

2017

Promote the IFSTSL at Diamond jubilee celebration of the University of Peradeniya

The IFSTSL joined the University of Peradeniya in hosting a seminar on “Peradeniya University and the Sri Lankan food industry: The interrelationships”. The seminar was held on 15th March 2017 at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, inaugurated by the Honorable Mohanlal Grero, State Minister of Higher Education. This event was addressed by Prof. G Pushpakumara (Dean , Faculty of Agriculture), Prof. KKDS Ranaweera (President IFSTSL) , Mr. M De Alwis (President SLFPA), Dr. N Rajapakse (Head , Department of Food Science and Technology), Dr. J K Vidanarachchi (Senior Lecturer in Animal science), Emeritus Professor. U Samarajeewa (Chairman BOG IFSTSL) and Dr. E Mendis (Past President IFSTSL).

Appointed Student Ambassadors

Student ambassadors were selected from the five Universities to represent IFSTSL activities. The appointed student ambassadors were Mr. Pushpika Jayakantha representing the University of Peradeniya, Mr. Dinidu Herath representing the University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Mr. Layan Mendis representing Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Ms. Yasodara Fernando representing Sabaragamuwa university of Sri Lanka and Ms. Gayani Rasangika representing the Open University of Sri Lanka. They were called for special meeting to aware the activities planned by IFSTSL to hold in parallel to the annual ProFood-ProPack-Ag Biz International Food Agriculture and Packaging Exhibition. Mr. Dinidu Herath and Ms. Gayani Rasangika actively participated and extended their help in organizing Inter University Quiz 2017 competition.

Inter University Food Science Quiz 2017 Competition

The first Inter University Food Science Quiz 2017 competition was held among the teams of students reading for degrees in Food Science and Technology at the Universities of Peradeniya, Sri Jayawardenepura, Sabaragamuwa and Wayamba on Friday 4th August at 9.30 to 12.30 at Mihilaka Medura of the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall complex. This program was organized parallel to the annual ProFood-ProPack-Ag Biz International Food, Agriculture and Packaging Exhibition. The competition consisted of two activities namely, the quiz program and impromptu speech. The quiz program was carried 80% marks and the impromptu speech 20% marks for each of the groups from the universities.

Quiz master Emeritus. Prof. Samarajeewa with the three member panel of Judges Dr. Ilmy Hewajulige, Dr. Sanath Mahawithana, Dr. Sujeewa Gunaratne and time manager Mr. Supun

Jayasinghe conducted the quiz programme while Mr. Cyril Wikramaratne dedicated to ready all the certificates to distribute on time. Dr. Eresha Mendis and Dr. Niranjan Rajapakse helped to coordinate whole program from the beginning to the end with guidance from President Prof KKDS Ranaweera. Dr. Nimsha Weerakkody was responsible for authenticating the competitors' identity while Ms. Sandya helped to register participants for the quiz with the student ambassadors.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura won the trophy and shield for the year 2017. The event was coordinated by the Emeritus. Prof. Samarajeewa (Chairman BOG IFSTSL) with the assistance of Dr. Nimsha Weerakkody (joint secretary).

Training

Training seminar for laboratory technical officers

Seminar for laboratory technical officers was successfully held on 08th March 2017 at Renuka City Hotel to assist the personnel working at the food testing laboratories to enhance their knowledge and skills on practical applications aiming laboratory quality assurance. Emeritus Prof. Samarajeewa (International Consultant on Laboratory Accreditation) conducted whole day programme and there were 52 participants at the workshop representing private and public sector associated with the food industry.

Food safety

Export food trade: Gaps, Potentials and way forward

The IFST organized seminar on "Export food trade: Gaps, Potentials and way forward". This seminar was held on 4th August at BMICH at 1.30 pm in parallel with the country's largest food expo, ProFood-ProPack-Ag Biz International Food Agriculture and Packaging Exhibition.

Mr. MIM Rafeek (Secretary, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs) addressed on contribution of export sector to national economy, Ms. Jeevani Siriwardena (DG, EDB) made a presentation on "Meeting the requirements of food importing countries". Ms. Theja Pieries (GM Marketing CBL) addressed on "Branded products, success through establishing the identity". Emeritus Prof. U. Samarajeewa (University of Peradeniya) addressed on "Food standards and requirements of the foreign buyers". Mr. Supun Jayasinghe (former Marketing Manager, Control union) addressed on "Food standards requirements of foreign buyers", Dr. Eresha Mendis (University of Peradeniya) made a presentation on "Our food safety and quality certification systems vs global challenges". The title of the address of Dr. Rohantha Athukorala (CEO Coral Holdings) was " Towards competitive advantages at food export and Mrs. Sonali Wijeratne (DG Department of Commerce) addressed on on "Potential for food exports through free trade agreements". There were 82 participants representing both food industry, and universities. Dr. Eresha Mendis, Past President of IFSTSL coordinated the event.

Postgraduate Diploma in Food safety Developed by IFSTSL

Postgraduate Diploma in Food Safety, Plant and Animal Hygiene was approved by an extraordinary Gazette Notice No 2002/72 dated 20th January 2017 by the Ministry of Higher education and Highways, issued under the University act 16 of 1978. Postgraduate Diploma course was developed and will be conducted by IFSTSL with the Memorandum of understanding with the Horizon Campus.

The “Postgraduate Diploma in Food Safety, Plant and Animal Hygiene” was launched on 2nd March 2017 by the Honorable Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health and Indigenous Medicine at the Orchid Hall of BMICH. The Honorable Minister highlighted the importance of nutrition and food safety as preventive measures in maintaining health standards of the Sri Lankan population.

Prof. U. Samarajeewa presented an overview of the course structure explaining how it meets needs of the food industry in Sri Lanka, against the changing global views on handling food safety issues. Even though programme was scheduled to commence in August 2017 it will be started later.

Act of Parliament to Incorporate IFSTSL

A draft Act to incorporate IFSTSL by an Act was submitted to Ministry of Agriculture. Its legal draft has been completed with some acceptable modifications by the legal draftsmen.

IFSTSL Newsletter

First issues of the 6th volume of IFSTSL newsletter was published in January and July 2017. Electronic copies were circulated among the members of IFSTSL and SLFPA, and printed copies were posted to Universities, research institutes, line Ministries and departments of the government and journalists. Mr. Cyril Wickramaratne of IFSTSL served as the editor and also coordinated to release the newsletters on time.

Food Safety and Training

FAO-IFSTSL Agreement to Strengthen Food Control System in Sri Lanka within One Health Framework

A letter of agreement between Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Institute of Food Science & Technology Sri Lanka (IFSTSL) was signed on 11th December 2017, in support of strengthening national capacity for food control system in Sri Lanka within “One Health

Framework. The resource personnel of the project were Dr. Niranjan Rajapakse, Dr. Eresha Mendis and Emeritus Professor U. Samarajeewa.