

3rd International Conference on Dry zone Agriculture (ICDA 2017) Programme Schedule

Day 1 (1 Nov 2017)

8.00am-8.45 am Registration
8.45am-12.40 Inaugural Session
12.40pm-1.45pm Fellowship Lunch

SESSION I (A)

Time: 1.45 pm - 2.25 pm

Theme: Climate Change and Agriculture

Chairperson: Prof.K.Manivannan

Time	Title & Name of the Authors& Co-Authors	Hall 1
1.45-1.55pm	<p>Assessment of Rainfall Stations for its Suitability to Represent Magalla Reservoir Catchment, Nikaweratiya, Sri Lanka <u>M. D.T. Buddhimal</u>¹, D.S. Sampath^{2*}, S. Sivakumar², T. Mikunthan¹ and M. Pirabhakaran¹ ¹<i>Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i> ²<i>Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i></p>	
1.55-2.05pm	<p>Coping with Drought: Lessons Learnt from Iranamadu Irrigation Scheme of Sri Lanka <u>N. Suthakaran</u> <i>Irrigation Department, Northern Province, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i></p>	
2.05-2.15pm	<p>Mitigation of Salt Stress in Rice through Seed Priming with Regulation of Defense Enzymes <u>G. Hemalatha</u>¹, J. Renugadevi¹ and T. Eevera² ¹<i>Department of Seed Science and Technology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Tamil Nadu, India</i> ²<i>Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Tamil Nadu, India</i></p>	
2.15-2.25pm	<p>Trends in Rainfall, Length of Growing Period and Drought Occurrence in Karnataka, India <u>H.S. Shivaramu</u>¹, H. Venkatesh² and H.S. Padmashri¹ ¹<i>University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore, Karnataka, India</i> ²<i>University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka, India</i></p>	

SESSION I (B)		Hall 1
Time: 2.25 pm -3.25 pm		
Theme: Postharvest Technology, Farm Mechanization and Irrigation Water Management		
Chairperson: Emeritus Prof.K.Kandasamy		
Time	Title	
2.25-2.35pm	Changes in Physical and Mechanical Properties of Tomato during Growth and Development T. Bavithira, N. Kannan and M. Pirabhaharan <i>Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.35-2.45pm	Effect of Dissolved Oxygen Concentration on <i>Echinodorusbeleheri</i> Growth in Hydroponics B. Narthaky ¹ , T. Mikunthan ¹ , V. Jegathambigai ² and A. Swinningen ² ¹ <i>Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Green Farms (pvt) Ltd, Marawila, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.45-2.55pm	Effect of Duration of Soaking and Steaming On the Quality of Parboiled Paddy Practiced In Small Industries M. Prabhaharan and P. Alvappillai <i>Department of Agricultural Engineering, faculty of Agriculture, university of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.55-3.05pm	Effect of Two Wheel Tractor Mounted Tillage Implements on Selected Soil Properties T. Luxshana, N. Kannan and M. Prabhaharan <i>Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
3.05-3.15pm	Measurement of Crop Water Requirement for Eggplant with the Assistance of Low Cost Arduino Soil Moisture Investigator S. Sayanthan ¹ , T. Thiruvaran ² and N. Kannan ¹ ¹ <i>Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
3.15-3.25pm	Preparation of Biomaterials Based Plastics P. Prasteen, Y. Thushyanthy*, T. Mikunthan and M. Prabhaharan <i>Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	

3.30 -3.45 pm Tea break with Refreshments

SESSION II		Hall 2
Time: 1.45 pm – 3.05 pm		
Theme: Applied Economics		
Chairperson: Jeeva Perumalpillai - Essex		
Time	Title	
1.45-1.55pm	An Appraisal of Socio-Economic Factors Influencing GCE Ordinary Level Performance of Children Belonging to the Peasant Community in the Jaffna Peninsula <u>U. Latha</u> <i>Library, Kilinochchi Premises, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
1.55-2.05pm	Good Governance and Foreign Direct Investment in Sri Lanka <u>V. Vinujah</u> , K. Sooriyakumar and A. Sireeranhan <i>Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.05-2.15pm	Assessing Costs/Benefits of Biogas Plants Development at Household: A Case Study in Three Selected Areas of Tigray Regional State of Ethiopia <u>R. Gebre</u> <i>Institute of Gender, Environment and Development studies in Mekelle University, Mekelle, Tigray, Ethiopia</i>	
2.15-2.25pm	Determinants of Inbound Tourism Demand, Sri Lanka: A Panel Data Analysis <u>T. Kulachandran</u> and A. Sireeranhan <i>Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.25-2.35pm	Impact of Fishing Crafts and Fisheries Harbours in Marine Fish Production in Sri Lanka <u>S. Sivaraja</u> , K. Sooriyakumar and S. Sarujan <i>Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.35-2.45pm	The Elements Determining the Contemporary State of Affairs of the Sea Food Harvesting Community along the Coastal Belt of Mullaitivu District <u>A.R. Shalton</u> and K. Umashankar <i>Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.45-2.55pm	Value Chain Analysis of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME): A Survey Study on Selected Sector of MSMEs in Tigray, Ethiopia <u>R. Gebre</u> <i>Institute of Gender, Environment and Development studies in Mekelle University, Mekelle, Tigray, Ethiopia</i>	
2.55-3.05pm	Factors influencing the Tourist's Visit to Kandalama Tank: A Study Using Individual Travel Cost Method <u>C. Lakmali</u> , K. Sooriyakumar and S. Sarujan <i>Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	

3.30 pm- 3.45 pm Tea Break with Refreshments

SESSION III Time: 3.45-5.25 pm Theme: Agricultural Economics Chairperson: Emeritus Prof.C.Sivayoganathan		
Time 3.45- 3.55pm	Fertilizer Usage and Brinjal Cultivation in Thenmaradchi Area of the Jaffna District, Sri Lanka <u>R. Jasothajini</u> , K. Sooriyakumar and S. Sarujan <i>Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	Hall 1
3.55- 4.05pm	An Inverse Demand System Model of Rice, Wheat and Sugar in Sri Lanka <u>S. Sharaniha</u> , K. Sooriyakumar and S. Sarujan <i>Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
4.05- 4.15pm	Determinants of Pesticide Use in Rice Production Systems of Sri Lanka <u>T.P. Munaweera</u> and J.A.U.P. Jayasinghe <i>Environmental and Water Resources Management Division, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka</i>	
4.15- 4.25pm	Marketing Price Transmission in the Red Onion Market of Sri Lanka <u>K. Mathusuthan</u> and K. Sooriyakumar <i>Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
4.25- 4.35pm	Patterns and Determinants of Income Diversification of Paddy Farming Households in the Anuradhapura District, Sri Lanka <u>U. Jayasinghe</u> ¹ , <u>M. Rambodagedara</u> ¹ and S. Perera ² ¹ <i>Environmental and Water Resources Management Division, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>UNE Business School, University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia</i>	
4.35- 4.45pm	Present Status of Mushroom Cultivation in Kuruwita Division in the Ratnapura District of Sri Lanka <u>W.S. Thilakaratna</u> and P.B.M. Pathirana <i>Faculty of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Ocean University of Sri Lanka, Tangalle, Sri Lanka</i>	
4.45- 4.55pm	Economics of Wheat Production in Ringim Local Government Area of Jigawa State, Nigeria <u>R. Ibrahim</u> and M.U. Madacchi <i>Agricultural Education Department, Jigawa State College of Education Gunel, Nigeria</i>	
4.55- 5.05pm	Using Choice Modeling to Value Ecosystem Services of Organic Farming in the Valikamam East, Jaffna, Sri Lanka <u>S. Sivashankar</u> , A. Sireeranhan and K. Sooriyakumar <i>Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	

5.05-5.15pm	Factors Affecting Farmers' Decision in Crop Diversification: The case of Kilinochchi District, Sri Lanka <u>N. Gowrithasan</u> <i>District Secretariat, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
5.15-5.25pm	Factors influencing Pricing of Tea at Colombo Auction <u>T. Sampath, K. Sooriyakumar and S. Sarujan</u> <i>Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	

5.30-6.30 pm Cultural Programme

6.30 pm Conference Dinner

Day 2 (2 November 2017)

8.30 am – 9.00 am Theme address
 9.00 am – 9.30 am Address on Contemporary Issue

SESSION IV

Time: 9.30-11.45am

Theme: Soil, Water and Environmental Management

Chairperson: Dr.(Mrs).R.Gnaneswaran

Time	Title	Hall 1
9.30-9.40am	A Study on Potential Use of Cyanobacteria Isolated from Fresh Water Bodies of Sri Lanka in Agriculture A. Ramziya ¹ , N. Gnanavelrajah ¹ , Md. Fuad Hossain ^{2,3} , K.L.W. Kumara ² and R.R. Ratnayake ^{3*} ¹ Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka ² Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka ³ National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy, Sri Lanka	
9.40-9.50am	A Study on Present Existence and Utilization of Ponds in a Selected Area in Jaffna, Sri Lanka K. Renugapathy ^{1,2} and M. Kuniaki ² ¹ District Secretariat, Jaffna, Sri Lanka ² Graduate school of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan	
9.50-10.00am	Evaluation of Solar-Driven Water Purification System C. Puvareka ¹ , N. Kannan ¹ and T. Thiruvaran ² ¹ Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka ² Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka	
10.00-10.10am	Isolation and Identification of a Cellulase Producing Bacterial Strain A.M.B. Croos and R. Kapilan Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka	
10.10-10.20am	Isolation and Morphological Characterization of Petroleum Crude Oil Degrading Bacteria from Contaminated Sites in Sri Lanka H.K.S.P.S. Iddamalgoda ^{1,2} , C.K.Hemachandra ¹ , W.W.P. Rodrigo ¹ and W.R.K. Fonseka ¹ ¹ Industrial Technology Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka ² Department of Botany, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka	
10.20-10.30am	Kinetic Properties of the Cellulases from <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Isolated from Cow Dung A.M.B. Croos and R. Kapilan Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka	
Tea Break with Refreshments		
10.45-10.55am	<i>Parthenium</i> Based Composting: An Approach to Minimize the Existing Weed Population in Northern Province of Sri Lanka P. Kishojini, K. Pakeerathan and G. Mikunthan Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna,	

	<i>Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
10.55-11.05am	Preliminary Evaluation of Selected Fungal Isolates as Biocontrol Agent for Water Hyacinth (<i>Eichhorniacrassipes</i> Mart. Solms) <u>M.I.S. Safeena</u> ^{1*} , A.C. Queene ¹ and M.C.M. Zakeel ² ¹ <i>Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Sammanthurai, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Department of Plant Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka</i>	Hall 1
11.05-11.15am	Purification of Cellulase from <i>Aspergillus</i> sp. Isolated from Decaying Coconut Wood <u>S. Mohanappriya</u> and R. Kapilan* <i>Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka</i>	
11.15-11.25am	10. Isolation and Morphological Characterization of Glyphosate Utilizing Fungi from Contaminated Sites in Sri Lanka <u>W.H. Kaushalya</u> ^{1,2} , C.K. Hemachandra ¹ , W.W.P. Rodrigo ¹ , W.R.K. Fonzeka ¹ and R. Samarasekera ¹ ¹ <i>Industrial Technology Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Department of Botany, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka</i>	
11.25-11.35am	Suitability of Some Organic Wastes as Substrates to Promote Oyster and Milky Mushrooms <u>M. Niroja</u> ¹ , K. Niranjan ² and G. Mikunthan ¹ ¹ <i>Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka</i>	
11.35-11.45am	Utilization of Palmyrah Kernel Shell Activated Carbon for Groundwater Purification <u>T. Gajalaxy</u> ¹ , B. Ketheesan ² and T. Mikunthan ¹ ¹ <i>Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	

SESSION V (A)		Hall 1
Time: 11.45 am-12.25pm		
Theme: Agroforestry and Crop Production		
Chairperson: Dr.S.J.Arasakesary		
Time	Title	
11.45-11.55am	<p>Application of Mycorrhizae Isolated from <i>Cymbidium bicolor</i> into the Roots of Chilli (<i>Capsicum annum</i>) and Onion (<i>Allium cepa</i>) to improve their Productivity</p> <p>A.M. Denisiya and G. Mikunthan*</p> <p><i>Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i></p>	
11.55-12.05pm	<p>Effect of Different Crop Establishment Methods on Growth and Yield Response of Lowland Irrigated Rice in the Northern Region of Sri Lanka</p> <p>S. Sivaneson and A. Ponnegipprenthiraraja</p> <p><i>Rice Research Station, Paranthan, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka</i></p>	
12.05-12.15pm	<p>Growth and Yield Response of Mechanical Transplanted Rice at Different Plant Densities</p> <p>S. Sivaneson and V. Vijayakumari</p> <p><i>Rice Research Station, Paranthan, Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka</i></p>	
12.15-12.25pm	<p>Morphology of Medicinal plant, <i>Mollugo cerviana</i> and its Growth Potential in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka</p> <p>B. Thenuvathany¹, V. Sathiyaseelan² and G. Mikunthan¹</p> <p>¹<i>Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i></p> <p>²<i>Unit of Siddha Medicine, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka</i></p>	

12.30 pm – 2.00 pm fellowship Lunch

SESSION VI (A)		Hall 2
Time: 11.20-12.30pm		
Theme: Food Science and Technology		
Chairperson: Dr.S.Balakumar		
Time	Title	
11.20-11.30am	Antimicrobial Activity of Garlic (<i>Allium sativum</i>) against <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Salmonella typhi</i> and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> C. Sujeevine and R.M.U.S.K. Ratnayaka <i>Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Belihuloya, Sri Lanka</i>	
11.30-11.40am	Effect of Different Blanching Methods on Antioxidant Properties of Selected Green Leafy Vegetables B. Rohini, S. Sivakanthan and S. Vasantharuba* <i>Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
11.40-11.50am	Influence of Different Cooking Methods on the Antioxidant Activity of Local Pumpkin Variety (<i>Cucurbita maxima</i>) Cultivated in Jaffna District, Sri Lanka S. Thanuja, S. Sivakanthan* and S. Vasantharuba <i>Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
11.50am-12.00pm	Isolation of Potential Bacteriocin Producing Lactic Acid Bacteria from Fermented Food Products Showing Antimicrobial Activity S. Keerthini ¹ , R. Kapilan ² and S. Vasantharuba ³ ¹ <i>Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka</i> ³ <i>Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
12.00-12.10pm	Preparation of Palmyrah Crude sugar using Electric Oil Jacket Cooker U. Kopiga ¹ , B. Diluckmini ² , S. Vasantharuba ¹ and S. Srivijeindran ² ¹ <i>Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Palmyrah Research Institute, Kaithadi, Jaffna, Sri Lanka</i>	
12.10-12.20pm	Production and Crystallization of Citric acid from Sour Orange (<i>Citrus aurantium</i>) Juice using <i>Aspergillus niger</i> Y. Sukanthan ¹ , R. Kapilan ² and S. Vasantharuba ¹ ¹ <i>Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka</i>	
12.20-12.30pm	Production of Single Cell Protein from Papaw Fruit Juice using Palmyrah Toddy Mix R.Sarathadevi ¹ , R. Kapilan ² and S. Vasantharuba ¹ ¹ <i>Department of Agricultural chemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka</i>	

SESSION V (B)		Hall 1
Time: 2.00pm-3.00pm		
Theme: Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries		
Chairperson: Dr.M.Pagthinathan		
Time	Title	
2.00-2.10pm	A Preliminary Study on Making Complete Feed Blocks for Cattle with Different Combination of Fodder Grasses and Agricultural Wastes S. Sivajanani and <u>J. Sinniah</u> ¹ <i>Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.10-2.20pm	Emerging Culture Based Fisheries of <i>Macrobrachium rosenbergii</i> (De Man, 1879) in Puthumurippu Medium Perennial Reservoir, Kilinochchi District, Sri Lanka R. Rajeevan and U. Edirisinghe <i>Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.20-2.30pm	Root fouling organisms of <i>Rhizophora mucronata</i> in Rekawa Lagoon, Sri Lanka <u>W.M.A.P. Wanasuriya</u> , M.P. Kumara and W.M.I.C. Wijesundara <i>Faculty of fisheries and Marine science, Ocean University of Sri Lanka, Tangalle, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.30-2.40pm	The Present Status of Goat Production in the Islands of the Jaffna Peninsula V. Kavingna and <u>J. Sinniah</u> <i>Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.40-2.50pm	Variation of Algal Diversity in Dickwella Algal Bed <u>P.B.M. Pathirana</u> , W.S. Thilakaratna and N.I. Bamunuarachchi <i>Faculty of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Ocean University of Sri Lanka, Tangalle, Sri Lanka</i>	
2.50-3.00pm	Yield and Nutritive Value of Palmyrah (<i>Borassus flabellifer</i>) Leaves at Different Growth Stages <u>M. Sarmini</u> ¹ and S. Premaratne ² ¹ <i>Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka</i>	

SESSION VI (B)		Hall 2
Time: 2.00-3.30pm		
Theme: Plant Protection and Biotechnology		
Chairperson: Prof.P.Sevvel		
Time	Title	
2.00-2.10pm	Bioethanol Production from Sour Orange(<i>Citrus aurantium</i>) Fruit Juice using Baker's Yeast Y. Sukanthan ¹ , R. Kapilan ² and S. Vasantharuba ¹ ¹ Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka ² Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka	
2.10-2.20pm	Distribution, Infestation and Occurrence of <i>Noorda blitealis</i> Wlk. and <i>Gitona distigma</i> (Meigen) in <i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam. in the Home Gardens of the Jaffna District, Sri Lanka K. Sharjana and G. Mikunthan Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka	
2.20-2.30pm	Improvement of the Bioethanol Production from Banana (<i>Kathali</i>Variety) Fruit Juice using Baker's Yeast V. Rushani and R. Kapilan Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka	
2.30-2.40pm	Management of Root Rot Caused by <i>Curvularia</i> spp. on <i>Ludwigia repens</i> using Biocontrol Agents Y. Tharmili ¹ , G. Mikunthan ¹ , V. Jegathambigai ² and A. Sivinningen ² ¹ Department of Agricultural biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka ² Green Farms (Pvt) Ltd., Marawila, Sri Lanka	
2.40-2.50pm	Measuring Effectiveness of Leaf Rust Resistance QTL using In-Planta Fungal Quantity by Chitin Assay in a Aus27506/Aus27229 RIL Population K. Pakeerathan ^{1,2} , H.S. Bariana ¹ and U.K. Bansal ¹ ¹ Plant Breeding Institute, University of Sydney, Australia ^{1,2} Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka	
2.50-3.00pm	Natural Occurrence of Acaropathogenic <i>Rhizopus</i> sp. on <i>Oligonychus</i> sp. Damaging <i>Gliricidia</i> Leaves and the Effect of Pesticides on its Existence S. Gobinantha and G. Mikunthan Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka	
3.00-3.10pm	Preliminary Studies on <i>Colletotrichum</i> Isolates Associated with Papaya (<i>Carica papaya</i> L.) Fruit Anthracnose Disease in the Jaffna District, Sri Lanka S. Laxmija and A.Vengadaramana Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka	
3.10-3.20pm	Somatic Embryogenesis and Plant Regeneration of <i>Carica papaya</i> v. Red Lady from Immature Zygotic Embryos A.D.R.P. Aluthge ¹ , S.M.S. Nagahawatta ¹ , B.M.V.S. Basnayake ¹ , D.M.J.B. Senanayake ² and G.A.U. Jayasekara ³ ¹ Plant Virus Indexing Center, Gabadawattha, Homagama, Sri Lanka	

	² <i>National Plant Quarantine Service, Canada friendship Road, Katunayake, Sri Lanka</i> ³ <i>University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka</i>	
3.20-3.30pm	The preliminary investigation of somatic embryo induction from stem cuttings through direct Somatic Embryogenesis in Tea [<i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) O. Kuntze] Cultivar, 'TRI2024' <u>S. Sukirtharuban</u> ¹ , K.K. Ranaweera ² , M.A.B. Ranatunga ² and G. Thirukkumaran ¹ ¹ <i>Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka</i> ² <i>Plant Breeding Division, Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Talawakelle, Sri Lanka</i>	

3.30 pm – 4.00 pm Panel Discussion

4.00 pm -4.30 pm valedictory Session

*****End*****