



PERA e-AGRI NEWSLETTER

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE - UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

SERVICE EXCELLENCE, LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION, ADAPTABILITY AND INNOVATION

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NEWSLETTER

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Events

Launching Ceremony of Paddy Soil Fertility Maps of Sri Lanka

The Launching Ceremony of Paddy Soil Fertility Maps of Sri Lanka was held on 24th of February 2023 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Agriculture. The maps were developed through the project "Spatial distribution of mineral elements and metalloids in rice fields, and its relation with the productivity and quality of rice grains in Sri Lanka" funded under the AHEAD-DOR project in which Prof. L.D.B. Suriyagoda was the principal investigator. Ms. P. Malathy, Director General, Department of Agriculture, Prof. K.A.S.S. Kodithuwakku, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. C.K. Beneragama, Head, Department of Crop Science, academic staff members of the Faculty of Agriculture, and representatives from the Department of Agriculture and private sector organisations participated in the launching ceremony. The maps are available on the website of the Department of Agriculture.



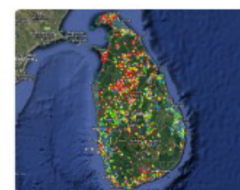
pH



Electrical Conductivity (EC)



Potassium (K - CaCl2)



Potassium (K - Ammonium Acetate)

'Kamatha' 2023 – Cultural Event

'Kamatha 2023', the cultural event for cultural understanding and interaction with the nearby farming community of the Mahailuppallama sub-campus, was held at the sub-campus premises on 19th of January 2023. The event provided an opportunity for the students of the Faculty of Agriculture, students from Katiyawa Maha Vidyalaya, and members of the nearby farming community to come together and interact. The event featured stunning performances by first-year undergraduates from the Faculty of Agriculture, students from Katiyawa Maha Vidyalaya, and members of the farming community. It also served as a platform for building community and strengthening social connections between the community and students. The event was organized by Ms. R.M.S. Wijerathna, Director of the Community Development Unit of the Faculty of Agriculture with the aim of fostering a sense of belonging and promoting social cohesion.



Achievements

Fellows of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka

Profs. S.P. Nissanka and W.A.J.M. De Costa were honored as "Fellows of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka" at the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka that was held on 16th September 2022 which the induction that took place on 21st of January 2023.



Appointments



Prof. W.A.U. Vitharana has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Soil Science with effect from the 1st of January 2023 for three years.



Prof. B.C. Jayawardena has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Animal Science with effect from the 3rd of January 2023 for three years.

Outreach

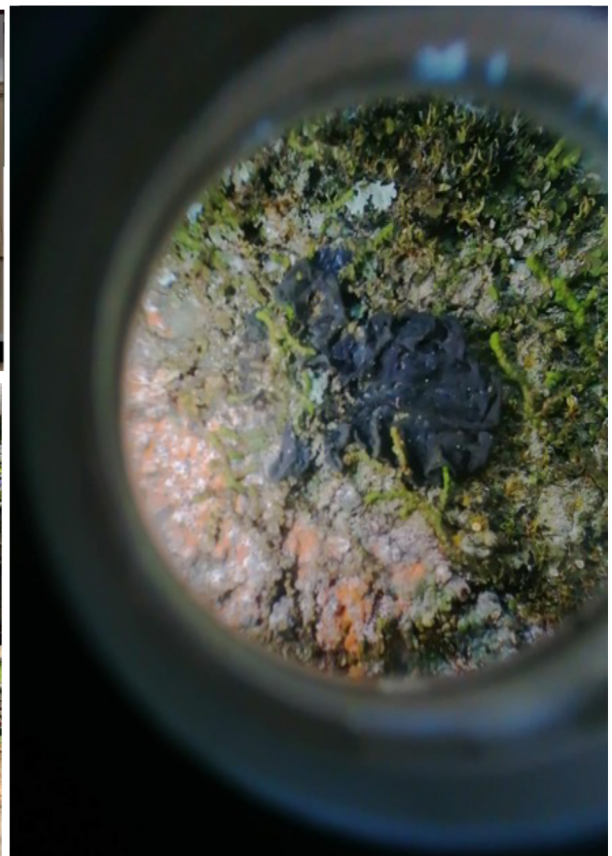
“Krushi” 2023 - Farmer Training and Exhibition

Krushi’-2023 Annual farmer training and exhibition organized by the first-year students of the Faculty of Agriculture was held successfully at the Mahailuppallama sub-campus on the 19th of January 2023 as a community engagement and as an academic event of the course EX 1101 Development Extension. Prof. K.A.S.S. Kodithuwakku, the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya was the chief guest for the event. There were 21 exhibition stalls, covering various aspects of agriculture such as, farm budgeting, sprinkler and drip irrigation systems, weed control in paddy cultivation, greenhouse and hydroponic, coconut cultivation, gene technology, organic fertilizer production, new trends in agriculture and technology use, tissue culture, and good agricultural practices, giving a broader coverage to the subjects followed by students for the Agriculture Technology and Management Degree. Prof. W.A.P. Weerakkody, Senior Professor at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, and the Chairman of the National Institute of Post-Harvest Management conducted a session on protected agriculture for the participants. Around 500 participants took part in the event, including school children, the farming community, and government officials from the Agrarian Service Centres of Katiyawa and Ipalogama, Coconut Development Board. Ms. R.M.S. Wijerathna coordinated the event with the support of the other academic staff.



Workshop - Lichens of Sri Lanka and Impact of Atmospheric Pollution on Lichen Diversity

Prof. S.P. Nissanka coordinated a training workshop on “Lichens of Sri Lanka and Impact of Atmospheric Pollution on Lichen Diversity” from 22nd to 25th February, 2023. Ten foreign participants from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, and the UK and 15 selected local participants from different Universities in Sri Lanka attended the workshop. Lichenologists, Dr. Gothamie Weerakoon (Natural History Museum of London, UK), Dr. Christopher Ellis (Botanical Garden of Edinburgh, UK), Dr. Netty Van Dijk (Center for Ecology and Hydrology, UK), Prof. Udeni Jayalal (Sabaragamuwa University), and Dr. Sarangi Athukorala (University of Peradeniya) served as the resource persons. The training program was conducted in collaboration with the Center for Hydrology and Ecology and Natural History Museum, UK and the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya through the South Asian Nitrogen Hub project.



International Collaborations

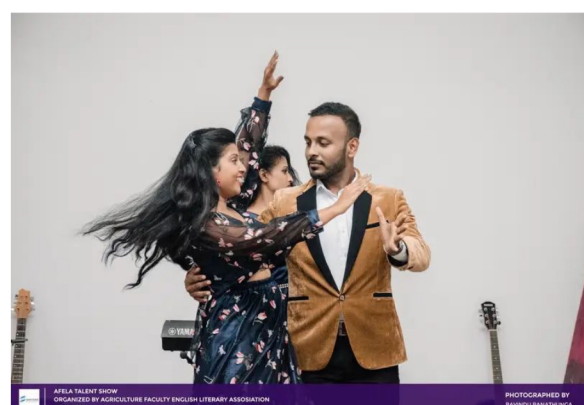
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the project “Can organic farming practices increase nitrogen (N) use efficiency and decrease N losses in mature tea plantations in Sri Lanka?” was signed between the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture and ETH-Zurich, Switzerland on the 27th of January 2023. The Swiss National Science Foundation funds the project, and the principal investigators for this project are Prof. J. Mohotti and Prof. Emmanuel Frossard. The MOU was signed in the presence of the project team members, His Excellency Dominik Furgler, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Sri Lanka, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. K.A.S.S. Kodithuwakku, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. C.K. Beneragama, Head, Department of Crop Science, and representatives from Tea Research Board, Tea Research Institute, and Ministry of Finance and Plantation Industries. During his visit to Sri Lanka, Prof. Frossard delivered lectures related to plant nutrition at the Faculty for the academic staff as well as undergraduates.



Students Activities

AFELA Talent Show 2023

"AFELA Talent Show 2023" was organized by Agriculture Faculty English Literary Association (AFELA) on the 20th of April 2023 at new Crop Science Auditorium to showcase the unique talents of young undergraduates of the Faculty. Talent show was comprised of numerous events from all four batches of the faculty.



The KIOSK – A Cafe Managed by Students for Students

The grand opening ceremony of "The Kiosk" - A cafe managed by the students was held at the new building of the Faculty on the 9th of January 2023. The project was initiated and funded by the 92/93 Alumni Group of the Faculty of Agriculture in collaboration with the Alumni Association of the Faculty.

