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Memories of the Past



Prof. SJBA Jayasekera/ Head Department of Biotechnology (2002) opening the new laboratory



Prof. TSG Fonseka/Dean FAPM (2002) lightning the oil lamp



Staff members of the FAPM (2002) at the opening ceremony

Message from the Head, Dr. Kalaivani Vivehananthan

Ten Year Old Biotechnology Laboratory

I am happy to announce that the laboratory of the Department completes its 10th year on 28th March 2012. The Department of Biotechnology was initiated in January 2001. We as staff members of the Department of Biotechnology made every effort to contribute towards the development of the laboratory construction and improvement by involving directly in each and every activity in laboratory development.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to those who have rendered committed services to the development of the laboratory in the last ten years and specially for their contribution made during the initial period for the development of the laboratory. At present, the laboratory has its own potential to conduct the academic program and research in the field of Biotechnology. Our team initiated several focused research in the area of Bioremediation, Enzyme Technology, Crop Improvement (Rice, Rubber) towards the national development.

Highlights in the Past

Our Strengths

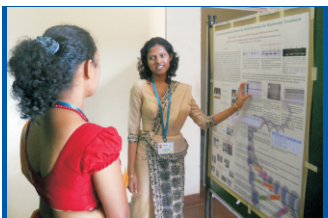
Leaders	Staff	Students
Prof. SJBA Jayasekera (2001 – 2004)	Academic Staff with PhD 04 Academic Staff with MSc 01	First Class 01 Second Upper 15
Prof. DPSTG Attanayaka (2004 – 2007)	Temporary Academic Staff 06 Computer Assistant 01	Second Lower 37 Pass 28
Prof. SJBA Jayasekera (2007 – 2008)	Technical Officer 01 Laboratory Attendant 01	Total 81
Dr. NS Kottearachchi (2008 – 2011)	Labourer 01	
Dr. K Vivehananthan (2011 onwards)		

News and Events in the Past

1. BitSoc Society was formed in 2009 to enhance students' participation in outreach activities in Biotechnology
2. National Workshop for Scientists was conducted in 2010 to make aware of the uses and applications in the field of Bioinformatics
3. Several School Programmes were organized for Advanced Level Students to give brief exposure in different areas in Biotechnology
4. Fellowships and training programmes were awarded to the academic staff in the field of Biotechnology

Pros and Cons

The limited space availability and lack of high-tech facilities hinders further improvement of the Laboratory. We are currently seeking the opportunities to expand the available laboratory to increase student intake for the specialization course in Biotechnology. Further the Department has already taken initial steps for a Postgraduate Diploma in the field of Biotechnology.



Ms. RWPM Rajapakse 4th year Biotechnology specializing student presenting a poster at ISAE on 09th Nov 2011



The late
Dr. Dharmawansa Senadhira
(1944 - 1998)



Best Performance Award in
Biotechnology 2011
Ms. RACA Ranathunga



Mr. K Suganthan at the
Puttalam School Exhibition



Mr. KGTT Perera at the "Deyata
Kirula" Exhibition -2012



School Programme held at the
Dept. of BT on 15th Feb 2012

Water Related Research

The Final year student of the Department of Biotechnology, Ms. RWPM Rajapakse presented and published water related research findings at the symposium proceedings of the Water Professionals day organized by the Crossing Boundaries (CB) Project, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) and Geo-Informatics Society of Sri Lanka (GISL) and at the International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment organized by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna. The Projects titled "Molecular Techniques for Detection of Potential Biodegradative Microbes in Polluted Water" and "Exploring Xenobiotic Bacterial DNA resources for Wastewater Treatment" which was conducted at the Department of Biotechnology in 2011 under the supervision of Dr. K. Vivehananthan.

Dr. Dharmawansa Senadhira Award

The Department of Biotechnology decided to present an award in the name of Dr. Dharmawansa Senadhira to honour his immense service to the country. The country endowed many superior rice varieties (BG 90-2 and BG 34-8) bred by him which are being currently used by the rice growers worldwide. Unfortunately, this great scientist passed away on 07th July 1998 by a tragic accident in Bangladesh.

The academic staff members of the Department of Biotechnology have contributed to initiate the Dharmawansa Senadhira fund for this purpose. Ms. RACA Ranathunga was presented this award for her best performance in Biotechnology at the General Convocation held on 20th March 2012.

Knowledge Dissemination

Public Awareness Programme - Coordinated by Dr. K. Vivehananthan

The Department of Biotechnology was invited by Puttalam Thillaiyadi Muslim Maha Vidyalaya to conduct three days exhibition held on 27th, 28th and 29th February 2012. The staff and the fourth year students participated as resource persons and the programme was conducted in all three languages.

Contribution towards Deyata Kirula Exhibition - Coordinated by Ms. DR Gimhani

The staff and the third year students of the Biotechnology were actively engaged in all activities of exhibition for ten days, held during 2nd to 15th February 2012 at Oyamaduwa, Anuradhapura. Questionnaires were also distributed to the public to find out the level of awareness in Biotechnology in Sri Lanka.

Visits to the Department of Biotechnology

Several schools visited in the recent past to the Department of Biotechnology to have practical exposure in the areas such as Molecular Biology, Genetic Engineering, Microbiology and Plant Tissue Culture. Successful sessions were conducted by the staff of the Biotechnology for the betterment of the Advanced Level Students of Minuwangoda President's College, Pannala National College and Sandalankawa Central Collage.

Commonwealth Academic Fellowship

Dr. Nisha Kottarachchi was awarded for Post-doctoral research at Bangor University, United Kingdom for 6 months from November 2011 to April 2012.

Editorial Board : Dr. K Vivehananthan, Ms. MKAS Jayasena and Prof. DPSTG Attanayaka

Computer Applications : Ms. BLDD Hemachandra



Team Work, Effort and Skill are Key to Success

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