe, B., Weerahewa, J, and Dandeniya, WS. Springer Singapore, 10.1007/978-981-15-2152-2

## Abstracts

Bandara, WMDM, Piyasena, KGNP, Jayatilake, DV, Liyanage, N.M.N. and Ranatunga, MAB (2022). **Feasibility assessment of using *CafLess-TCSI* marker to identify low caffeine tea hybrids**. Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Faculty of Agriculture Undergraduate Research Symposium, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, 28 December 2022. p. 124.

Sandeepani, IR, Udawela, UAKS, Ariyaratne, M, De Silva, SHNP, Jayatilake, DV, Marambe, B (2022). **Root morphological variation and molecular screening of DEEPER ROOTING I in selected rice varieties in response to drought**. Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Faculty of Agriculture Undergraduate Research Symposium, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, 28 December 2022. p. 106.

Edirisingha, I.K., Perera, S.A.C.N., Jayatilake, D.V., (2021) **Mining resistance alleles of gene *xa38* for bacterial blight resistance in Sri Lankan rice accessions**. Peradeniya University International Research Sessions (iPURSE) 2021 (oral presentation by first author). University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Thamali, K.I.S., Nanayakkara, N.H.L.D.L.D., Suriyagoda, L.D.B., Weerasinghe, W.D.P., Jayatilake, D.V. (2021) **Phenotypic evaluation of a core rice panel for sheath blight resistance**. Peradeniya University International Research Sessions (iPURSE) 2021 (oral presentation by first author). University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Tennakoon, AB, Jayatilake, DV and Herath, HMVG (2021). **Harnessing natural variation to decode the *Cis*-regulatory architecture of *TGA10* in rice**. Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Faculty of Agriculture Undergraduate Research Symposium, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, 13 August 2021. p. 105.

Gunawardhana, GHRA, Wasala, SK, Ubeysekara, NM and Jayatilake, DV (2021). **Molecular identification of okra wild relatives using DNA barcoding**. Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Faculty of Agriculture Undergraduate Research Symposium, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, 13 August 2021. p. 97.

Abeyrathne, R.M.S.D.L., Herath, H.M.N.N., Fernando, E.Y., Nanayakkara, N.H.L.D.L.D., Jayatilake, D.V. (2021) **Evaluating genetic variations on brown plant hopper (*Nilaparvata lugens* (stål)) resistance gene *os06g0125132* of rice for molecular marker development**. Peradeniya University International Research Sessions (iPURSE) 2021 (Poster presentation by first author). University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Sumanarathne, W.G.A.S., Jayatilake, D.V. (2021) **Genetic relationships of selected traditional and newly improved Sri Lankan rice germplasm**. Peradeniya University International Research Sessions (iPURSE) 2021 (Poster presentation by first author). University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Nanayakkara NHLDDL, **Jayatilake DV** (2020). **Marker ABUOP0003: A modified molecular marker for gel-based genotyping of submergence tolerance gene *Sub1A* in rice.** In: Proceeding of the 9th YSF Symposium (online), National Science and Technology Commission, Sri Lanka, 13th November 2020 (oral presentation by the first author).

De Zoysa, AMM, Thamali KIS., Nanayakkara NHLDDL, **Jayatilake DV** (2020). **Assessment of allelic diversity in *Saltol* region of Sri Lankan rice varieties.** International Poster Presentation Competition (online). National Young Academy of Bangladesh, 4th September 2020 (Poster and oral presentation by the first author).

Thamali, KIS., Perera, SACN, Suriyagoda, L. and **Jayatilake, DV** (2019). **Suitability assessment of molecular markers mapped to *Saltol* genomic region for marker assisted selection of salinity tolerance in rice.** Proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> Faculty of Agriculture Undergraduate Research Symposium, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, 16 July 2019. p. 87.

Tennakoon AB, Wanigarathna KADTL, Nanayakkara NHLDDL, Herath HMVG and **Jayatilake DV** (2019). **Mining for polymorphic sites in rice salinity tolerance gene *HKT1;5* for molecular marker development.** Rajarata International Research Conference 2019, 6-7 November 2019, Mihinhale, Sri Lanka (oral presentation by the first author).

Nanayakkara, NHLDDL, Edirisinghe, IK, Dissanayake, DMLNK, Weerasinghe, D, Suriyagoda, LDB, Herath, HMVG, Perera, SACN and **Jayatilake, DV** (2019). **A high throughput molecular marker assay for bacterial leaf blight resistance gene *Xa21* in rice.** Peradeniya University International Research Sessions, 22:11. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (oral presentation by the second author).

Nanayakkara, NHLDDL, Denipitiyage, SD, Herath, HMVG, **Jayatilake, DV** and Kodithuwakku, SP (2019). **A novel molecular marker for gel-based biotyping of fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*).** Peradeniya University International Research Sessions, 22:58. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (poster presentation by the first author).

Edirisinghe, IK, Nanayakkara, NHLDDL, Herath, HMVG, Perera, SACN and **Jayatilake, DV.** (2019). **Characterization of Bacterial leaf blight resistance gene *Xa4* and *Xa21* in rice (*Oryza sativa* L.).** The 4<sup>th</sup> International conference on Bio Science and Biotechnology, 21 -22 February 2019 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. p1-5 (oral presentation by the first author).

Dissanayake, DMLNK, Udage, SS, Nanayakkara, NHLDDL, Herath HMVG and **Jayatilake, DV** (2019). **Haplotype analysis and molecular marker development for bacterial leaf blight resistance gene *xa13*.** The 4<sup>th</sup> International conference on Bio Science and Biotechnology, 21 - 22 February 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (oral presentation by the first author).

Nanayakkara NHLDDL, Edirisingha IK, Udage SS, Herath HMVG and **Jayatilake DV**. (2018) **Haplotype diversity of bacterial leaf blight resistance Gene *Xa21***. The 5<sup>th</sup> International Rice Congress 2018, International Rice Research Institute, Philippines (poster presentation by the first author).

Weerasinghe, D, Amarathunga, A, Withanawasam, D, **Jayatilake, D**, Udawela, K, Gunasinghe, M, De Silva, P (2018). **Improving rice line LD 99-12-38 for bacterial leaf blight resistance through marker assisted selection (MAS)**. FAO/IAEA International Symposium on Plant Mutation Breeding and Biotechnology, Vienna, Austria (poster presentation by the first author)

Nanayakkara, D, Edirisingha, I, Udage, S, Herath, V and **Jayatilake, D** (2017). **Haplotype Analysis of Bacterial Leaf Blight Resistance Gene *Xa21***. WinC 2018 conference, Wyamba University of Sri Lanka (oral presentation by the first author).

Nanayakkara, D, Edirisinghe, I, Weerasinghe, D, Krishanthi, M, Wickramasinghe, M, Perera, C, Herath, V, and **Jayathilake, D** (2017). **A Novel Molecular Marker for Bacterial Leaf Blight Resistance Gene *Xa21* in Rice**. VI NGGIBCI Conference on Crop Genomics: Present & Future (poster presentation by the first author).

Edirisinghe, I., Ekanayaka, P., Jayathilake, D., and Herath, V. (2017). **Comparative analysis of leaf vein density in Sri Lankan traditional rice varieties**. VI NGGIBCI Conference on Crop Genomics: Present & Future (poster presentation by the first author).

Ekanayaka, EMTP, **Jayatilake, DV**, and Herath, V. (2016). **Diversity Analysis of Leaf Vein Density of Selected Sri Lankan Rice Varieties: An Indicator of C3 to C4 Photosynthesis Pathway Transition**. Peradeniya University International Research Sessions, 20:384. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (oral presentation by the first author).

Senavirathne, W M A, **Jayatilake, DV**, Herath, V and Wickramasinghe HAM (2016). **An in-Silico Analysis of the Genetic Diversity of ABRE-BP among Sri Lankan Rice Varieties: Could a Polymorphism in ABRE-BP Be Diagnostic of Salinity Tolerance?** Peradeniya University International Research Sessions, 20:393. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (poster presentation by the first author).

Nagalla AD, **Jayatilake DV**, Herath V and Wickramasinghe M. (2016). **Is *Ghd7* a key regulator of drought responses in rice? A pilot study using selected Sri Lankan traditional rice varieties**. International Conference on Biotechnology, Food Science, and Pharmaceutical Research (ICBFP), 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2016. University Kuala Lumpur Business School, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (oral presentation by the first author).

Bandara DC and **Jayatilake DV**: **An evaluation of the effectiveness of outcome-based education and student centred learning in undergraduate education** (2015). Proceedings of Peradeniya University International Research Session 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka 2015, Vol 19, p70 (oral presentation by the first author).

Diane Mather, Netsanet Kumsa, Cristina Perpiñá Viciano, **Dimanthi Jayatilake**, Kelvin Khoo, Ken Chalmers and John Lewis. **Cre8-ivity: Integrating classical and contemporary approaches to isolate a resistance gene from wheat** (2015). The Program and abstracts of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Wheat Conference September 20 – 25, Sydney, Australia 2015. p136 (oral presentation by the first author).

**Jayatilake D**, Bariana H, Chalmers K and Mather D (2013). **A cluster on 7AL: Collocation of *Rlnn1*, *Lr20*, *Sr15* and *Psy-A1* with 32 molecular markers**. Programs and Abstract book The 12<sup>th</sup> International Wheat Genetics Symposium September 8-14, Yokohama, Japan 2013. p160. (Poster presentation).

**Jayatilake D**, Bariana H, Chalmers K and Mather D (2013) **Nematode resistance and yellow flour: can *Rlnn1* be separated from *Psy-a1*?** Program and Abstracts of the Wheat Breeders Assembly 2013. 16 -19 July, Brisbane. p62. (Oral presentation by the last author).

**Jayatilake D**, Tucker E, Chalmers K, Kuchel H, Edwards J and Mather D (2011) ***Rlnn1*-derived resistance against the root lesion nematode *Pratylenchus neglectus*: marker development and fine mapping**. Program and Abstracts of the Wheat Breeders Assembly 2011. 24-26 August 2011 Perth (oral presentation).

Tucker E, **Jayatilake D**, Lewis J, Mather D and Chalmers K (2011) **Fine-mapping and marker development for the cereal cyst nematode resistance locus *Cre8***. Program and Abstracts of the Wheat Breeders Assembly 2011. 24-26 August 2011 Perth (poster presentation).

**Jayatilake DV** and Bai G-H (2010). **Identification of a novel QTL for *Fusarium* head blight resistance on wheat chromosome 7A**. Speaker and poster abstracts. 2010 U.S. Wheat Genomics Workshop. 9–10 March, 2010 University of Nebraska–Lincoln. p5. (Invited oral presentation).

**Jayatilake DV** and Bai G-H. (2009). **Mapping QTL for *Fusarium* Head Blight resistance in wheat chromosome 7A**. Proceedings of the National Fusarium Head Blight Forum, December 7-9, 2009, Orlando, Florida. p123 – 126 (poster presentation).

## Popular Articles

Wickramasinghe M, Herath V and **Jayatilake DV** (2015). **DNA fingerprinting: A tool for the post-modern world Sherlock Holmes**. A feature article published in Sunday Times on the 15th October, 2015.

**Jayatilake DV** (2020) **Faculty of Agriculture in the Forefront of 2019 Fall Armyworm Crisis Mitigation and Research**. Pera e- Agri Newsletter, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, 1 (02): p 7

**Jayatilake DV** (2020) **ABUOP0001: A novel molecular marker to track resistance to bacterial blight in rice**. Pera e- Agri Newsletter, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, 1 (02): p 8

**Jayatilake DV** (2023) **Nutmeg: A spice worth to be in limelight**. Institute of Biology eNewsletter – at editorial

## RESEARCH GRANTS

- **Principle Investigator – University** of Peradeniya Multidisciplinary Grant for Morphological, biochemical and molecular characterization of nutmeg (*Myristica fragrans* Houtt.) germplasm in Sri Lanka - 2022
- **Co-investigator** – University Research Grant URG/2022/07/Ag for "Characterizing allelic variations of *Sub1C* gene in Sri Lankan Rice Germplasm – 2022
- **Co-investigator** – Department of Agriculture research grant for “Molecular Identification of Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)” - 2019
- **Principle Investigator** – Early Career Women Scientists (ECWS) Fellowship of The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World for “A Marker-assisted Breeding Tool Kit for Rice Breeders with Low Accessibility to Modern Technology” – awarded by UNESCO/ OWSD in 2018
- **Principle Investigator** – University Research Grant URG/2016/91/Ag for “Screening of Bacterial Leaf Blight Resistance Alleles of *Xa4*, *xa5*, *xa4*, *xa7* and *Xa21* in selected Sri Lankan Varieties using High Throughput Molecular Marker Assays” – awarded by the University of Peradeniya in 2017
- **Co-investigator** - University Research Grant URG/2017/05/Ag for “Analysis of the phenotypic and genotypic expression of Bacterial Leaf Blight (BLB) resistance genes in Rice” – awarded by the University of Peradeniya in 2017



- **Co-investigator** – Research Facilitation Fund grant for “Diversity of grain composition and antioxidant properties of selected traditional and improved rice varieties in Sri Lanka” - awarded by the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya in 2018

## WORKSHOPS AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

- 2022:** Workshop (Online) on “Designing DNA markers to explore the Genome” organized by the Young Scientists Forum, July 29<sup>th</sup> 2022 – Resource person
- 2019:** Symposium on “Smart Agriculture: Logic and Concepts” organized by the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, March 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2018:** Resource person at the Certificate Course on Basic Molecular Biology Techniques for Beginners, organized by the Biology Guild, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. May – 2018
- 2018:** Workshop on Development of Indicators for Agro-biodiversity Monitoring – May 2018
- 2018:** Workshop on Capacity Building on Gender organized by the University Grants Commission – March 2018
- 2017:** Reviewer ICDA – 2017 organized by the University of Jaffna
- 2017:** Co-controlling examiner – A/L Bio-systems Technology practical examination 2017
- 2015 to-date:** Senior Editor of the Biology Guild Newsletter, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
- 2015:** Reviewer for the Ceylon Journal of Science, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya
- 2015:** Resource Person at the PCR Based DNA Fingerprinting Data Analysis September 4<sup>th</sup> and November 27<sup>th</sup> 2015, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya
- 2013:** Participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> International Wheat Genetics Symposium September 8-14, Yokohama, Japan 2013
- 2011:** Participated in the Wheat Breeders Assembly, Perth, Australia
- 2010:** Participated in the Joint Congress of the Hard Winter Wheat Workers Workshop and the National Wheat Genomics Workshop

## TALKS/ PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

**2019:** Radio Broadcast SBS on OWSD Early Career

<https://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/sinhalese/en/audiotrack/sri-lankan-researcher-dr-dimanthi-jayathilake-has-been-awarded-prestigious-award-women>

**2012:** 5<sup>th</sup> Postgraduate symposium, School of Agriculture Food and Wine, The University of Adelaide, Australia

**2011:** Wheat Breeders Assembly, Perth, Australia

**2010:** K-State Research Forum, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, USA

**2010:** Invited oral presentation at the National wheat genomic workshop, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

**2021:** National Award for Excellence in Agricultural Research: Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP), Sri Lanka

**2020:** Annual Research Excellence Award: Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

**2018:** SUSRED (Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degrees) award – National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka

**2018:** OWSD Early Career Fellowship – awarded by the UNESCO - Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)

**2012:** Best presentation in plant pathology – Postgraduate Symposium 2012, School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, University of Adelaide (Australasian Plant Pathology Society, South Australia)

**2011:** Adelaide Scholarship International (University of Adelaide, Australia)

**2010:** Kansas State University outstanding international graduate student award (Rotary club of Manhattan, Kansas)

**2010:** Gamma Sigma Delta Agriculture honor society outstanding graduate student MS research award (Gamma Sigma Delta Agriculture honor society, Kansas State University Chapter, USA)

**2010:** Nominated for Graduate award for outstanding academics (Kansas State University Alumni Association, USA)

**2010:** Nominated for Golden Key Honor society outstanding graduate research assistant award (Golden Key Honor society, Kansas State University Chapter, USA)

**2009:** Ray I. Throckmorton Scholarship for academic excellence and dedication to the profession (Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, USA)

**2009:** Louis P. and Elva G. Reitz Scholarship for academic excellence and dedication to the profession in plant breeding (Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, USA)

**2007:** Dr. J. W. L. Peiris gold medal in Agricultural Biology (Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)

## MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS

- Golden Key International Honor Society
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
- Institute of Biology

## OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

**2006:** In-plant training - Plant Genetic Resource Centre (PGRC), Gannoruwa, Sri Lanka

**2002:** Diploma in Computer Studies - IDM Computer Studies (Pvt.) Ltd. Sri Lanka

## COMMITTEES AND POSITIONS SERVED

- University representative to the National Instrument Database of National Science Foundation – July 2022 - to-date
- Member – Faculty Quality Assurance Cell – 2019 to - 2020, 2023
- Coordinator - Faculty Quality Assurance Cell – 2023
- Reviewer - Frontiers in Plant Sciences - 2022
- Selection Committee Member – TWAS/OWSD PhD fellowship selection committee - May 2022
- Selection Committee Member – OWSD – Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early Career Women Scientists in the Developing World – November 2022
- Secretary – Rag Prevention Committee, Faculty of Agriculture - 2022

- Secretary – AHEAD Skill Lab management committee – February 2022 - to-date
- Member AHEAD Skill Lab management committee – February 2022 - to-date
- Volunteer Student Counselor – February 2022
- Editorial Board member of ‘Essence’ research brief magazine, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya - 2021
- Advisor – Biology Guild, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya - January 2020 to-date
- Co-coordinator Activity 1 of AHEAD Project, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
- Deputy Proctor – Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya – January 2019 to October 2020
- Chairperson – Rag Prevention Committee, Faculty of Agriculture – 2019/2020
- Chairperson - Board of Study in Agricultural Biology, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka – October 2018 – December 2018
- Committee member of the “Agriculture Beyond the Horizon” exhibition organized in commemoration of the 70 years of Agriculture Higher Education in Sri Lanka, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya – May 2018
- Registration Committee Chairperson – PGIA annual congress, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya 2018
- Secretary – Student Welfare and Grievance Committee, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya 2018
- Member Faculty Student Welfare and Grievance Committee, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya – January 2017 to 2022
- Senior Treasurer – Biology Guild, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya - 2017-2020
- Board Member, Board of Study in Plant Protection, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka - 2019 - to-date
- Board Member, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka - 2017 - to-date
- Secretary of the Curriculum Development Committee, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya 2023
- Member of the Curriculum Development Committee, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya - January 2018 – to date
- Secretary - Board of Study in Agricultural Biology, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka – May 2017 - September 2018
- Faculty Undergraduate Research Sessions organizing committee - 2017 to 2019
- Coordinator of the “Research briefs competition”, Faculty Undergraduate Research Sessions, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya – 2017
- Board Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka – May 2017 – December 2018

- Secretary Faculty eLearning and Computer Management Committee, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya – January 2017 to January 2018 and January 2022 to date
- Member Faculty eLearning and Computer Management Committee, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya – January 2017 to date
- Senior Editor – Biology Guild, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya 2015 – to January 2020
- Chief editor – Hanthana Blossom magazine 2018

## SUPERVISION OF RESEARCH STUDENTS

### Completed

1. Mr. Asanga Nagalla (PGIA/2015/374)- M.Phil., Board of Study in Agricultural Biology (2017)
2. Ms. Anuradha Senevirathne (PGIA/ 2015/85) - M.Sc. (Coursework), Directed Study, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology (2017)
3. Mrs. Deepika Weerasinghe (PGIA/ 2014/4) - M.Phil., Board of Study in Agricultural Biology (2018)
4. Mrs. Pradeepa Hettiarachchi (PGIA/2012/45) – M.Phil., Board of Study in Food Science and Technology (2018)
5. Ms. Dhanesha Nanayakkara (PGIA/2017/095) – M.Sc. (Coursework), Directed Study, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology (2018)
6. Ms. Mayuri Krishanthi (PGIA/ 2015/304) – M.Sc. (Coursework), Directed Study, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology (2016)
7. Ms. Lakshika Dissanayaka (PGIA/2017/310) - M.Sc. (Coursework), Directed Study, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology (2019)
8. Ms. Malsha De Zoysa (AG/13/39) – Final Year Undergraduate, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
9. Ms. Chalani Jayasooriya (AG/13/282) – Final Year Undergraduate, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
10. Ms. Navodha Wijesooriya (AG/13/210) - Final Year Undergraduate, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
11. Ms, Thamali Kariyawasam (AG/14/062) - Final Year Undergraduate, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
12. Ms. Ravindi Gunawardhana (AG/15/142) - Final Year Undergraduate, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
13. Mr. Anushka Tennakoon (AG/14/247) - Final Year Undergraduate, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

14. Ms. Dinushi Bandara (AG/16/021) - Final Year Undergraduate, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
15. Ms. R.I. Sandeepani (AG/16/153) - Final Year Undergraduate, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

### **Ongoing**

1. Ms. Iresha Edirisinghe (PGIA/2017/047) – M.Sc. Coursework and Research candidate, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology
2. Mrs. Srikanthi Reberia (PGIA-2012-386) – Ph.D. candidate, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology
3. Ms. Malsha De Zoysa (PGIA-19030-PDN) – M.Sc. Coursework and Research candidate, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology
4. Ms, Thamali Kariyawasam - (PDN/20286) – M.Sc. Coursework and Research, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology
5. Ms. Thiranya Wanigarathne – (PDN/22288) M.Sc. (Course work) candidate, Directed Study, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology
6. Ms. Lamali Abeyrathne – (PDN/22177) M.Sc. (Course work) candidate, Directed Study, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology

## **REFEREES**

Prof. Diane Mather  
Professor (Emeritus)  
School of Agriculture, Food and Wine  
The University of Adelaide  
Plant Genomics Centre  
Hartley Grove  
Urrbrae SA5041  
Australia  
Contact No.: +6188313 7156  
Email: [diane.mather@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:diane.mather@adelaide.edu.au)

Dr. Guihua Bai  
Professor  
3006 Throckmorton PSC  
1712 Claflin Road  
Manhattan, KS 66506  
USA  
Contact No.: +1-785-532-1124  
Email: [gbai@ksu.edu](mailto:gbai@ksu.edu)