

FIELD VISITS & GUEST LECTURES

SUMMARY 2023

Department of Agricultural Systems

Faculty of Agriculture

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Department of Agricultural Systems

Field Visits – 2023

Place of the Academic Field Visit – "Seehela" nature farm

Course/ Courses – AS3209 - Sustainable Agriculture
AS3212 - Conservation Agriculture
AS 3208 - Risk Management in Agriculture

Objective – To identify applied conservation practices in farming systems
To observe sustainable agricultural practices in farming systems
To identify the risks in agriculture and risk management strategies used in different farms

No. of Students visited - 25

Date – 03/02/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – EFTC Ecological Farming Training center

Course/ Courses – AS3209 - Sustainable Agriculture

AS3212 - Conservation Agriculture

AS 3208 - Risk Management in Agriculture

Objective – To identify applied conservation practices in farming systems

To observe sustainable agricultural practices in farming systems

To identify the risks in agriculture and risk management strategies used in different farms

No. of Students visited - 25

Date – 28/01/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – Leslie’s Agro Farm

Course/ Courses – AS3211 - Livestock Production Systems

Objective – To study crop livestock integrated systems and livestock waste management techniques

No. of Students visited - 25

Date – 21/01/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – Mahaweli F zone (Laggala, Ranamure and Moragahakanda)

Course/ Courses – AS 3203 - Rural Sociology
AS 3202 - Agricultural Project Management
AS 3205 - Natural Resource Economics
AS 3206 - Agricultural Development Policy
AS3209 - Sustainable Agriculture
AS3212 - Conservation Agriculture

Objectives – Identifying Rural settlements in the area and observing project to identify challenges and opportunities that required for further expansion of the project
To identify the sustainable and unsustainable features in the agricultural activities in this area

No. of Students visited - 27

Date – 06/01/2023 - 08/01/2023





Place of the Academic Field Visit – Agroforestry Model at Palugaswewa Cascade

Course/ Courses – AS 4104 Agroforestry Systems Management

Objectives – To cover practical components of the subjects

No. of Students visited - 20

Date – 28/06/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – Agroforestry Model at Galoya

Course/ Courses – AS 4104 Agroforestry Systems Management

Objectives – To cover practical components of the subjects

No. of Students visited - 20

Date – 28/06/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – Umandawa Maha Vihara Ashramaya

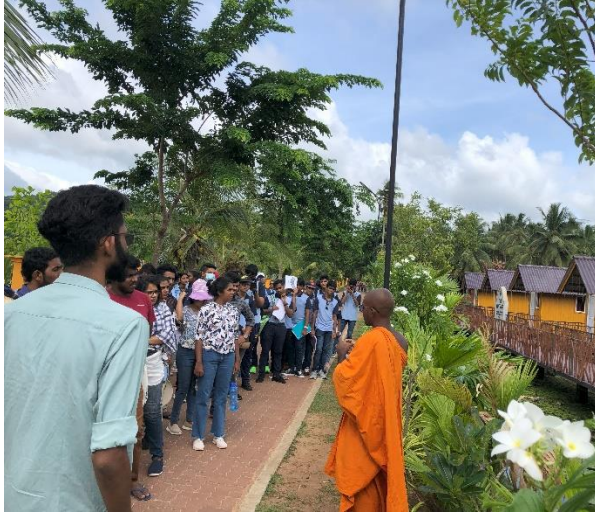
Course/ Courses – AS 4105 - Household Food Security Systems

AS 4106 - Agro-ecotourism

Objectives – To cover practical components of the subjects

No. of Students visited - 30

Date – 07/07/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – Jetwing Lake and Jetwing Viluyana, Dambulla

Course/ Courses – AS 4106 - Agro-ecotourism

Objectives – To cover practical components of the subjects

No. of Students visited - 30

Date – 11/07/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – Kalpitiya Farming Systems

Course/ Courses – AS2201 Applied Farming Systems

Objectives – To identify specific farming systems in Kalpitiya

No. of Students visited - 124

Date – 25/10/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – Mahaweli systems L - Welioya

Course/ Courses – AS 3201 - Extension Education

Objectives – To conduct education programs for women entrepreneurs

No. of Students visited - 19

Date – 25/10/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – Laggala, Ranamure and Moragahakanda

Course/ Courses – AS 3203 - Rural Sociology

AS 3202 – Agricultural Project Management

AS 3205 - Natural Resource Economics

Objectives – To identify Rural settlements in the area and observing project to identify challenges and opportunities that required for further expansion of the project

No. of Students visited - 26

Date – 23/09/2023 - 24/09/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – Cargill’s contract farming village in Thambuththegama

Course/ Courses – AS 3208 - Risk Management in Agriculture

Objectives – To identify the risk management strategies used

No. of Students visited - 32

Date – 22/10/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – Leslie’s Agro Farm

Course/ Courses – AS 3212 - Conservation Agriculture

AS 3211 - Livestock Production Systems

Objectives – To study crop livestock integrated systems and livestock waste management techniques

No. of Students visited - 27

Date – 24/10/2023



Place of the Academic Field Visit – EFTC Ecological Farming Training center

Course/ Courses – AS3209 - Sustainable Agriculture

AS3212 - Conservation Agriculture

Objectives – To identify applied conservation practices in farming systems

No. of Students visited - 26

Date – 28/10/2023



Guest Lectures – 2023

Guest Lecture on “Supermarket Marketing System”

Mr. Haridas Fernando, Deputy Gen Manager at Cargills Ceylon PLC conducted a guest lecture on “*Supermarket Marketing System*” for year 2 semester II students under the course Principles of Agri-food Marketing (AS 2203) on 24th of October 2023. Dr. L P Rupasena, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Systems took the responsibility of organizing this with the support of teaching assistants at the Department of Agricultural Systems. 124 students were participated for this guest lecture.

Guest Lecture on “Career opportunity in the world of work”

Mr. Tharaka Amarasena, Manger, Anuradhapura Branch of CSE conducted a guest lecture on “*Career opportunity in the world of work*” for year 2 semester II students under the course Principles of Career Development (CC 2201) on 22nd of September 2023. Mr. A.I.Y. Lankapura, Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Systems took the responsibility of organizing this with the support of teaching assistants at the Department of Agricultural Systems. 124 students were participated for this guest lecture.

Guest Lecture on “Curriculum Vitae and Cover letter writing”

Mr. Tharaka Amarasena, Manger, Anuradhapura Branch of CSE conducted a guest lecture on “*Curriculum Vitae and Cover letter writing*” for year 2 semester II students under the course Principles of Career Development (CC 2201) on 22nd of September 2023. Mr. A.I.Y. Lankapura, Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Systems took the responsibility of organizing this with the support of teaching assistants at the Department of Agricultural Systems. 124 students were participated for this guest lecture.

Guest Lecture on “Preparing for a job interview”

Mr. Tharaka Amarasena, Manger, Anuradhapura Branch of CSE conducted a guest lecture on “*Preparing for a job interview*” for year 2 semester II students under the course Principles of Career Development (CC 2201) on 22nd of September 2023. Mr. A.I.Y. Lankapura, Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Systems took the responsibility of organizing this with the support of teaching assistants at the Department of Agricultural Systems. 124 students were participated for this guest lecture.

Guest Lecture on “Audio Visual Production”

Mr. D. Kumarathunga, Technical Officer, University of Peradeniya conducted a guest lecture on “*Audio Visual Production*” for year 3 semester II students under the course Extension Education (AS 3201) on 13th of September 2023. Dr. S M C B Karalliyadda Senior Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Systems took the responsibility of organizing this with the support of teaching assistants at the Department of Agricultural Systems. 19 students were participated for this guest lecture.



Guest Lecture on “Extensions of the two-variable linear regression model”

Prof Jagath C Edirisinghe, Professor in Agribusiness Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka conducted a guest lecture on “*Extensions of the two-variable linear regression model*” for year 3 semester II students under the course Econometrics (AS 3204) on 12th of October 2023. Dr. A.M.K.R. Bandara, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Systems took the responsibility of organizing this with the support of teaching assistants at the Department of Agricultural Systems. 19 students were participated for this guest lecture.

Guest Lectures - Traditional Technology in Sri Lankan Agriculture (AS 3210)

Dr. P.B. Darmasena, Independent consultant/Former director of FCRDI, Mahailuppallama, conducted four guest lectures on for year 3 semester II students under the course Traditional Technology in Sri Lankan Agriculture (AS 3210). Ms. A.N. Kodithuwakku, Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Systems took the responsibility of organizing this with the support of teaching assistants at the Department of Agricultural Systems. 15 students were participated for these guest lectures. The lecture topics and dates are as follows.

1. Indigenous Knowledge in Agriculture in Sri Lanka
2. Technological variations for managing agricultural production in different agro ecological regions
3. Sustainable Agro-Ecosystem with Integrated Land Management
4. Indigenous Village Irrigation Systems, traditional small scale irrigation systems

The image shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a slide titled "History of agriculture in Sri Lanka." is displayed. The slide content is as follows:

History of agriculture in Sri Lanka.

Agricultural production was sufficient to sustain the population

Evidence:

- How they built huge dagabos and monastic complexes?
- Large irrigation systems
- Three year old scented rice (තිව්ස්සිකා ගන්ධ සාලී) stored in granaries for 3 years with various layers of aromatic drugs
- South Indian kings (Soorathissa, Elara) invaded the country due to prosperity reached by agricultural development 3rd Century BC
- Golden age of irrigated agriculture –
 - King Dutugamunu (160 BC), Walagambahu (88 BC), Bhathikabhaya (20 BC – 9 AD), Vasabha (60 – 110 AD), Dhathusena (459-477 AD)
- Rice was exported by Sri Lanka to South India (2nd Century AD)
- Self-sufficiency in grains in ancient villages

On the right side of the Zoom window, there is a grid of video feeds for participants. The top feed is labeled "Ms. AN Kodithuw..." and shows a person. Below it, there are several other feeds, some of which are muted or have small icons indicating audio status. The bottom feed shows a person's video feed.

Recent History of Sri Lankan Agriculture

- 1505 – 1640 Portuguese
- 1640 – 1796 Dutch
- 1796 – 1948 British
- 1815 (2nd March) – Kandyan Convention
- 1818 – Civil riots against British
- 1822 – Royal botanic garden
- 1830 – Plantation sector – coffee, rubber, coconut
- 1860 – Tea plantation
- 1861 – Hakgala Botanic Garden
- 1881 – The Journal of tropical Agriculturist
- 1884 – School of Agriculture, Colombo to train improved methods of ploughing and transplanting
- 1884 – Botanical Garden Branch, Anuradhapura
- 1886 – Rehabilitation of Kalawewa reservoir
- 1893 – Flora of Ceylon (First Volume)



Ms. AN Kodithuw...



Rainfall Variation within the AE Zone

Mid Country Wet Zone – 3 AE zones and 6 AE sub zones

Districts: Parts of Kandy, Matara, Ratnapura, Kegalle



- Distinct uni-modal rainfall pattern
- Perennials and plantation crops
- Annual rainfall expectancy – 3,300 mm

- Uni-modal rainfall pattern
- Perennials and plantation crops
- Annual rainfall expectancy – 1,400 mm



What are the present issues in Agriculture?

Climate change

The Sri Lankan agricultural sector has also been experiencing the effects of changing climate and natural disasters. This has, however, given an incentive for the farmers to shift towards climate smart agriculture. In line with this emerging trend, Government adopted many measures to modernize the agricultural sector with support from donor agencies.

- Global Climate vulnerability Index ranked Sri Lanka: As 4th in 2018, 2nd in 2019 and 6th in 2020

Lets Look at this in detail

Ms. AN Kodithuw...

