

# Rasanjali Samarakoon

Department of Food Science and Technology  
Faculty of Agriculture  
University of Peradeniya  
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## Key Strengths

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- Experience in performing teaching and teaching-related duties
- More than four years of experience in the characterization and physical and chemical modification of waxy starches
- Experience in the following research techniques: DSC, FTIR, WAXS, ESI-MS/MS, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, and scanning electron microscopy
- Experience in document management and maintaining research lab operations and equipment
- Strong skills in team working, effective communication and time management

## Education

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- 2015-2019**                      **PhD (Food Science)**, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.  
**Thesis Title:** The impact of Annealing, Acetylation and Dual modification on the structure and physicochemical properties of waxy starches
- 2009-2013**                      **B.Sc. in Agricultural Technology and Management**, Food Science and Technology Special (First Class, FGPA: 3.91), University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

## Experience

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- July 2019- Present**                      **Lecturer**, Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- Courses: Biochemistry, Chemistry for Food Science, Agriculture Product Quality and Processing, Grain and Starch Products Technology, Food Analysis, Food Proteins and Hydrocolloids
  - Conduct lectures and student evaluation/examination

**November 2020- Present**                      **Visiting Lecturer,** Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

- Courses: Biochemistry, Food Analysis
- Conduct lectures and student evaluation/examination

**Jan 2015- May 2019**                      **PhD student,** Department of Biochemistry, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.

- Investigated the impact of annealing, acetylation and dual modification (annealing-acetylation) on structure and properties of waxy starches
- Investigated the structure of native and enzyme hydrolyzed starches using mass spectrometry (ESI-MS/MS)

**Jan 2019- April 2019**                      **Guest Lecturer,** Department of Biochemistry, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada

- Course: Food Chemistry
- Conducting lectures, student evaluation/examination

**Sep 2015- Dec 2018**                      **Teaching Assistant/Lab Demonstrator,** Department of Biochemistry, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.

- Courses: Introduction to Biochemistry, Metabolism, Biochemistry for Nurses, Food Chemistry, Food, Food Safety and Health, Biochemistry Laboratory
- Performed lab demonstrations and laboratory guidance to students, assisted with exam invigilation, marking mid-terms and finals, and conducted tutorials

**Jan 2014- Dec 2014**                      **Temporary Lecturer,** Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

- Conducted lectures, student evaluation/examination and performed lab demonstrations and laboratory guidance to students

**Aug 2013- Jan 2014**                      **Project Coordinator,** Ceylon Biscuits Limited, Pannipitiya, Sri Lanka.

- Coordinated project schedules, resources, equipment, and information
- Maintained the project documents

### **Professional Development**

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**Dec 2019- Feb 2020**                      Completed the Induction Programme for Academic Staff conducted by the Staff Development Centre, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

**Sep 2018- April 2019**                      Completed Teaching Skills Enhancement Program (TSEP) conducted by Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.

## Publications in Peer-reviewed Journals

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- Gamage, C. S., Pathirage, K. P. D. A., & **Samarakoon, E. R. J.** (2023). A Survey on Consumer Awareness on Proper Usage of Edible Oils in North-Western and Western Provinces in Sri Lanka. *Journal of Agricultural Sciences–Sri Lanka*, 18(1).
- Herath, H. M. N. U., Dimbulkumbura, T. C., & **Samarakoon, E. R. J.** (2022). Maintenance of quality output by copra and traditional coconut oil processors in the Kurunegala District, Sri Lanka. *Ceylon Journal of Science*, 51(4), 407-417.
- **Samarakoon, E. R. J.** (2020). Impact of physical modifications on starch nutritional fractions: Rapidly Digestible Starch, Slowly Digestible Starch and Resistant Starch. *Journal of Food Bioactives*, 12.
- **Samarakoon E. R. J.**, Waduge R., Liu, Q., Shahidi F., & Banoub J. H. (2020). Impact of annealing on the hierarchical structure and physicochemical properties of waxy starches of different botanical origins. *Food Chemistry*, 303, 125344.

## Conferences/Presentations

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- E.G.P.S. Somarathna, K.M. Lakmali, E.M.S.M. Bandara & **E.R.J. Samarakoon** (2023). Development of Instant Kola Kenda Mixture Utilizing Herbal Plant Leaves, Mung Bean Flour, and Unripe Banana Flour. *3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Agriculture 2023, Sri Lanka*. 109-113.
- Gamage, C. S., Pathirage, K. P. D. A., & **Samarakoon, E. R. J.** (2022). A Survey on Consumer Awareness on Proper Usage of Edible Oils in North-Western and Western Provinces in Sri Lanka. *The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Food, Nutrition, Health and Lifestyle 2022, Colombo, Sri Lanka*. 35.
- Wickramasekara E.D.C., Lakmali K.M., & **Samarakoon E.R.J.** (2021) Optimization of Extraction Conditions for *Moringa Oleifera* Leaf Powder and Development of an Instant Coffee Mix with *Moringa Oleifera* Extract Powder. *3<sup>rd</sup> South Asia Conference on Interdisciplinary Research 2021, Colombo, Sri Lanka*. 10.
- **Egodage R.J.S.**, Hoover R., Shahidi F., & Banoub J.H. (2018). Impact of annealing, acetylation, and dual modification on in vitro digestibility and nutritional fractions of waxy starches. *The International Society for Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods (ISNFF), Vancouver, Canada*.
- **Egodage R.J.S.**, Hoover R., Shahidi F., & Banoub J.H. (2018). Impact of chemical modification on structure and properties of waxy starches. *8<sup>th</sup> Biochemistry Summer Symposium, St. John's, Canada*.
- **Egodage R.J.S.**, Hoover R., Shahidi F., & Banoub J.H. (2018). Impact of chemical modification on the structure and properties of waxy starches of different botanical origins. *IFT18 Annual Meeting & Food Expo, Chicago, IL, USA*.
- **Egodage R.J.S.**, Hoover R., Waduge R., & Liu Q. (2016). Impact of annealing on the hierarchical structure and physicochemical properties of waxy starches of different botanical origins. *13<sup>th</sup> International Hydrocolloids Conference, Guelph, Canada*.

- **Samarakoon E.R.J.**, Samarasinghe J.M.S.C., & Rajapakse R.P.N.P. (2013). Impact of Dough Fermentation Conditions on Quality of Cream Cracker Biscuit. *Proceedings of the first annual student research sessions. Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.* 31-32.

## Medals/Prizes/Scholarships

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- 2019**      **Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies.** Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.
- 2019**      **Teaching Excellence Award.** Graduate Students' Union, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.
- 2018**      **CIFST Graduate Student Award in Food Science.** Department of Biochemistry, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.
- 2018**      **Third place, Student poster competition.** The International Society for Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods (ISNFF), Vancouver, Canada.
- 2018**      **Third place, International Division's Melcolm Bourne Student Poster Competition.** IFT18 Annual Meeting & Food Expo, Chicago, IL, USA.
- 2017**      **Recognized reviewer award for Food Chemistry.** The editors of Food Chemistry, Elsevier, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 2013**      **Golden Jubilee Gold Medal** for the most outstanding performance in the core programme of the B.Sc. Agricultural Technology and Management Curriculum. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- 2013**      **E M R B Ekanayake Memorial Prize** for the best overall performance at the Final Examination in Agriculture. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- 2013**      **University Scholarship** for academic excellence at the final examination. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- 2013**      **Upali Ekanayake Memorial Prize** for obtaining the highest marks in all courses offered in Entomology in the core program of the degree of Agricultural Technology and Management. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- 2012**      **Kundanmal Scholarship** for meritorious performance at the 2000 series examination in the degree of Agricultural Technology and Management. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- 2012**      **SriLanKoRDAA Scholarship** for academic year 2011/2012. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- 2011**      **University Scholarship** for the best performance at the 1000 examination in the degree of Agricultural Technology and Management. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- 2010**      **C de S W Siriwardena Scholarship** for the best performance at the Farm Practice Course in the degree of Agricultural Technology and Management. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- 2010/2011**      **University Colors** (Volleyball and Basketball). University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

## Research Grants Received

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**Peradeniya University Research Grant 2022** for the research titled “Physicochemical properties of flours and starches derived from selected underutilized root and tubers in Sri Lanka and investigation of their potential use in the food industry”. Worth of Rs.331,550.00- Principle investigator

**Peradeniya University Research Grant 2022** for the research titled “Molecular characterization and sensory evaluation of ecotypes of *Bergera Koenigi* L. (*Basionym Murraya Koenigii* L. *Karapincha*/Curry tree) from selected localities in Sri Lanka”. Worth of Rs. 419,450.00- Co-investigator

**Indo Sri Lanka Joint Research Programme 2019** for the research titled “Development of a prototype device for oxygen separation from air: a strategic technological solution to control food spoilage”. Worth of Rs. 4.4. million - Co-investigator

## Peer Reviewer

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Food Chemistry

Ceylon Journal of Science

Journal of Food Bioactives

## Professional Memberships

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**2021- Present** Institute of Food Science and Technology Sri Lanka.

**2018** International Society for Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods (ISNFF)

**2018** Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), Chicago, USA.

**2015-2019** Biochemistry Graduate Society, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.

## Other Qualifications

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**2020-2021** Secretary, Language Teaching Committee, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

**2020-2021** Senior Treasurer, Society of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

**2012** Captain of Volleyball (women) team. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

**2009/2010** Member of University basketball team. University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

**2006** School Prefect, Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya, Colombo 07.