Quality Enhancing Activities – 2021 Faculty of Agriculture Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Summary of Workshops, Seminars, Webinars, Training and Awareness Sessions, etc. – 2021

Hands-on Training in Drone and GPS Agriculture

Training session to provide hands-on experience in Drone and GPS Agriculture was successfully organized by the AHEAD (ELTA-ELSE), Department of Plant Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The training was held at the Faculty auditorium on 05th January 2021 from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. with the participation of the academic staff including permanent, temporary, and contract members of the Department and interested members from the other departments of the Faculty. Mr. Isuru Karalliyadda, Surveyor at BOMITEC (Pvt.) Limited with his team were served as the resource person of the training. The training was coordinated by Dr. Nalaka Geekiyanage, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Plant Sciences.









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

A workshop on Financial procedures (Funding & Grants) held under "University Financial and Administrative Procedures" was successfully held at the Staff Development Centre of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 05th January 2021. Head of the Department of Plant Sciences and head of the Department of Agricultural Systems, Assistant Registrar, and Farm Manager were among the participant from the Faculty of Agriculture.

Virtual Inauguration Ceremony of Master of Agriculture, FoA, RUSL 2021

Virtual Inauguration Ceremony of Master of Agriculture (2nd intake), FoA, RUSL was held on 16th January 2021.



Two-day Workshop on "Soft 21st Century Skills for addressing the 21st Century Challenges"

The first two-day workshop titled "soft 21st-century skills for personal and professional success" organized by AHEAD faculty DP for the 2016/17 batch was held on 26th and 27th January 2021 at the faculty auditorium. Prof. Chalinda Beneragama from academia and Dr. Sumendra Jayaram from the cooperate sector were served as resource persons to deliver comprehensive content related to soft skills that are expected by today's competitive job market from the graduates.

TWO DAY WORKSHOP ON

"SOFT 21ST CENTURY SKILLS FOR ADDRESSING THE 21ST CENTURY CHALLENGES"

The first Two-day Workshop titled "Soft 21st Century Skills for Professional and Personal Succes organized by AHEAD Faculty DP was successfully held for 2016/2017 batch students on 26th ar 27th January 2021 at the Auditorium, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University, Prof. Chaline Beneragama from academia and Mr. Sumendra Jayaram from the corporate sector were served resource persons to deliver comprehensive content related to soft skills that are expected today's competitive job market from our graduates.

Following are some insights highlighted by the speakers of the inauguration session.





Webinar on "Recent advances and potentials of using nanotechnology in the food industry"

A webinar was conducted on "Recent advances and potentials of using nanotechnology in the food industry" to provide awareness on nanotechnology and its uses in the food industry to the majoring students in the Dept. of Animal and Food Sciences (2016/2017 batch) on 29th January 2021. The session was conducted by the Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (PVT) LTD. The Senior Research Scientist of SLINTEC, Dr. Surani Chathurika served as the resource person. The academic staff of the department and students majoring in both Animal Science and Food & Postharvest modules of the Dept. of Animal and Food Sciences participated. Mrs. C.A.K. Dissanayake at the Department of Animal and Food Sciences coordinated this webinar.

Workshop on "Nursery Management" for the students in the Department of Plant Sciences

A workshop on Nursery Management for majoring students in the Department of Plant Sciences (2016/2017 batch) was held at the Faculty Field, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 12th February 2021. The resource persons were Mrs. R. Malkanthi, Mr. R. Chaminda, and Mr. T. Premathilaka. Mrs. Darshani Wijaywardhana, Lecturer, Department of Plant Sciences coordinated the event.





Training of Trainers (ToT) on Outcome-Based Education and Learner-Centered Teaching (OBE-LCT)

A ToT programme on "Outcome-Based Education and Learner Centered Teaching (OBE-LCT)" was held from 23rd to 25th February 2021 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. Facilitators of the programme were Prof. Gominda Ponnamperuma, Prof. Indika Karunathilake, and Prof. Asela Olupeliyawa of Department of Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. Twelve staff members; Dr. W.C.P. Egodawatta, Dr. D.M.D. Dissanayake, Dr. D.A.U.D. Devasinghe, Dr. U.G.A.I. Sirisena, Dr. S.C. Somasiri, Dr. D.W.M.M.M. Kumari, Ms. A.J. Fenando, Mr. P.D. Kahandage, Dr. K.K.P. Pereara, Mr. N.M.K.C. Premarathne, Mr. Mohemad Nisam, and Mr. S.M.C. Bandara completed this three-day training as master trainers of the faculty. Dr. W.C.P. Egodawatta, Senior Lecturer, Department of Plant Sciences, coordinator to the curriculum revision, 2021-2025, organized this event under the Faculty AHEAD grant.

The following topics were covered during this training session.

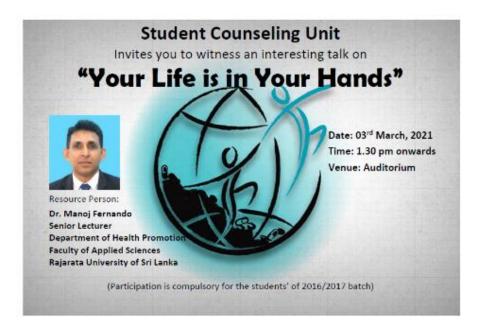
- Learner-centered learning (LCL); an introduction
- ➤ Large group learning
- ➤ Small group learning
- Problem-based learning (PBL)
- ➤ Team-based learning (TBL)





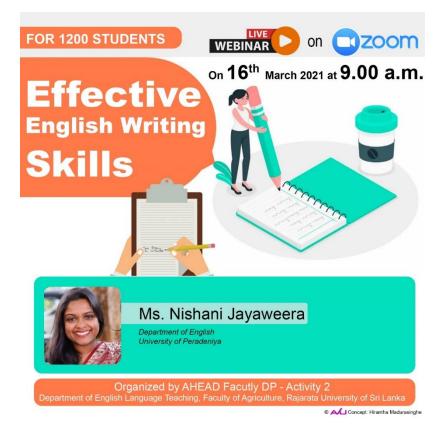
Workshop on "Substance Prevention in University" Organized by the Student Counselling Unit of the Faculty of Agriculture

Student Counselling Unit of the Faculty of Agriculture has organized a workshop on "Your life is in your hands" for the students of the 2016/2017 batch on 03rd March 2021 at the Faculty Auditorium. The workshop aimed to prevent substance use in the university by enhancing awareness among students. In absence of Dr. Manoj Fernando as a resource person, Mr. Chamil Senevirathne, Department of Health Promotion, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka has conducted the awareness session with great interest of students.



Workshop on Effective English Writing Skills

A workshop on "Effective English Writing Skills" was conducted for the students of the 1200 series (2018/19 batch) on 16th March 2021. The purpose of the workshop was to develop the academic writing skills of the undergraduates of the faculty. The resource person for the workshop was Ms. Nishani Jayaweera, Department of English, University of Peradeniya. Workshop coordinators were Dr. KKP Perera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Systems, and Ms. Ishari Maduwanthi from the Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Agriculture. This workshop was funded by Faculty DP/Activity 02 of the AHEAD project.



Non-Academic Staff Training Workshop on "Professional Development at New Normal"

Staff Development Centre (SDC) in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit of the University has conducted a workshop on "Professional Development at New Normal" for non-academic staff members of the University. The sessions were held on 29th, 30th, and 31st March 2021 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at SDC and 8 members of the non-academic staff from the Faculty of Agriculture participated in these sessions.

Embedding CLIL- permanent and temporary academic staff of the DPS

A workshop on Integrated English Language Teaching and Assessment for permanent and temporary academic staff of the Department of Plant Sciences of the faculty was held on 24th March 2021. The sessions were conducted by Dr. Chalinda Benaragma and Dr. Sreemali Herath. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Nalaka Geekiyanage, Senior Lecturer, Department of Plant Sciences.





Library Awareness sessions {online} for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

An awareness session on "**Use of Library E-resources and Databases**" was held on 23rd March 2021 using the Zoom platform for the students in the 2018/2019 batch of the Faculty. Mrs. W.P.T.Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant Librarian, Faculty of Agriculture conducted the programme.

Awareness session on "University Systems" to the academic staff members of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

An awareness session on "University Systems" was held on 27th March 2021 at the Staff Development Center of the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with the participation of 27 academic staff members of the University. Snr. Prof. (Ms.) P.A. Weerasinghe of the Department of Plant Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture served as the resource person of the session. The session was conducted as a virtual event due to Covid 19 pandemic.

Opening ceremony of Technology Incubation Center (TIC) at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC) established a Technology Incubation Center (TIC) at Faculty of Agriculture, Puliyankulama, Anuradhapura for the commercialization of invented products. TIC was declared open on 9th April 2021 in an event graced by the distinguished members. Dr. G.V.T.V. Weerasooriya, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Soil Science was appointed as the coordinator of the TIC by the Faculty Board of the Faculty for the continuation of its activities.

20th Years of Excellence in the Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL

The activities were held at the faculty to celebrate its 20th Years of Excellence on 21st April 2021 from 8.30 am onwards. This event was graced by ven. Etalawatunawewe Gnanathilaka, the Chancellor of the Rajatata University of Sri Lanka and Prof. B.A. Karunarathne, Vice-chancellor of the University.



The 13th Annual Research Symposium

The 13th Annual Research Symposium (ARS) of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Puliyankulama, Anuradhapura is scheduled on 28th and 29th April 2021 as a virtual conference under the theme "Challenging the Pandemic with Agricultural Innovation". Innovation is the key to improving productivity, sustainability, and resilience in the agriculture and food sector. The ARS creates an official platform for final year students to present the findings of their research for an audience comprised of scientists, stakeholders, academics, and colleagues. It also aims

to motivate young researchers and enhance their research skills, develop interactions and establish a working relationship with industry personnel, and recognize the best-performing students. Mr. A.P.S. Fernando, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Systems served as the coordinator of the 13th ARS, and Dr. A.M.K.R. Bandara, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Systems served as the chief editor of the symposium proceeding.

Webinar on "ජල යාත්රා" (Water Journey for Undergraduates of RUSL)

A webinar was conducted on "Water Journey for Undergraduates of RUSL" on 14th May 2021 to provide awareness on water-related issues and the application of IWRM principles to overcome those issues to the undergraduates of the Faculty of Agriculture. Senior Professor C.M. Navaratne (University of Ruhuna), Dr. Missaka Hettiarachchi (World Wildlife Fund), and Ms. Kusum Athukorala (NetWWater) served as the resource persons and Professor M.H.J.P. Gunarathna moderated the sessions. Over 150 undergraduates of the faculty participated in this webinar.

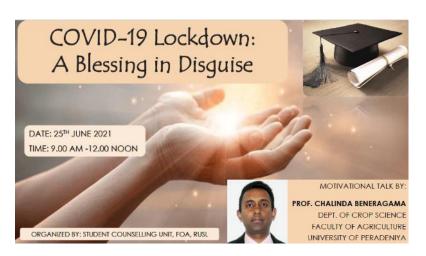


Awareness session on Management Information System (MIS)

An awareness session on MIS was held on 12th June 2021 for the staff members of the faculty via the Zoom platform from 9 AM onwards. Prof. Hewagamage the consultant for the MIS was the resource person of the session.

Workshop on "Covid 19 lockdown: A blessing in disguise" a motivational session Organized by the Student Counselling Unit of Faculty of Agriculture

The Student Counselling Unit of the Faculty of Agriculture has organized a workshop on "Covid 19 lockdown: A blessing in disguise" for the students of the 2017/2018 batch on 25th June 2021 on an online platform. The workshop aimed to motivate the student to use online resources and online courses to expand their knowledge base during the lockdown period. Prof. Chalinda Beneragama, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya has conducted the session with great interest of students.



Workshop Series for Majoring Students of the Department of Plant Sciences of the Faculty

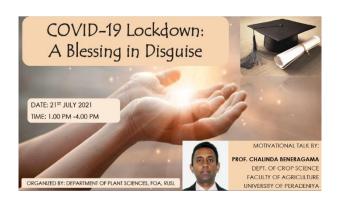
A series of workshops were organized for the majoring students (2016/2017 batch) of the Department of Plant Sciences to expand their knowledge base related to different disciplines by hearing from the experts in an online platform. The workshops were coordinated by Mrs. W.M.R.S.K. Warnasooriya, Senior Lecturer, and the Ms. Umali Herath, Temporary Lecturer of the Department of Plant Sciences. The workshops were funded by the AHEAD department DP.

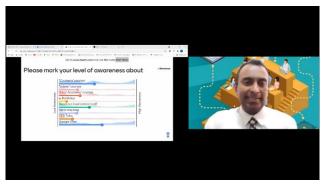
Schedule of the Workshop

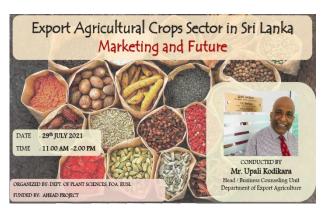
	Topic and Resource Person	Date	Time
1.	Covid 19 Lockdown: A Blessing in Disguise	21.07.2021	1.00 p.m 4.00
	Prof. Chalinda Beneragama		p.m.
	Dept. of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture,		
	University of Peradeniya		
2.	The Future of EAC Sector in Sri Lanka	29.07.2021	11.00 a.m 2.00
	Mr. U.K. Kodikara		p.m.
	Head- Business Counselling Unit,		
	Department of Export Agriculture,		
	Peradeniya		
3.	Social & Community Forestry	29.07.2021	3.00 p.m 5.00
	Mr. Fazly Mohomed		p.m.
	Consultant, Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka		

4. Quality Standards and Certification Process
Dr. D.N.C. Attygalle
Senior Management Consultant

31.07.2021
9.00 a.m. – 12.00
a.m.













Workshop on "Research Proposal Writing"

The Department of Plant Sciences in the Faculty organized a workshop on "Research Proposal Writing" on 15th July 2021 from 9.00 to 12.30 pm through the Zoom platform. Mrs. KRE Padmathilaka / Mrs. TDC Priyadarshani at the Department of Plant Sciences organized this event under the Department AHEAD grant. Dr. DIDS Benaragama, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, Canada was the resource person for the event. It was a good opportunity for students in the 2016/2017 batch in the majoring module at the Department of Plant Sciences to gain preliminary knowledge regarding research proposal writing before their Final year research projects.

Webinar on Tackling the Challenges – Jala Yatra on River Sand Mining for undergraduates of FoA, RUSL, and UoR

A webinar was conducted on "Tackling the Challenges – Jala Yatra on River Sand Mining" to provide awareness on impacts on river sand mining on water resources and livelihood to the undergraduates who are specializing in Agricultural Engineering, Environmental Soil Management and Green Technology of Faculty of Agriculture of University of Ruhuna and Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 21st July 2021. Dr. Missaka Hettiarachchi (World Wildlife Fund), Dr. Melita Grant (University of Sydney) Ms. Nimmi Sanjeewani (Center for Environment Justice, Ms. Muditha Priyanwada (Construction Industry Development Authority), and Ms. Kusum Athukorala (NetWWater) served as the resource persons. Senior Professor C.M. Navaratne (University of Ruhuna) and Professor M.H.J.P. Gunarathna moderated the sessions. Over 60 undergraduates of two faculties participated in this webinar.



Inauguration Ceremony for new entrants (2019/2020)

The virtual inauguration ceremony to welcome the new intake of students in the 2019/20 batch to the faculty was held on 28th July 2021.



Awareness on LMS for the New Entrants 2019/2020

An awareness session was conducted for the newly recruited students for the batch 2019/2020 on 28th July 2021 at 12.30 pm. The students were inculcated on the basic features and the operations of the faculty LMS since the academic programme continues in line with the learning management platforms at present. This was a part of the orientation programme. Mrs. E.D.T. Somarathne, computer instructor of the faculty was served as the resource person for conducting this session.

Intensive English Programme for the New Intake to the Faculty (2019/2020 Batch)

The Intensive English Programme is an annual programme organized by the Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka to enhance the English knowledge of the new university entrants through teaching English intensively. The Programme was conducted from August to September via an online platform due to Covid - 19 lockdown that prevailed in the country. Lectures of the Intensive English Programme were conducted by the academic staff members of the Department of English Language Teaching, SMC Bandara, AAI Maduwanthi, and BGDS Nandarathna coordinated by AAM Nizam. This time, the programme was conducted for 1 and ½ months via an online platform due to Covid - 19 lockdown that prevailed in the country.

Remedial English Programme for 2018/19 batch

The Remedial English Programme – Level 1 was conducted virtually for the 2018/2019 Batch from February to April 2021. The lectures of the Remedial English Programme – Level 2 also started virtually in December 2021 and will go on till February 2022 The lectures of the programme are conducted by the academic staff members of the DELT, FoA.

Workshop on Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop for English as Secondary Language (ESL) courses developed for the Faculty of Agriculture

A two-day Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop was conducted for the newly developed ESL courses of the Faculty of Agriculture on 28th June and 02nd July 2021. Academic staff members of the Department of English Language Teaching Unit, Faculty of Agriculture were the target group of those workshops. The resource persons for the Workshop were Dr. Shashini Thenabadu, Ms. Dilinie Gunarathne, Ms. Sandaru Diwakara, and ms. Suranmali Prananda from the Department of English Language Teaching, University of Colombo. Participants of the workshop were academic staff members of the Department of English Language Teaching Unit, Faculty of Agriculture. The workshop coordinator was Dr. KKP Perera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Systems. This workshop was funded by the Faculty DP of the AHEAD project.

University of Rajarata

Courses: English for Higher Education & English for Employment

TOT Workshop schedule

Skill Area	No. of lessons	No. of hours	Proposed dates and times	Resource Person
Grammar	6 lessons	1 ½ h	Monday, June 28 th 8.30 – 10.00 am	Ms. Dilinie Gunaratne
Writing	11 lessons	2 ½ h	Monday, June 28 th 10.15 am -12.45 pm	Dr. Shashinie Thenabadu
Reading / Listening	5 lessons	2 ½ h	Friday, July 2 nd 2.00 – 4.00pm	Ms. Suranmali Prananda
Speaking	8 lessons	2 h	Friday, July 2 nd 4.15pm – 6.15pm	Ms. Nandula Perera

Orientation Program for New Intake to the Faculty (2019/2020 Batch)

An orientation program is an annual event organized by the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka to aware and align the new university entrants on the

degree program, rules and regulations of the university, university life, *etc*. Further, it aimed to motivate students to set goals for their future careers. Orientation program – 2021 was organized by Mrs. W.M.R.S.K. Warnasooriya, Senior Student counsellor, Dr. D.M.S. Duminda, Deputy proctor, and Mr. S.P. Dissanayake, Coordinator of Career Guidance Unit of Faculty of Agriculture for the fresh undergraduates' of 2019/2020 batch upon their entry to the University. Orientation sessions were conducted by academic staff members of the faculty, members of the career guidance unit of Rajarata University, and a few outside resource persons in an online platform due to covid 19 lockdown prevailed in the country.







Orientation Programme for 2019/2020 batch Faculty of Agriculture Rajarata University of Sri Lanka 30th July – 6th August 2021

Date	Time	Session	Resource Person/s
30 th July	9.00am – 10.30 am	Norms and Ethics of	Snr. Prof. (Ms.) P.A. Weerasinghe,
		University Culture	Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL
	11 000 12 00	Introduction to Student	Ms. Rasika Warnasooriya, Senior Student
2021	11.00am- 12.00noon	Counselling Unit	Counseller, Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL
	2.00	History of the University	Dr. M.G.T.S. Amarasekara, Faculty of
	2.00pm – 4.00pm	System of Sri Lanka	Agriculture, RUSL
		Institutional structure,	Duck AMID Adhilani Doon Faculty of
	9.00am - 10.30am	regulations and the ethics of	Prof. A.M.J.B. Adhikari, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL
		the academic program	Agriculture, KOSL
	11 00am 11 20am	Introduction to the Dept. of	Dr. AMKR Bandara / Head, Dept. of
	11.00am – 11.30am	Agricultural Systems	Agricultural Systems
	11 20 12 00	Introduction to the Dept. of	Dr. UGAI Sirisena / Head, Dept. of Plant
02 nd	11.30 – 12.00noon	Plant Sciences	Sciences
August	12.00 12.20	Introduction to the Dep. of	Du Chinami Diagonando / Dan a (A sais
2021	12.00noon-12.30	Agric. Engineering and Soil	Dr. Shiromi Dissanayake / Dep. of Agric.
	pm	Sciences	Engineering and Soil Sciences
	12 20 1 00	Introduction to the Dept. of	Prof. WAD Nayananjalie / Head, Dept.
	12.30 – 1.00 pm	Animal and Food Sciences	of Animal and Food Sciences
	2.00pm – 4.00pm	21st Century Skills	Mr. Jaliya Rathnayake, Career guidance
			Coordinator, Career Guidance Unit /
			RUSL
		Active Citizen Program	Dr. U.G.A.I. Sirisena & Ms. K.K.P.
	0.00am 12.00 noon	& Leadership Development	Perera, Coordinators of the 'Active
			Citizen Program' Faculty of Agriculture,
$03^{\rm rd}$		Programs	RUSL
August	11.30am – 12.30pm	Messages from Assistant	Assistant Registrar, Faculty of
2021	11.50am - 12.50pm	Registrar	Agriculture, RUSL
	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Motivational programme:	Mr. Wilson Gunaratne, Senior Lecture/
		Belief power gets powerful	Founder, Charitha Hathak Media
		results	Tourider, Charitia Frantax Media
	19.00am-10.00am	Hostel Rules and	Dr. N.S. Abeysinghe Dr. (Mrs.) K.M.N.
		Regulations	Kumari, Wardens of the Faculty of
		regulations	Agriculture, RUSL
04^{th}		Rules & Regulations of	
August 2021	10.30am – 12.30pm	Universities, Anti Ragging	Dr. D.M.S. Duminda, Deputy Proctor,
		Act, Gender Based Violence	Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL
		and Civil Law	
	3.00pm – 5.00pm	Use of Library Facilities for	Ms. W.P.T. Dilrukshi, Senior Assistant
	5.00pm - 5.00pm	Academic Activities	Librarian Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL
05 th	9.00am – 12.00noon	Mentoring and counselling:	Dr. Chaminda Weerasiriwardhana,
		<u>l</u>	l .

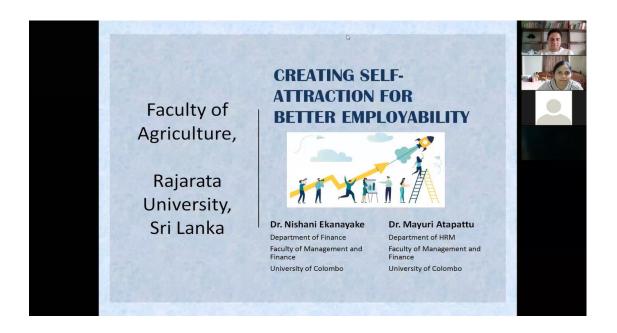
August		A path to success	Senior Psychotherapist and Counsellor,
2021			National Hospital Kandy (Funded by
			AHEAD)
	1.00 – 2.00 pm	Introduction to Career	Mr. S.P. Dissanayake, Faculty of
		Guidance Unit	Agriculture, RUSL
	2.00 – 4.00 pm	How to be effective in online	Mr. Ruwan Wigamage, Manager, LK
	2.00 - 4.00 pm	education	Domain
	19 00am = 12 00noon	Gender Sexuality and	Dr. (Mrs.) Kiloshini Hendawitharana, School Medical Officer, RDHS,
		Reproductive Health	Anuradhapura
6 th August 2021	1 20000 2 00000	0 1 1 1 1 1 1	Dr. UGAI Sirisena, Faculty of Agriculture, RUSL
		Motivational Talk: Alumni	Coordinate by Dr. U.G.A.I. Sirisena,
	2.00pm – 5.00pm	Association of the Faculty of	Alumni Association of Faculty of
		Agriculture, RUSL	Agriculture, RUSL

Orientation session conducted in parallel to the Intensive English programme

No	Event	Resource Person	Date
01	Examination By-Laws and	Dr. Wolly Wijayarathne, Faculty	24th September 2021
	Exam Violation	of Agriculture	
04	Physical Education in	Director, Physical Education	30th September 2021
	University Life	Unit, RUSL	
05	Skills for Undergraduates	Mrs. A.M. Dissanayake, Career	29th September 2021
		Guidance Unit, RUSL	
06	Introduction to Droomostus	Dr. W.C.P. Egodawatta, Faculty	27th September 2021
	Introduction to Prospectus	of Agriculture	
08	Introducing a portfolio	Dr. (Ms.) D.A.U.D. Devasinghe,	24th September 2021
	Introducing e-portfolio	Faculty of Agriculture	

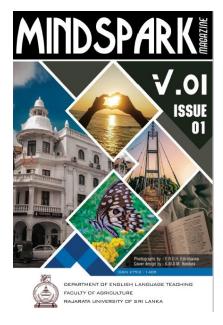
Webinar on "Creating Self-Attraction for Better Employability" for the Undergraduates of the Agriculture Faculty, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

The Agriculture library organized a Webinar on "CREATING SELF-ATTRACTION FOR BETTER EMPLOYABILITY". It was held on 14th July 2021 from 2.00 p.m to 5.00 p.m using the Zoom platform for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Dr. Nishani Ekanayake (Senior Lecturer), and Dr. Mayuri Athapattu (Senior Lecturer) from the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo were the resource persons for the event.



Mindspark English e- magazine

Mindspark is an English e-magazine published by the Department of English Language Teaching bi-annually with an e-ISSN to improve the students' writing skills in English. Both the academic staff members and students are given the opportunity to publish their short reports, essays, articles, short fiction, poems, etc. in the magazine. Volume 1 – Issue 1 of the magazine was launched in July 2021 under the patronage of Prof. AMJB Adikari, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture. Volume 1 – Issue 2 of the magazine will be published in December 2021.







Workshop title on Trainers (TOT) workshop for English as Secondary Language (ESL) courses developed for the Department of Agricultural Systems

A two-day Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop was conducted for the newly developed ESL courses of the Department of Agricultural Systems on 26th and 28th July 2021. The target group for the workshop was the academic staff members (both the permanent and the temporary staff members) of the Department of Agricultural Systems. The resource persons for the Workshop were Dr. Shashini Thenabadu, Ms. Dilinie Gunarathne, Ms. Sandaru Diwakara, and ms. Suranmali Prananda from the Department of English Language Teaching, University of Colombo. The workshop coordinator was Dr. KKP Perera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Systems. This workshop was funded by the Department DP of the AHEAD project.

University of Rajarata

Courses: English for English for Scientific Communication (3200) & Industrial English (4100)

TOT Workshop schedule

Skill Area	No. of	No. of	Proposed dates and	Resource Person
	lessons	hours	times	
Grammar & Vocabulary	5 lessons	1 ½ h	Monday, July 26 th 8.30 – 10.00 am	Ms. Dilinie Gunaratne
Writing Academic & Industrial	7 lessons	2 ½ h	Monday, July 26 th 10.15 am -12.45 pm	Dr. Shashinie Thenabadu & Ms Sandaru Diwakara
Reading / Listening	8 lessons	2 h	Wednesday, July 28 th 8.30 – 10.30 am	Ms. Suranmali Prananda
Speaking	9 lessons	1½h	Wednesday, July 28 th 10.45 – 12.15 am	Ms. Nandula Perera

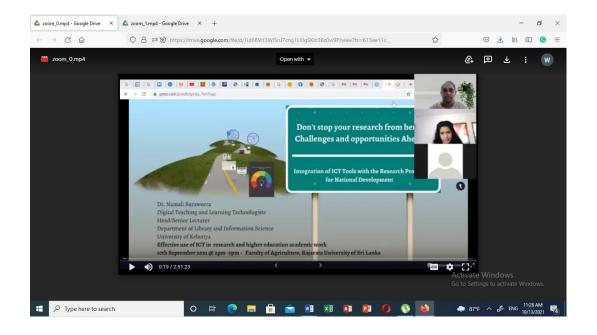
Dhamma sermon organized by the Students of the 2019/2020 batch

The dhamma sermon program "Thurunu Daham Arana" was organized by the students of the 2019/20 batch as an online event on 22nd August 2021. All staff members were invited by the students to participate in the event.



Webinar on "Effective use of ICT in research and higher education academic work" for the Undergraduates of the Agriculture Faculty, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

The Agriculture Library organized a workshop on "Effective use of ICT in research and higher education academic work" for the final year students of the Agriculture Faculty, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, and the activity was founded by the AHEAD faculty DP. The Webinar was held on 10th September 2021 using the Zoom platform. The main objectives of the workshop were to introduce ICT tools that students can be used with their research process and promote students to use different and freely available ICT tools for their research work. Dr. Namali Suraweera, Senior Lecturer, University of Kelaniya was the resource person of the workshop.



English Night of 2019/2020 Batch

With the intention of enhancing the creative talents and English language skills of the new entrants, the annual English Night is usually conducted at the end of every Intensive English Programme. With the outbreak of the Covid -19 pandemic, the English Night of 2019/2020 Batch was conducted virtually on 21st September 2021. The programme was organized by the Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with the financial support of the AHEAD project.





Awareness session on ePortfolio for the students in 2019/20 batch

E-portfolio is a platform for continuous updating and recording of students' academic and extracurricular activities done during their university life. It is customary to share the e-portfolio with the mentors and is a base for the mentoring program of the faculty as mentors can provide the necessary advice, support, and encouragement for continuous upgrading of the student's university life. The awareness session on e-portfolio for the students in the 2019/20 batch was held on 24th September 2021 from 9.00 am – 11.00 am using the Zoom platform. Dr. D.A.U.D. Devasinghe/coordinator of the Faculty Quality Assurance Cell has conducted this session. The format for the eportfolio was revised and submitted for FB approval as well.

Agro-Entrepreneurial Experience Sharing Forum- 08th October 2021

An interactive session with successful farmers and undergraduates of the faculty was held on 08th October 2021 using a virtual flatform due to the prevailing pandemic of Covid- 19. Members of the academic staff and 190 students participated in the sessions. Dr. N.S. Abeysinghe, Senior Lecturer and the coordinator (activity 05) of the AHEAD faculty DP coordinated this event with the support of a team appointed by the Faculty Board.

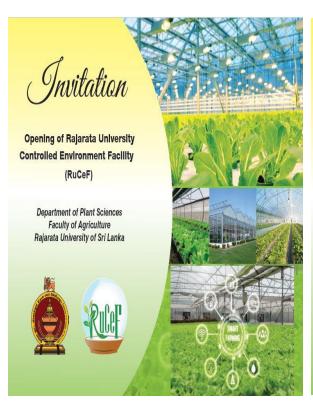




Opening Ceremony of the Glasshouse

Department of Plant Sciences, FOA, RUSL established a new field laboratory named Rajarata University Controlled Environment Facility (RuCeF) through a Development Oriented Research under AHEAD project funded by the World Bank. The ceremonial opening of RuCeF was held on 18th October 2021 in an event graced by distinguished

members including Prof. B.A. Karunarathne, the Vice-Chancellor of the university, and Prof. A.M.J.B. Adikari, the dean of the faculty. How this facility is of high utility in simulated climate change adaptation experiments was elaborated by Senior Professor WAJM DE Costa, Department of Crop Science, University of Peradeniya. A team led by Dr. Nalaka Geekiyanage, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Plant Sciences, won this grant.



	Morning Session
Time	
10.58 am	Ceremonial opening of the Rajarata University
	Controlled Environment Facility
	Orientation Tour inside the Rajarata University
	Controlled Environment Facility
11.30 am	Refreshments
	End of Ceremonial event
	Afternoon Session
Time	
2.00 pm	Welcome speech,
	Dr. Nalaka Geekiyanage
2.05 pm	Video clip
2.10 pm	Speech by the Head of the
	Department of Plant Sciences, Dr. Anura Sirisena
2.15 pm	Technical Session,
	Prof. Janendra De Costa
2.45 pm	Speech by the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture
	Prof. A.M.J.B. Adikari
2.50 pm	Speech by the Vice Chancellor,
	Rajarata University of Sri Lanka,
	Prof. B.A. Karunaratne
2.55 pm	Vote of Thanks, Dr. Udeni Devasinghe









Farmer Awareness Program on TMR briquettes (AHEAD DOR-39)

A one-day training program for the dairy farmers in Mahaweli System L was successfully organized by the Department of Animal and Food Sciences. The training session was held at Mahaweli Training Center, Sampathnuwara on the 1st November 2021, mainly focusing on enhancing farmers' awareness of the importance of feeding management in order to obtain continuous and higher milk production. Farmers were educated on the importance of animal nutrition, forage conservation, and feed supplements. A TMR briquette prepared as a research finding was also introduced to the farmers. Prof. W. A. D. Nayananjalie, Dr. S. C. Somasiri, Mrs. M. A. A. P. Kumari, and Mr. W.V.V.R. Weerasinghe served as the resource persons of the program.





Workshop on Preparing Graphical Abstracts

A workshop on presenting research findings using graphics was successfully conducted for the students enrolled for AS 4101 E-course "English for Scientific Communication" and interested students of 4100 series (2016/17 batch) on 11th November 2021. The resource person for the workshop was Dr. Uvasara Dissanayake, Head, Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. The workshop coordinator was Dr. KKP Perera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Systems.





Preparing Graphical Abstracts



Resource person

Dr. Uvasara Dissanayake

Head,

Department of Agricultural Extension Faculty of Agriculture
University of Peradeniya



Workshop Coordinator

Dr. Kumudu Kopiyawattage

Department of Agricultural Systems Faculty of Agriculture Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



Meeting ID: 686 5654 4112

Passcode: 48475333

Guest Lecture on "Product Planning and Marketing Strategies for Agro-tourism Operations"

A guest lecture on "Product Planning and Marketing Strategies" for the students who studied the course unit of AS 4106 – Agro-Ecotourism in 2015/2016 Batch was held successfully on 15th November 2021. The resource person for the workshop was Ms. Chathurika Senarathna, Lecturer, Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The event was coordinated by Mr. S.P. Dissanayake, Lecturer (prob.) at the Department of Agricultural Systems.

Guest Lecture

"PRODUCT PLANNING AND MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR AGRO-TOURISM OPERATIONS"

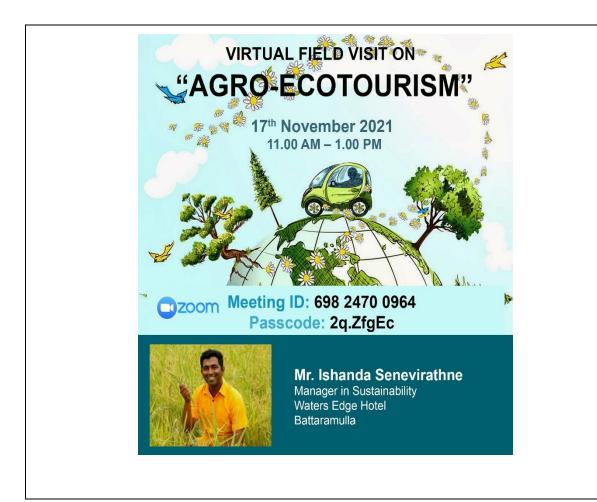






Virtual field on Agro-ecotourisum

A virtual field visit was conducted for the students who studied the course unit of AS 4106 – Agro-Ecotourism in the 2015/2016 Batch on 17th November 2021. This visit aims to explore the agro-ecotourism destinations in Sri Lanka, to understand the operational activities in particular agro-ecotourism destinations in Sri Lanka, and to discuss the sustainability aspects of agro-ecotourism operations. Mr. Ishanda Senevirathne, Manager in Sustainability, Waters Edge Hotel, Battaramulla was served as the resource person of the event. The virtual field visit was coordinated by Mr. S.P. Dissanayake, Lecturer (prob.) at the Department of Agricultural Systems.



3rd Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on assessing Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and Lerner Centred Teaching (LCT)

A 4-day ToT programme on "assessing Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and Lerner Centred Teaching (LCT)" was successfully held at the Staff Development Centre, University of Peradeniya from 22nd – 25th November 2021. Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Prof. Chalinda Beneragama, Prof. Roshan Regal, Dr. Asitha Bandaranayake, Ms. Ramona David, Prof. Sakunthala Ekanayake, were the resource person for the event. Twelve staff members; Dr. W.C.P. Egodawatta, Dr. U.G.A.I. Sirisena, Dr. D.A.U.D. Devasinghe, Dr. S.C. Somasiri, Mrs. Isuri Jayawardhane, Ms. A.J. Fenando, Mr. E.J. Kosgollegedara, Dr. K.K.P. Pereara, Mr. N.M.K.C. Premarathne, Mrs. E.D.T. Somarathne, Mr. Mohemad Nisam, and Mr. S.M.C. Bandara were participated to be trained as master trainers of the faculty. 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.

The following topics were covered during this training session.

- ➤ OBE: Why and what for?
- ➤ Fitting assessments within the concept of OBE
- ➤ Why and what for

- ➤ Fitting the assessments within the concept of LCT
- > Embedding ICT into the curriculum
- ➤ Assessing ICT skills in the OBE systems
- ➤ Assessing knowledge outcomes: Are we doing it right?
- ➤ Aligning assessments within the outcomes
- ➤ Games to assess "teamwork" skills
- > Embedding CLIL in the curriculum
- > Assessing English language within the subject
- ➤ Planning the lessons for LCT in the OBE
- > Embedding and assessing soft skills within OB subjects
- > Assessments for learning and assessments as learning in OBE









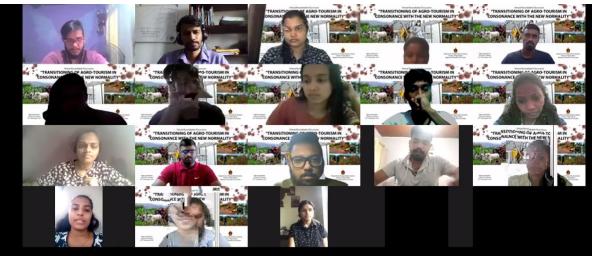
Virtual Round Table discussion on Transition of agro-tourism in consonance with the new normality with students

Students were actively disused about handling operations with the pandemic situation, transportation of tourists to their destination under the covid19 situation, covid-19 safety protocols, improve infrastructure facilities as the minimizing the spread of covid19, accommodation establishment under the new normal, introducing new tourism packages during the covid-19 pandemic, how to serve food and beverages under new normality, importance of bio bubbles, digital solutions for improving tourism after covid19, how to maximize economic profit by bringing tourists from pandemic situation to Sri Lanka, Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis with regard to ecotourism in Sri Lanka after COVID 19 and changing government policy options after covid19 related to the tourism sector.



Agro-ecotourism (2016/2017 Batch) 24 th November 2021







Workshop on Research Cartoon Presentation

A workshop on presenting research findings using cartoons was successfully conducted for the students enrolled for AS 4101 E-course "English for Scientific Communication" and interested students of 4100 series (2016/17 batch) on 26th November 2021. The resource person for the workshop was Mr. Ashoke Herath, a Communication Specialist. The workshop coordinator was Dr. KKP Perera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Systems. This workshop was funded by Department DP/AHEAD grant.



Awareness Session on "Use of Smart Boards for Classrooms and Meetings"

A workshop on "Use of Smart Boards for Classrooms and Meetings" was successfully held at the Conference Room, Department of Plant Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture on 29th November 2021 from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. with the participation of permanent and temporary academic staff members of the department. Mr. H M D Lakmal Herath served as the resource person of the session. Dr. Nalaka Geekiyanage,

Senior Lecturer, Department of Plant Sciences coordinated the event under the AHEAD grant of the department.





Webinar series organized by the Career Guidance Unit of the Faculty

A Webinar series was organized by the Career Guidance Unit of the Faculty targeting students in all batches (*i.e.* 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, and 2019/2020) of the faculty. The activities list in the webinar series is listed in the table below. The webinars were coordinated by Mr. S.P. Dissanayake, the carrier guidance coordinator of the faculty with the support of the Career Guidance Unit, RUSL.

Programme/Resource Person	Topic	Date
Webinar for 2018/2019 batch		
Mr. Wilson Gunarathne	Belief power: gets powerful results	20th May 2021
Industry expert webinar series	3	
Dr. Prasanna Wijesinghe	Nature of future job market	05 th February 2021
Mr. Sujeewa Uhanovita	Future job demand in hotel industry	10 th February 2021
Mr. Naveendra	Future Job demand in financial	24 th February 2021
Liyanaarachchi	industry	
Mr. Wilson Gunarathne	To perform best be away from stress	3 rd March 2021
"IT Yaha Maga" initiated by	How to use internet and social	4 th March 2021
Sarvodaya Fusion in	media effectively as undergraduates	
collaboration with Ministry		
of Education and Facebook		
Dr. Kishu Gomes	What it takes to win globally	19th March 2021
Mr. Mahesh Ravindra	Career Ladder in the insurance field	08th April 2021
Dr. (Mrs.) K.R.N. Harshani	Personal productivity and career	06th May 2021
	development	
Mr. Thinusha	Career in process improvement	12 th May 2021
Bamunuarachchi		
Mr. A. Mathiesha	Career development - apparel	18th May 2021
Mahamalage	industry	
Mr. Jaliya Rathnayake	Change the way you see the world	24th May 2021
Mrs. A.M. Dissanayake	Work-life balance in new normal	16 th May 2021

Mrs. A.M. Dissanayake	Emotional intelligence for a	21st June 2021
	successful life	
Mrs. A.M. Dissanayake	Spiritual intelligence and love	26th July 2021
Dr. Pradeep Samarakoon	Impact of technology on career	29th July 2021
	development	
Mr. Nipuna Indraji	Fine tune your digital marketing	09th August 2021
Dissanayake	skills	
Ms. Nirishini Ranasinghe	Career in banking industry	7 th October 2021
Mr. Susil Liyanage	Change your life in 7 ways	14th October 2021
Mr. Asela Colombage	Pharmaceutical industry career	05th November 2021
	paths	
Mr. Sampath	Look beyond what you can see:	11th November 2021
Aluthpatabandihe	Developing a global mindset	
Mr. Jaliya Rathnayake	Shape your values for better career	26th November 2021













Dr.(Mrs). KRN Harshani
Senior Assistant Librarian
Career and productivity consultant,
Certified NLP Practitioner
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Webinar on...

"PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY
AND CAREER
DEVELOPMENT"

RESERVE YOUR DATE AND TIME

06th May 2021 at 02.00pm - 04.00pm

> Organized by Career Guidance Unit, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

For the link, send your email or whatsapp number to 071 938 8409