



### Annual General Meeting of Uva Agriculture Development Forum (UADF)

Annual General Meeting of Uva Agriculture Development Forum (UADF) was successfully held on February 14, 2019 from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the Main Lecture Theatre (MLT) of Uva Wellassa University with participation of Prof. S.C. Jayamanne, Dean, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, Dr. P.E. Kaliyadasa, Head, Department of Export Agriculture, Mr. N.P.P. Liyanage, Head, Department of Animal Science and all academic staff members of the Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture.

Government officials of Uva Province: Mr. K.P. Somachandra, Deputy Director, Regional Agricultural Research and Development Centre, Bandarawela; Ms. A.M.P. Athapaththu, Deputy Director-Agriculture, Department of Agriculture; Dr. S. Gamage, Additional Provincial Director, Department of Animal Production and Health; Mr. A.L.R.V. Kumara, Officer-in-Charge, Tea Research Institute, Passara; >>>P.9

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### EXCLUSIVE

#### Incidence of Sena Caterpillar (Fall Army Worm) (*Bibasis sena*) in the Uva Province and Its Management Strategies



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*BSc (Ruhuna)*  
*MPhil (Peradeniya)*  
*PhD (Reading, UK)*

During the months of January and February 2019, the most widespread news and controversial issue in the country was the incidence of devastation of maize cultivation at its vegetative phase by a caterpillar known as Sena (*Bibasis sena*). >>>P.7

## **Agnovator-2019**

Agnovator-2019 is a new event initiated by the Uva Wellassa University Agro Club, Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, Uva Wellassa University (UWU) in 2019. Agnovator, the name has been created from two respective terms of Agriculture and Innovations. People who really think of the development of agriculture sector in Sri Lanka through innovations have been targeted in the event. Agnovator is exactly creates opportunities to expose the inventions and innovations of the undergraduates who learn agriculture for their Bachelor's degree.

The main aim of the Agnovator-2019 is to initiate the room for the innovations in agriculture sector of Sri Lanka with the strong scientific background and the guidance and assistance for legalizing the innovations while exposing them to the market with reasonable values.

The Agro Club has planned an exhibition at the end of the year 2019 with the theme of Agnovator-2019 at the UWU. The inventions and innovations related to agriculture sector are expected to be present at the Agnovator-2019.

The innovations presented in the Agnovator-2019 will be evaluated using a strong criterion by the well-qualified panelists in relevant fields of agriculture, and the selected inventions and innovations will be patented with the guidance of University Business Linkage (UBL) Cell of UWU. This valuable event is planned to be held annually from 2020 onwards expanding the scope of the agriculture sector beyond horizon.

## **Agro Food Fiesta-2019**



“Agro Food Fiesta” is a new event of UWU Agro Club of Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture initiated in 2019 as an annual activity of the UWU Agro Club. The Agro Food Fiesta-2019 was successfully held on July 11, 2019 at UWU premises. Professor J.L Ratnasekera, Vice Chancellor of Uva Wellassa University participated as the Chief Guest of this event on the invitation of UWU Agro Club. The Deans of the Faculties, Heads of the Departments, academic staff members, and officials of the administrative staff attended this event.

All the staff members and the students of the Department collectively dedicated their invaluable time and effort for the success of the Agro Food Fiesta-2019. Professor J.L. Ratnasekera, the Chief Guest of Agro Food Fiesta-2019 mentioned the responsibility of Universities towards development through innovations and further he emphasized the value of thinking out of the box.

More than 20 varieties of food items and everages along with main menu were prepared by the students of UWU Agro Club and sold at the Agro Food Fiesta-2019. An outdoor musical show was staged by the UWU Music Circle for the entertainment of the invitees and participants. Also, a Car Washing Campaign had organized by the Agro Club and the vehicles arrived to the Agro Food Fiesta-2019 were washed and cleaned to collect funds for the Agnovator event.

The movie “Knight Rider”, a recently launched Sri Lankan Sinhala movie, was screened for free of charge as a paralleled event for the Agro Food Fiesta-2019. The Director of the movie, Mr. Kasun Patirana and the film crew participated the Agro Food Fiesta-2019 as special guests. The screening of the movie “Knight Rider” was organized by the Art Circle of the University under the guidance of

Mr. Jagath Kulathilake, Lecturer, Faculty of Management, Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka.

Finally, Agro Food Fiesta-2019, the first event of the UWU Agro Club, Department of Export Agriculture was successfully wound-up with the vision of continuing the event Agro Food Fiesta as an annual event of the UWU Agro Club.

### **Subsidized Equipment and Technical Training, A Study of Uva Province**

The Uva Province that consists of two districts, Badulla and Monaragala, is a leading geophysical area contributing significantly to the Sri Lankan economy through agricultural production. In developing the agricultural activities from time to time, considerable efforts have been made by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Uva, to increase the production and productivity level in the agriculture sector of the province. Giving subsidies of any kind is expected to create positive outcomes among the beneficiaries and boost their productivity partially or totally. Identifying this need, the Provincial Department of Agriculture has initiated providing subsidized equipment and training programmes to selected farm families, expecting that the productivity of farming activities would increase.

Two projects were carried out for assessing the contribution of Provincial Department of Agriculture to the farm families in relation to the provision of equipment in subsidized rates and providing training programmes. Hundred (100) farm families from both Badulla and Monaragala were randomly selected for each project. The data were collected from the beneficiaries by administering two questionnaires and a

descriptive analysis was carried out. The first study finds that, many beneficiaries are satisfied with the quantity of output received by using the given technology. Similarly, their satisfaction on the quality of product, price received for the product and its market acceptance seems greater too. Although they agree that income and profit have increased after receiving the technology, it has made a little impact on enhancing their living condition.

Majority of the trainees show a positive feedback regarding the teachers who conducted the training programme. Furthermore, the trainee farmers have utilized the knowledge acquired to revise the processes and shared the knowledge with others. Apart from that, it has led them to increase the production, income as well as motivation to conduct the business. The main reasons not to apply knowledge were insufficient capital, disease attacks and insufficient water. Therefore, it is suggested to propose some strategies by the Department of Agriculture to reduce those barriers and thereby allow the trainees to continue their businesses in more efficient manner, so that they can be motivated to stay in the village itself rather migrating to urban areas.

Members of the projects from the Department of Export Agriculture are,

- |                             |                   |                           |            |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| • Dr. P.E. Kaliyadasa       | - Senior Lecturer | • Mr. A.N.R. Weerawansa   | - Lecturer |
| • Dr. R.A.P.I.S. Dharmadasa | - Senior Lecturer | • Mr. H.G.I.M. Wijesinghe | - Lecturer |
| • Dr. L.M.H.R. Alwis        | - Senior Lecturer | • Ms. A.M.C. Amarakoon    | - Lecturer |

## **Identification of Potential to Develop Freshwater Capture Fishery Sector and Social, Economic and Cultural Status of Fishing Communities in Uva Province**

Team of researchers (Prof. S.C. Jayamanne, Mr. N.P.P. Liyange, Ms. G.G.N. Thushari, Mr. J.D.M. Senevirathne and Ms. J.M.D.R. Jayawardana) in Department of Animal Science, Uva Wellasa University and Uva Provincial Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Animal Production & Inland Fishery Affairs conducted a collaborative project to identify potential requirement of developing Inland Capture Fishery and Aquaculture (ICFA) sector and socio-economic status of fishermen in Uva Province during 2017.

Uva basin, high plains, Southern mountainous regions, Lunugala ridge, Eastern plateau, Mahaweli river valley and lowland plains are key geographical features of landscape in Uva Province. The province consists of major rivers like Menik, Mahaweli, Walawe, Gal Oya, Kumukkan Oya, and man-made reservoirs which are mainly found in dry zone. Therefore, there is a high potential in development of ICFA sector with available aquatic resources and community participation. However, updated data on current status of ICFA sector in Uva Province have not been recorded. Therefore, this study was focused to fill the aforesaid gap. Pretested questionnaire survey was carried out for the government officers, office bearers of fishery unions and respective fishing communities representing both Monaragala and Badulla

districts. As revealed by the study, local people in Monaragala district significantly engage in inland capture fishery compared to Badulla district. Fishing sector is highly dominant in Mahiyangana (20%), Tanamalwila (12%), Siyabalanduwa (12%) and Monaragala (10%), since most of reservoirs linked with fishery are located in dry zone of Uva Province. Also the highest number of fishing community belongs to the middle age groups. Majority of fishermen engage with fishing in perennial reservoirs in both districts. However, <30% of fishermen use middle/intermediate reservoirs and minor tanks

Research team suggests fishery extension activities for both districts concerning on perennial, middle and minor tanks. The authority of reservoirs in Uva Province has distributed as 51% for Department of Irrigation, 28.6% for Mahaweli Authority and nearly 18.4% for Department of Agrarian Services, therefore, the integration with these three sectors is necessary, when planning and adopting fishery management programmes.

The highest number of vessels in Monaragala district was recorded in Siyabalanduwa (87), Sewanagala (34) and Tanamalwila (68) Divisional Secretariats (DSs), while Meegahakiula (48), Ridimaliyadda (31) and Mahiyangana (39) DSs shows the maximum number of vessels in Badulla district. Daily fish harvest was higher (58.4 kg) in Monaragala compared to Badulla (55.9 kg). Tilapia, Catla, Rohu, and Mrigal are highly harvestable food fish varieties in both districts.

Moreover, average daily shrimp harvests are considerably lower in both districts (Monaragala 1.9 kg, Badulla -1.2 kg). Fishermen highly prefer in enhancing shrimp culture in both Monaragala and Badulla districts. Thus, potential of expansion of shrimp culture is higher in surveyed reservoirs. A few number of fishing families were involved with value addition of fishery products, therefore, this study suggests the awareness programmes on fish preservation techniques focusing on women empowerment in fishing communities.

The other common problems identified were less fish preservation facilities, less availability of ice boxes, weighing scales, transporting modes, storage containers and spaces for selling fish which were also really affecting on the quality of fish. Fishery Unions in these districts collect a commission fee for fishery management activities and welfare of the fishing community. However, significant support and guidance is needed from both government and private sectors to address above common problems. The results of socio-economic data indicated the necessity of concerning health and hygiene of these communities. Several families had recorded differently abled members like blind (Monargala-20, Badulla-14), deaf (Badulla-18) and speechless (Badulla-11). Awareness programmes focusing on nutritional requirement during pregnancy and childhood can be recommended to overcome issues related with nutrition deficiencies. A few numbers of fully completed houses were observed in fishing areas (Monaragala-44, Badulla-45) of Uva Province. As well as, 59 and 66 houses have been recorded without proper sanitary facilities in Monaragala and Badulla districts respectively.

Bank loan system or support by Non-Government Organizations for the toilets construction/drinking water access and low cost material for construction are suggested by the research team to address the above issues. Also the road conditions are not up to the satisfactory level in fishing areas of both districts. Development of transport facilities is required with the collaboration of Road Development Authority in these areas.

When considering the aspects of fishery and socio-economic conditions of fishermen, ICFA sector need to be developed and properly managed in Uva Province. The research team prefers to encourage the stakeholders to implement awareness and sustainable management programmes, and help to identify potential investors from private sector for the development of the ICFA sector in Uva Province. Accordingly, the academic staff members of Aquatic Resources Technology Degree Programme, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, Uva Wellassa University is highly enthusiastic in this regards and willing to provide the fullest contribution for the development of Inland Capture Fishery and Aquaculture sector in the Uva Province.

### **Two-day Training Programme for Government Officials of Uva Province on 'Rain Water Harvesting and Disaster Risk Reduction in Uva Province'**

Sri Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum, Pelawatta, Battaramulla organized a Two-day Training Programme on 'Rain Water Harvesting and Disaster Risk Reduction in Uva Province' for the Administrative Officers and other Government Officials of Uva Province with the collaboration of

District Secretariat and National Water Supply and Drainage Board.

Ms. N.S. Withanage, Senior Lecturer, Department of Export Agriculture, Uva Wellassa University was one of the Guest Speakers of the event conducting two separate sessions on “Importance of Rain Water Harvesting for Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change”. The Badulla District Training Programme was held on December 07 and 08, 2017 at Regional Support Centre, Uva - National



Water Supply and Drainage Board, Mediriya Road, Badulla. The Moneragala District Training Programme was held on March 15 and 16, 2018 at the Auditorium of District Secretariat, Moneragala.

## Aurora 2016



One of the Annual Food Festival; “Aurora” which is organized by the Department of Animal Science was successfully held on September 04, 2016 at Uva Wellassa University premises. The main objective of this event was to familiarize the animal origin food products among the university community while improving the entrepreneurial skills of undergraduates of the Department of Animal Science. The first Aurora Food Festival was organized and conducted by the pioneer Animal Science undergraduates in 2008. The name Aurora was given to this special occasion with the theme of “We are unique from others, just like Aurora borealis in Northern and Southern hemisphere”. Prof. S.C. Jayamanne, Dean of the Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, Prof. D.K.D.D. Jayasena, Head, Department of Animal Science

along with the other academic staff members of the Department of Animal Science and distinguished guests from other Departments graced the opening ceremony of the event.

Aurora is always a highly anticipated event on UWU's annual event calendar and the Aurora 2016 was hosted this time by the third year students of Department of Animal Science under the guidance of Academic Coordinator, Ms. M.K. Ranasinghe, Lecturer, Department of Animal Science. In addition to being an entertaining activity, this annual event was organized to raise funds to assist a rural school, which has relatively less facilities in the Uva Province. Academic, administrative, and non-academic staff members together with undergraduates of the University enthusiastically participated in the event.

An additional flavour was incorporated with a melodious musical background to this event by the members of the Art Circle of Uva Wellassa University. Moreover, Uva Rayon Media Unit of the University generously extended the official photography partnership for the event to make it memorable for all.

## Poultry Forum 2018



Department of Animal Science, Uva Wellassa University organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Poultry Forum on September 28, 2018 at the Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka under the theme of “Future of the Poultry World: Smarter and Greener Production”. More than, 250 participants including academics and undergraduates from Agriculture faculties of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL), Wayamba University of Sri Lanka (WUSL) and Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka (UWU) along with expertise from Research Institutes and Industries participated to the event.

This year the event was co-hosted with Crysbro Group of Company and many other well-wishers. It was a very good platform to discuss the problems associated with the Poultry Industry where the Universities and Research Institutes can cater the requirement of the Industry. In order to make the event more realistic five guest speeches from five different areas related to Poultry Industry including Poultry Feeding, Management, Diseases and Processing followed with New Research Trends in the Poultry Industry were addressed in the event. Five eminent resource persons, Mr. T. Jeyaharan (Pussella Meat), Dr. M. Amarasinghe (Nelna Farms), Professor H. W. Cyril (Emeritus

Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya), Dr. G. A. S. N. Gamlath (Consultant) and Dr. (Ms.) S. M. C. Himali (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya) presented their findings in this event.

### >>>P.1... Incidence of Sena Caterpillar (Fall Army Worm) (*Bibasis sena*) in the Uva Province and Its Management Strategies (Cont.)

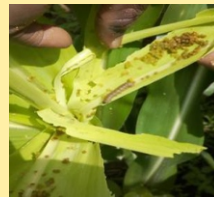


Plate 1.a

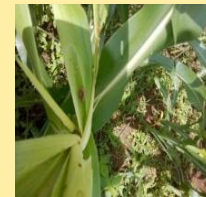


Plate 1.b



Plate 1.c

Plate 1(a,b,c): Tender leaves of maize eaten and damaged by the Sena caterpillar



Plate 2: Pupae and adult phases of Sena caterpillar

The Sena caterpillar had been first discovered last October, 2018 in a corn field in Ampara district, and has since then it was spread into Monaragala, Kurunagala and Anuradhapura districts, as well as to Galle and Matara districts.

It was reported that the Sena caterpillar has wreaked havoc among many farm lands. This species of caterpillar had destroyed more than 50% of 80,000 hectares of maize cultivation across the above districts. According to the Department of Agriculture, Sena caterpillar is capable of devouring more than 100 plant species including

corn, mung beans, millet and wheat and as a result, it was a threat to food production of the entire country. The devastated farmers state that application of insecticides was also not successful.

The caterpillar that is native to America was later detected in Africa, several years ago. After destroying crops across Africa, this caterpillar species made its way to India, during the first half of last year. It is believed that the Sena caterpillar spread to Sri Lanka from our immediate neighbour, India. Agronomists say that the moth that is formed through this caterpillar species, can fly hundreds of kilometres on prevailing winds. Even to date, countries that were affected by the Sena caterpillar species, have failed to find any solution to mitigate this issue.

Furthermore, as there was no other predator species for the Sena caterpillar in the country, there is a fear that this insect might affect the current paddy season. Hence, it is important to remove parts of the maize plant that have been attacked by the caterpillar; otherwise the Sena caterpillar will be carried forward to the next season as well.

The following table shows that 'Status of the Insect Damage on Maize Crop as Reported by the Department of Agriculture in February, 2019'.

	Badulla District	Monaragala District
Total maize cultivated area (ha)	7,580	17,625
Partially affected fields (ha)	4,205 (55.5%)	7,623 (43%)
Totally affected fields (ha)	250 (3.3%)	1,468 (8.3%)
Yield reduction ( kg/ha)	500	500

However, with harvesting of maize from such affected lands it was reported that the damage was found to be not that much of serious as expected and overall mean damage considering all affected districts was reported as 20%. Government has already taken steps to pay compensation to those severely affected maize cultivations in all affected districts, accordingly.

#### **Current situation:**

Following harvesting of corn during February/March some set back in the incidence of the pest has been observed and only a very few number of caterpillars and egg masses have been able to find from newly planted maize fields.

#### **Management strategies for controlling further spread of Sena caterpillar**

With fast outbreak of this pest in maize cultivations over many districts the Department of Agriculture launched a countrywide large campaign to combat the problem through its agriculture extension service. New agro-chemicals were introduced to the farmers, and field and laboratory experiments are now underway to introduce a bio-control agent to kill the caterpillar. A new wasp as a predator has been introduced to Redeemaliyadda area by the Department of Agriculture and some progress in the pest control is reported so far.

Various Universities have currently joined hands with the Department of Agriculture to study about this caterpillar and try out various management strategies. Farmers also used to test various foliar applications of locally made plant-based cocktails. However, effectiveness of such mixtures is reported to be uncertain.



Meanwhile, plant leaf extracts of six (06) plant species with 60% concentration (as mentioned below) were tested against Sena caterpillar at the Crop Protection Laboratory of Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka in April, 2019.

Plant species	Concentration (%)
Margosa leaves (Kohomba) [ <i>Azadirachta indica</i> ]	60
Cassia leaves (Kahakona) [ <i>Cassia spectabilis</i> ]	60
Wal Sooriyakantha leaves [ <i>Tithonia diversifolia</i> ]	60
Gandapana leaves [ <i>Lantana camara</i> ]	60
Gliricidia (Wetamara) leaves [ <i>Gliricidia sepium</i> ]	60
Wal Kapuru leaves [ <i>Artimesia vulgaris</i> ]	60

With all the above leaf extracts except Margosa (Kohomba) some kind of sedation in caterpillars was noticed for a few hours but later they gradually recovered and started to eat maize leaves. However, with Kohomba leaf extracts caterpillar was dead after long hours. Those recovered caterpillars turned into pupae stage after about another 10 days.

Uva Wellassa University is also undertaking further investigations using various plant extracts with some additives and their cocktail mixtures on their bio-efficacy in managing the caterpillar, to study the life cycle of insect and also to study the potential plants species, palatable for the caterpillar.

## Research Methodology and Scientific Writing for Ayurvedic Doctors



A workshop on Research Methodology and Scientific Writing was conducted for the Ayurvedic Doctors of Uva Province as two sessions. The first session was conducted on February 26 and 27, 2019 at the Library Auditorium, Badulla and the second session was conducted on March 25 and 27, 2019 at Pelgahatenne Training Centre, Passara. Prof. H.M.S.K. Herath and Prof. K.G. Prematilake contributed as the resource personnel in these sessions. Totally, around hundred Ayurvedic doctors attended in this workshop and the attendees were provided with basic knowledge related to the Research Proposal Development, Research Conductance and Scientific Writing and Ethics applied in Research and related activities.

### >>>P.1...Annual General Meeting of Uva Agriculture Development Forum (UADF)

Ms. M.T.G.S.W. Gunawardana, Assistant Director, Department of Export Agriculture, Badulla and Mr. D.P. Rangoda, Assistant Director, Department of Export Agriculture, Moneragala were also attended to the Annual General Meeting and their fullest cooperation was given to develop the Activity Plan of Uva Agriculture Development Forum -2019.

The following members were elected as the New Office Bearers of Uva Agriculture Development Forum -2019.

- Secretary - Ms. N.S. Withanage, Senior Lecturer, Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture
- Treasurer - Dr. M.G.P.P. Mahindarathne, Senior Lecturer, Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture
- Vice President - Mr. K.P. Somachandra, Deputy Director, Regional Agricultural Research and Development Center, Bandarawela
- Vice Secretary - Mr. A.L.R.V. Kumara, Officer-in-Charge, Tea Research Institute, Passara

Further, the following academic members of Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture were elected as the New Team Leaders of six different working committees of UADF-2019;

- Agriculture - Dr. S.R.W.M.C.J.K. Ranawana, Senior Lecturer
- Plantation Crops - Prof. K.G. Premathilake, Professor
- Livestock Production and Health - Dr. M.S. Kurukulasuriya, Lecturer
- Fisheries and Aquaculture - Ms. C.L.K. Coswatte, Lecturer
- Forest, Land and Environment - Dr. M.G.P.P. Mahindarathne, Senior Lecturer
- Agricultural Education - Ms. M.K. Ranasighe, Senior Lecturer

### Training Programme on Ornamental Fish Breeding and Production -2019



Second year students of Animal Science degree programme, Department of Animal Science participated on three days training programme on Ornamental Fish Breeding and Production in Rambodagalla. This training programme was designed as a requirement of the new curriculum of the Animal Science degree programme, (AQT 291-2) to enhance students' hands-on experience in Ornamental Fish Industry. The training programme was conducted during June 25-27, 2019 with the collaboration of Ornamental Fish Breeding Center, National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA)-Rambodagalla.

### Awareness Programme for Government Teachers - (2017-2021)



The Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, implements an awareness programme for government teachers on the new syllabus on environment related education with the collaboration of the Presidential Secretariat at national level. This programme was mainly targeted to the science teachers in Uva Province. It was held during May 13-15, 2019 at Uva Management and Training Institute, Passara. The lecture on "Identification and Control of Invasive Alien Species" was done by Ms. A.P. Abeygunawardana, Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Animal Science who attended as a resource person of this programme.

## DESTINO 2K18 - Tea Day



With passing an array of successful milestones within a decade, in the year of 2018, the Tea Technology and Value Addition degree programme, Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, Uva Wellassa University (UWU) organized the first ever 'DESTINO 2K18 - Tea Day' at the University premises on December 06, 2018. This was a blend of glamorous Tea Ceremony showing the glory of the culture of the Tea Industry together with a series of knowledge sharing guest lectures to enlighten the stakeholders specially, the undergraduates, the buds of the future undertakers of the Tea Industry.

This was organized by the Tea Technology and Value Addition degree programme with the fullest contribution of its all undergraduates and the academic staff. The immense supports rendered by Vice Chancellor of Uva Wellassa University, Dean of the Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture and Head of the Department of Export Agriculture are highly appreciated. The programme was become most elegant as it was with a blend of lecture series delivered by three

speakers who are expertise in the Tea Industry a variety of cultural events performed by undergraduates. At the beginning of the programme, the first special lecture was delivered by Mr. Anurudda Gamage, HR Manager, Talawakelle Tea Estates PLC.

This was followed by a book launching ceremony to introduce a book titled “ Integrated Soil Fertility Management Strategies for Tea Stakeholders” authored by Prof. K.G. Premathilake, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Export Agriculture and published in 2016. The introductory speech was delivered by Prof. H.M.S.K. Herath from the Department of Export Agriculture. A special Tea Ceremony was lined up to which all invited guests were ushered by a colourful procession to the reception hall.

Mr. Dhammika Karunarathne, Assistant Manager, Tea Promotion Division, Sri Lanka Tea Board elaborated the Current Development in the Tea Export Market. Dr. Mahasen Ranatunga, Head, Plant Breeding Division, Tea Research Institute delivered a lecture on Current Development in Tea Productivity Improvement through Tea Cultivar Development.



## About Department of Export Agriculture



Department of Export Agriculture is the one of pioneering Departments in Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture. The Department aims to provide specialized knowledge and skills in relation to export oriented agricultural production and processing as well as on agricultural entrepreneurship highly focusing to the value addition in agricultural resources in Sri Lanka. It also expects producing the competent graduates who are excel and expertise in research.

The Department offers three degree programmes: Bachelor of Science Honours in Export Agriculture, Bachelor of Science Honours in Palm & Latex Technology and Value Addition and Bachelor of Science Honours in Tea Technology and Value Addition. Further, the Department is comprised of well-equipped sixteen laboratories that facilitate practical and research opportunities with respect to different disciplines at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Currently, the Department of Export Agriculture is strengthened with 33 academic staff members including 2 Professors, 14 Senior Lecturers, 2 Lecturers and 15 Probationary Lecturers. Academic staff and undergraduates engage in research focusing to value addition in Agriculture and related disciplines, and community services activities.

## 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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Dr. (Ms.) D.C. Mudannayake  
Dr. (Ms.) R.P.D. Gunathilake

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