



ANNUAL REPORT - 2017

**Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture
University of Peradeniya**

VISION

To be a globally competitive centre of excellence in postgraduate education and research in agriculture and related fields.

MISSION

To provide high quality postgraduate education and promote pioneering high impact and innovative research to produce competent professionals in agriculture and related fields.

GOALS

- Maintain quality and relevance of all postgraduate degrees
- Promote high quality research, innovation and capacity building leading to vibrant research culture
- Ensure cadre of competent and committed academic, administration and support staff
- Instill high professional skills, ethical and moral values and leadership qualities among students and staff of the Institute
- Disseminate information/knowledge to all stakeholders
- Enhance good governance
- Maintain efficient administration and sustainable financial management

Director's Statement/Review



The Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) was established in June 1975, in terms of the Ordinance No. 9 of 1979 as the pioneering institution of postgraduate education of its kind in the country, functions as an Institution within the University of Peradeniya, under the direction of its Board of Management. The main objective of creating the PGIA was to develop an in-country capacity for postgraduate education and to provide appropriately trained scientific personnel to a rapidly expanding agricultural sector of the country. It has served this national need nearly four decades and has blossomed into a fully fledged Higher educational Institution to become Centre of excellence for postgraduate education in the Country and the Region as well.

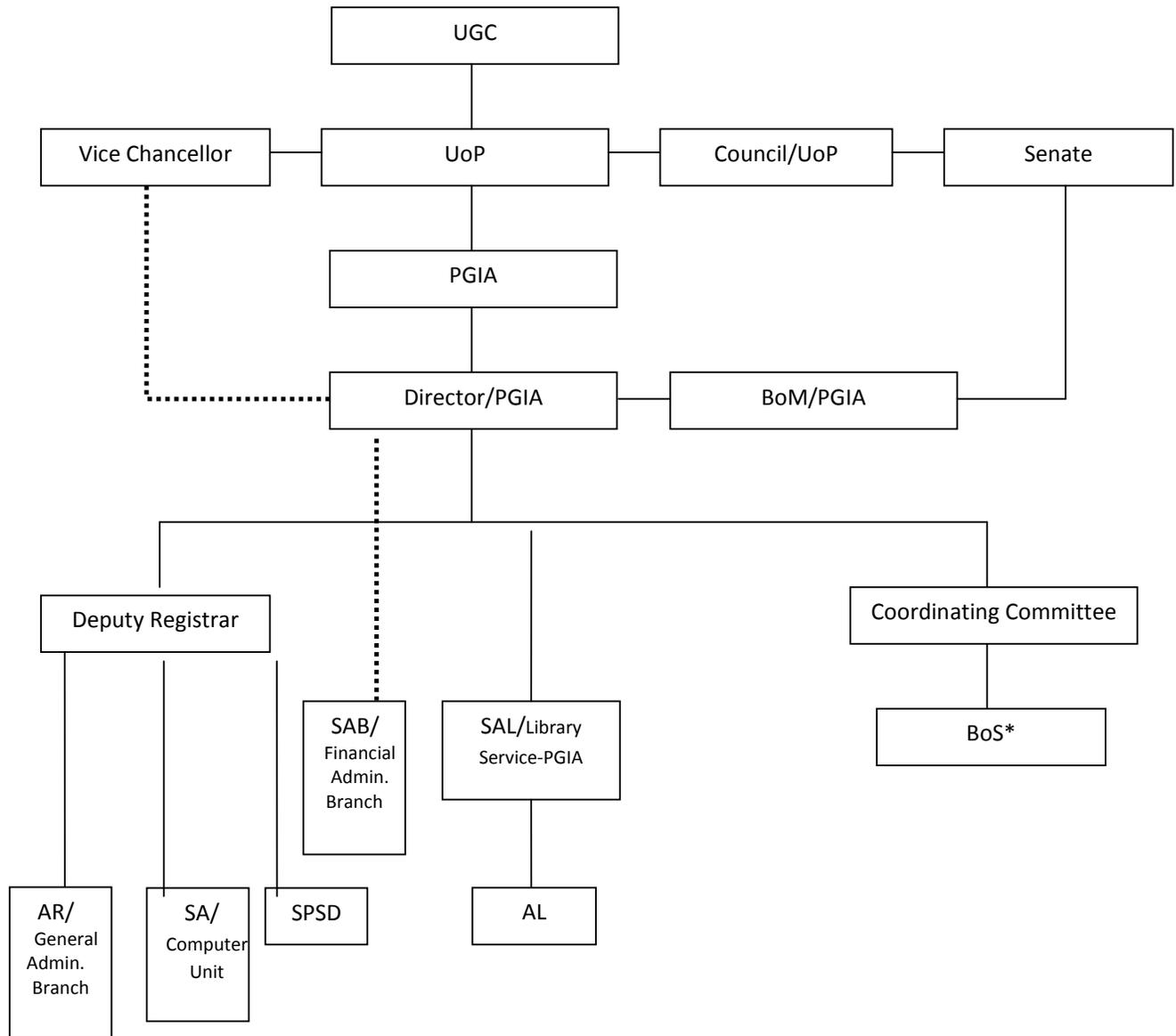
During the past 40 years, it had made a considerable progress in student enrolment for various graduate study programmes, from 19 students at the inception to about 400 annually now. Up to date little over 5000 postgraduates have been produced by the Institute in the wide spectrum of areas in agriculture. PGIA student population includes graduates from almost all different Faculties including Agriculture Engineering, Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science, Arts, Science, Medicine, etc. and foreign students as well. Foreign graduates from Bangladesh, India, Peoples' Republic of China, Nepal, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman and Ghana have already completed their postgraduate degrees at the PGIA and at present students from Thailand, Vietnam, Ghana and Afganistan are reading for their research degrees.

Currently the Institute offers 31 M.Sc. degree programs under 11 Boards of Study. The PGIA is unique in its teaching as almost all courses and programs are conducted by visiting staff with wide teaching and research experience from Universities, government and non-government organizations, national and international institutes, private sector firms, etc. with high academic and research credentials. The knowledge and skills are imparted through well equipped laboratories mostly through Faculty of Agriculture, providing the state-of-the-art technologies. Now the focus of the PGIA is to attract more research students without confining itself for imparting academic knowledge.

As has been pioneering in furthering higher education in graduate studies, PGIA has ventured into offering its programs in Colombo, expanding its horizon to serve nation all over the country.

This year, PGIA is strongly taking nationalization of its activities as one of its major policies. The Institute is initiating various academic collaborative activities with our partners in the National Agriculture Research System (NARS). Exchange of Faculty members, researchers, staffs and students among institutes and conducting joint research, seminars, conferences and workshops, are still remain as our major commitment to the national academic society while committing to capacity building and human resource development of our young scientists to become global citizens and human capital for the better living of this borderless society.

Organizational Structure



Abbreviations:

SAB – Senior Asst. Bursar
 SAL-Senior Asst. Librarian
 SA/P – Systems Analyst cum Programmer
 AR – Asst. Registrar
 AL-Asst. Librarian
 SPSD – Senior Personal Secretary to the Director

*Boards of Study:

Agricultural Biology
 Agricultural Economics
 Agricultural Engineering
 Agricultural Extension
 Animal Science
 Business Administration
 Bio-Statistics
 Crop Science
 Food Science & Technology
 Plant Protection
 Soil Science

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT - 2017

Ex-Officio Members

1. Prof. S. Samita, Director, PGIA up to 4th August and Prof.C.M.B. Dematawewa was appointed as Director, PGIA with effect from 9th November 2017
2. Mr. W.K.L.E. Walallawita, Chief Accountant representing Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education
3. Ms. W.G. Chandrika, Director, Dept. of Public Finance, Ministry of Finance
4. Mr. B. Wijayarathne, Secretary, M/Irrigation & Agriculture, Secretary representing M/Agriculture
5. Dr. R.P.M. Pathiratne, Secretary representing the M/ Livestock & Development
6. Mr. K.A.I.D. Silva, Director (Policy & Planning) representing Secretary, M/Environment
7. Mr. Anura Sathurusinghe, Conservator General of Forests representing the Dept. of Forests
8. Dr. J.D.H. Wijewardena, Director, Council for Agricultural Research Policy
9. Dr. Rohan Wijekoon, Director General of Agriculture
10. Dr. T.A.C. Tiskumara, Director General, Dept. of Animal Production & Health
11. Mr. M.A.P.K. Seneviratne, Director General, Department of Export Agriculture
12. Dr. H.A.J. Gunathilake, Director, Coconut Research Institute
13. Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Univ. of Peradeniya
14. Prof. W.L.Wasantha Kumara, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Univ. of Ruhuna
15. Dr. H.S.R. Rosairo, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Sabaragamuwa
16. Prof. D.P.T.S.G. Attanayake, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Wayamba University
17. Dr., A.M.J.B. Adikari, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University
18. Dr. P. Sivarajah, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University
19. Dr.(Ms.) T. Mikunthan, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Jaffna University
20. Prof. H.B.S. Ariyaratne, Dean, Faculty of Vet. Med. & Animal Sc., Univ. of Peradeniya

Elected Members of the Faculty of Agriculture

21. Prof. I.P. Wickremasinghe, Board of Study in Agricultural Biology
22. Prof.H.L.J. Weerahewa, Board of Study in Agricultural Economics
23. Prof. E.R.N. Gunawardena, Board of Study in Agricultural Engineering
24. Dr. M.W.A.P. Jayatilaka, Board of Study in Agricultural Extension
25. Prof. G.L.L.P. Silva, Board of Study in Animal Science
26. Prof. T. Sivananthawerl, Board of Study in Bio-Statistics
27. Prof. L.H.P. Gunaratne, Board of Study in Business Administration
28. Prof. W.A.J.M. De Costa, Board of Study in Crop Science
29. Prof. D.G.N.G. Wijesinghe, Board of Study in Food Sc. & Technology
30. Dr. K.S. Hemachandra, Board of Study in Plant Protection
31. Dr. W.A.U. Vitharana, Board of Study in Soil Science

Members Appointed by the University Grants Commission

32. Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena, Emeritus Professor of Crop Science, Univ. of Peradeniya
33. Prof. H.M.D. Namal Priyantha, Director, Postgraduate Institute of Science
34. Prof. HHDNP Opatha, Dept. of Human Res. & Mgt., Univ. of Sri Jayawardenapura
35. Prof. S.K. Pinnawala, Dept. of Sociology, Univ. of Peradeniya
36. Dr. I.S.B. Abeysinghe, Director, Tea Research Institute

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ANNUAL REPORT – 2017

Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture University of Peradeniya (As at 31st of December 2017)

A. Introduction

The Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture was established in June 1975 by Statute No. 2 of 1974 under the old University of Ceylon Act No. 1 of 1972 and was attached to the University of Sri Lanka. Under the provisions of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978, the above Statute was deemed to be an Ordinance and accordingly, the Commission promulgated the Ordinance No. 9 of 1979 which became operative from 1st January 1980 and forms the legal basis for the functioning of the Institute. The main objective of creating this unique institution was to develop in-country capacity for postgraduate education and to provide appropriately trained scientific personnel to a rapidly expanding agricultural sector of the country. The Institute is attached to the University of Peradeniya.

Academic Programmes

To achieve its goals, the institute has designed a diverse set of higher degree programmes which are of current importance to the economy of Sri Lanka. Curricular were also revised to cater to the demand in the country. At present PGIA offers Ph.D., DBA, M.Phil. and 31 M.Sc. degree programmes with course work and course work and research. In its graduate programmes, the Institute places much emphasis on full-time residential training, which enable the postgraduate students to participate fully in the academic life of the university and its research programmes. An important challenge facing the PGIA is to develop disciplined, dedicated and hard working students who would devote considerable time to their studies and research and get the widest possible exposure in the relevant fields. Through such commitment, the graduates of the Institute are expected to develop strong work ethics, which should become an integral part of their character.

The Institute revised its existing regulations equivalent to Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) Guidelines effective from 2017 and admitted students accordingly. The degree programmes are;

M.Sc/MBA - Course work inclusive of 5 credits Directed Study/Project

M.Sc/MBA - Course work and research inclusive of one year research

M.Phil/Ph.D./DBA – Research only

The M.Sc. applicants for above degrees can have an exit at PG Diploma or PG Certificate level satisfying respective credits requirements. For those who complete 25 credits can obtain PG Diploma and for those who complete 20 credits can obtain PG certificates. This is the first time the Institute introduced PG Certificate programme for the candidates who needs to obtain postgraduate qualifications within a very short period.

Panel of Teachers

The Panel of Teachers consists of over 300 outstanding academic staff with wide teaching and research experience, the majority of whom are from the Faculty of Agriculture, Peradeniya and the others from other Faculties of the University System, Government Departments, Research Institutes, Corporations, Private Sector Firms, International Institutions and Non-governmental Organizations.

During 2017, 331 students were registered under 11 Boards of Study, particulars of which are as follows;

M.Sc. - 274 MBA - 40 M.Phil – 08 Ph.D. – 07 Casual 02

Students conferred degrees at the General Convocation of 2017 who have completed their degrees as follows

Ph.D. - 8 M.Phil. - 24
M.Sc. - 240 MBA - 23

Opening of a Colombo Branch of PGIA

The Colombo Branch - another milestone of the Institute was ceremonially opened at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI) on 9 February initiating expansion of offering programmes in Colombo as there are many prospective students in the agriculture based industries located in the capital city. For the initiation 3 M.Sc. degrees in Applied Statistics, Biostatistics and Food Science and Technology commenced their programmes in Colombo. The location was subsequently changed to the Kothalawala Defence University (KDU) and the courses are being offered at the KDU.

QUT Joint degree programmes

Few students continue their research components with Queensland University of Technology (QUT) for a period of one year as scholarship holders under the supervision of eminent academics of QUT and PGIA. After completion of all requirements for a respective degree at the PGIA, their degrees will be awarded by the University of Peradeniya.

Research Facilitation Fund

In the year 2017 PGIA allocated Rs 6 mn. for M.Phil. and Ph.D. research of PGIA students under the Research Facilitation Fund (RFF) which was established in the year 2010 aiming to promote research on national importance areas of the country.

Research Publication Facilitation Fund

Eight Students were selected to make oral presentations of their research at international conferences held abroad. The Institute sponsored these students funding each of them Rs. 50,000/= for travelling/registration etc.

Postgraduate Agriculture Students Association

Postgraduate Agriculture Students' Association (PASA) organized a PGIA Day on 8th April 2017, a full day programme in which the morning session was held at the University Ground. Morning Session was inaugurated with hoisting the National Flag by the the Vice Chancellor and the University Flag by the Director. Students, Academics and Non Academic Staff participated at the PGIA day. Many entertainment events were organized by the PASA. The glamorous evening session was held at the PGIA roof top.

In addition to the above, PASA organized the following events in the year 2017.

- i. School development project named "Helping Hand" as a CSR Project at Maha/Ananda Vidyalaya, Uda Peradeniya. The programme consisted of two main activities, opening of a children's park and donation of gift packs to students with the assistance of students, staff and the Welfare Association of the PGIA.
- ii. Blood donation camp in the month of June with the assistance of the Blood Unit of the Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya. The Institute sponsored this activity and 92 persons donated blood.
- iii. PASA collected many items with the support of the students and the staff of the PGIA and made this donation to the flood victims of the Nivithigala DS Division in collaboration with Nivithigala Municipal Office on Poson Poya Day. PASA, also conducted a full day programme which included a psychiatry programme and a medical clinic at Watapotha Vidyalaya of Nivithigala with the support of Arts and Medical Faculty students of the University.
- iv. PASA made donations to 16 flood victims who are undergraduates of the Faculty of Agriculture in June.

- v. An awareness programme was organized for postgraduate students on 26th August in association with the Fulbright Commission, USA. Resource persons were the students advisors of the Fulbright Commission and their presentations focused on the benefits of the American Corner and opportunities available for students. PASA also organized another programme for undergraduates in September for the same and many undergraduates participated in this programme. Youth Forum Coordinators of the American Corner participated as resource persons for this programme.

Annual Congress

The 29th Annual Congress of the PGIA was held in 16 and 17 November 2017 at Hotel Amaya Hills, Kandy. Dr. Ms. S.M.C. Himali, Senior Lecturer, Department of Animal Science served as the Coordinator of the Congress. sixty research papers were received from research students from both local and international institutions including, India, Nepal, Ethiopia and Nigeria. After review, 31 research papers were presented at the Congress under 7 technical sessions and 13 short communications were presented. Among them 10 awards were made to the most outstanding presentations.

A Cash Award from Alumni Association was also awarded at the Congress for the outstanding presentation and the best paper.

Joachim Memorial Award

Joachim Memorial Award (a cash prize) was presented at the Annual Congress to the student who earned the highest GPA in the Year 2016. In 2017 it was awarded to Ms. M.J.G.C.N. Jayasiri of the BS in Agric. Engineering.

B. ACHIEVEMENTS

Students achievements

Few students were selected and presented articles of their research at international conferences held abroad and few papers were selected to be published in the Tropical Agricultural Research Journal of the Institute and iPurse Journal of the University of Peradeniya.

ESRI International User Conference

Nine students of the Geoinformatics (GIS) degree programme attended the Annual “Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) International User Conference held at

San Diego, California, USA with the Coordinator of the GIS programme in the month of July.

Erasmus Mundus Student Exchange Programme

One M.Sc. student in the Board of Study in Agricultural Economics has obtained a Erasmus Mundus Student Exchange Award and continues her studies for one semester at the Middle East Technical University (METU).

Student Visiting Position at the Cambridge University, UK

A Student of the Board of Study in Plant Protection was offered a PG Student Visiting Position at the Jones Research Group at the Department of Chemistry of the Cambridge University, UK.

Agreements / Memorandum of Understanding

Initiations were taken to establish MOUs with the following institutions and these institutions agreed to send few students in future years to follow PGIA programmes.

MOU between SAARC Agriculture Center (SAC) and the PGIA for technical cooperation in implementation of SAC activities in Sri Lanka and Ph.D. Programmes at the PGIA.

MOU between the University of Peradeniya and Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.

MOU between the PGIA, University of Peradeniya and the Sylhet Agriculture University, Bangladesh.

CapNet Lanka Project

An agreement was signed between the CapNet Secretariat and the PGIA to extend the Capnet Lanka project period for another year.

C) Failures

No significant failures were confronted in the year 2017. Lack of residential facilities was found to be a constraint that prevented foreign students from applying for degree programmes.

Despite the several campaigns and advertisements, new admissions were slightly less when compared with the previous years. Several other universities have started to offer similar postgraduate programmes draining some of the prospective applicants.

New construction work of eight projects of the Institute has been delayed due to the difficulties in finding appropriate consultants for these projects in time.

Less Graduate Output – Due to research component in the degree programme and the lack of time to continue research by the students who comes from the industry. This system was changed with effect from the 2017 academic year by introducing course work and course work and research degree programme.

Underutilization of Research Facilitation Fund (RFF) by the Research Students – reviewing the guidelines and application process for RFF and Research Publication Facilitation Fund (RPF) was done at the end of the year in order to cater to the current requirements.

D) Future Plans

- To increase Student Intake with the use of social media effectively.
- To increase research students – Institute plans to allocate more funds to the RFF to facilitate students for their research and to give wider publicity among students on this facility.
- To admit more foreign students for different programmes at the PGIA through collaborative agreements. The FAO also agreed to send few foreign students in future years.
- To offer more programmes and workshops in the Colombo Branch.
- To invite Foreign Visiting Professors to conduct academic sessions and collaborative research and to obtain more international funding for research and development
- To introduce a multi-rated on line teacher evaluation system
- To sign more MOUs with foreign universities and institutes to build mutually beneficial collaborations.
- To initiate new performance appraisal system for Staff of the PGIA by introducing a reward system

- To upgrade the MIS of the Institute with the guidance of an external expert member to cater to the wide variety of needs and in the meantime to introduce a paperless, student/user friendly effective management system

Construction work - Capital

The Board of Management of the Institute approved to commence the construction work planned, to improve the infrastructure facilities of the Institute afresh as it provides more conducive environment to students and staff and attract more local as well as foreign students.

NEW ENTRANTS & STUDENT ENROLMENT

B.1 DETAILS OF RECOURSES & STUDENTS (AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2017)

| Programme of Study | Total No. of Students | Distribution of Staff (Permanent Staff only) | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------|-------|
| | | Academic Staff | Non-Academic Staff | Academic Support Staff | Total |
| Casual | 11 | 1 | 38 | 1 | 40 |
| Ph.D (R) | 108 | | | | |
| Ph.D. (CR) | 33 | | | | |
| M.Phil (R) | 55 | | | | |
| M.Phil. (CR) | 82 | | | | |
| M.Sc., | 1075 | | | | |
| MBA | 242 | | | | |
| Total | 1606 | | | | |

B.2 DETAILS OF LOCAL STUDENTS IN POSTGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES 2017

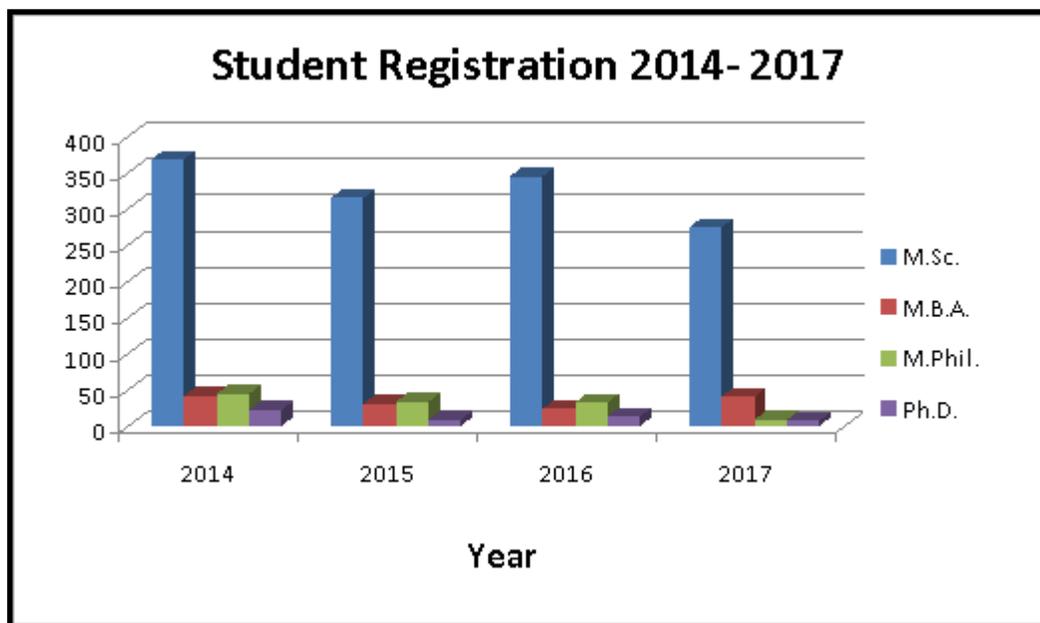
| Programme of Study | Full time/Part time | New Entrants (Jan – Dec 2017) | | | Students Enrolment (Total No. of Registered Students as at 31 December 2017) | | | No. Graduated * |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----|-------|--|-----|-------|-----------------|
| | | M | F | Total | M | F | Total | |
| M.Sc.(CW) | Full time | 78 | 136 | 214 | 433 | 579 | 1012 | 266 |
| M.Sc.(CW & R) | | 17 | 43 | 60 | 17 | 46 | 63 | -- |
| MBA(CW) | | 4 | 5 | 9 | 138 | 73 | 211 | 15 |
| MBA (CW & R) | | 19 | 12 | 31 | 19 | 12 | 31 | -- |
| M.Phil.(R) | | 5 | 4 | 9 | 19 | 36 | 55 | 5 |
| M.Phil.(CW&R) | | -- | -- | -- | 32 | 50 | 82 | 14 |
| Ph.D. (R) | | 1 | 6 | 7 | 55 | 53 | 108 | 6 |
| Ph.D. (CW & R) | | -- | -- | -- | 21 | 12 | 33 | 1 |
| PG Dip. | | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 15 |
| Total | | | | | | | | |

M – Male

F - Female

* No. of students who sat for the final examination during the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

Student Registration 2015-2017



B.3 Details of Foreign Students in Postgraduate Degree Programmes – 2017

| Programme of Study | Full Time / Part Time | New Entrants (Jan-Dec 2017) | | | Student Enrolment (Total No. of Registered Students as at 31 st December 2017) | | | No. Graduated* |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|---|----------|----------|----------------|
| | | M | F | Total | M | F | Total | |
| Ph.D.(CR) in Agricultural Economics | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | |
| Total | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | -- |

M - Male F - Female

During the year under review, no foreign students were registered to follow any PG programme at the PGIA, even though fees structure applicable had been revised to encourage more applications. It should be noted that the manner in which programmes being conducted at the PGIA may have great influence on this situation as most of the time foreign students are idling during week days and like other foreign countries, they cannot afford to find job opportunities to occupy themselves during their free times. Furthermore, lack of hostel facilities also pose a great hindrance in admitting foreign students at the PGIA.

C. STAFF DETAILS

C.1 DETAILS OF ACADEMIC STAFF (AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2017) (PERMANENT STAFF ONLY):

The Director of the PGIA appointed by the UGC completed his 1st term of office of 3 years on 4th August 2017 and the UGC has appointed the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture as Acting Director until the appointment of a Director. As appointed by the UGC, Prof. C.M.B. Dematawewa assumed duties as Director, PGIA with effect from 9th November 2017.

| Institute/ Department/ Unit/Division | Senior Prof. | | Prof. | | Associate Prof. | | Senior Lecturer Gr. I | | Senior Lecturer Gr. II | | Lecturer | | Lecturer Probationary | | Academic Support Staff | | Total | |
|---|--------------|---|-------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|----|----------|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|-------|---|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| PGIA | | | 1 | | | | | | 1* | 1* | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 1 |

M – Male

F – Female

* Tutors (temporary) have been recruited utilizing the provisions in Senior Lecturer Posts approved to the PGIA to facilitate the Boards of Study in Business Administration and Agric. Extension to conduct its academic activities. Salary was paid utilizing generated funds of the Boards concerned. A Coordinator (Contract Basis) has been served in the PGIA up to September 2017

C.2 DETAILS OF NON-ACADEMIC STAFF (AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2017) (PERMANENT STAFF ONLY):

| Institute/ Department / Branch | No. of Staff Members | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|---|-------|---|
| | Adminis- trative Staff | | Other Executive | | Technical Staff | | Clerical and Allied Grades | | Primary Staff | | Total | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| General Administration | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 4 | 6 | 11 | 1 | 16 | 9 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|--|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Finance | | 1 | | | | | 5 | | 1 | | 6 | 1 |
| Computer Unit | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 3 | |
| Library | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | | 3 | 2 |
| Total | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 10 | 8 | 16 | 1 | 28 | 12 |

Recruitment

Ms. M.A.N. Sarojini was appointed as Assistant Librarian of the Agriculture Library with effect from 14th March 2017.

Assignment

Mr. D. Rambukwella who was appointed to cover-up the duties of Assistant Registrar during her overseas leave completed his assignment in April 2017.

Transfers

The University Grants Commission has appointed Mr. K.A.B. Damunupola to the Post of Deputy Registrar with effect from 1st August 2017 and transferred Ms. S. Herath who served as the Deputy Registrar/PGIA to the University of Peradeniya with effect from 1st August 2017.

Staff Development Activities

The staff of the Institute participated in two day outbound training programme from 25 – 26 June at Silver Eagle Adventure Park, Werapitiya, Teldeniya.

An Audit Awareness Programme was conducted to the Staff of the Institute on 13 December 2017 and the resource persons were Govt. Audit Superintendent and Internal Auditor of the University of Peradeniya, Chief Internal Auditor of the UGC and Treasury Representative of the Board of Management of the Institute.

The Institute has provided Training opportunities for 6 apprentices sent by National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority, National Youth Services Board and the Technical College, Kandy. They received a Training on general office practices, accounting matters and matters relating to student registration and admission etc. for a period of six months.

Recreation Activities – Welfare Society

The Welfare Society organized its “Sinhala Awurudu Uthsawaya” on 1st May 2017 with participation of family members of staff, members of PASA.

PASA – PGIA Day

The Postgraduate Agriculture Students Association organized the “PGIA DAY” an event of students and staff get-together on 8th May 2017 which was held the whole day. Morning Session was held at the University Athletic grounds from 8 am – 4 pm. and was graced by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Director, PGIA, Dean/FA and academics and PGIA staff with students and the evening session was held at the Okray Resort, Kandy.

Annual Congress 2017

29th Annual Congress a major international event of the PGIA was held from 16-17 November 2017 at the Amaya Hills Resort, Kandy. Dr. Ms. S.M.C. Himali, Senior Lecturer, Department of Animal Science served as the Coordinator of the Congress.

The inaugural session of the congress is graced by distinguished guests including the Vice Chancellor of the University, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and an eminent scientist Dr. Roland Buresh of the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines as the keynote speaker. The Chief Guest for the inauguration session will always be a highly prestigious and respected person to highlight both existing and perspective academic collaborations and other related items. Accordingly Ambassador of Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China to Sri Lanka , H.E. Mr. Yi Xianliang was graced the event.

Sixty research papers were received from research students from both local and international institutions including, India, Nepal, Ethiopia and Nigeria. After review, 31 research papers were presented at the Congress under 7 technical sessions. 3 short communications were also presented at the congress . Among them following 10 awards were made to the most outstanding presentations.

| Thematic Area | Paper Title | Name of the Student |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Animal Science & Mariculture | Phenotypic Marker Based Evaluation of Resistance to <i>Haemonchus contortus</i> in Sri Lankan Indigenous Goats and Their Jamnapari Crossbreds | M.S. Kurukulasuriya |

| | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| Tissue Culture & Plant Characterization | Development of an Effective Propagation Protocol for <i>Osbeckia octandra</i> (L.) DC. (Heen Bovitiya) | D.M.I.C.B. Dassanayake |
| Agronomy, Food & Nutrition | Evaluation of the Nutritional Value of Selected Leafy Vegetables Grown in Sri Lanka | H. Nadeeshani |
| Communication Technologies & Social Response | Impact of Adversity Quotient on Stress Levels of NGO Sector Middle-level Managers | C.S.N Somaratne |
| Biotechnology | Mapping and Validation of QTLs for Root Architectural Traits in Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>) Under Non-Stress and Salinity Stress Conditions | D.R. Gimhani |
| Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering | Comparative Assessment of Newly Designed Burial Type Lowland Power Cultivator for Weed Control | G.V.T.V. Weerasooriya |
| Spatial Analysis, Forecasting and Mapping | Detailed Mapping of Soil Texture of a Paddy Growing Soil Using Multivariate Geostatistical Approaches | R.A.A.S. Rathnayaka |
| Poster Presentation | Molecular Diversity Analysis of Conserved <i>Capsicum chinense</i> Jacq. Germplasm in Sri Lanka | N.H.L.D.L.D. Nanayakkara |
| Best Paper | Detailed Mapping of Soil Texture of a Paddy Growing Soil Using Multivariate Geostatistical Approaches | R.A.A.S. Rathnayake |

A Cash Award from Alumni Association was awarded at the Congress for the outstanding presentation and the best paper.

C.3 INFORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL STAFF VISITED FOR THE INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 2017

International Staff visited the Institute during 2017 as shown in the following table.

| Institute | Name of the Programme | Country | No. of Staff |
|--|--|-------------|---|
| Thiagarajah School of Management (TSM), Madurai | to discuss the potential areas of academic collaborations between the two institutions | India | 2 – Director TSM and Chairperson, Admissions, TSM |
| Dept.of Environmental System Sciences, Institute of Agric, Sciences, ETH Zurich, | Annual Congress | Switzerland | 01 |
| School of Environmental Sciences, Uni. Of Guelph | Annual Congress | Canada | 01 |
| Tasmanian Institute of Agric., University of Tasmania | Annual Congress | Australia | 01 |

D. RESEARCH OUTPUT DATA

D.1 PUBLICATION OUTPUT IN 2017

Research Output Data

The PGIA does not receive funds for research activities. In order to remedy this situation, the Institute itself established a Research Facilitation Fund from the generated funds of the Institute in the year 2010. Annually the funds allocated for this Fund is increased and in the year under review Rs. 6.0 million has been allocated by the Institute to be distributed among needy students who undertake research degrees which could address the important and development issues of the country.

The year under review, following 07 research grants had been awarded under this fund to undertake Ph.D and M.Phil research degrees. ed. Students who apply for PG degrees at the Institute have been informed when applications are called for various degrees through public notices and website of the Institute.

| Name of Student & Board of Study | Degree Program | Title of Research | Estimated Budget Rs. |
|--|----------------|---|----------------------|
| Ms. YMUKY Silva Plant Protection | M.Phil. | Host-Pathogen Interrelationships Due to Preharvest Treatment of <i>Burjholderia Spinosa</i> , a Bio Control Agent of Banana (<i>Musa acuminata</i>) Anthracnose | 182,071 |
| Ms. HMBS Herath Crop Science | Ph.D | Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of "Trees Outside Forests" and their Environmental and Socio-economic Implications | 622,000 |
| Ms. Mathivathani Shanmugam Animal Science | M.Phil. | Extraction and Characterization of Shark Belly Oil and "Nariyaa" Fish Oil for Consumption as new Omega -3 Source | 500,000 |
| Ms. HAN Upekshani Soil Science | Ph.D | Assessment of Soil Quality in Intensively Cultivated Vegetable lands in the upcountry of Sri Lanka and its Management with Biochar | 750,000 |
| Ms. SP Rebeira Agric. Biology | Ph.D | Diversity of grain physical, Physicochemical and nutraceutical traditional and improved rice varieties in Sri Lanka | 750,000 |
| Ms. KVAIK Vithana Plant Protection | M.Phil | Diversity of wax scale species (<i>Ceroplastes</i> spp.) associated with plants and their parasitoids indifferent climate zones of Sri Lanka | 708,355 |

| | | | |
|---|------|--|---------|
| Ms. MALN Mallawaarachchi Food Sc. & Tech. | Ph.D | Antioxidant Efficacy, Total Phenolic and Total Anthocyanin contents of Selected Underutilized Fruit Species Grown in Sri Lanka | 450,000 |
|---|------|--|---------|

In addition to the above, the following students were selected to make oral presentations at international conferences and they were partially sponsored by the PGIA Research Facilitation Publication Fund.

| Name | Title of the Paper | Name of the Conference | Duration |
|---|---|---|--------------------|
| Ms. NA Sanjeewani Agric.Biology M.Phil. | Hypoglycemic Activity of Ethanolic Leaf Extract of Adenantha Pavnina (L) | International Congress of Diabetes and Metabolism 2017, South Korea | 28-30 September |
| Ms. EDJ Prince Agric. Engineering M.Phil. | Assessment of the Relationship between Water Surface Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen to Identify Aquatic Vegetation Distribution - A Study in Batticaloa Lagoon, Sri Lanka | 38 th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing, India | 23-27 October |
| Ms. A. Ashani Agric. Biology M.Phil. | Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies and Status of Coral Reefs at the Kayts and Karainagar Islands of Jaffna Peninsula, Sri Lanka | European Coral reef Symposium, London | 13-15 December |
| Ms. IK Edirisingha Ms. D. Nanayakkara Agric. Biology - M.Sc. * | Comparative Analysis of leaf vein density in Sri Lankan traditional rice varieties | 06 th NGGIBCI Conference on Crop Genomics, India | 06-08 December |
| *Ms. Nanayakkara used her own funds for this presentation. | | | |

PUBLICATION OUTPUT IN 2017

D.1 (a) Details of Publications done by the Academic Staff in 2017

– None

(Since the Institute does not have permanent academic cadre and the fact that all academic and research activities of the Institute is carried out by permanent academic staff members of the Faculty of agriculture, University of Peradeniya, publications done by them have usually been listed under the University of Peradeniya.

D.1 (b) Details of Full Papers Published in Indexed Journals in 2017

The following publications have been done by the PGIA students during the year under review which have been published in the Tropical Agricultural Research Journal, which is the Journal published by the Institute itself since 1989.

| Title of the paper | Name of the Main Author * | Name of the Co-Authors |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Captive Breeding of <i>Hippocampus reidi</i> Ginsburg, 1933 (Longsnout Seahorse) in Sri Lanka under Artificial Conditions | <i>H.A.S.U. Hettiarachchi</i> | <i>U. Edirisinghe</i> |
| Ensiling Property and Nutritional Quality of Palmyrah (<i>Borassus flabellifer</i>) Leaves incorporated Corn (<i>Zea mays</i>) or Sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) moench) silage | <i>M. Sarmini</i> | <i>S. Premaratne, G.G.C. Premalal and M.B.P. K. Mahipala</i> |
| Serum Metabolic Profile Based Assessment of Nutritional Status of Temperate Crossbred, Stall-fed, Lactating Dairy Cows: A Case Study of a Medium Scale Mid-country Cattle Farm | <i>H.M.G.P. Herath</i> | <i>K.K.T.N. Ranaweera, W.M.P.B. Weerasinghe and M.B.P.K. Mahipala</i> |
| Phenotypic Marker Based Evaluation of Resistance to <i>Haemonchus contortus</i> in Sri Lankan Indigenous Goats and Their Jamnapari Crossbreds | <i>M.S. Kurukulasuriya</i> | <i>G.L.L.P. Silva, C.M.B. Dematawewa, H.B.S. Ariyaratne, R.P.V.J. Rajapakshe, S.H.G. Wickramaratne, L.J. P.A.P. Jayasooriya, D.M.S. Munasinghe, L.G.S. Lokugalappatti and D.R. Notter</i> |
| Development of an Effective Propagation Protocol for <i>Osbeckia octandra</i> (L.) DC. (Heen Bovitiya) | <i>D.M.I.C.B. Dassanayake</i> | <i>S.A. Krishnarajah, J.P. Eeswara</i> |
| A Protocol for <i>In-vitro</i> Direct Plant Regeneration from Leaf Tissues for Micropropagation of Sugarcane | <i>D.N. Balagalla</i> | <i>A. Wijesuriya, N.P. Ranathunge and A.M.M.S. Perera</i> |

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|---|----------------------------|--|
| Effect of Phenological Growth Stage on Establishment of <i>In-vitro</i> Cultures for Bael (<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr.) | <i>C.K. Pathirana</i> | <i>A.M.U.R.K. Attanayake, D.M.U.S.K. Dissanayake, J.G.K.L. Gamlath, K.W. Ketipearachchi, T. Madhujith, P.C.G. Bandaranayake and J.P. Eeswara</i> |
| Reproductive Phenology of Tea (<i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) O. Kuntze) Cultivars in Sri Lanka | <i>J.H.N. Piyasundara</i> | <i>I.P. Wickramasinghe, M.T.K. Gunsekara, M.A. Wijeratne, S.A.C.N. Perera, M.A.B. Ranathunga and A.K. Mudalige</i> |
| Morphological Characterization of Selected Local and Introduced Finger millet (<i>Eleusine coracana</i> (L.) Gaertn) Germplasm in Sri Lanka | <i>W.M.R. Kumari</i> | <i>D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, W.M.W. Weerakoon, D.M.J.B. Senanayake and H.D. Upadhyaya</i> |
| Evaluation of the Nutritional Value of Selected Leafy Vegetables Grown in Sri Lanka | <i>H. Nadeeshani</i> | <i>S. Wimalasiri, G. Samarasinghe, R. Silva and T. Madhujith</i> |
| Macronutrient Composition of Selected Traditional Yams Grown in Sri Lanka | <i>W.M.A.A. Kulasinghe</i> | <i>K.M.S. Wimalasiri, G. Samarasinghe, R. Silva and T. Madhujith</i> |
| Potential of Rhizobacterial <i>Pseudomonas</i> and <i>Bacillus</i> spp. to Manage Papaya Ringspot Virus Disease of Papaya (<i>Carica papaya</i> (L.)) | <i>C. Ranasinghe</i> | <i>D.M. De Costa, B.M.V. Basnayake, D.M. Gunasekara, S. Priyadarshani and N.V.R. Navagamuwa</i> |
| Performance of Anaerobic Germination-tolerant Rice Varieties in Direct Seeding: Effects on Stand Establishment, Weed Growth and Yield under Different Seeding Rates | <i>T.K. Illangakoon</i> | <i>B. Marambe, R.S.K. Keerthisena, A.P. Bentota, S. Kulatunge, V. Kumar and A. Ismail</i> |
| Potential of Eppawala Rock Phosphate as a Phosphorous Fertilizer for Rice Cultivation in Acid Sulphate Soils in Matara District of Sri Lanka | <i>U.A.J. Ratnayake</i> | <i>K.D.N. Weerasinghe, U.W.A. Vitharana and K.K. J. Chandika</i> |
| Impact of Adversity Quotient on Stress Levels of Middle-Level Managers of NGO Sector | <i>C.S.N. Somaratne</i> | <i>L.N.A.C. Jayawardena and B.M.K. Perera</i> |

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|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Resilience of Farmers at Water Shortage Situations in Minor Irrigation Systems: A Case Study in Kurunegala District, Sri Lanka | <i>W.M.S.M. Wijekoon</i> | <i>E.R.N. Gunawardena, M.M.M. Aheeyar and W.P.R.P. De Silva</i> |
| <i>In-silico</i> Promoter Analysis Reveals Rice <i>Wx</i> Promoter could be a TATA-less Promoter with a Putative Pyrimidine Rich Region | <i>K.R.D. Hemage</i> | <i>V.A. Sumanasinghe</i> |
| Phenotypic Screening of Rice Varieties for Tolerant to Salt Stress at Seed Germination, Seedling and Maturity Stages | <i>R.M.N.H. Senanayake</i> | <i>H.M.V.G. Herath I.P. Wickramesinghe, U.A.K.S. Udawela D.N. Sirisena</i> |
| Comparative Assessment of Newly Designed Burial Type Lowland Power Cultivator for Weed Control | <i>G.V.T.V. Weerasooriya</i> | <i>D.N. Jayatissa M. Rambanda</i> |
| Design and Development of a Heat Pump Based Moisture Control System for Industrial Drying of Medicinal Plants | <i>E.M.A.C. Ekanayake</i> | <i>K.S.P. Amaratunge, H.K.P.P. Kariyawasam, M.G.M. Kumara H. L.A.P.G.I.L. Bandara</i> |
| Scaling-Up of an Up-Flow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket Incorporated With a Bio-Filter Liner System for Treating Kitchen Wastes | <i>R.T.K. Ariyawansha</i> | <i>B.F.A. Basnayake A.K. Karunarathna</i> |
| Classification of Geographical Origin of Sri Lankan Black Tea Using Discriminant Function Analysis . | <i>T.U.S. Peiris</i> | <i>C.K. Walgampaya, R.O. Thattil and I.S.B. Abeysinghe</i> |
| Forecasting Annual Tea Production in Sri Lanka | <i>H.P.A.S.S. Kumarasinghe</i> | <i>B.L. Peiris</i> |
| Detailed Mapping of Soil Texture of a Paddy Growing Soil Using Multivariate Geostatistical Approaches | <i>R.A.A.S. Rathnayaka</i> | <i>U.W.A. Vitharana B.L.W.K. Balasooriya</i> |
| Mapping of Soil Erosion Hazard Zones of Sri Lanka | <i>M.J.P.T.M. Jayasekara</i> | <i>H.K. Kadupitiya U.W.A. Vitharana</i> |
| Development of A Protocol for <i>In- vitro</i> Establishment of <i>Gyrinops walla</i> | <i>S. Selvaskanthan</i> | <i>D.K.N.G.Pushpakumara J.P. Eeswara</i> |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Development of an Artificial Breeding and Hatchery Technique for Exotic Ornamental Fish <i>Sahyadria denisonii</i> (Day, 1865) | <i>A.M.A.N. Adikari</i> | <i>U. Edirisinghe, E.D.M. Epasinghe, H.M.P. Kithsiri V. Phalawatthaarachchi T.A.D.W. Karunarathne</i> |
| Length-Weight Relationships of Four Different Sea-cucumber Species in North-East Coastal Region of Sri Lanka | <i>K. Veronika</i> | <i>U. Edrisinghe K. Sivashanthini and A.R.S.B. Athauda</i> |
| Cost-benefit Analysis on Introduction of <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> (De Man, 1879) in Puthumurippu Medium Perennial Reservoir in Sri Lanka | <i>R. Rajeevan</i> | <i>U. Edirisinghe A.R.S.B. Athauda</i> |
| Socio Economic Status of Crab Fishers and Marketers in Navanthurai Fishing Village in Jaffna Estuary, Sri Lanka | <i>A. Tharmine</i> | <i>K. Sivashanthini U. Edrisinghe</i> |
| Identification of Cyanobacteria Inhabiting Paddy Fields in Intermediate Zone and Dry Zone of Sri Lanka | <i>R.P.U.I. Amarawansa</i> | <i>B.L.W.K. Balasooriya, W.S. Dandeniya B. Suganthan T. Dasanayaka</i> |
| A Gendered Analysis on Adaptation to Resettlement Stress: Case Studies from Deduru Oya Reservoir Project in Sri Lanka | <i>M.M.J.G.C.N. Jayasiri</i> | <i>D.M.N. Diyawadana .M.L.D. Samarakoon S. Pathmarajah N.D.K. Dayawansa</i> |
| Morphological Characteristics and Traits of Agronomic Interest of Cultivated Eggplant (<i>Solanum melongena</i> L.) and its Wild Relatives: Guide for Potential Utilization in Eggplant Breeding | <i>A. Dissanayaka</i> | <i>H. Fonseka T. Welegama, L. Niran, R. Rajapaksha, R.M. Fonseka, J. Prohens</i> |
| Modelling and Forecasting Rainfall in Catchment Area of Kotmale Reservoir, Sri Lanka | <i>A.M.P.D. Abeykoon</i> | <i>B.L. Peiris</i> |
| Molecular Diversity Analysis of Conserved <i>Capsicum chinense</i> Jacq. Germplasm in Sri Lanka | <i>N.H.L.D.L.D. Nanayakkara</i> | <i>S.K. Wasala, N.M. Ubeysekara, K.G.C.N. Jayarathne I.P. Wickremasinghe</i> |

D.2 DETAILS OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT OUTPUT IN 2017 – None

| Category | Number Developed | Number transferred/ commercialized /publicized |
|---|------------------|--|
| Development of new product/processes | | |
| improvement of the quality of existing product /processes | | |
| Development of new plant varieties/hybrids /Micro organism based products | | |
| Development of ‘ Import ‘ substitutes | | |
| Design Prototypes developed | | |
| Other (Please specify.) | | |

D.3 DETAILS OF PATENTS IN 2017 - None

| Institute | Category | Number | | Remarks |
|-----------|---|----------|---------------|---------|
| | | National | International | |
| | No. of Patents filed | | | |
| | No. of Patents received | | | |
| | No. of Patents licensed, sold/transferred | | | |

D.4 DETAILS OF KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC DURING THE YEAR 2017

The Institute conducted the following programmes to the students and General Public during the year 2017.

| Programme | Conducted by | Date/Venue | Participants |
|---|--|---|--|
| Workshop on Use of GPS and Google Earth Tools in Research | Board of Study in Soil Science and coordinated by Dr. W.A.U. Vitharana | 9 th February At Sri Lanka Foundation Institute | Researchers/Technical Officers in Government and Private Organizations |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Training in Video Story Telling | Board of Study in Agric. Extension in Association with SL Development Journalist Forum (SDJE) | January 2017 | Students of PGIA, Universities of Jaffna, South Eastern, Ruhuna and Kelaniya |
| Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) programme for Farmer Organization Leaders | Capnet Lanka Project of PGIA with SL Water Partnership (SLWP) | 30 March – Irrigation Engineer’s Office, North Western Province, Wariyapola | 60 Farmer Leaders. |
| Training Workshop on “Aqua Republica” – a virtual watershed management computer game | Capnet Lanka Project | 27 April – Computer Unit/PGIA | Undergraduate students of Faculty of Agriculture |
| Workshop on Integrated Watershed Management | Board of Study in Agric. Engineering | 3-6 July -PGIA | World Vision Sri Lanka |
| Training Workshop to develop Watershed Development Plan for Domestic water supply projects of NuwaraEliya District | Capnet Lanka Project in Associate with World Vision Lanka | 21 September - NCM Lanka Training Centre, Hatton | 20 from Sannon and Lionorn Estate of Nuwara Eliya District |
| Training Programme on Environment and Social Safeguard Management | Board of Study in Agricultural Engineering | 9-10 November – PGIA | |
| Water Professionals Day Symposium | PGIA, Capnet Lanka project and GISSL | 1 st October | |
| Junior Water Awards for Innovations and Knowledge Management | PGIA, Capnet Lanka Project | 2 October | 68 School Children from NCP and 65 water professionals. |

D. 5 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS RECEIVED IN 2017

| Thematic Area | National / International | Paper Title | Name of the Student |
|--|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Animal Science & Mariculture | National | Phenotypic Marker Based Evaluation of Resistance to <i>Haemonchus contortus</i> in Sri Lankan Indigenous Goats and Their Jamnapari Crossbreds | M.S. Kurukulasuriya |
| Tissue Culture & Plant Characterization | National | Development of an Effective Propagation Protocol for <i>Osbeckia octandra</i> (L.) DC. (Heen Bovitiya) | D.M.I.C.B. Dassanayake |
| Agronomy, Food & Nutrition | National | Evaluation of the Nutritional Value of Selected Leafy Vegetables Grown in Sri Lanka | H. Nadeeshani |
| Communication Technologies & Social Response | National | Impact of Adversity Quotient on Stress Levels of NGO Sector Middle-level Managers | C.S.N Somaratne |
| Biotechnology | National | Mapping and Validation of QTLs for Root Architectural Traits in Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>) Under Non-Stress and Salinity Stress Conditions | D.R. Gimhani |
| Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering | National | Comparative Assessment of Newly Designed Burial Type Lowland Power Cultivator for Weed Control | G.V.T.V. Weerasooriya |
| Spatial Analysis, Forecasting and Mapping | National | Detailed Mapping of Soil Texture of a Paddy Growing Soil Using Multivariate Geostatistical Approaches | R.A.A.S. Rathnayaka |
| Poster Presentation | National | Molecular Diversity Analysis of Conserved <i>Capsicum chinense</i> Jacq. Germplasm in Sri Lanka | N.H.L.D.L.D. Nanayakkara |
| Best Paper | National | Detailed Mapping of Soil Texture of a Paddy Growing Soil Using Multivariate Geostatistical Approaches | R.A.A.S. Rathnayake |

E. INTERNATIONALISM

E.1 DETAILS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED BY THE INSTITUTE IN 2017

| Theme | Organized by | Date/s held | Duration | Target Group | No. of Participants |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 29 th Annual Congress | Congress Unit, PGIA | 16-17 Nov. | 2 Days | Researchers and Graduates | 500 |
| | | | | | |

E.2 DETAILS OF MOUs SIGNED WITH FOREIGN HEIs/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS/DONAR AGENCIES IN 2017

| Role of the Activity | Name of the Activity | Partner Institutes/ Collaborative Agency | Country |
|---|--|---|----------------|
| Promote Student research programme | Strengthen Research Collaboration with foreign research institutes | Queensland University of Technology | Australia |
| Higher Education student – staff Mobility | Developing academic and education collaboration | Universitat Politecnica de Valencia | Spain |

E.3 DETAILS OF NEW COURSES COMMENCED (AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2017)

None