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13th May 2022



Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
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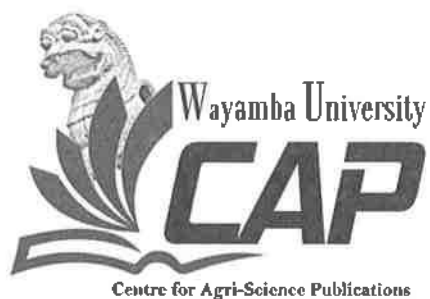
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Message from the Vice-Chancellor

I am pleased to write this message for the Proceedings of the 20th Agricultural Research Symposium (AGRES) scheduled for 13th May 2022.



First of all, let me congratulate the undergraduates of the Faculty of Agriculture & Plantation Management who are making their presentations at the AGRES, producing the research findings before their peers, teachers and experts in the fields, proving that they are equipped to take on the national and global challenges in the food and agriculture sector.

I have noted that the 20th AGRES consists of a staggering 148 research papers mainly covering the areas: Agricultural Economics and Business, Agricultural Business and Marketing, Biotechnology, Horticulture and Landscape Gardening, Postharvest Horticulture, Plantation Resource Management and Plantation Product Development Technology.

I would like to encourage all the students who are making their presentations today, to continue their research and learning especially, in the present crisis situation in the country, to meet the food requirements of the country, looking for solutions to issues faced by the farmers, producing more careers, boosting the economy etc.

I commend and thank the members of staff of the Faculty who have brought the students up to this level even under the situation created by Covid-19 pandemic. I would also like to thank the officials of the public and private sector institutions who collaborated in this effort in many ways.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the Organizing Committees of this event and all other academic, administrative and non-academic staff members who contributed to make this event a success.

Dr. P.G.C.S. Bowatte
Acting Vice-Chancellor
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
13th May 2022

Message from the Dean

Research is given high priority in the Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management. The Agricultural Research Symposium or AGRES as it has come to be known over the years highlights valuable research outcomes of students of the Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management. Today, we find that agriculture in Sri Lanka is at crossroads. Thus, this edition of AGRES is more important than ever. There are many conclusions and recommendations from the next generation of agriculturists to move Sri Lankan agriculture in to new heights.



Students in this year have gone through many hardships in conducting their research and putting up the grand finale on the symposium day. There were numerous occasions where their progress has been interrupted, with Covid-19 or civil unrest, prevalent even today. Thus, I have great reverence for their attitudes, resilience, and hard work. I am proud and honoured to be leading the Faculty with such a wonderful student community.

The charismatic leader of AGRES this year, Dr. Menuka Udugama, has guided students in organizing this event very successfully with the support of AGRES committee and all staff of the Faculty. I salute their hard work, dedication towards maintaining this tradition for the 20th time in the history of our Faculty.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all research students who are presenting today and urge them to continue research in agriculture to generate new knowledge which will make agriculture even a profitable venture for generations to follow.

Prof. J.C. Edirisinghe

Dean

Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management

Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

13th May 2022

CONTENTS

Message from the Vice Chancellor	i
Message from the Dean	ii
Contents	iii
Acknowledgements	viii
Executive Committee	ix
Sub Committees	ix

Department of Agribusiness Management

An Assessment of Consumer Food Shopping Behaviour in Sri Lanka <i>A.M.M.M. Abeysinghe and T.P.S.R. Guruge</i>	1
Value Chain Analysis of the Indigenous Medicinal Crop Turmeric (<i>Curcuma longa</i>) in the Sri Lankan Context <i>W.A.S.C Bandara, J.C. Edirisinghe and K.P.N.G. Kanuwana</i>	6
COVID-19 Impact on Food Security and Dietary Diversity of Rural Sri Lankan Households <i>H.H.R. Chathurangi, J.M.M. Udugama and P.K.D. Vishmani</i>	11
Water Stress and Productivity: An Empirical Analysis of Trends and Drivers in Asia <i>B.C. Darshani and J.M.M. Udugama</i>	16
An Inquiry into Productive Efficiency of Coconut Smallholders in Puttalam District <i>P.P.G.K. Dias and J.C. Edirisinghe</i>	21
Factors Influencing Job Satisfaction among Employees of the Tea Sector in the Central Province under COVID-19 Pandemic <i>E.H.M.K.G.D.S. Ekanayake, A.G.K. Wijesinghe and N.R. Abeynayake</i>	26
Determinants Affecting the Purchase Intention of Organic Agricultural Food Products: Special Reference on Sri Lankan Consumers' Attitude <i>K.H.A.N. Fernando, N.R. Abeynayake and A.G.K. Wijesinghe</i>	31
Factors Influencing Online Purchasing Intention of Agricultural Products: A Case Study in Western Province, Sri Lanka <i>M.M.S.D. Fernando, N.R. Abeynayake and A.G.K. Wijesinghe</i>	36
The Most Preferred Quality Attributes of an Eco-Friendly Fertilizer: Assessing the Case of Biochar-based Slow-Release Urea <i>W.A.C. Fernando, U.K. Jayasinghe-Mudalige, L.H.N. De Silva, A.D.K.S.S. Somarathna, R.S. Dharmakeerthi and W.S. Dandeniya</i>	41
Land Suitability Assessment in the Face of Climate Change in Coconut Cultivation in Sri Lanka using Analytical Hierarchical Process <i>L.K.A.D.W.T. Gunawardena and J.C. Edirisinghe</i>	46
Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Agriculture and Livelihood: Evidence from Fruit and Vegetable Farmers in Galle District <i>G.G.C.J. Gunawardhana, G.H.I. Anjalee, and H.M.L.V. Herath</i>	51
Comparison of Crop Production Index and Permanent Crop Land between Sri Lanka and India based on Vector Autoregressive Model <i>G.L.D. Hasara and N.R. Abeynayake</i>	56

Public Preference to Maintain Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites: A Discrete Choice Experiment <i>K.M. Hettiarachchi, J.M.M. Udugama and R.P.L. Randeni</i>	61
Evaluation of Export Competitiveness of Ceylon Cinnamon in the Global Market <i>S.D. Hewavitharana, I.V. Kuruppu and E.A.C. Priyankara</i>	66
Assessing Stakeholder Perceptions on Key Package Design Considerations for Market Promotion of Eco-Friendly Fertilizer Products in Sri Lanka <i>J.D.V.S. Jayasinghe, U.K. Jayasinghe-Mudalige, L.H.N. De Silva, A.D.K.S.S. Somarathna, R.S. Dharmakeerthi and W.S. Dandeniya</i>	71
Pricing Mechanism and Behaviour of Selected Low Country Vegetables: A Case Study in Tambuttegama Dedicated Economic Center <i>L.J.M.K.U.L. Jayasundara, H.M.L.K. Herath and I.V. Kuruppu</i>	76
Identification of the Status of Cultural Services Arising from Village Tank Cascade System: Case Study of Mahakanumulla Cascade <i>K.M.L.N.D. Konara, H.K. Kadupitiya and H.M.L.K. Herath</i>	81
Evaluation of Stakeholder Perceptions on Benefits and Costs Associated with Use of Eco-Friendly Technologies in Paddy Farming in Sri Lanka <i>L.A.D.S. Lakshani, U.K. Jayasinghe-Mudalige, L.H.N. De Silva, A.D.K.S.S. Somarathna, R.S. Dharmakeerthi and W.S. Dandeniya</i>	86
Performance Management of Agriculture Research in Sri Lanka: Organizational Dynamics in Operationalizing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) <i>K.B. Madhushani, P.C. Abey Siriwardana and U.K. Jayasinghe-Mudalige</i>	91
Factors Influencing the Adaptation of Organic Vegetable Farming in Polonnaruwa District <i>U.H. Mohammath, A.G.K. Wijesinghe and N.R. Abeynayake</i>	96
Sustainable Improvement of Recreational Values of Natural Pools: A Discrete Choice Experiment <i>K.M.R.M. Navoda, J.M.M. Udugama and R.P.L.C. Randeni</i>	101
What Drives Firms to Adopt Eco-Labeling in their Firms? A Case of Agri-Food Processing Sector of Sri Lanka <i>I.M.D. Nilupuli and J.M.M. Udugama</i>	106
Managing Small-Scale Food Businesses during COVID-19 Crisis: Impact and Survival Strategies <i>N.P.D. Nishedhani, G.H.I. Anjalee and H.M.L.V. Herath</i>	111
Entrepreneurial Marketing Dimensions and Small Business Performance: A Study of Food Processing Firms in Kalutara District <i>G.A.S.N.T. Perera and G.H.I. Anjalee</i>	116
Internal Factors Influencing Academic Performance of Agriculture Students in the Universities in Sri Lanka <i>N.A.T. Prabha, A.G.K. Wijesinghe and N.R. Abeynayake</i>	121
Assessing the Constraints Faced by Stakeholders along the Value Chain for Eco-Friendly Fertilizer Use in Paddy Farming in Sri Lanka <i>R.H. Prabhashakya, U.K. Jayasinghe-Mudalige, L.H.N. De Silva, A.D.K.S.S. Somarathna, R.S. Dharmakeerthi and W.S. Dandeniya</i>	126

A Study on Pricing Mechanism in Upcountry Vegetable Market: A Case Study on Dedicated Economic Center, Nuwaraeliya <i>A.G.R.L. Premasiri, H.M.L.K. Herath and I.V. Kuruppu</i>	131
Pre Entering Factors Influencing Academic Performance of Agriculture Students in Sri Lankan Universities <i>G.K. Ranathunga, A.G.K. Wijesinghe and N.R. Abeynayake</i>	136
Factors Associated with Adoption of Organic Paddy Farming in Puttalam District: A Structural Equation Modeling Approach <i>R.S. Randunu, N.R. Abeynayake and A.G.K. Wijesinghe</i>	141
Identification of the Capacity of Provisional Services Arising from Village Tank Cascade System in Sri Lanka <i>R.M.C.M. Rathnayaka, H.M.L.K. Herath and H.K. Kadupitiya</i>	146
Factors Influence on Unemployment Rate in Sri Lanka using Structural Breakdown Analysis <i>P.D.I. Sajini and N.R. Abeynayake</i>	151
Value Chain Analysis of Underutilized Medicinal Plants in Sri Lanka: The Case of Moringa <i>S.T.N. Samarawickrama, J.C. Edirisinghe and K.P.N.G. Kamwana</i>	156
Travel Behaviour and Social Changes Due to COVID-19: An Analysis of the Tourism Sector of Sri Lanka <i>W.A.A.J. Sandamali and J.M.M. Udugama</i>	161
Social Cost of Plastic Pollution along the Coastal Belt of Sri Lanka: A Contingent Valuation Approach <i>S.M.S.N. Senanayake, J.M.M. Udugama and G.A.N.D. Ganepola</i>	166
An Examination into the Push and Pull Factors to Boost Demand and Supply Sides of a Market for Eco-Friendly Fertilizers <i>H.W.D. Shaini, U.K. Jayasinghe-Mudalige, L.H.N. DE Silva, A.D.K.S.S. Somarathna, R.S. Dharmakeerthi and W.S. Dandeniya</i>	171
Assessment of Expert Perception of Climate Impact on Tea Cultivation in Sri Lanka <i>T.M.K.P. Thennakoon and J.C. Edirisinghe</i>	176
Exploring Online and Offline Presence Measures: A Comparison between Shopping Goods, Convenience Goods, and Fast Food <i>C.M. Vidanagama and T.P.S.R. Guruge</i>	181
Financial and Economic Cost Benefit Analysis for Different Categories of Compost Manufacturers in Sri Lanka <i>A.J.Y.M. Vijayanthi and I.V. Kuruppu</i>	186
Dimensions of Electronic Word of Mouth and Impact on Consumer Communities in Sri Lanka <i>T.M. Wanigapura and T.P.S.R. Guruge</i>	191
Effect of Occupational Stress on Employee Job Performance in the Agriculture Sector in Kandy District under COVID-19 Pandemic <i>T.Y.G.V.G. Wijerathna, A.G.K. Wijesinghe and N.R. Abeynayake</i>	196
Consumer Intention towards Online Grocery Shopping during the Post-Pandemic: (Covid-19) <i>D.U.S. Wijeratne and I.V. Kuruppu</i>	201

Agriculture Position in Different Provinces of Sri Lanka Considering Selected Sector Specific Factors <i>L.J. Manikku Acharige and I.V. Kuruppu</i>	206
Evaluating Purchase Intent and Willingness to Pay towards a New Herbal Tea Product <i>M.K.C.Y. Nanayakkara and J.M.M. Udugama</i>	211
Time Series Analysis on Tea Export in Sri Lanka <i>A.G.O.P. Wijesekara and N.R. Abeynayake</i>	216
Trend Analysis and Forecasting of Diesel Consumption in Sri Lanka <i>N. H. Fernandopulle and N.R. Abeynayake</i>	221
Benefits to Beach Users: A Travel Cost Analysis of Multiple Recreational Activities <i>L.H.P. Jayarathna and J.M.M. Udugama</i>	226
Assessing the Economic and Institutional Determinants towards Sri Lankan Tea Export Performance: A Dynamic Panel Gravity Model Approach <i>K. Kathirgamanathan, S.S.K.T. Seelanatha and T.S.P.R. Guruge</i>	231
Risk in Sri Lankan Up-Country Vegetable Farming: Sources, Attitudes, and Management Strategies <i>D.N. Wijesinghe and G.H.I. Anjalee</i>	236
Are We Ready to Pay More for Eco-Labeled Food Products? A Preference Analysis of Sri Lankan Consumers <i>G.A.I. Tharaki and J.M.M. Udugama</i>	241
Recreational Value of Beddagana Wetland Park of Sri Lanka <i>T.K. Mendis and T.P.S.R. Guruge</i>	246
Synergies of Demand and Supply of Regulatory Services in Village Tank Cascade System (VTCS) in Sri Lanka <i>G.N. Dayarathne, H.M.L.K. Herath and H.K. Kadupitiya</i>	251

Department of Biotechnology

Optimization of Culture Conditions for Recombinant <i>Escherichia Coli</i> Containing Putative Alpha-Amylase Gene for Starch Degradation <i>R.T.B. Arachchi, M.J.M.S. Kurera, D.M.S. Dissanayaka, S.N.T. De Silva, W.L.N.L. Fernando and D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka</i>	256
Isolation and Identification of Diazotrophic <i>Azospirillum</i> and <i>Azotobacter</i> Species from Paddy Soils of Sri Lanka <i>R.F. Azra, B.L.W.K. Balasooriya, and H.K.T. Dinushka</i>	261
Long-term Preservation of Selected Pure Cultures of Microalgae and Cyanobacteria under Low Temperature Storage <i>I.G.S.S. Ekanayaka, B.L.W.K. Balasooriya and H.K.T. Dinushka</i>	266
Assessment of Genetic Diversity of Finger Millet (<i>Eleusine coracana</i>) Genotypes in Sri Lanka in Relation to Salt Tolerance using SSR Markers <i>M.N.U. Fernando, G.P.G.I. Thakshila, D.R. Gimhani and D.C.M.S.I. Wijewardana</i>	271
<i>In-silico</i> Analysis on Compounds Derived from Indigenous Plant Materials as Potential Multi-target Inhibitors for the Development of Biopesticides against Stored Grain Pests <i>G.H.K. Kumuditha, D.S. Liyanage and D.R. Gimhani</i>	276

Prevalence of Gastro-intestinal Parasites and Haemoparasites in Backyard Chicken in Galaha Veterinary Division, Sri Lanka <i>L.D. Maleesha, R.P.V.J. Rajapakse, D.S. Thilakarathne and P.S. Warakagoda</i>	281
Genome Organization of the <i>ref</i> and <i>ref</i> Related Genes of <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i> : an <i>In silico</i> Analysis <i>M.H.F. Mushfika, R.L.P.N.D. Rajapaksha, D.A.S. Elvitigala, B.P.D.M. Bandara and D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka</i>	286
<i>In silico</i> Characterization of a Group of Anti-Microbial Peptides; Defensins from <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i> <i>M.P.P. Paseeha, D.A.S. Elvitigala, B.P.D.M. Bandara, R.L.P.N.D. Rajapaksha and D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka</i>	291
Prevalence of Bovine Hemoprotozoan Parasites and Gastrointestinal Parasites in Galaha Veterinary Range <i>D.K.B. Priyani, R.P.V.J. Rajapaksha, D.S. Thilakarathna and P.S. Warakagoda</i>	296
Investigation of Ortho-Anisaldehyde Content in Ceylon Cinnamon Bark Oil by GC-MS Analysis <i>D.R.K. Rathnayaka, K.M. Mewan and H.D. Weeratunga</i>	301
<i>In silico</i> Identification of Yield Responsive Candidate Genes in Rice and Identifying Their Allelic Differences between At354 and Bg352 <i>S.A.D.R. Samarapperuma, D.S. Liyanage, N.S. Kottearachchi and B.P. Abhayawickrama</i>	306
<i>In silico</i> Analysis of Structural Variations in At354 and Bg352 Rice Varieties as an Approach to Identify Salt Tolerance Genes <i>M.D.S.R. Silva, D.S. Liyanage, N.S. Kottearachchi and K.K.D. Sandamali</i>	311
Optimization of Growth Conditions for Mass Culturing of <i>Chlorella</i> sp. for Biofuel Production <i>S.A.V. Viduranga, B.L.W.K. Balasooriya and N.G.C.A. Bandara</i>	316
Effect of CuO and ZnO Nanoparticle Dispersions on Surface Sterilization of Banana Micropropagation <i>H.N. Withana, N.S. Kottearachchi, M.S. Kandanapitiye and W.C. Rangika</i>	321
<i>In silico</i> Structural and Functional Annotation of the MYC2 Transcription Factor from <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i> <i>I.P.S.D. Wickramasooriya, R.L.P.N.D. Rajapaksha, D.A.S. Elvitigala, W.L.N.L. Fernando, B.P.D.M. Bandara, and D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka</i>	326
Protein Analysis and Characterization of Underutilized Legumes in Sri Lanka <i>K.K.P.K. Perera, K.M. Mewan, M.J.M.S. Kurera, R.K.D.N.H. Manchanayake and B.D. R. Prasantha</i>	331
Characterization of Organic Materials and Nanoparticles Towards the Production of Nano Fertilizer for Paddy (<i>Oryza Sativa</i> L.) <i>A.M.C.H. Abeysekara, M.J.M.S. Kurera, K.M. Mewan, C.A.N. Fernando, M.S. Kandanapitiye, H.U. Abhayarathne and D.R. Gimhani</i>	336