Dr. Muditha K. Meegahakumbura
Senior Lecturer in Genetics and Plant Breeding

Department of Export Agriculture
Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture
Uva Wellassa University
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PROFILE

A Geneticist, Plant Breeder and a Molecular Biologist doctored in the field of Natural Sciences (Plant Molecular Biology) having graduated in Sciences and mastered in Biotechnology with research interests on Plantation Crop Breeding, Drought Tolerance, Molecular Characterization and Molecular Disease Diagnosis. The objective is to serve the organization by the level best being hardworking, enthusiastic, and self-motivated.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2016 **PhD in Natural Sciences –** University of Chinese Academy of Science

2008 **PG Diploma in Applied Statistics** -University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (GPA =3.46)

2004 **M. Sc. in Biotechnology –** University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (GPA =3.75)

2002 **Bachelor of Science** (First Class) - University of Bangalore, India

2002 **Proficiency Course in Genetic Engineering** (First Rank): Jain Institute of Vocational Studies (JIVS), Jain University, Bangalore, India

ACADEMIC HONOURS (AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS)

1) Recognized as a Tire 4 Researcher (Agriculture) as per the UGC Circular No.05/2018 based on *h-index*.

2) Distinguish Toastmaster, Toastmasters International (2020)

3) Leadership Excellence Award, Toastmasters International (2020)

4) Advanced Communicator Gold, Toastmasters International (2020)

5) Presidential Award for Scientific Publications 2016 (Awarded in 2018)

6) Outstanding Ph.D. Student: University of Chinese Academy of Science (2015-2016)

7) Best Presenter: "Second Prof. Wu Zhang Yi memorial postgraduate symposium" organized by the Key Laboratory for Plant Diversity and Biogeography of East Asia held on 2015.01.20 at the Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Science

8) National Award for excellence in Agriculture Research: Identification of the causative agent for Waligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease (WCLWD), Council for Agriculture Research Policy, 2014

9) Outstanding Ph.D. Student: University of Chinese Academy of Science (2014-2015)

10) Best Presenter (Merit Award): First Symposium of the "Young Scientist Forum" of National Science and Technology Commission and held at HARTI Colombo, Sri Lanka (2011) for the presentation titled "PCR based detection of Waligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease"

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

1) Wambulwa M.C., **Meegahakumbura M.K**., Kamunya S. and F.N. Wachira (2021). From the Wild to the Cup: Tracking Footprints of the Tea Species in Time and Space. *Frontiers in Nutrition* 2021.706770

2) Samarasinghe C.R.K., **Meegahakumbura M.K**., Kumarasinghe D.P. Dissanayake H.D.M.A.C., Weerasinghe P.R. and Perera L. (2021) Genotypic selection approach made successful advancement in developing drought tolerance in perennial tree crop coconut. *Scientia Horticulturae* 287:110220

3) **M.K. Meegahakumbura** H.D.M.A.C. Dissanayaka, S.A.C.N. Perera, C.R.K. Samarasinghe, P.R. Weerasinghe, V. Vidanarachchi and L. Perera (2020) Exchange and Utilization of Global Genetic Resources in the National Coconut Breeding Programme in Sri Lanka: A Historic Overview. *Journal of the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka (COCOS*) 23:37-46

4) H.T.R. Wijesekara, S.A.C.N. Perera, D. Bandupriya, **M.K. Meegahakumbura** and Lalith Perera (2020) Detection of Weligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease Phytoplasmaby Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction. *Journal of the International Coconut Community* (*CORD*) 36:1-5

5) **M.K. Meegahakumbura**, C.R.K. Samarasinghe, H.D.M.A.C. Dissanayaka, S.A.C.N. Perera, H.M.N.B. Herath, P. Weerasinghe and L. Perera (2019) Development of High Yielding and Early Flowering New Coconut Cultivars with Exotic Pollen. In: *Proceedings of the seventh symposium on plantation crop research*, Rodrigo et al. (Eds), Pp. 1-11

6) Samarasinghe C.R.K., **Meegahakumbura M.K.**, Dissanayake H.D.M.A.C., Kumarasinghe D.P. and Perera L. (2018) Variation in yield and yield components of different coconut cultivars in response to within year rainfall and temperature variation. *Scientia Horticulturae* 238: 51-57

7) **Meegahakumbura M.K.**, Wambulwa M.C., Li D.Z., and Gao L.M. (2018) Preliminary Investigations on the Genetic Relationships and Origin of Domestication of the Tea Plant *Camellia sinensis* (L.) using Genotyping by Sequencing (GBS). *Tropical Agriculture Research* 29(3): 229-240

8) **Meegahakumbura M.K.**, Wambulwa M.C., Li M.M., Thapa K.K., Sun Y.S., Möller M., Xu J.C., Yang J.B., Liu J., Li D.Z. and L.M. Gao (2018) Domestication origin and breeding history of the tea plant (*Camellia sinensis*) in China and India based on nuclear microsatellites and cpDNA sequence data. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 8:2270

9) Wambulwa M.C., **Meegahakumbura M.K.**, Kamunya S., Muchugi A., Möller M., Liu J., Xu J.C., Li D.Z. and L.M. Gao (2017) Multiple origins and a narrow genepool characterize the African tea germplasm: concordant patterns revealed by nuclear and plastid DNA markers. *Scientific Reports* 7:4053

10) Wambulwa M.C., **Meegahakumbura M.K**., Kamunya S., Muchugi A., Möller M., Liu J., Xu J.C., Ranjitkar S., Li D.Z. and L.M. Gao (2016) Insights into the Genetic Relationships and Breeding Patterns of the African Tea Germplasm Based on nSSR Markers and cpDNA Sequences. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 7:1244

11) **Meegahakumbura M.K.**, Wambulwa M.C., Thapa K.K., Li M.M., Möller M., Xu J.C., Yang J.B., Liu B.Y., Ranjitkar S., Liu J., Li D.Z. and L.M. Gao (2016) Indications for three independent domestication events for the tea plant (Camellia sinensis (L.) O. Kuntze) and new insights into the origin of tea germplasm in China and India revealed by nuclear microsatellites. *PLoS ONE* 11(5): e0155369

12) Wambulwa M.C., **Meegahakumbura M.K.**, Chalo R., Kamunya S., Muchugi A., Xu J.C., Liu J., Li D.Z. and L.M. Gao (2016) Nuclear microsatellites reveal the genetic architecture and breeding history of tea germplasm of East Africa. *Tree Genetics and Genomes* 12:11

13) Perera L., Samarasinghe C.R.K., Kumarasinghe D.P., Dissanayake H.D.M.A.C. and **M.K. Meegahakumbura** (2016) Cultivar by environmental interaction of coconut under different water and heat regimes at their early stages of growth. *Pakistan Journal of Botany* 49(2): 475-478

14) Wambulwa M.C., Chalo R., Wachira F.N., **Meegahakumbura M.K**., Kamunya S., Muchugi A., Möller M., Liu J., Xu J.C., Ranjitkar S., Li D.Z. and L.M. Gao (2016) Genetic relatedness and breeding history of the African Tea Germplasm based on novel markers. *Tea* 37(2): 76-87

15) C.R.K. Samarasinghe, H.D.M.A.C. Dissanayaka, **M.K. Meegahakumbura**, A. Fernando, R. Jayathilake and L. Perera (2016) Preliminary Investigation of the Variation in Yield and Yield Components of Coconut Cultivars in Response to within Year Climatic Variation in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka**.** In: *Proceedings of the Sixth Symposium on Plantation Crop Research,* Vidanarachchi et al. (Eds)**,** Vol. I (pp 15-24) ISBN: 978-955-9013-19-8

16) Li M.M., **Meegahakumbura M.K**., Yan L.J., Liu J. and L.M. Gao (2015) Genetic involvement of *Camellia taliensis* in the domestication of *Camellia sinensis* var. *assamica* (Assamica Tea) revealed by nuclear microsatellite markers. *Plant Diversity and Resources* 37(1):29–37

17) Perera S.A.C.N., Dissanayake H.D.M.A.C., Herath N.B., **Meegahakumbura M.G.M.K.** and L. Perera (2014) Quantitative characterization of nut yield and fruit components in indigenous coconut germplasm in Sri Lanka. *International Journal of Biodiversity* Vol. 2014:740592

18) Ruwan Kumara S.W.G.C., Dissanayake H.D.M.A.C., **Meegahakumbura M.K.** and L. Perera (2014) Coconut hybrids with different origins respond differently to stress conditions during early stage of growth in Sri Lanka. In: *Proceedings of fifth plantation crop research,* A.P. Keerthipala (Ed), Pp 3-9

19) Perer L., **Meegahakumbura M.K.**, Wijesekara H.R.T., Fernando W.B.S. and M. J. Dickinson (2012) A Phytoplasma is associated with the Waligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease in Sri Lanka. *Journal of Plant Pathology* 94(1): 205-209

20) Fernando S.C., Santha E.S., Perera S.A.C.N., Dissanayake H.D.M.A.C., **Meegahakumbura M.K.** and L Perera (2012) In Vitro Characterization of Indigenous Coconut Varieties (*Cocos nucifera* L.) of Sri Lanka for Water Stress Tolerance. *Journal of the International Coconut Community* (*CORD*), 28(2): 55-63

21) Dissanayake, H. D. M. A., Attanayake, R. B., Fernando, A. A., Jayathilake, R., Padmasiri, M. H. L., Herath, H. M. N. B., Chandrasiri, S. A. S., Perera, S. A. C. N. **Meegahakumbura, M. K.** and Perera, L. (2012). Development of promising coconut hybrids utilizing novel Brown Dwarf coconut variety. In: *Proceeding of 4th Plantation Crop Research Symposium*, L. S. K. Hettiarachchi and I. S. B. Abeysinghe (Eds), Pp 11-25

22) Perera S.A.C.N., Dissanayake H.D.M.A.C., Herath H.M.N.B., Chandrasiri S.A.S., **Meegahakumbura M.G.M.K.** and L. Perera (2010). Recently released coconut cultivars in Sri Lanka; A comparative evaluation. In: *Proceedings of the Third Symposium on Plantation Crops Research*, Pp: 138-146

23) Dissanayaka H.D.M.A.C., Perera S.A.C.N., Fernando W.B.S., Attanayake R. B., **Meegahakumbura M.G.M.K.** and L**.** Perera (2008) Evaluation of the comparative performance of five commercial coconut cultivars under two different agro-ecological zones in Sri Lanka. In: *Proceedings of the Second Plantation Crop Research Symposium*, A. Ninanayaker and E Jayamanne (Eds.), Pp: 71-81

24) Samarajeewa P.K., Liyanage H.M., Gimhani D.R. and **M.G.M.K Meegahakumbura** (2007) Molecular Characterization of Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) cultivars using RAPDs and Microsattalite markers. *Annals of the Sri Lanka Department of Agriculture*. Vol. 9: 149-159

25) Samarajeewa P.K., **Meegahakumbura M.G.M.K**., Rajapakse R.M.S.L., Gammulla C.G. and V.A. Sumanasinghe (2005) Molecular and Morphological Characterization of Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus (TYLCV) Disease Resistance in Tomato. *Annals of the Sri Lanka Department of Agriculture*. Vol. 7:233-244

Books/Book Chapters

1) Kumara A.D.N.T., Perera L., **Meegahakumbura M.K.,** Arachchige N.S. and L.C.P. Fernando (2015) Identification of putative vectors of Waligama coconut leaf wilt disease in Sri Lanka. In: New Horizons in Insect Science: Towards Sustainable Pest Management, Chapter: Identification of Putative Vectors of Weligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease in Sri Lanka, Publisher: Springer, A K. Chakravarthy (Ed), pp.137-146

2) Wijesekara H.T.R., Perera L., **Meegahakumbura M.K.**, Dissanayake M. and C. Ranasinghe (2013) Serological and Molecular Techniques, In-Weligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease: Six Years After, Publisher: Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka

Abstracts/Extended Abstracts

1) Thamel K.M.M., **Meegahakumbura M.K**. and P.N. Dasanayaka (2020) Genetic Diversity and Beverage Quality of King Coconut Collected from Kurunegala District of Sri Lanka. *Proceedings of the 25th International Forestry and Environment Symposium of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science*, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. Pp: 2

2) Indrachapa M.T.N., **Meegahakumbura M.K**. and P.N. Dasanayaka (2019) SSR Markers Revealed Genetic Diversity of King Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) in Sri Lanka In: Proceedings of the 24th International Forestry and Environment Symposium of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. Pp: 14

3) Bandaranayake B.M.C.S., **Meegahakumbura M.K**. and D.R. Gimhani (2019) Preliminary Genetic Assessment of King Coconut Forms using Simple Sequence Repeat Markers *In: Proceedings of the 18th Agricultural Research Symposium*, Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. Pp: 1-5

4) Samarasinghe C.R.K. **Meegahakumbura M.K**. Dissanayaka H.D.M.A.C and L. Perera (2018) Performance of the second generation Ambakelle Special coconut variety under varying rainfall and temperature conditions *Proceedings of the Fifth symposium of the Young Scientist Forum, Colombo, Sri Lanka*. Pp: 122-125

5) Perera L., **Meegahakumbura M.K.,** Randles J.W. and Z.X. Zhang (2018) Identification of the causal agent of the coconut tapering disorder in Sri Lanka. Proceedings of International conference on Viroids and Virus-Like RNAs, Spain 5-7 July 2018

6) Wijewikrama W.L.H., **Meegahakumbura M. K**., Attanayake D.P.S.T.G. and L.M.H.R. Alvis (2018) Determination of genetic purity of the yellow dwarf coconut seedlings rejected from the nurseries using SSR markers. *In: Proceedings of the 2nd International Research Symposium;* "Emerging technologies for an innovative green economy" *Uwa Wellassa University*, Badulla, Sri Lanka (Pp -93)

7) **Meegahakumbura M. K.,** Wambulwa M.C., Li D.Z. and Gao L.M. (2017) Domestication origin and the breeding history of the tea plant (*Camellia sinensis* L.) in China and India. *In: Abstracts of the 19th International Botanical Congress*, Shenzhen, China (Pp-455)

8) **Meegahakumbura M. K**., Wambulwa M.C., Li M.M., Thapa K.K., Yang J.B., Li D.Z. and Gao L.M. (2017) Genetic relationships based on SSR polymorphism in wild and ancient cultivated tea trees (*Camellia sinensis* L.) from China and India. *In: Abstract of the 6th International Conference of the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka".* Aslam et al. (Eds), Pp 130, ISBN: 978-955-644-058-4

9) **Meegahakumbura M.K**., Wambulwa M., Thapa K., Li M.M., Xu J.C. Li D.Z., and Gao L.M. (2014) Genetic structure of cultivated tea Camellia sinensis in China and India; New insight into Camellia sinensis var. assamica gene pools. *Symposium of Young Scientists on Biodiversity and Conservation Biology in South West China:* Applications of Molecular Techniques. Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens, Xishuangbanna, China

10) Wambulwa M., **Meegahakumbura M.K.**, Muchugi A., Kamunya S., Xu J.C. Li D.Z., and Gao L.M. (2014) Genetic structure and diversity of tea germplasm in East Africa as revealed by SSR markers. *Symposium of Young Scientists on Biodiversity and Conservation Biology in South West China:* Applications of Molecular Techniques. Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Gardens, Xishuangbanna, China

11) **Meegahakumbura M.K.,** Perera L., Wijesekara H.R.T., Fernando W.B.S., Kalani N.G.A. and M.J. Dickinson (2012) PCR based detection of Waligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease. *Proceedings of the First symposium of the Young Scientist Forum, Colombo, Sri Lanka*. Wikramasooriya et al. (Eds). Pp 16

12) Perera L., **Meegahakumbura M.K**., Wijesekara H.T.R., Kalani N.G.A, Munasing C.E., Fernando W.B.S. and M.J. Dickinson (2010) Detection of Weligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease in Sri Lanka by polymerase chain reaction. In: *Proceedings of the International Conference on Coconut Biodiversity for Prosperity*. Tomas et al. (Eds). Pp: 146

13) Wijesekara H.T.R., Perera L., Wickramananda I.R., Hearth I., **Meegahakumbura, M.K.**, Fernando W.B.S. and P.H.P.R. de Silva (2008) Weligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease: A new disease in Southern Sri Lanka. In: "*Proceedings of the Second Plantation Crop Research Symposium*". A Ninanayaker and E Jayamanne (Eds.).

14) Gammulla C.G., Samarajeewa P.K., Sumanasunghe V.A. and **M.G.M.K. Meegahakumbura** (2005) Screening of *Lycopersicon* species for tomato Yellow leaf curl virus resistance and evaluating their differences by RAPDs. Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science. *Proceeding of the 61st Annual Session,* Part-01. Pp-115

Scientific Presentations

1) **Meegahakumbura M K**, Lian-Ming Gao and D.Z. Li (2020) The Tea Story; Origin Domestication, Dissemination and Utilization of Tea Germplasm in Asia. *International (Online) Colloquium*. Organized by Dinahata College and West Bengal and Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, West Bengal, India 30-31 July 2020

2) **Meegahakumbura M K**, Perera S A C N and L Perera (2016) Research towards future prosperity in coconut industry in Sri Lanka (invited paper), *Open University Research Sessions*, 17-18 November, 2016, The Open University of Sri Lanka. ISSN: 2536-8893-9-772536-889008

Theses/Dissertations

1) **Meegahakumbura M K** (2016). Genetic assessment of Asian tea germplasm and the domestication history of the tea plant (*Camellia sinensis* (L.) O. Kuntze). PhD Thesis, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China. doi: 10.13140/RG.2.2.21081.93282

Manuals

1) Training Manual of the Second International Certificate Course for Coconut Development officers (2019). Compiled by Perera, L. and **M.K. Meegahakumbura**, Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Lunuwila, Sri Lanka.

2) Training Manual of the First International Certificate course on coconut Plantation Management (2018). Compiled by L. Perera & **M.K. Meegahakumbura**, Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Lunuwila, Sri Lanka

GRANTS RECEIVED

1) **Co-investigator:** National Research Council of Sri Lanka funded (Rs. 3.026 million) research grant on Coconut for the future: How will Coconut respond to global climate change? (Grant No: 20-113) (2021-2023)

2) **Principal Investigator:** Second Phase of the treasury funded (Rs. 25 million) National Development Project on increasing the Kapruwana hybrids seed nut production at the Kiniyama Seed Garden (2019-2021)

3) **Principal Investigator:** Treasury funded (Rs. 25 million) National Development Project on increasing the Kapruwana hybrids seed nut production at the Kiniyama Seed Garden (Budget Speech Proposal No 114) (2018)

4) **Principal Investigator:** National Research Council of Sri Lanka funded (Rs. 4.5 million) research grant on Identification of drought tolerant coconut mother palms through phenotypic, physiological and gene expression studies (Grant No: 16-084) (2018-2021)

5) **Co-investigator:** National Research Council of Sri Lanka funded (Rs. 3.8 million) research grant on the determination of the etiology of tapering disorder of coconut (*Cocos nucifera* L.) and molecular characterization of the causal agent (Grant No: 13-031) (2013-2016)

6) **Co-investigator:** Global Crop Diversity Trust (Under FAO) assisted project on "Characterization of indigenous coconut germplasm in Sri Lanka" (Grant No. GS08035) (2008-2010)

7) **Co-investigator:** Genotype Supporting Service of the Generation Challenge Programme (GCP) under CGIAR funded project on "Genotyping the coconut mapping population" (2008-2009)

RECENT RESEARCH PROJECTS INVOLVED

1) **Principal Investigator** of the Coconut Research Institute funded research project on "Evaluation of hybrid vigor of Sri Lankan Tall and Sri Lankan Dwarf crossed with exotic varieties" which reased a new coconut cultivar CRISL2020 for the National Coconut Replanting Programme (02nd September 2020)

2) **Principal Investigator** of the Coconut Research Institute funded research project on "Evaluation of King coconut germplasm to release a new cultivar for beverage industry"

3) **Principal Investigator** of the Coconut Research Institute funded research project on "Evaluation of intra-varietal dwarf coconut hybrids for home gardens and beverage purposes"

4) **Principal Investigator** of the Coconut Research Institute funded research project on "Screening varieties/accessions/cultivars for quality of activated carbon" (A collaborative research project between CRISL and HAYCARB) (2019-2021)

5) **Principal Investigator** of the Coconut Research Institute funded research project on Development of a Nano devise for the detection of adulteration in coconut oil (A collaborative research project between CRISL and Wayamba University) (2019-2021)

6) **Member** of the research team released new coconut hybrids Kapsuwaya (CRISL2012) and Kapsetha (CRISL2013) to the National Replanting Programme in 2012

7) **Member** of the research team identified the causal agent of the Weligama Coconut Wilt Disease of Sri Lanka (Perera et al., 2012. Journal of Plant Pathology 94(1): 205-209)

THESIS SUPERVISION

1) "Characterization of drought tolerant coconut genotypes using physiological and gene expression studies" is being currently supervised towards a PhD (Student- Mr. C.R.K. Samarasinghe, University of Philippines Los Banos)

TEACHING CONTRIBUTION

1) Uwa Wellassa University

PLT 131 – Overview to Palm and Latex Industry
EAG 211 – Basic Genetics
PLT 251 – Cultivation and Management of Coconut and other Palms
TEA 252 – Other Plantation Crop Production
EAG 312 – Introduction to Biotechnology
PLT 312 – Genetic Improvement of Perennial Crops
EAG 315 – Genetic Improvement of Crops

2) **Visiting Lecturer**, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, CST 22032 Genetics and Plant Breeding Technologies (2021)

3) **Lecturer** at the "Third International Training Programme for Coconut Development Officers". (From 04th October to 05th November 2021)

4) **Lecturer** at the "Second International Training Programme for Coconut Development Officers". (From 09th September to 08th November 2019)

5) **Lecturer** at the "First International Training Programme on Coconut Plantation Management". (From 13th June to 03rd August 2018)

6) **Visiting Lecturer** National Institute of Plantation Management (NIPM)

WORK EXPERIENCE

1) **Senior Lecturer (Grade I)** October 2021- to date
Department of Export Agriculture
Uva Wellassa University, Sri Lanka

2) **Senior Geneticist/Plant Breeder and Head** January 2017- to October 2021
Coconut Research Institute

3) **Geneticist/Plant Breeder** October 2005- to December 2016
Coconut Research Institute

4) **Graduate Research Assistant** September 2003- October 2005
Plant Genetic Resources Centre,
Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka

OTHER POSITIONS HELD

1) **Stakeholder member,** Bachelor of Engineering Technology(Honours) in Material and Nano Science Technology Degree Programme, Department of Nano Science and Technology, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka (2020-2021)

2) **Course Coordinator** of the "Second International Training Programme for Coconut Development Officers" jointly organized by the Asia Pacific Coconut Community and Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka. (From 09th September to 08th November 2019)

3) **Course Coordinator** of the "First International Training Programme on Coconut Plantation Management" jointly organized by the Asia Pacific Coconut Community and Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka. (From 13th June to 03rd August 2018)

4) **President**: Research Officers Association, Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka (2018-2019)

5) **Member** of the National Plant Breeding Committee of the Sri Lanka; Council for Agriculture Research Policy SLCARP (2017-2020)

6) **Steering committee member** of the Young Scientist forum of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Sri Lanka (2009, 2010, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)

9) **Estate committee member** of the Coconut Research Institute, Sri Lanka (2008, 2009, 2010, 2017, 2018, 2019)

RESOURCE PERSON

1) **Resource person** - Workshop on "Fundamentals of Bioinformatics" organized by the Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka and held at the Wayamba University premises on 29 - 30 April 2010.

2) **Resource person** – National workshop on "Application of Biotechnologies in Plant and Pathogens" Jointly organized by CARP and CRI, Funded by FAO. CRI, Lunuwila, Sri Lanka. 1-5 December 2008

3) **Resource person** – "Third country training workshop" organized by Plant Genetic Resource Centre, Department of Agriculture in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) 2004.

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

1) Fifth International DNA Barcode of Life Conference, Kunming, China, Jointly organized by International Barcode of Life Project and Chinese Academy of Sciences held on 27-31 October 2013

2) International Conference on Coconut Biodiversity for Prosperity from 25th-29th Oct. 2010 at CPCRI, Kasaragod, Kerala, India

3) Biotechnology conference on Plant genetic modification organized by Genetech in collaboration with United States Embassy in Sri Lanka held at the Genetech laboratories from 27th September to 05th October 2010

4) Collaborative Workshop on Waligama Coconut Leaf Wilt Disease organized jointly by FAO and CRI held at the Pegasus Reef Hotel, Colombo from 09th - 12th November 2009

5) International training and Research Workshop for coconut embryo culture to improve collecting and safe movement of germplasm. Organized by Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT) held on 11-15th December 2008 in Zambounga Research Station, The Philippines

6) Short course on Molecular Plant Breeding Organized by Michigan State University, Biotechnology Centre and Council for Agricultural Research Policy in Sri Lanka (2008)

7) A comprehensive course in Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) technology conducted by Genetech School of Gene Technology, Colombo, Sri Lanka from 18th October-9th November 2007

8) Short course on using molecular markers for improving the efficiency of plant breeding in Sri Lanka Organized by Michigan State University and Council for Agricultural Research Policy in Sri Lanka (2006)

9) Workshop training on “Molecular Markers and Screening Techniques for Abiotic Stress Tolerance in Perennial Crops” Department of Export Agriculture in collaboration with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held at In-Service Training Centre, Department of Export Agriculture, Matale, Sri Lanka from 30th August-2nd September 2004

10) Workshop training on “Molecular applications in Microbiology” Biotechnology Center University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka in collaboration with Ag-Research New Zealand head at Agriculture Biotechnology Centre, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka from 23rd -25th November 2004

11) Workshop training on “Genetic Transformation”. Biotechnology Center University of Peradeniya Sri Lanka in collaboration with ICGEB-Plant Resistance Group New-Delhi head at Agriculture Biotechnology Centre, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka from 22nd-23rd December 2003

EDITOR/REVIEWER ASSIGNEMENTS

1) Proceedings of the 9th Young Scientists Forum Annual Symposium (2020) D.M.S.B. Dissanayaka, U. Hettiarachchi, **M.K. Meegahakumbura**, L.K. Weerasinghe, U.S. Liyanarachchi, E.M.S. Isanka and N.Y. Jayanath (Eds.), National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC), ISBN: 978-955-8630-14-3

2) Proceedings of the 8th Young Scientists Forum Annual Symposium (2019) U.S. Liyanarachchi, U. Hettiarachchi, D. Attygalle, **M.K. Meegahakumbura**, W.A.J.P. Wijesinghe and P. Jayasooriya (Eds.), National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC), ISBN: 978-955-8630-12-9

3) Proceedings of the Sixth Symposium on Plantation Crop Research - "Plantation Agriculture towards National Prosperity" (2016) V.R.M. Vidhanaarachchi, H.M.I.K. Herath, **M.K. Meegahakumbura,** A.D.N.T. Kumara and M.K.F. Nadheesha (Eds.), Vol. I, Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka, ISBN: 978-955-9013-19-8

4) Proceedings of the Sixth Symposium on Plantation Crop Research - "Plantation Agriculture towards National Prosperity" (2016) V.R.M. Vidhanaarachchi, H.M.I.K. Herath, **M.K. Meegahakumbura,** A.D.N.T. Kumara and M.K.F. Nadheesha (Eds.), Vol. II, Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka, ISBN: 978-955-9013-20-24

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES MEMBERED

1) Charted Member, Institute of Biology, Sri Lanka

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Surname	: Meegahakumbura
Name	: Meegahakumbure Gedera Muditha Kasun
Sex	: Male
Date of Birth	: 19.07.1977
Marital Status	: Married
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