



NEWSLETTER

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Main News:

- Innovating a farmer centered teaching learning platform for undergraduates following courses on agriculture
- Publicizing the project progress, success and outcomes

Other BRITAE News:

- Invitation for launch of the Sri Lanka National Science Foundation (NSF) global digital platform
- 5th Global Summit of GADRI
- GDRC Annual Report 2021 at the SECRA

Editorial

It's my pleasure to share our experiences and motivational capabilities of the BRITAE project on behalf of the WP-04 team. BRITAE initiated and very snugly developed the academic network among exceptional scholars in UK, Lithuania, Estonia and Sri Lanka.

Moreover, it witnessed the capacity, masterly and elongated vision of the BRITAE team, since they have recognized the necessity of having virtual education and distance learning systems before it glimpsed to the global education system.

As the ultimate objective of this project is to build resilience in tropical agro ecosystems, the WP-04 team contributes to initiate and implement the BRITAE masters programme by developing the online student platform to deliver the degree successfully. Among the tasks of WP4 are, conducting orientation sessions for university academics, administrators, technical officers, graduates and undergraduates in Sri Lanka about the online platform, marketing the master degree and enrolling students.

Professor S.B. Navaratne

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WP2 - INNOVATING A FARMER CENTERED TEACHING LEARNING PLATFORM FOR AGRICULTURE

Under WP2 - the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri-Lanka and University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom, are involved in innovating a farmer centered teaching learning platform for agriculture undergraduates. Under this program, a digital story telling activity was organized with the participation of 25 smallholder farmers in the picturesque village of Belihuloya. Participants were allowed to express their ideas freely and each session was recorded. Content analysis was undertaken to highlight the viewpoints of farmers on their cultivation, constraints, food security and the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on their crops/livestock. Based on the data revealed from farmers, the storytelling activity is developed into a journal paper titled "Responsiveness of rural households to the COVID-19 pandemic: A study on the wealth of rural home gardens, rural households and COVID-19". The authors of the publication are D.A.M. De Silva, M. Esham, C.L. Liyanage, A. Carmichael, and A.M.S.M.R.S.G. Bandara.

In addition, 10 rural households of Belihuloya were selected and were studied for over a month to evaluate their household food security during the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings were published as an extended abstract in the proceedings of 4th International conference of the faculty of Agricultural Sciences - AglInsight 2022 titled "Responses of rural agricultural households to COVID-19 pandemic: A case study on food security of rural farmers in Belihuloya, Sri Lanka". The publication was authored by D.A.M. De Silva, M. Esham, C.L. Liyanage, A. Carmichael, and A.M.S.M.R.S.G. Bandara.



Figure 1
AglInsight 2022 conference logo and the flyer

Another abstract is accepted for the DNC 2022 (Dresden Nexus Conference) for presentation titled "Nutritional Diversity of Rural Households: A Study on the Dietary Wealth of Rural Households in Sri-Lanka". The authors of the publication are D.A.M. De Silva, M. Esham, C.L. Liyanage, A. Carmichael, and A.M.S.M.R.S.G. Bandara.



- **Theory:** Advancing the concept of the Resource Nexus and its relevance for policy and practice
- **Technologies:** Addressing the conception, design, and societal embeddedness of technical resource solutions and infrastructures
- **Governance:** Understanding (collective) problem-solving strategies, policy designs, and implementation processes
- **Health and wellbeing:** Examining interlinkages between resource systems, human health, and liveability
- **Society and justice:** Exploring disparities and inequalities in resource access and distribution
- **Data:** Identifying Resource Nexus data needs and contributing to data integration and interpretation
- **Sustainability Assessment:** Embedding the economic, ecological, and social dimensions of sustainability in their temporal and spatial contexts
- emergent perspectives (open track)

Figure 2 - DNC conference logo and the thematic areas

Also by considering the timeliness of increasing public awareness of traditional food preservation methods to increase household food security amidst the economic recession, an article in Sinhala language had been submitted and accepted to be published in the Agri-Food Quarterly Magazine; a quarterly magazine published by the Department of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri-Lanka. The article title is "A way to Food security through safe food production" and the authors of the publication are D.A.M. De Silva, M. Esham, C.L. Liyanage, A. Carmichel, and A.M.S.M.R.S.G. Bandara.

Moreover, based on the process of curriculum development of the MSc. Program Tropical agro-eco system resilience degree program, another abstract has been published in the Postgraduate Institute of Science Research Congress (PGIS RESCON 2021), Sri Lanka which was held from 29th-31st October 2021 titled "Co-Design Experience of The Postgraduate Program: A Case of Master's Program on Tropical Agro Eco-System". The authors are D.A.M. De Silva, M. Esham, C.L. Liyanage, L. Khajenoori, A. Carmichael, M.S. Elapata and B.M.R.L. Basnayake.

The abstract highlighted the process of co-creation of the postgraduate program which will provide an overwhelming desire for any kind of stakeholders to be involved in the process of designing new degree programs to ensure they match the actual need of the country. It points out the steps followed when developing the M.Sc. Tropical agro-ecosystem resilience degree program such as; identifying potential stakeholders, landscaping the stakeholders, and conducting the workshop with the participation of stakeholders, brainstorming of consortium partners, and implementing comments and feedback.



Figure 3 - Postgraduate institute of science research congress (PGIS RESCON 2021) flyer

WP6 "DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION"

Publicizing the project progress, success and outcomes as far as possible is a main objective of the WP6 of the BRITAE Project. WP6 creates an atmosphere which helps to impact Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and industries in order to develop research related to Agro-ecosystems resilience, different types of innovative means and to extend the impact of project results beyond the project duration. WP6 is designed to engage the academic, research and research support staff in partner institutions to build their research capacity in the field of agro-ecosystem resilience and intends to contribute to the implementation and shaping of national and European policies and systems by communicating the project results and to include them in the HEIs across the region of programme and partner institutions. Tallinn University of Technology and the University of Colombo are co-leaders of WP6. WP6 of the BRITAE project has 7 sub tasks to fulfill the project objectives.

WP6 has developed the website with the help of BRITAE partners and disseminate project related materials such as e-newsletter, newspaper articles, flyers, etc. through the website. The e-newsletter is an important component of the dissemination and exploitation activity. The third e-newsletter was published in March 2022. It consists of details regarding the interim report, establishment details of Smart Agroecosystem Resilience Centre (SAR) and capacity building and development activities as main news and other BRITAE project related news in addition to award winning details at the SEEDS conference, launches of the multi-hazard early warning book, etc.

Social media platforms are also crucial elements to achieve the objectives of the WP6. Therefore, the BRITAE Facebook account is updated and the

Twitter and LinkedIn accounts were created for the purpose of dissemination and exploitation.



Figure 4 - BRITAE Facebook page



Figure 5 - BRITAE Twitter page



Figure 6 - BRITAE LinkedIn page

Under WP6, sub-task 6.6 highlights the organization of the International conference on Building Resilience in Tropical Agroecosystems. The title of the conference is "International Conference on Building Resilience in Tropical Agro-Ecosystems -2023". A draft of the conference flyer was



Figure 7 - BRITAE Conference flyer 2023 - 1



Figure 8 - BRITAE Conference flyer 2023 - 2

OTHER BRITAE NEWS

INVITATION FOR LAUNCH OF THE SRI LANKA NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) GLOBAL DIGITAL PLATFORM

Prof. Dilanthi Amarathunga was invited for the Launch of the Sri Lanka National Science Foundation (NSF) global digital platform (GDP) - State-of-the-art Global Digital Platform (GDP) which consists of requisite capabilities and features to harness, mobilize and channel intellectual assets at home and overseas. It was launched by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.



Figure 11 - E-poster of the project

5TH GLOBAL SUMMIT OF GADRI

The e poster of the project was displayed at the 5th Global Summit of GADRI: Engaging Sciences with Action, held from 31st August to 1st September 2021. The international event was organised by the Research Institutes for Disaster Risk Reduction, Kyoto University, Japan.

submitted to all the partners of the BRITAE project at the 6th consortium and steering committee meeting held on 29th March 2022. The flyer was finalized by incorporating the feedback received. Further, a newspaper article was published in English and together with translations in Sinhala and Tamil. It was also uploaded to the BRITAE and SPRAC websites. It was sent to be uploaded on websites of partners too.



Figure 9 - Daily News Newspaper article, Published on 28th May 2022



Figure 10 - Thinakaran Newspaper article, Published on 27th June 2022

All BRITAE partners engage in dissemination and exploitation activities such as by linking the project website and social media pages of their respective university or acknowledgement of the BRITAE project in published journal articles, conference presentations and publications.

Compiled by University of Colombo

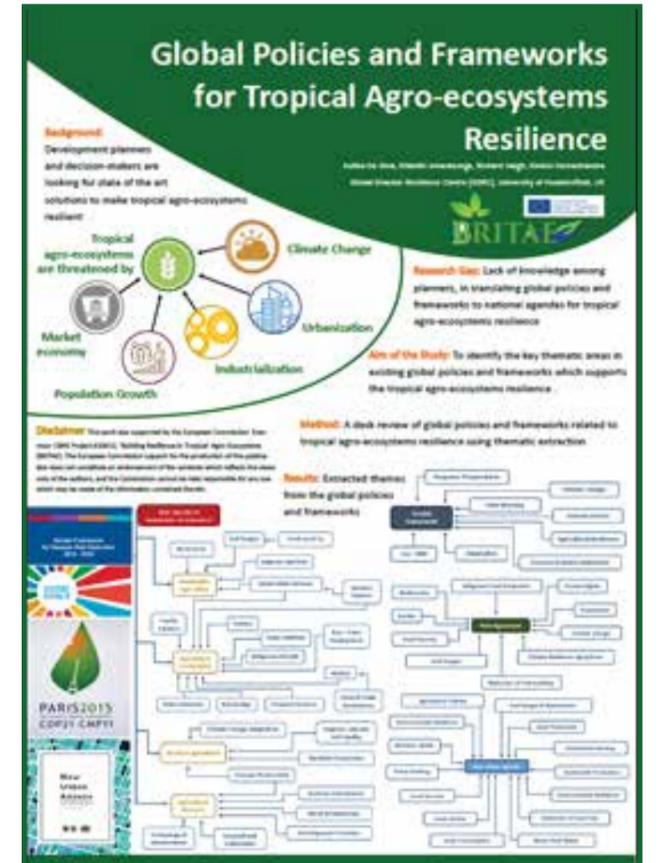


Figure 12 - Global policies and framework for Tropical agro-eco system resilience

SECRA PROJECT MEETING

Prof Richard Haigh and Kinkini Hemachandra presented the GDR Annual Report 2021 at the SECRA meeting held on 15-17 March 2022. The event was organized by University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. The BRITAE project was highlighted as one of the European Commission's co-funded projects which aims to strengthen disaster resilience.



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REGARD - Rebuilding After Displacement

Aims to develop competencies in rebuilding communities following disaster and conflict induced mass displacements from the perspective of the built environment.

Funder: European Commission Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships for higher education

Our role: Project lead

Grant amount: € 449,000

Our partners include: 5 partners from 4 countries

URL: <https://regardproject.com/portal/>



- First face to face project meeting held in October 2021 for Improving COVID-19 and pandemic preparedness and response through the downstream of multihazard early warning systems project ●



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Improving COVID-19 and pandemic preparedness and response through the downstream of multi-hazard early warning systems

Addresses two inter-related challenges on the pandemic-natural hazard hybrid scenario: How to cope if a major natural hazard occurs during the COVID-19 pandemic? How can pandemic preparedness make use of the existing infrastructure for tackling other hazards?

Funder: UKRI/GCRF/EP SRC

Grant value: € 185,000

Our role: Project lead

Partnership: 13 partners from 6 countries

URL: <http://pandemic-mhew.org/>



- Professor Richard Haigh with Dr Harkunti Rahayu, talking about their research on tsunami early warning, at the Newton Prize Award Ceremony, Westminster, London.

Photo courtesy Dan Tsantilis Photographer ●

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Newton Prize - Developing and harmonising local capacities for tsunami early warning

Exploring the need for improved downstream disaster early warning Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enhance institutional coordination and re-engage neglected political and representative bodies.

Funder: Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK

Value: € 200,000

Our role: Project lead

Partnership: 6 partners from 3 countries

URL: <http://deltaproject.info/>



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BECK - Integrating education with consumer behaviour relevant to energy efficiency and climate change at the Universities of Russia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh

Developing a comprehensive climate change educational programme which is based on cross-institutional resource sharing, development of adaptive MOOC modules, development of big data interuniversity networked effective educational system, systematic monitoring, and evaluation of performance.

Funder: Erasmus+ Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education

Grant value: € 892,955

Our role: Partner, co-investigator

Partnership: 15 partners from 7 countries

URL: <http://beck-erasmus.com/>

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BRITAE - Building Resilience in Tropical Agro-Ecosystems

Aims to explore the timely theme of building resilience in tropical agro ecosystems

Funder: Erasmus+ Call: Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education

Grant value: € 910,000

Our role: Partner and co-investigator

Partnership: 14 partners from 4 countries

URL: <https://www.britae.lk/>

Figure 13 - Regard annual report 2021