



# **GRADUATES EMPLOYABILITY SURVEY**

**ONE YEAR AFTER GRADUATION  
OF  
2015/2016 BATCH**

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**Faculty of Agriculture**

**Rajarata University of Sri Lanka**

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# Executive Summary

The Graduates Employability Survey is a comprehensive survey that assesses the employability of recent graduates of the Faculty of Agriculture (FOA). The survey is conducted on a regular basis to track trends in employability and to identify areas where improvement is needed. The key findings of the latest Graduates Employability Survey of 2015/2016 Batch after one year of graduation include:

- The total number of students participating in the survey was 87. The gender participation percentages of the survey were 69% female and 31 % male.
- Overall employability rate: The overall employability rate for recent graduates is high, at over 80%. However, there is some variation in employability rates between different subject disciplines, generally, the graduates of the plant sciences department indicate higher employability rates than the graduates from other departments.
- Time to find a job: The average time it takes for a recent graduate to find a job is around three months. However, this can vary depending on the discipline, the job market, and the individual's skills and experience.
- Job satisfaction: Recent graduates are generally satisfied with their jobs. However, there is some room for improvement, as some graduates report feeling underemployed or underpaid.

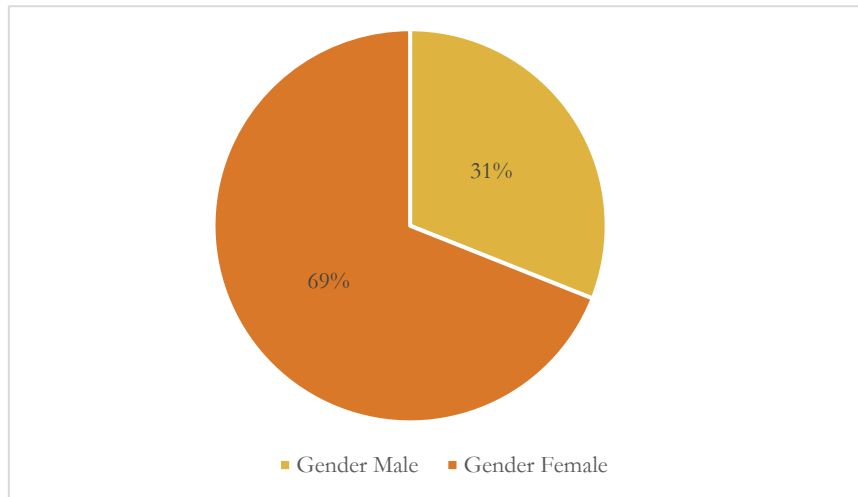
The survey also identified a number of factors that influence graduates' employability, including:

- Academic achievement: Graduates usually have general degrees, especially the male students.
- Enrolment in Postgraduate Degrees: The enrolment to local Master's degrees was found, but it is not the choice of the majority.

Overall, the Graduates Employability Survey provides valuable insights into the employability of recent graduates and the direction to improve graduates' chances of finding and keeping good jobs. The survey findings suggest that the 2015/16 batch of FoA graduates' employability is fairly high.

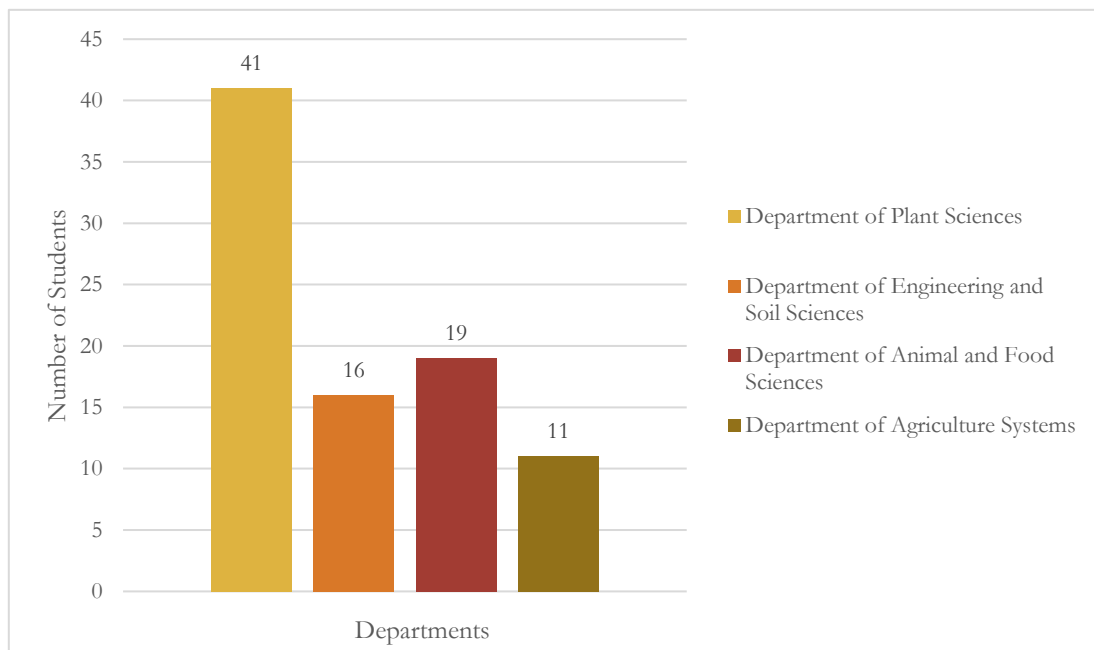
# Summary of Analysis

## Gender Distribution



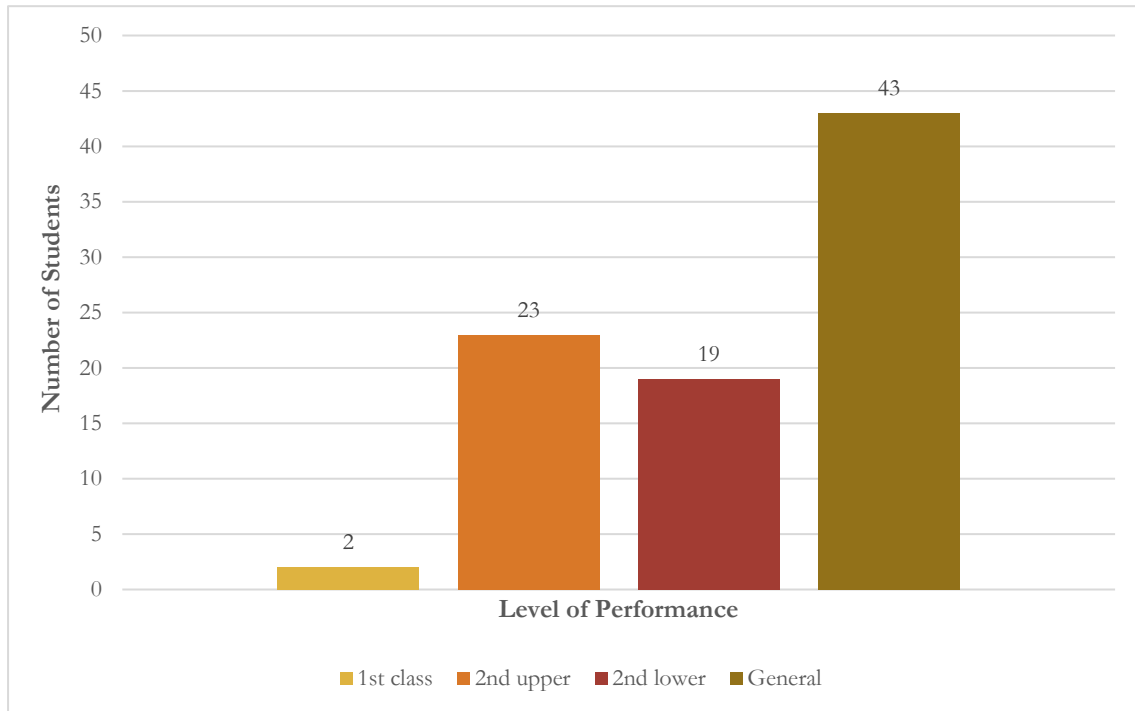
- Total number of students participated in the survey were 87. The gender participation percentages of the survey were 69% female and 31 % male.

## Distribution of Students Across Departments



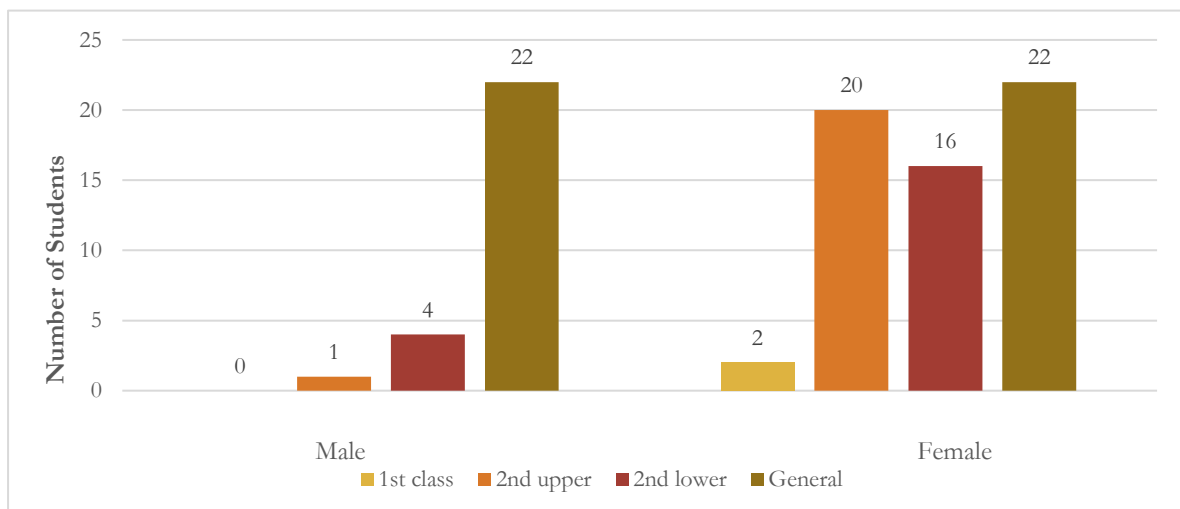
- The Department of plant sciences has been selected by the majority to conduct their majoring modules of those who took part in the survey whereas 41 students.

## Distribution of Classes



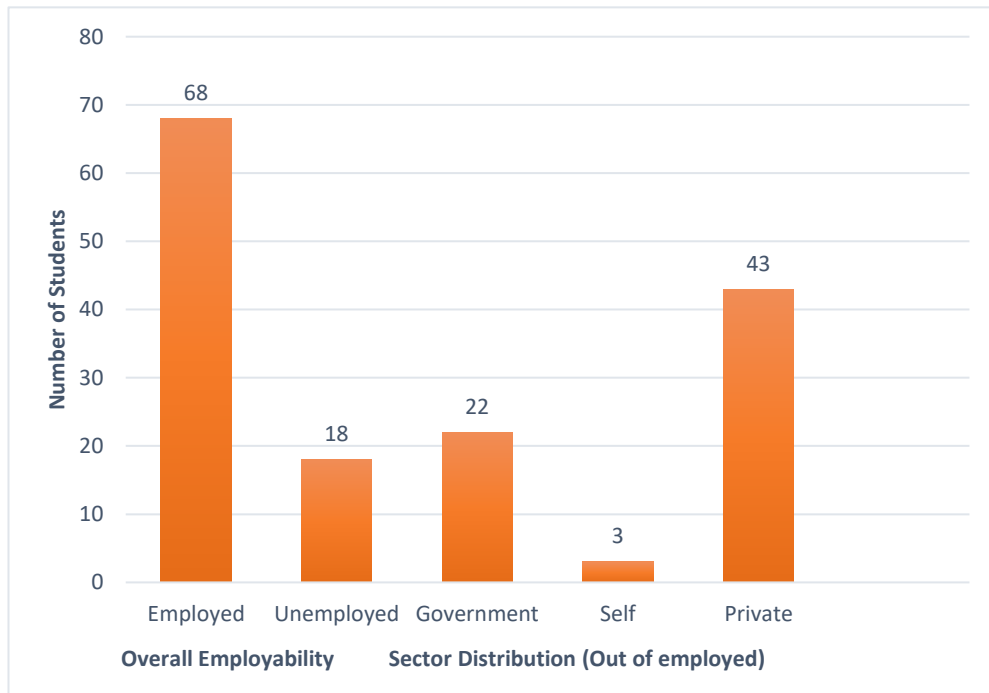
- The majority (49 %) had graduated as the general degree holders. Only 2 % had earned the first classes.

## Gender Based Distribution of Classes



- The majority both male and female (25.28 %) had graduated as the general degree holders. Only 2.3 % female had earned the first classes.

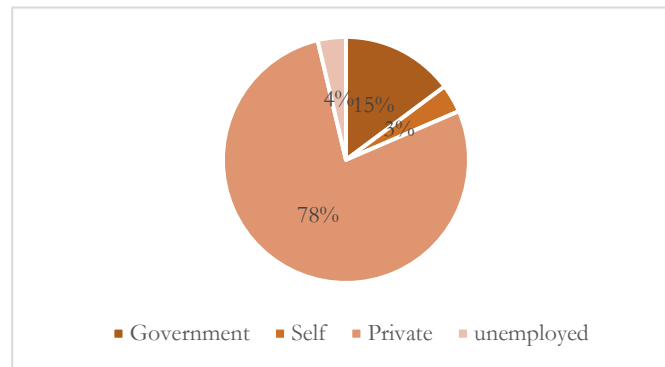
## Distribution of Employments



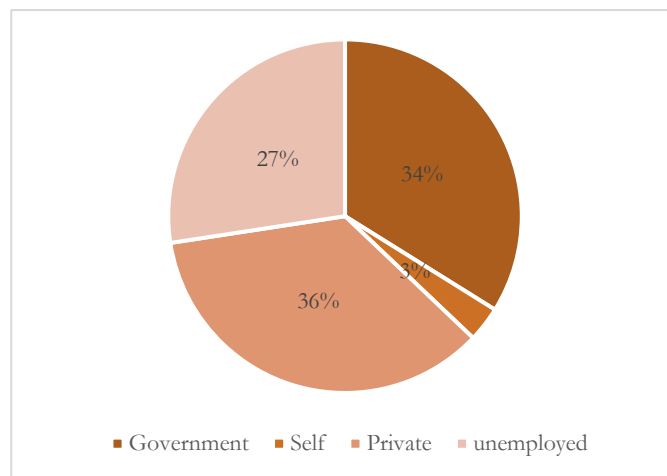
- The employability was reported as high since 68 out of 87 had secured jobs. Which is around 78 %. The private sector employment (49%) was found to be higher than the government sector.

## Percentage Distribution of Employments: Female vs. Male

### Male

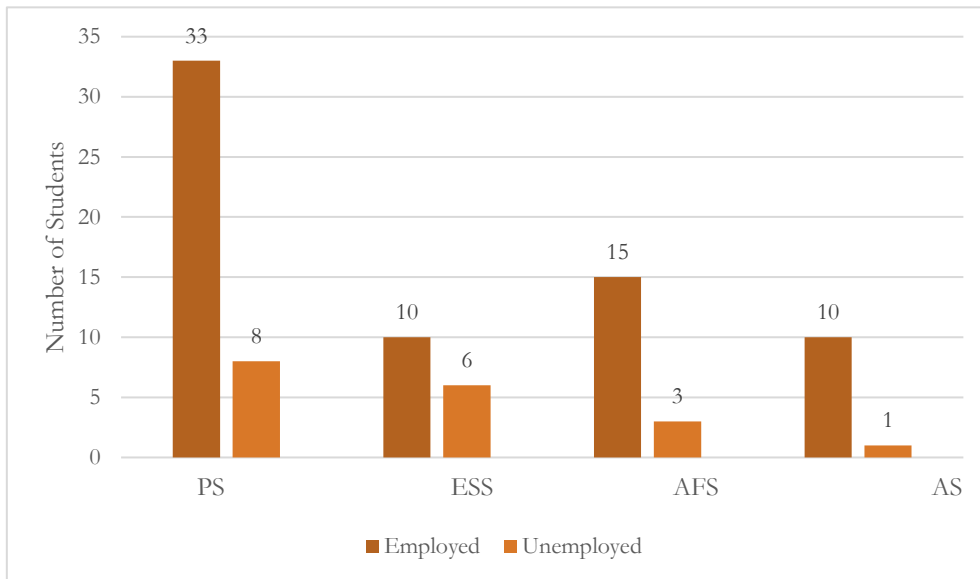


### Female



- Both male and female employment in the private sector was found as comparatively higher than the employment in the government sector. The male students' unemployment was 4% but female students' unemployment was reported as 27%.

## Distribution of Employment across Departments



(Whereas, PS: Department of Plant Sciences; ESS: Department of Engineering and Soil Sciences; AFS: Department of Animal and Food Sciences; AS : Department of Agriculture Systems)

- The students of the department of plant sciences have shown higher employability than the other departments. However, the unemployment student count of all departments as a cumulative value was found as less than 20.

## Employers

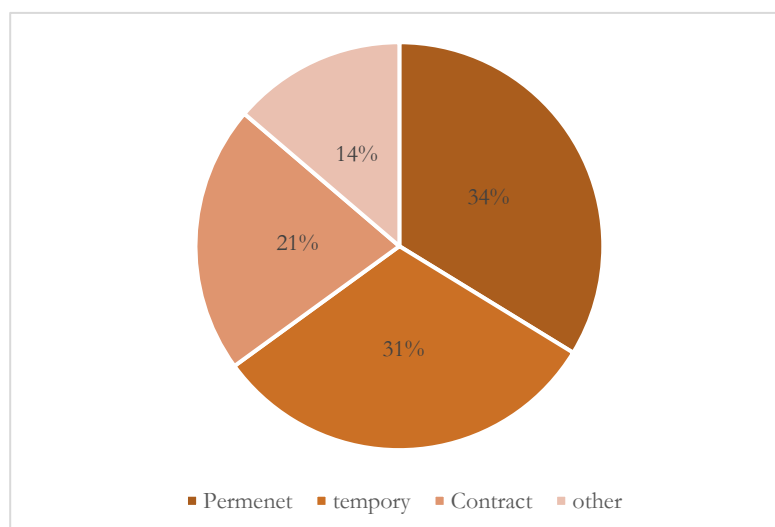
Sector	Employer	Student Number
<b>Government Sector</b>	Sri Lanka Cashew Corporation	1
	Lanka Sathosa	1
	Provincial Department of Agriculture	1
	Bodhiraja Collage Embilipitiya	1
	University of Peradeniya	1
	Rice Reseaerch and Development Institute	1
	Rajarata university of Sri Lanka	12
	Open University of Sri Lanka	1
	Range forest office, welimada	1
	CSIAP project, UVA province, Ministry of agriculture	1
	Climate smart irritated agriculture project , UVA province, Wellawaya	1
	<b>Private Sector</b>	Bairaha Farm PLC
Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum		1
Diana Chocolate (Pvt) Ltd.		1
Nature solution		1
Dole Lanka pvt Ltd		1
Nestle Lanka PLC		1
Lassana flora		1
Tution		1
Synthite Lanka Private Limited		1
	Biofoods pvt Ltd	1
	Eco Friendly Volunteers	1
	Dilmah Conservation	1
	Kelun life Sciences	1
	Lanka Organic Agriculture Movement	2
	Healthy Foods Lanka Export (pvt) Ltd	1
	Taprobane Seafoods	1
	Browns regional center	1



Windsor Trading	1
Jafferjee and sons	1
Oasis bay bed and Cafe	1
Bio Extracts (PVT) Ltd	1
Silkport International Pvt Ltd	1
Seafood House PVT LTd	1
Maliban Biscuit Manufactories	1
MAS holdings	1
Cargills Ceylon PLC	1
Dialog Axiata PLC	1
NDC Exports (Pvt) Ltd	1
Ceylon cold store	1
FMJ Holdings	1
Samtessi Brush Manufacturer (Pvt) Ltd.	1
S&S Wickremasinghe holdings	1

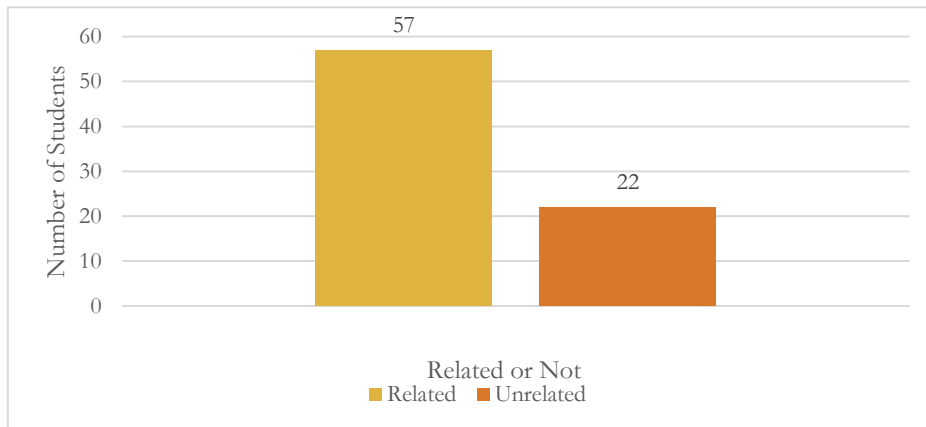
- The job opportunities have been offered by various public and private institutes. Among them, the single highest recruitment was reported with Faculty of Agriculture, since it recruits temporary demonstrators annually.

## Positions in the Jobs



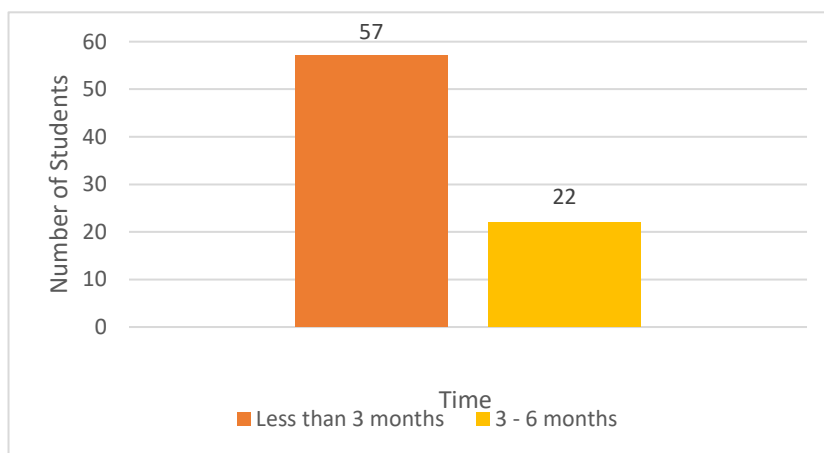
- The permanent jobs were the highest job category where 34% of the students hold at present.

## Whether the Job relates with the Degree



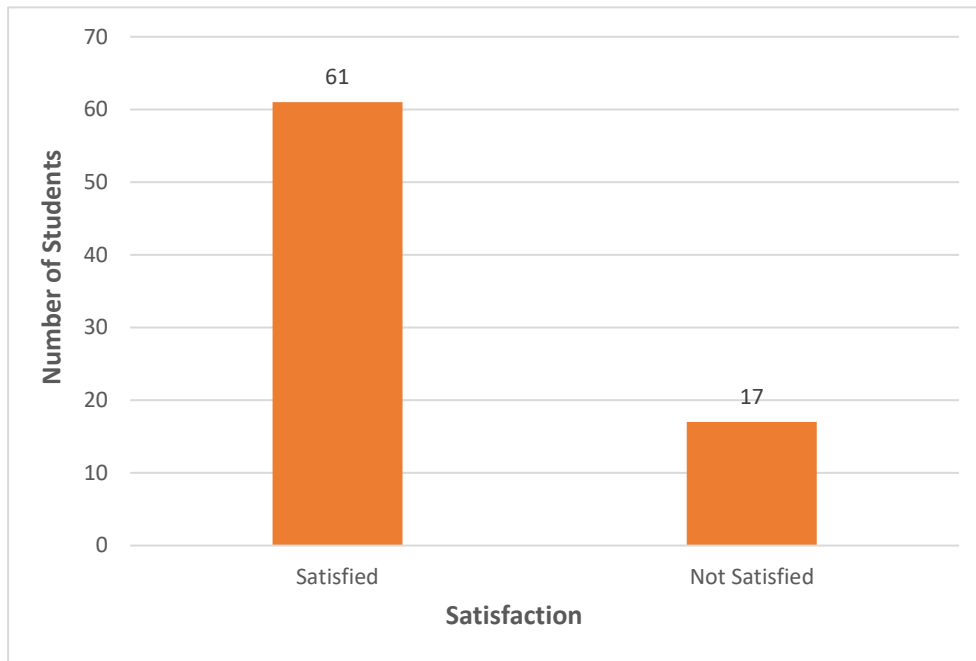
- The relatedness of the degree to the present job was found as high since 57 of the respondents expressed the usefulness.

## Waiting time for the First Job



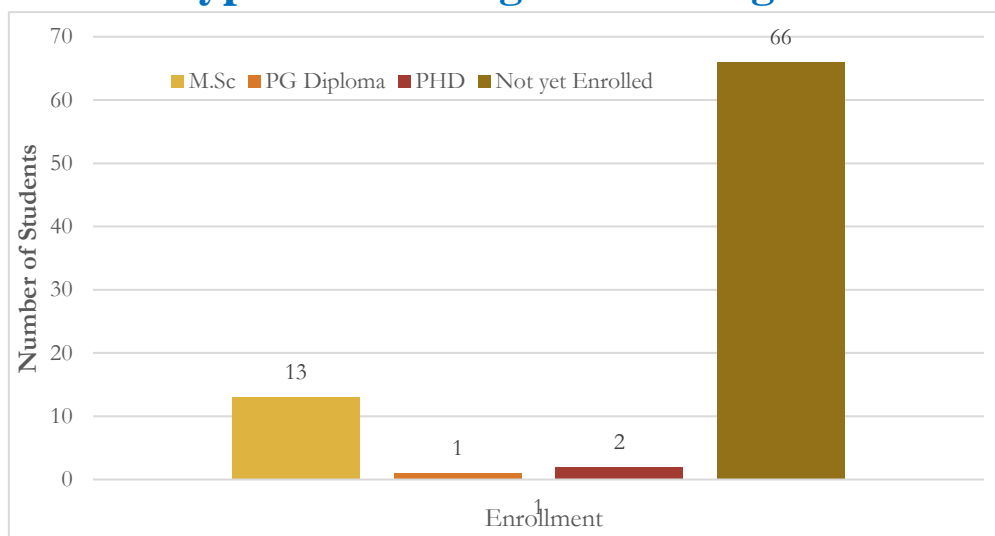
- The majority of the students (n=57) has waited less than three months to obtain the first job.

## Satisfaction Level of the Job



- The majority of the students (61) satisfied with their job.

## Enrollment to the Postgraduate Degree Programs and type of the Postgraduate Degree



- The engagement in higher studies found as not so popular among the students, whereas 13 students enrolled into local master programs.

## Field of Study in the Postgraduate Degrees

Field of Study	Student Number
Chemistry	1
Diploma in Food Quality Management	1
Environmental Soil Science	2
Food Science and Technology	2
Management	1
Natural Resource Management	1
Agricultural Biology and Biomedical Engineering	1
Agricultural Extension	1
Community Based Forest Management	1
Crop Science	3
Entrepreneurship and innovation	1
Molecular Microbiology	1

## Selected Institutes for Postgraduate Degrees

Institute	Student Number
Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture	11
University of Kelaniya	1
Sri Lanka Standards Institute	1
Colombo University	1
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka	1
University College Dublin, Ireland	1

## Suggestions to Improve the Degree Program

S.N	Suggestion	Number of Respondents	As % from the total (87) respondents
1	Increase the practical aspects	6	6.9
2	Increase the duration for the industrial training program	7	8.0
3	Have to network with international universities and organizations to gain more opportunities to the students	1	1.1

- The most important students' suggestion was to increase the duration for the industrial training program. However, this has been almost addressed in the new curriculum.