



Training Workshop on Agriculture Development and Dissemination

Uva Agriculture Development Forum (UADF) held a Training Workshop on 'Agriculture Development and Dissemination' on December 19, 2015 at the Uva Wellassa University as per the request made by Mr. A.B.M. Wijethunga, Provincial Director, Department of Agriculture.

The event was attended by Dr. G. Chandrasena, Vice Chancellor of Uva Wellassa University, at the inaugural session. Mr. A.B.M. Wijethunga also participated in the event and he was in the workshop together with one Deputy Director and a few Assistant Directors, during the whole day. Considering the invitation, nearly 100 Agriculture Instructors (AIs) took part in this programme. Inaugural session was started at 8.30 am and participants were welcomed by Dr. S.C. Jayamanne, Dean, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture of Uva Wellassa University. During the speech, Vice Chancellor, Dr. G. Chandrasena explained the importance of having a strong linkage between the University and the agriculture sector so as to disseminate new knowledge & technology and gathering new information from recent research outputs from the real world.

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EXCLUSIVE

Labor Migration in Estate Sector of Sri Lanka



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Estate sector among the other sectors (rural and urban) contributes significantly to the development of economy through its capacity to earn foreign exchange. The estate sector comes under the export agriculture sector and it handles the production of tea, rubber, coconut and other export crops such as spices. >>>..... P.6

Uva Wellassa University Signed an MoU with IFCO

Uva Wellassa University and International Foodstuff Company (Pvt.) Ltd. (IFCO) signed an agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in accordance with a mutual desire, to promote agriculture and agriculture related sectors of the country by working cooperatively and sharing the knowledge, skills, resources, and experience possessed by both parties. Having signed the agreement, both parties hopefully will contribute to produce graduates who are competent, innovative, self-driven and entrepreneurial in development of agriculture and agriculture related sectors, through a strong practical experience. These graduates will in turn benefit the country in future. Based on this understanding, academic staff of Uva Wellassa University will share their innovative ideas and capabilities through active participation in research and farm development process whereas IFCO will get an opportunity to develop their own property as a 'Model Farm' with new scientific know-how. IFCO possesses nearly 300 ac farm at Thaldena, Badulla and basically the land is being covered with pineapple, soursop, other fruit crops (papaya, banana, and pomegranate), and cash crops. Agreement was signed by Dr. Gamani Chandrasena, Vice Chancellor of Uva Wellassa University and Mr. Sarath De Silva, Founder Chairman of International Foodstuff

Company (Pvt.) Ltd. The MoU was witnessed by Dr. S.C. Jayamanne, Dean, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, and Dr. Saman Herath, Senior Lecturer from the Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture and by some senior officials from IFCO. Mr. Sarath De Silva has got an intention to serve Uva through his newly established farm and seeks to contribute to the development of younger generation for the betterment of future in the country.

Also IFCO is an exporting company that has been initiated with the vision to supply quality fruit, vegetable, & food products and related services to the utmost satisfaction of their customers in Maldives, the Gulf, and all other parts of the world. It has a strategy to accomplish the vision by sourcing high quality products from their frame network, adopting stringent quality control measures, continuously training their staff and upgrading the resources to meet the latest changes in technology. In 1979, IFCO commenced the export of fruit and vegetable, and since then, it has been engaging in export of quality fresh vegetables, fruits and food products from Sri Lanka. Except fruits and vegetables, the company also exports coconut, dried fish and dried food products, building material, furniture and fittings etc. IFCO is a member of the National Chamber of Exporters in Sri Lanka and is registered with the Sri Lankan Export Development Board. It is also a member of the Sri Lankan Fruit & Vegetable Produces, Processes and Exporters Association (SLFVPPEA) and an approved Board of Investment (BOI) company. All these signs show that IFCO have the potential to be a leading exporting company in agriculture sector in future.



Calling Papers for Journal of Agriculture and Value Addition

Journal of Agriculture and Value Addition (JAVA) is a research journal launched by the Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture of Uva Wellassa University. It creates an opportunity for effective communication of findings related with the national and international research community that represents the main disciplines of agriculture including crops, livestock, aquaculture, and fisheries sector. JAVA will integrate these key areas and provide a unique opportunity to make significant advances in the research while providing a special opening to connect domain experts from biology, chemistry, environmental science, etc., which are also interconnected with the theme of value addition.

JAVA will go beyond the traditional applied agriculture and fisheries and include people from the areas that really contribute to the advancement of agriculture and fisheries for a better economic gain. It is also intended an extra effort to promote collaboration between value addition in agriculture, fisheries and various other application fields represented by the community including people from all aspects that belong to the agriculture, fisheries and related disciplines. One of the special features of JAVA will be that a section is devoted to invited review articles from research leaders in various related fields and such articles will provide the essence of background in each subfield, explaining the most important current issues, challenges and opportunities in value addition to the agricultural and fisheries resources. Hence, the journal will consider articles from a broad range of application areas in agriculture and fisheries that thoroughly address the value addition in production, processing, and marketing of the 'value chain'.

Original research papers, short communications, and review articles for publishing in JAVA are accepted from the areas such as Entrepreneurial Agriculture & Agribusiness Management, Food Science & Technology, Animal Production, Health & Hygiene of Farm Animals, Structure & Function of Animals, Fisheries & Aquaculture, Feed Technology,

Marine Science, Agricultural Engineering Technology, Agronomy, Farming Systems, Soil & Water Conservation, Sustainable Soil Fertility Management, Crop Protection, Crop Improvements, Biodiversity, Post-harvest Technology, Plant Physiology, Green Technology, Farm Waste Management, Climate Change, and Precision Agriculture.

Two issues in each volume of the journal are published within a year; the first and the second issues in June and December, respectively. Also, multi-disciplinary research combining two or more of the aspects mentioned below in an integrated fashion is highly encouraged.

- (a) Papers that address to develop new value added products, which provide new scientific problem;
- (b) Papers devoted to address value addition in any of the three aspects: production, processing, and marketing of agricultural and fisheries products in the value chain;
- (c) Papers that develop new multiscale computational methods, which give superior performance compared to existing methods in agriculture and fisheries sector;
- (d) Papers devoted to direct numerical simulations or experimental study of multiscale phenomena, which leads to an improved understanding of the scientific problem in the given scope.

All research articles should be submitted in e-version (Word – Microsoft Office). Also, research articles are welcomed throughout the year from all relevant and interested professionals who are willing to publish their findings in the JAVA.

More Information

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“Saakshara 2015” and “Importance of Education to Mitigate Poverty”



The Animal Science Society of Uva Wellassa University donated stationaries and essential school items to students of Meegolla Primary School, Meegahakiula on December 4, 2015 as one of their cooperate social responsibility (CSR) activities. The event was named as “Saarkshara 2015”. Meegolla Primary School, which is located in a very remote area in the Uva province, has only around 20 students. These students carry out their studies with under-privileged facilities including lack of water and no electricity. The parents are mostly farmers and laborers who fight for their daily food earnings. The third year Animal Science undergraduates together with their staff members visited the school and donated each student with a package of stationaries and other essential school items that are needed for their studies. Parallel to this, an awareness programme was conducted by Mr. N.P.P. Liyanage, Lecturer, Department of Animal Science for their parents on “Importance of Education to Mitigate Poverty”. Our gifts and love blended with their pure minds and exceled happiness to bring them school every day.



Invited Speeches at A/L Student Orientation Programmes

It has been a habit in many of the major schools of Uva province, that invited speeches for A/L students are conducted by the lecturers of Uva Wellassa University since its inception. Accordingly, in 2015, certain lecturers from the Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture delivered such speeches in different schools giving the importance of education at higher levels, proper selection of subject streams, and requirements to be known by an A/L student before entering a university.

Dr. Saman Herath, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Export Agriculture attended for such programmes held in Central College, Viharamahadevi College, Dharmadutha College – Badulla, and Dharmapala College – Bandarawela. In the event organised at Dharmapala College – Bandarawela, he was specially invited for the day that had been devoted for the students of A/L Technology stream. Ms. Sadeeka Jayasinghe and Mr. Nuwan Weerawansa, Lecturers from the same Department also conducted invited speeches at Uva College – Badulla during their new intake of A/L students in 2015.



Dry Flower Technology for Entrepreneurs in Cut Flower Production

A workshop on dry flower technology was conducted on July 04, 2015 at Uva Wellassa University to a group of entrepreneurs who engage in cut flower production in Uva region. The workshop was organised by Uva Wellassa University with the collaboration of Small Enterprises Development Division, District Office, Badulla. The workshop was conducted with the guidance of Dr. Gamani Chandrasena, Vice Chancellor of Uva Wellassa University and Dr. L.M.H.R. Alwis, Head, Department of Export Agriculture. The programme was coordinated by Ms. U.G.A.T. Premathilake and Ms. H.A.S.L. Jayasinghe, Lecturers, Department of Export Agriculture.

Dr. P. Saputhanthri, who is an eminent professional in this field as well as a Senior Lecturer, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Colombo, contributed as the resource personnel in this workshop. The main objective of this workshop was to provide theoretical and technical knowledge on different techniques in drying and preserving flowers for crafts and decors.



During the workshop, Dr. Saputhanthri gave an introduction to drying and preserving techniques of flowers and also introduced different crafts and decors of dried flowers. After the lecture, practical sessions were conducted and the participants were able to get practical exposure on different drying techniques on how to make a flower-press, chemical treatments to preserve natural colours of dried flowers, bleaching & preparing leaf skeletons, and making arts/crafts using pressed dried flowers.

Twenty six participants attended in this event and the workshop was highly commended by all the participants who are actively engaging in the cut flower industry in the Uva region.



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Labor Migration in Estate Sector of Sri Lanka (Cont.)

It is also one of the biggest providers of employment, export earnings and export revenue. Estates occupy 750,000 hectare of productive land, which is 40% of the total land cultivated in Sri Lanka.

These people migrate from estate sector to nearby cities or capital city in search of better opportunities and many of them have been attracted by the garment industry whereas most of the other employ temporarily in shops, hotels etc. in cities (World Bank 2007). What they earn from these employments is sufficient to compensate their day to day expenses. They send a little or do not send remittances to their sources of origin. What should be expected is that remittances should contribute positively to the total household income. However, it has been noted that contribution to the total income by migrants reduces when more migration occurs (Dharmadasa et al., 2011). When temporary international migrants are concerned, they send a substantial amount of remittances to their houses (Dharmadasa and Withanage, 2012). However, number of international migrants is less and it is about 16% in comparison to internal migrants (Dharmadasa and Withanage, 2012). When considering the internal migration, researches have proved that remittances sent by the migrants affect to reduce the credit and the income risks (Taylor *et al.*, 2003). However, this could not be true if internal migrants from estates do not remit substantially to their home as is the case with the internal migrants from tea estates (Dharmadasa and Withanage, 2012). Therefore, when more migration occurs, the people left behind will suffer from the loss of income to the total household income.

Migration outflows come along with certain monetary inflows. Remittances from migration increase the household welfare. Although estate officials may face negative effect on the estate production, the remittances send home can have positive effects on house production and income. Migrants could help relax the households' credit or liquidity constraint by sending back remittances. Migration has a positive and significant relationship on households' income. Remittances both from internal and international migration are predominantly used to meet daily expenses including food, farm and children's education. In the short term, household may use migrant remittances primarily to supplement income. In the long term, migration and the remittances of migrants may play a large role in the household's development strategy. In a study carried out in nine tea estates in Badulla district by Uva Wellassa University, it has been found that migration and

remittances play a significant role in increasing household income and reducing poverty in estate households in Badulla District. Employment outside estates has become one of the major sources of household income in estate households. The study showed that Poverty incidences of estate households are reduced from 37.15 to 23.96% while depth and severity of poverty is reduced from 10.45 and 6.64% to 4.09 and 2.72%, respectively due to the internal migration. Hence, the study concludes that labor migration is an important upward driver for households in tea estates to move out of poverty.

Thus, one can argue that the migration is one of the best opportunities of reducing poverty in estate sector. However, researchers and policy makers should pay more attention on the estate sector as it is highly labor intensive production. If more and more skilled labor migrates, that may negatively affect the productivity of the estate sector. One solution for this would be to introduce mechanization to estates. For example, plucking shears are a better solution for tea plucking in tea estates. However, the main problem arises is whether we would be able to maintain the quality of tea as selective plucking is limited if machineries are used. Moreover, introduction of machineries will have adverse impact on agricultural production in the long run. On the other hand, migration of highly skilled workers can reduce productivity and management skills in the source regions which can in turn create regional inequality (World Bank, 2007). Labour migration would deplete the estate economy as its more skilled and innovative individuals lead to stunting the growth. It may weaken the product organisation as well. As the migration and remittances have a significant poverty reducing effect on the estate households, policy makers, estate management and other affected parties should take great care in initiating a balance strategy in managing the labour migration and improving the estates. It is also a fact that we should implement strategies to manage the vulnerability to estate production shocks. As a solution for the labor shortage, the estate management may use hired and casual labor. However, it leads to moral hazard problems among the existing laborers in estates. Therefore, great emphasis should be given to supervision as it affects to effective productivity. Due to hired labor, labor specific problems may also be created. As a result of them, eventually labor demand changes and it leads to production distortions. Migration paves the way to transfer of capital and acceleration of exposure of traditional communities to rational ideas, modern knowledge and education.

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Labor Migration in Estate Sector of Sri Lanka (Cont.)

It also plays an important role in agricultural development via remittances if remittances can be used as an input. A very important policy question arises as how we should manage labour migration without giving any opportunity to collapse the industry. For that, identifying skill levels of residential workers and a remuneration policy to encourage retention of high skilled workers to continue work in the estates can be recommended. This may help to have an extra income for worker households and to increase the labor productivity in the estates.

The estate sector is characterised by immobility, isolation, and marginalisation. Due to the nature of the industry and the way it was established by the British, estates were often isolated from the rest of the economy (World Bank, 2007). The estate workers who were brought to Sri Lanka by the British rule were earlier named as 'Indian Tamils' until they were given the Sri Lankan citizenship in late 1980s. As a result of this, their mobility was heavily restricted. They always had the fear of losing their estates rights if they made any unnecessary decision leaving the estates. This has also become one of the reasons which restricted their mobility.

Although estate sector provides a considerable contribution to economic growth of Sri Lanka in terms of production and export earnings, it is still physically as well as politically deprived in Sri Lanka (Vijayakumar and Olga, 2012). Low productivity, high cost of production, lack of quality improvement and marketing facilities, low profitability and inability to generate sufficient surpluses for long term sustainability are among the major problems faced by estate sector as a whole (IPS, 2009). It is also noticed that shortfalls in access to productive assets like land and water, gap in product and input markets, and inadequate technology and weak institutional arrangements are also problems faced by estate and rural sector together (Vijayakumar and Olga, 2012). Apart from those, labor migration has also become a major issue. The estate sector is now experiencing labor shortages due to labor outmigration, absenteeism of registered workers especially the better educated younger generation and therefore, shortage of skilled labor has become a major threat to the future of estates (Illukpitiya *et al.*, 2004). With the time, the workers have begun to migrate to specific estates with their families and later to urban centers and abroad. Skilled labor migration has become a challenge for plantation estates as skilled operations

rubber tapping are directly affected by migration of laborers (IPS, 2009). A 2% outmigration of labor would be a major constraint for the management companies in estate development process unless mechanisation is not introduced (IPS, 2009). Although the IPS (2009) emphasises the skilled labor migration and its implication towards the plantation economy, World Bank (2007) stresses there is a positive contribution from the migration of unskilled workers for reducing poverty as low skilled migrant workers earn more in their destinations and send remittances home. It further argues that the migration increases the wages at the origin due to short term labor shortage while it creates new job opportunities for those left behind.

According to researchers, it has become a major problem and affects existence of the sector. Estate youth does not like to work in the tea lands. Their parents are also reluctant to send their younger generation for estate work. Educated youth does not have any opportunity to find an employment to suit their education qualifications within the tea estates except for a few opportunities. Therefore, out migration among educated youth has also increased. Internal migration is high among estate youth. The migration for employment is most common among those in their twenties. As a result, there is now a manpower crisis which could be threatening the future existence of the estate sector (Illukpitiya *et al.*, 2004). Young people prefer to work in towns and have been attracted to garments industry and other urban employment. Low profile stigma attached to the estate worker had also caused outflow of manpower from estates.

Besides those factors, poverty among the estate households has become one of the major factors affecting the outmigration decision of the estate households. Sri Lankan estate sector, which is a unique feature of Sri Lankan economy, trapped in long term poverty due to historical circumstances and a variety of other factors related to geography, language and access to services. Apart from these, they have a poor health and education outcome relative to the rest of the economy (UNDP, 2012; World Bank, 2007). Poverty still exists and widespread. Access to market and road facilities in estate sector lags far behind the urban sector (Vijayakumar and Olga, 2012) leading to be more vulnerable to poverty. Workers in the estate sector live in congested and unsanitary houses with little access to social services.

University Business Linkage Unit

As per the mediation of University Grant Commission (UGC) of Sri Lanka, initiatives were taken to establish a University Business Linkage Unit (UBL) in Uva Wellassa University on August 25, 2015. All three main sectors – Agriculture, Services, and Industry – that contribute to the national economy are taken into consideration in this task giving a specific attention to the Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) in Uva region. At the beginning, UBL initiatives are conducted under a special GIZ-SME Development Programme.

The main role of UBL Unit will be to coordinate and act as the interface with the private sector of Uva region. A number of functions such as facilitation, support, analysis, negotiation, strategy design, organisation, documentation, planning and monitoring of UBL portfolio, etc. has been identified as future responsibilities of UBL Unit. The University expects to meet following objectives through this UBL activities in future.



- To promote industries through improvement of quality of products and services.
- To reduce the migration of (young) people from Uva region to other areas.
- To transfer technology to the SME sector of the region.
- To contribute to the local/regional economy.
- To contribute to the national economy.

A few workshops and trainings were conducted for the UBL team of Uva Wellassa University with the participation of some German Consultants during last few months. Professor Utz Dornberger, Mr. Alfredo Suvelza, and Mr. Peter Sommer gave their service as such expertise under GIZ-SME Development Programme and they will visit the university in future as well.

Uva, Northern and Eastern provinces of the country have been selected for developing these University Business Linkages giving more emphasis to the SMEs of those areas. Accordingly, Uva Wellassa University will cover Uva Province. As initiation, the UBL Unit will work on 15 selected projects that directly address the issues of selected SMEs in Uva region covering all Agriculture, Services, and Industry sectors. Representing all three Faculties, 12 Lectures were nominated for the UBL Unit of Uva Wellassa University: Dr. H.M.S.K. Herath (UBL Coordinator), Dr. (Ms.) L.M.H.R. Alwis, Dr. E.D.N.S. Abeyrathne, Ms. R.M.P.S. Rathnayake (Coordinator – Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture), Dr. H.M.J.C. Pitawala, Dr. A.P. Henagamage (Coordinator – Faculty of Science and Technology), Mr. T. Kartheeswaran, Mr. H.M.S.N. Ariyadasa, Mr. K.M.M.B. Kulathunga, Mr. C.J.P. Kulathilake, Ms. Y.M.C. Gunaratne, Ms. A.A.K.A. Damanupola (Coordinator – Faculty of Management).

Besides, the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Uva Province has been identified as a key partner in developing such linkages.

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Training Workshop on Agriculture Development and Dissemination (Cont.)

The workshop had been organised as four different sessions, which included (a) Recent advancement of agriculture, (b) Effective communication/technology transfer in agriculture, (c) Effective project designing & planning, and (d) Participatory session.

The first session - Recent advancement of agriculture - was conducted by Dr. Saman Herath. He discussed about the gap that exists in use of new technology and applications generated through research, between Sri Lanka and the other developed countries. Specifically, the session addressed about the smart farming practiced by certain developed countries and also noted several new things that can be attained by a minimal effort under local condition. Further, Dr. Herath showed some examples for modernization of agriculture with robot technology, nanotechnology, and some other important know-how.

Ms. R.M.P.S. Ratnayake, Lecturer, Department of Export Agriculture, carried out the second session on 'Effective communication/technology transfer in agriculture'. She emphasised the importance of having an effective communication in technology dissemination process among agricultural farmers. Group activities given to the participants were attracted and they mainly focused on how communication abilities of extension officers are improved effectively taking as a present need, especially to communicate new technological aspects to the farming community.

A special lecture was conducted in the third session



on 'Effective project designing and planning' by Dr. S.C. Jayamanne, Dean Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture. The lecture conducted by Dr. Jayamanne mainly addressed on project planning, implementing, and evaluation. This session also consisted with different activities for the participants. In that some of the activities had been designed to identify a real time issues in agriculture, causes of those issues, and effects of those issues. Thereafter, activities regarding strategic planning were conducted to overcome issues identified in the session. Certain management strategies and models were discussed to implement and evaluate projects, as appropriate.

Finally, Dr. L.M.H.R. Alwis, Head - Department of Export Agriculture, conducted the participatory session together with other resource personnel. In this session, the extension officers were given a specific problem to be addressed in depth and solved critically. The knowledge gained and the techniques learnt during the activities and lectures were evaluated through presentations and discussions during this participatory session.

The workshop was completed with a great success. The Directors attended from the Department of Agriculture (Uva) appreciated the contribution made by Uva Wellassa University and Mr. Wijethunga extended his fullest cooperation to hold this workshop as an annual event.

At the end, the first UADF Newsletter was distributed among all participants and Dr. Jayamanne officially gave it away to the Provincial Director and other officials.



New Technologies in Agriculture for School Teachers

The Working Committee on Agricultural Education of Uva Agriculture Development Forum conducted one day workshop for the school teachers who engage in Agricultural Science of G.C.E. O/L and G.C.E. A/L syllabi. The workshop was held on September 12, 2015 at Uva Wellassa University with the collaboration of Zonal Education Office, Badulla. The main objective of this workshop was to improve the theoretical knowledge of Agricultural Science teachers who disseminate knowledge to the students in Badulla district. The workshop was conducted under the guidance and supervision of Dr. D.K.D.D. Jayasena, the Convener of Agricultural Education Working Committee as well as the Head, Department of Animal Science. Ms. H.A.S.L. Jayasinghe, Ms. M. K. Ranasinghe and Mr. A.N.R. Weerawansa another three committee members of the same Working Committee, coordinated this one-day workshop.

It was emphasised that Uva Agriculture Development Forum takes strong concern to achieve an equitable and sustainable agriculture development through dissemination of improved technologies in agriculture to the schooling community. Hence, the session was considered to be one of such activities addressing an important aspect needed to be communicated timely.

The academicians of Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture: Dr. R.R.M.K.K. Wijesundara, Dr. P.E. Kaliyadasa, Ms. H.K.S.G. Gunadasa, Ms. U.G.A.T. Premathilaka, Ms. R.M.H. Tharangani, Mr. A.N.R. Weerawansa, Ms. P.D.P.M.D. Silva, and Mr. K.K.T.N. Ranaweera, served as the resource personnel in this one-day workshop.

Teachers were provided with the theoretical knowledge on Plant Tissue Culture, Paddy Cultivation, Field Crop Production, Crop Pest & Disease Management, Cattle Management, Poultry Management and Disease Management of Farm Animals with the aid of presentations and other supporting materials. About 40 teachers representing whole district attended in this workshop and it was highly appreciated by all participants valuing the aim of encompassing a wider range of communication and learning activities related to agriculture.



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Labor Migration in Estate Sector of Sri Lanka (Cont.)

In case of human development indicators, estate sector is lagging behind even those in rural areas (World Bank, 2007). Surprisingly, the decline of poverty in estate sector is very sharp and poverty has reduced up to 10.9% in 2012/2013 from 38.4% in 1995/96. However, estate sector still remains the poorest sector in Sri Lanka.

World Bank (2007) indicated that the most successful way to move out of poverty is by diversifying the household livelihood portfolio beyond estate employment incorporating non-farm sources of income; skilled and internal or external migration. Thus, they tend to diversify their income portfolio by incorporating non-farm income sources. Migration and remittances have become an important source to diversify the income in this regard.



Aquaculture and Fisheries Forum: “Aqua 2015”

Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, as the first and only university, which offers Aquatic Resources Technology degree in Sri Lanka, initiated and held a common forum “Aqua 2015” to discuss the matters, which have timely importance in fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The forum was commenced at 8.30 a.m. on December 11, 2015, at Uva Wellassa University. The theme was “**Blue revolution: challenging new frontiers through value addition**” being adhered with the university theme “Value Addition to National Resources Base”.

The forum was commenced with the prime objectives of identifying current issues, trends and scientific approaches being used to ameliorate in fisheries and aquaculture sectors as well as contributing knowledge dissemination with the participation of eminent academia, researchers, and entrepreneurs.

The forum was started with the welcome speech delivered by Dr S.C. Jayamanne, Dean, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, Uva Wellassa University. The forum contained with two sessions. The Chairperson of the first session was Dr S.C. Jayamanne and it consisted with six guest speeches as follows .

- **Conservation of Marine Resources**, Dr. D.C.T. Dissanayake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Zoology, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura
- **Fish and Shellfish Processing**, Mr. S. Thayaparan, Managing Director, King Aqua Services (pvt) Ltd.



- **Import and Export of Aquatic Products**, Mr. Samantha Gunasekara, Former Deputy Director, Sri Lanka Customs
- **Management of Aquatic Resources**, Prof. E.I.L. Silva, Chairmen/CEO, Water Resources Science and Technology (WRST)
- **Aquatic Environmental Toxicity**, Mr. B.K.K.K. Jinadasa, Senior Scientist, Institute of Post-Harvest Technology, NARA

The second session was chaired by Dr. D.K.D.D. Jayasena, Head, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, Uva Wellassa University and it consisted with following five guest speeches.

- **Freshwater and Brackish Water Aquaculture**, Ms. J.M. Asoka, Deputy Director, Coastal Aquaculture, NAQDA
- **Seed Production Aquaculture: Novel Approaches**, Professor M.P.K.S.K. De Silva, Department of Zoology, University of Ruhuna
- **Feed and Nutrition in Aquaculture Industry**, Dr. K.R. Gamage, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Ruhuna
- **Biotechnology Applications in Aquaculture**, Dr. D.H.N. Munasinghe, Department of Zoology, University of Ruhuna
- **Ornamental Fish Industry in Sri Lanka**, Mr. Kapila Tissera, Consultant, Aquatic Bio-Resource Management Group

About Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture



Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture is one of the three Faculties of Uva Wellassa University. Basically, the faculty has two Departments namely; Department of Animal Science and Department of Export Agriculture. The faculty conducts five honours degree programmes, which have been framed in a way that students get knowledge and skills developed in the order of principles of the subjects, advanced technology in value addition related to the given area, and finally application of knowledge gained in relevant area during their four years time period of study.

All these degrees are science based and they are conferred as (i) Bachelor of Animal Science, (ii) BSc in Export Agriculture, (iii) BSc in Tea Technology and Value Addition, (iv) BSc in Palm & Latex Technology and Value Addition, and (v) BSc in Aquatic Resources Technology. Also, the degree programmes have been designed giving a strong emphasis on value addition to the national agricultural resources base. The ultimate objective is to contribute to the national economy of the country.

For each degree programme, 50 undergraduates are recruited every year and at present the faculty consists of nearly 1000 students. All curricular have been focused towards value addition theme and entrepreneurial concepts by which the undergraduates are directed towards to be self-employers who could play a significant role in developing the agriculture sector of the country. With the aim of providing hands-on-experience related to the real field situation, the degree programmes are inculcated with a Field Training, an Industrial Training and a Research Project. All these components give an opportunity for undergraduates to get their practical exposure developed before entering into the real field (job) environment in the discipline of their specialisation.

How to obtain membership?

Admission to membership of the forum is made as: (a) Ordinary/life members: persons who are actively engaged in agricultural activities or involved in activities related to the advancement of agriculture, in particular, the Uva province; (b) Honorary members: persons who have rendered distinguished service to agriculture; (c) Associate members: persons interested in any Working Committee of the Forum and wish to attend the Annual Session or join in the other activities organised by the forum; (d) Student members: University students interested in Uva agriculture. Ordinary/life members will be enrolled by the Executive Committee having evaluated the requested information whereas the honorary membership will be conferred by the forum on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Associate and student members will be admitted by the Executive Committee based on applications made.

Editorial Board

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