

Summary of the Workshops, Seminars, Webinars, Training and Awareness Sessions – 2020

Faculty of Agriculture

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Live webinar on “How to be effective in online learning and way forward”

Live webinar on “How to be effective in online learning and way forward” was successfully organized by the carrier guidance unit of the Faculty. The webinar was held on 24.12.2020 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the second-year students (2017/18 batches) of the Faculty. Mr. Ruwan Wigamage, Assistant Manager, Cloud Products for LK Domain Registry was served as the resource person of the webinar. The webinar was coordinated by Mr. S.P. Dissanayake, the coordinator of the carrier guidance unit of the Faculty.

Live webinar on “Seven habits of highly effective people”

Live webinar on “Seven habits of highly effective people” was successfully organized by the carrier guidance unit of the Faculty. The webinar was held on 23.12.2020 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the third-year students (2016/17 batches) of the Faculty. Mr. Dimuthu Ruwan Piyasena, Associate Director at the AIA Sri Lanka Academy was served as the resource person of the webinar. The webinar was coordinated by Mr. S.P. Dissanayake, the coordinator of the carrier guidance unit of the Faculty.

Staff Training Workshop on “Microsoft Excel” for Management Assistants and Technical Officers

A 3-hour training workshop on “Microsoft Excel” was successfully held at the Computer Unit of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 02.12.2020 for the Management Assistants and Technical Officers of the Faculty. Mrs. E.D.T. Somarathne, Instructor in Computer Technology, Faculty of Agriculture was the resource person of the session. There were 15 non-academics from the above category participated in this session.

Awareness Session on “How to Write an Effective Review Article”

An awareness session on “How to Write an Effective Review Article” was held on 18.11.2020 from 9.00 a.m to 11.30 a.m. using Zoom platform for the academic staff of the Faculty. The session was conducted successfully with 44 participants. Prof. Meththika Vithanage, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura was the resource person for the event.

Awareness Session on “Conducting a Systematic Literature Review using available Databases” for Final Year Students (2015/16 Batch)

An awareness session on “Conducting a Systematic Literature Review using available Databases” was held on 17.11.2020 from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. using Zoom platform for the students in 2015/16 batch of the Faculty. The session was conducted successfully with the participation of around 100 students in the batch. Also, interested staff members were joined with the session. Dr Sujeewa Damayanthi, Senior Lecturer, from the Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo was the resource person for the event.

Awareness session on ePortfolio for the students in 2018/19 batch

The ePortfolio was introduced for the first at the Faculty for the students in 2018/19 batch. The purpose of the students’ ePortfolio is to provide a platform for continuous updating of students’ activities with time during their university life. Besides, it is also expected to enhance the student-mentor interaction to provide the necessary advice, support and encouragements for continuous upgrading of the students’ university life. The awareness session was held on 13.11.2020 from 2 pm- 4 pm using the Zoom platform. Dr D.A.U.D. Devasinghe/coordinator of the faculty quality assurance cell has conducted this session. A draft format is attached.

Online Seminar on “Management of Pests of Postharvest Concern” and “Use of Pheromones in insect pest management”

Two online Seminars, “Management of Pests of Postharvest Concern” and “Use of Pheromones in insect pest management” was successfully held on 10.11.2020 for the majoring students (2015/16 & 2016/17 batches) at the Department of Plant Sciences. Dr. Charles S. Burks, USDA Agricultural Research Service, San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center, Parlier, CA, USA and Dr. L.K.W. Wijayaratne, Senior Lecturer, Department of Plant Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka were served as the resource persons of the seminar. The seminars were coordinated by L.K.W. Wijayaratne and Dr U.G.A.I. Sirisena, Senior Lecturers respectively at the Department of Plant Sciences and the activity was funded by the department AHEAD grant.

Awareness session on the selection of the majoring modules (2016/17 batch)

An awareness session on the selection of majoring modules in BScHons (Agri) was held on 09.11.2020 from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm using Zoom platform for the students of 2016/17 batch of the Faculty. The session was conducted successfully with the participation of 133 students in the batch. The general overview and approved guidelines for selection of a majoring module were delivered by Prof A.M.J.B. Adikari/ Dean of the Faculty while the heads of all departments presented an overview of their respective majoring modules offered by each department. This was the first time that the students selected their majoring modules using an online

platform. Therefore, the students were well aware of the google form titled, "Application for Specialization Modules - Year 3 Semester 2" prepared by the Assistant Registrar of the Faculty.

Training Session on Creating Quizzes and Grading in LMS

A half-day session was held on 27.10.2020 at the faculty computer laboratory to guide the staff members on creating quizzes and grading in LMS. Mrs. Deshani Somarathne, computer instructor of the faculty served as the resource person. This training session was funded by the Faculty AHEAD grant.

Brainstorming Session on Examination and Assessment Procedures of the Proposed Curriculum (2021-2025)

A half-day session was held on 14.10.2020 at the faculty board room to generate the comments on the proposed procedures for the examination and assessments in 2021-2025 curriculum. Dr W.C.P. Egodawatta, coordinator to the curriculum revision presented the proposed procedures and the staff members were commented critically to finalize the document to be included in the prospectus (2021-2025).

Three-Day Learning Camp for the New Intake (2018/2019 Batch)

First three-day learning camp proposed by the AHEAD faculty DP to conduct in collaboration with the CGU of the faculty for the new intake (2018/19 batch) was conducted from 28th to 30th October 2020 at the Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL. The broad aim of this learning camp was to address the needs of fresh students and lay a very good foundation for a successful four years at the university. Specifically, the program addressed the following themes; "Life is beautiful - step towards your dream", "Adjustment to new life, Common first-year challenges, and wise use of mentoring service", "Industry expectations from a graduate, Self-management, Personal effectiveness based on seven habits" and "Team building and Socio-emotional skills Development" (soft OBT) by an eminent resource person team. A total of 156 students were participated in all three days and observed that they had very productive sessions during the period. Evaluation of the program was conducted for each session separately. More than 85% rated as "excellent" as the overall assessment of each session. Dr. S.N. Dissanayake, coordinator- activity 4 AHEAD Faculty DP and Mr. S.P. Dissanayaka coordinator- CGU Faculty of Agriculture organized this event under the Faculty AHEAD grant.

Staff Training Workshop on Office Procedures for Management Assistants

A half-day workshop on "Office Procedures for Management Assistants" was successfully held at the Staff Development Centre of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 29.09.2020. Mr. Saman Rajapaksha, Acting Registrar, University of Peradeniya was the resource person of the session. There were 5 Management Assistants from Faculty of Agriculture participated in this session.

Training Program for Executive Staff and Head of Academic Departments on University Financial and Administrative Procedures

A 4-day workshop on “**University Financial and Administrative Procedures**” was successfully held at the Staff Development Centre of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 9th, 17th, 24th and 30th September 2020. Head of the Department of Plant Sciences, Head of the Department of Agricultural Systems, Assistant Registrar and Farm Manager from the Faculty of Agriculture participated in this session. It is a type of Induction Programme which summarizes most of the topics related to day to day activities.

Staff training workshop on “flipped classroom concept”

A training workshop on “flipped classroom concept” was successfully held at the Lecture hall 05 of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 17.09. 2020 for the academic staff members in permanent and temporary categories of the Department of Agricultural Systems. Dr. Pradeep Kalansooriya, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Computing, Kothalawala Defense University was the resource person of the session The workshop was coordinated by MR. NMKC Premarathne, Lecturer-prob/ activity coordinator AHEAD Department DP 4&5) at the Department of Agricultural Systems and the activity was funded by AHEAD.

Expert’s Meeting on Curriculum Revision

Expert’s meeting of curriculum revision (2021-2025) was held on 27th and 28th August 2020 at the Hotel Heritage, Anuradhapura. Thirteen experts representing the eight majoring modules, English and IT components were attended to the meeting. The proposed courses were thoroughly discussed during this meeting and comments were generated for further improvements. Dr W.C.P. Egodawatta, coordinator to the curriculum revision, 2021-2025 at the Department of Plant Sciences organized this event under the Faculty AHEAD grant.

Workshop on Outcome-Based Education (OBE)

The Department of Plant Sciences in the Faculty organized a workshop on "**outcome-based education (OBE)**" on 20th August 2020 from 1.00 to 5.00 pm through the Zoom platform. Twenty participants attended the workshop. Dr D.A.U.D. Devasinghe and Ms H.C.D. Wijayawardana, at the Department of Plant Sciences, organized this event under the Department AHEAD grant. Prof Gominda Ponnampereuma from the Department of Medical Education of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo was the resource person for the event.

Workshop on CV Preparation and Interview Performances

The department of Plant Sciences of the Faculty organized a workshop on "CV preparation and interview performances" on 18th August 2020 for the final year

students using the zoom platform. The Resource Person of this workshop was Dr Chandana Jayawardena, Head, Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. Ms KRE Padmathilake and Ms TDC Priyadharshani at the Department of Plant Sciences organized this event under the Faculty AHEAD grant.

Workshop on Student-centred Learning (SCL)

The Department of Plant Sciences at the Faculty has organized a workshop on "**student-centred Learning**" on 13th August 2020 from 1.00 to 5.00 pm using the Zoom platform. Twenty participants attended the workshop. Dr D.A.U.D. Devasinghe and Ms H.C.D. Wijayawardana, at the Department of Plant Sciences, organized this event under the Department AHEAD grant. **Prof Gominda Ponnampereuma** from the Department of Medical Education of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo was the resource person for the event.

Workshop on Graduate Shape-up

The Department of Agricultural Systems at the Faculty has organized a workshop on "**graduate shape-up**" on 03rd August 2020 from 9 am to 1 pm using the Zoom platform. Majoring students at the Department of Agricultural Systems were the target group of the workshop. Mr N.M.K.C. Premarathne of the Department of Agricultural Systems organized this event under the Department AHEAD grant. Mr Chandana Pathirage, professional coach/NPL trainer/speaker/ nationalist/ entrepreneur was the resource person for the event.

12th Annual Research Symposium

The 12th Annual Research Symposium (ARS) -2020 under the theme of "*Shaping Agriculture for Sustainable livelihood and Environment*" was held on 30th July 2020 in the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. A total of 132 innovative research findings under the areas of Agricultural Engineering, Environmental Soil Management, Agricultural Economics & Extension, Agricultural Systems & Management, Animal Production & Technology, Agricultural Biology and Crop Science were presented during this symposium. Due to global pandemic situation, part of the students presented their findings using the online platforms. The research findings presented at this symposium were published as 'Proceedings of the Symposium'. Dr. D.A.U.D. Devasinghe, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Plant Sciences served as the coordinator of the 12th ARS.

Workshop on Effective Presentation Skills

The department of Plant Sciences of the Faculty organized a workshop on "Effective Presentation Skills" on 23rd July 2020 for the final year students using the zoom platform. The Resource Person of this workshop was Dr Chalinda Beneragama, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of

Peradeniya. Dr U.G.A.I. Sirisena, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Plant Sciences organized this event under the Faculty AHEAD grant.

Workshop on Curriculum Mapping towards OBE/LCT

This workshop was held at the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 22nd July 2020 with the participation of all staff members of the Faculty. The master trainers on curriculum development were served as resource persons for the workshop. Dr W.C.P. Egodawatta, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Plant Sciences organized this event under the Faculty AHEAD grant. In the workshop, the proposed curriculum for 2021-2025 was mapped with the graduate profile, program learning outcomes, concepts, teaching methods and assessment strategies.

Workshop on Research Data Analysis

The Department of Agricultural Systems at the Faculty organized a workshop titled "**research data analysis**" on 13th July 2020 from 9 am to 2 pm at the computer unit of the Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL. Research students of the 4200 series were the target group of the workshop. Dr A.M.K.R. Bandara of the Department of Agricultural Systems organized this event under the Department AHEAD grant. Prof. Keminda Herath, Department of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka was the resource person for the event.

Workshop on Development of Graduate Profile and Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs) of the study programme

This workshop was held at the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 01st July 2020 from 8.30 am- 5.30 pm with the participation of all staff members of the Faculty. Dr W.C.P. Egodawatta, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Plant Sciences organized this event under the Faculty AHEAD grant. The master trainers of the curriculum development served as the resource persons of the workshop.

Awareness Session on "Introduction to the Library facilities" at the orientation programme in 2020 for 2018/19 Batch

An awareness session on "**Introduction to the Library facilities**" was held on 13.03.2020 from 8.30 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. for the students in 2018/19 batch of the Faculty. The session was conducted successfully with the participation of 143 students in the batch. Mrs. W.P.T Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian, from the Library was the resource person for the event.

Orientation Program for New Intake to the Faculty (2018/2019 Batch)

Orientation program is an annual event organized by the Student Counselling Unit of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka to aware new entrants on

the degree program, rules and regulations of the university, university life *etc.* This programme enables students to align appropriately to the university system. Further, it aims to motivate students to set goals for their future careers. Orientation program – 2020 was organized for the fresh undergraduates’ of 2018/2019 batch upon their entry to the University on 11th March 2020. It was conducted both in-person and online mode due to the disturbances caused by the Covid 19 pandemic of the country with the contribution of academic staff members of the university.

Workshop on how to become an effective student counsellor

Student Counselling Unit of the Faculty of Agriculture conducted a half a day workshop on **“How to become an effective student counsellor”** on 19th February 2020 with the participation of Dr Chaminda Weerasiriwardhana, Senior Counselor and the Psychotherapist of National Hospital, Kandy as the resource person. The aim of the workshop was to capacity building of the student counsellors of the University to strengthen the student counselling activities of the University for the betterment of Undergraduates.

Workshop on University Mentoring Program

Student Counselling Unit of the Faculty of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Faculty AHEAD grant, successfully conducted a half a day awareness session for undergraduates at the Faculty on **“University mentoring program”** on 19th February 2020 with the participation of Dr Chaminda Weerasiriwardhana, Senior Counselor and the Psychotherapist of National Hospital, Kandy as the resource person. The session aimed to improve the awareness of the mentoring and counselling activities of the Faculty of Agriculture among the undergraduates.

“Arancia 2020” - Nutrition Day- 2020

“Nutrition Day-2020” organized by the students of year 3, (2015/2016 batch) of Department of Animal & Food Sciences was held on 11th February 2020, from 7.00 am to 5.30 pm at the Faculty of Agriculture. Department of Physical Education of the Rajarata University contributed their participation for the event by conducting morning exercise programme followed by music. Resource person; Dr. S.M.A.C. Dilrukshi from the Department of Ayurveda, North Central Province, Anuradhapura delivered a worthy discussion on “Good Food Habits”. *Arancia 2020* was full of physical, mental and social well-being activities which harmonized all participant in one place.

TOT on Curriculum Development

TOT on curriculum development was held at the Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka from 14th-17th January 2020. Dr W.C.P. Egodawatta, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Plant Sciences coordinated this event under the Faculty AHEAD grant. Twelve members

representing all four departments of the Faculty and representatives from the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT) and computer unit were trained as master trainers on curriculum development during this programme.

TOT on How to Become a Successful Mentor

TOT on how to become a successful mentor was held at the Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL on 03rd January 2020 with the participation of 33 members from the staff. Dr S.N. Dissanayake, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Systems organized this event under the Faculty AHEAD grant. Dr Chaminda Weerasiriwardena, Consultant Psychiatric from the General Hospital, Kandy was the resource person for this event.

Training in Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management

Students of 2015/2016 batch participated for the training session offered by Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management on “Good Table Manners”., Mr R. M. Asela Ratnayake, Assistant Lecturer delivered a mini-lectures and conducted a training for 25 students on 2nd January 2020. Not only the theory covered in the lecture room but also good social behaviour was also a part of quality education.