

12th International Conference on Dry Zone Agriculture (ICDA 2026)

"Smart Solutions for Commercial Agriculture"

Programme Schedule



Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

24th June 2026

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Ariviyal Nagar, Kilinochchi, 44000, Sri Lanka

12th International Conference on Dry Zone Agriculture (ICDA 2026)

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24th of June, 2026

08.00 am	Registration
08.30 am	Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp
08.45 am	Welcome Dance
09.00 am	Welcome Address by Convener: Dr. S. Thatchaneshkanth
09.10 am	Conference Chair Address: Professor K. Pakeerathan
09.20 am	Releasing of the Proceedings ICDA 2026
09.30 am	Chief Guest's Address Snr. Professor T. Velnampy, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jaffna
09.55 am	Plenary Speech: Professor Ivan Oresnik, University of Manitoba, Canada "Use of Biological Inocula in Agriculture"
10.35 am	Keynote Speech: Professor Toshiaki Owari, The University of Tokyo, Japan "Digital Transformation in Forestry: Challenges and Opportunities"
11.15 am	Vote of Thanks by Joint Secretaries: Dr. (Mrs). A. Shayanthan
11.20 am	Closure of Inaugural session

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11.30 am - 11.35 am Talk: Prof. T. Mitsunaga, Expert /JICA PRECIDA

Parallel Technical Sessions (Track A, B & C)

11.35 am-12.35 pm

11.35 am-12.35 pm		Scientific Session (Track A)
Theme: Soil, Water and Environment Chairperson: Dr. Yuka Sasaki Track Coordinator: Dr. (Mrs.) A. Shayanthan Venue: Auditorium		
Time	Title of the abstract, Name of the Authors	
11.35	Effect of Mulching on Soil Physical Properties under Dry Zone Condition: Evidence from Knol-khol (<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>gongylodes</i>) Cultivation in Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka T. G. S. Methmal, T. Sellathurai, and S. Sritharan	
11.45	Nitrification Inhibition by Karanja (<i>Pongamia glabra</i> Vent) Seed Powder and Its Extract S. Thurkka, A. Kirisan and N. Gnanavelrajah	
11.55	Carbon Sequestration Potential of Cashew Plantations under Varying Tree Densities in a Dry Zone Agroforestry System H. M. A. S. Jayawardana, P. M. A. P. K. Wijetunge, D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka, and D. C. Abeysinghe	
12.05	Green Synthesis of Iron Nanoparticles using Made Tea and Refused Tea for Dye Removal in Wastewater M.A.A.P.M. Athapaththu, E.A.L. Lochana, V.P. Ellepola, and G.A.A.R. Perera	
12.15	Spatial Assessment of Soil Erosion in a Gently Sloping Coconut Plantation at Dambadeniya (IL1), Sri Lanka D.M.C.N. Dilshani, H. M. A. S. Jayawardana, and J. K. W. N. Subashini	
12.35 – 13.30 pm		Fellowship Lunch

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Track B: 11.35 am-12.35 pm

11.35 am-12.35 pm	Scientific Session (Track B)
Theme: Crop Science Chairperson: Prof. (Mrs.) S. Sivachandiran Track Coordinator: Mrs. K. Nishanthan Venue: Computer Unit	
Time	Title of the abstract, Name of the Authors
11.35	Phenotypic Plasticity of Qualitative Leaf Traits in Cinnamon (<i>Cinnamomum Verum</i>) Accessions Across Two Agroclimatic Zones in Sri Lanka V.Nithiyanjaly, M.R. Prathibhani, P.K.D. Sandamini, T. Hirotoshi, L. Jayasekara, S. Ranaweera, and S. Geekiyanage
11.45	Effects of different concentrations of banana male bud tonic on the growth and yield of salad cucumber under polytunnel conditions B.A.I.S.L. Bandara, H. Uduwawala, and D.A.U.D. Devasinghe
11.55	Comparative study of the performance of selected rice genotypes in terms of root attributes under stress and non-stress conditions in the vegetative stage H.D.L. Priyankara, R.M.N.H. Senanayake, and S. Sayanthan
12.05	Evaluation of Palmyrah-Based Growing Media on Growth, Yield And Quality of Cantaloupe (<i>Cucumis Melo</i> L.) under Protected Cultivation R.M.D.D.U. Kumara, M.D.P. Nayanarangani, T. Nalayini, and S. Prabagani
12.15	Land Productivity of Seedling and Budded Cashew Plants under Plantation Conditions in the Dry Zone (DL3) of Sri Lanka H. M. A. S. Jayawardana, P. M. A. P. K. Wijetunge, D.P.S.T.G. Attanayaka, and D. C. Abeysinghe
12.25	Evaluation of Submergence Tolerance in Twenty-two Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.) Genotypes based on Anaerobic Germination K. Theepika, S. J. Arasakesari, L. Pradheeban, and S. Sritharan
12.35 – 13.30 pm	Fellowship Lunch

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Track C: 11.35 am-12.35 pm

11.35 am-12.35 pm		Scientific Session (Track C)
Theme: Agribusiness, Agriextension, and Policies Chairperson: Prof. C. Sivajoganathan Track Coordinator: Dr. S. Sarujan Venue: Board room		
Time	Title of the abstract, Name of the Authors	
11.35	Effectiveness of WhatsApp-Based Weather Information Dissemination - A Case Study Based on Two Cascade Systems under CRIWMP in the Dry Zone, Sri Lanka W.R.M.R.L.K. Wickramasinghe, M.A.Y.K. Wijerathne, A. Jayaweera, and J. Weerahewa	
11.45	From Participation to Empowerment: A Case Study of Women's Changing Roles under the CRIWMP in Dry Zone Cascade Systems M.A.Y.K. Wijerathne, W.R.M.R.L.K. Wickramasinghe, A. Jayaweera, and J. Weerahewa	
11.55	Influence of Seasonal Farming Patterns and Paddy Variety Preferences on Seed Scarcity and Economic Stability in Ganewaththa Divisional Secretariat, Sri Lanka R.M.A.S.Rathanayake, and U.B.E. Sasanka	
12.05	Addressing Skilled Labour Shortages in Coconut Harvesting: Evidence from Coconut Farmers in Kurunegala District, Sri Lanka W.G.L.K.Amarathunga, and U.B.E.Sasanka	
12.15	Halal Food Consumption Behavior among Muslim Consumers in Sri Lanka M.K.B.Perera, U.B.E. Sanaka, P.K.K.H. Weerasinghe, and U.D. Umanga	
12.25	Determinants of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviours toward Aflatoxin Contamination: A Structural Equation Modelling Approach in Sri Lanka W.V.N. Shashini, G.M.S. Sarap, T.U.S Peiris, V. Ranawana, and G.A.P. Chandrasekara	
12.35 – 13.30 pm		Fellowship Lunch

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Parallel Technical Sessions

Track D: 13.30 – 15.10 pm

13.30 pm - 15.10 pm		Scientific Session (Track D)
Theme: Food Science: Food processing and product development Chairperson: Prof. T. Mitsunaga Track Coordinator: Dr. (Mrs). S. Sivakanthan Venue: Auditorium		
13.30	Development and Nutritional Characterization of Jam Incorporated with <i>Hibiscus</i> Flowers and Winter Melon Pulp S. Madhushalini, and T. Sivanathan	
13.40	Development of a Gluten-Free Fibre- and Iron-Rich Snack Bar Using Palmyrah Tuber Flour S. Luxcika, T. Kirushanthi and P. Wattage	
13.50	Formulation and Quality Evaluation of Flavored Peanut Spread Enriched with Jackfruit (<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>) Seed Powder V. Sandavi, V. Sangeetha, and K. Piranavan	
14.00	Production and Evaluation of Cassava Starch, Lime waste and <i>Aloe vera</i> Based Edible Film as Food Packaging Material V. Sivasamalai, and S. Vasantharuba	
14.10	Development and Evaluation of Herbal Bio-coating from <i>Aloe vera</i> , Tulsi (<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>) and Lemongrass (<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>) for Postharvest Preservation of Fruits F.H.F.Jahan, S. Srivarathan, and T. Thileepan	
14.20	<i>Aloe vera</i> incorporated edible coating from <i>Canna edulis</i> for post-harvest quality retention of fresh coconut K. Sureshkumar, and S. Srivarathan	
14.30	Development and Nutritional Evaluation of Date-Based Energy Bar Formulated with Dehydrated Banana Chips A. S.F. Sahana, L.P. Sinthuja, R.M.R.N.K. Ratnayaka, and S.M.V.K. Sewwandi	
14.40	Development and Quality Evaluation of Fortified Instant Idli Batter Mix Enriched with Palmyrah Pulp M.Vithoosika, T. Kirushanthi, and S.Amuthenie	

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13.30 pm - 15.10 pm		Scientific Session (Track D)
14.50	Formulation and Evaluation of Chocolate-Coated Millet Balls: A Sustainable, Functional Snack for Adults K. Esaijaruvi, S. Vadhani, and K. Piranavan	
15.00	Effect of Different Drying Methods on Nutrient Retention Characteristics of the Pearl Millet-based Functional Food Supplement ingredients A.K. Taniya, and S. Vasantharuba	
Conclusion of Session D		

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Track E: 13.30 – 14.10 pm

13.30 pm – 14.10 pm		Scientific Session (Track E)	
Theme: Agro-Technologies and Digital Tools			
Chairperson: Prof. Toshiaki Owari			
Track Coordinator: Dr. K. Jeyavanan			
Venue: Computer Unit			
Time		Title of the abstract, Name of the Authors	
13.30		AI-Based Tea Leaf Disease Detection Using Deep Learning and Image Recognition J.K. Kaushica and V.Sudharshan	
13.40		Impact of Virtual Farm Tours on Agrotourism Destination Choice in Sri Lanka S.M.S.L. Ariyaratna, W.A.M.K. Adikaram, and M.G.L.N.K. Samarawansa	
13.50		Simulation-based Assessment of Maize Sowing Windows under Current and Future Climate Conditions in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka H. Uduwawala, and B.A.I.S.L. Bandara	
14.00		Different Hydrothermal Treatments in Paddy Parboiling Process Enhance the Formation of Resistance Starch during Milling M. Prabhakaran and D.Hammahaka	
Conclusion of Session E			

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Track F: 13.30 – 14.40 pm

13.30 pm – 14.40 pm		Scientific Session (Track F)
Theme: Animal Science and Aquaculture Chairperson: Prof. A.M.J.B. Adikari Track Coordinator: Dr. S. Thatchaneshkanth Venue: Board room		
Time	Title of the abstract, Name of the Authors	
13.30	Evaluation of Quality Characteristics of Chicken, Turkey and Quail Meat-based Traditional Meatballs S.M.D.S. Samaranayake, and B.P.A. Jayaweera	
13.40	Assessment of Blood Metabolites and Haematological Profiles of Broiler Chickens Fed Diets Supplemented Ghee Residue S.Arulamuthan, N.Suganjan, and S.Piratheepan	
13.50	Towards Dairy Self-Sufficiency: An Evaluation of Technical Efficiency and Productivity Constraints in Sri Lanka’s Dry Zone H.M.S.J.M. Hitihamu, A.W.A.D.R. Abayasekara, and S.J. Francis	
14.00	Efficiency Assessment of Bamboo Leaves (<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>), Indian Almond Leaves (<i>Terminalia catappa</i>), and Charcoal as Natural Filters for Aquarium Wastewater S.Rajawaraki, U.D.P. Manjula and B.V.A.S.M. Bambaranda	
14.10	Seasonal Dynamics and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Patterns of Bovine Mastitis in Dairy Cattle of Anuradhapura District, Sri Lanka P.A.M. Pathmasiri, K.M.N. I. Abeyrathne, P.N.C. Fernando, and M.P.S. Magamage	
14.20	Shelf-Life Assessment of Different Flavoured Drinking Yoghurts using Physicochemical and Microbiological Parameters S. Jegatheeswaran, R. Jeisunthar, and D.C.S.Gunasekara	
14.30	A Case Study on Farm Formulated Layer Feeds A.S.P. Perera, and S.C. Somasiri	
Conclusion of Session F		

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Track G: 14.15 – 15.25 pm

14.20 pm – 15.30 pm		Scientific Session (Track G)
Theme: Food Science: Food and nutrition Chairperson: Prof. S. Vasantharuba Track Coordinator: Mrs. Rajetha Jeidunthar Venue: Computer Unit		
Time	Title of the abstract, Name of the Authors	
14.20	Chemical Profiling of Sri Lankan Black Tea: Regional and Grade-Based Variations in Caffeine, Polyphenols, and Dry Matter F.N. Prasangika, L.A.K.M. Weeraratne, and D.D.C. de S. Wanniarachchi	
14.30	Morphological, Structural, and Physicochemical Characterization of Starch Extracted from Madu (<i>Cycas</i> sp.) Grown in Sri Lanka K.M.C.P. Bandara, and E.R.J. Samarakoon	
14.40	Regional Variation of Total Polyphenol Content and Dry Matter in BOPF Black Tea from Selected Sri Lankan Tea-Growing Regions L.A.K.M. Weeraratne, F.N. Prasangika, and D.D.C. de S. Wanniarachchi	
14.50	Analysis of Phytochemical Content and Bioactive Properties of <i>Kappaphycus alvarezii</i> Methanolic Extract S.Simmak, S. Srivarathan, R.G.S. Wijesekara, and K.D.P.P. Gunathilake	
15.00	Nutritional Composition, Mineral Profile, Anti-nutritional Factors, and Anti-Diabetic Potential of Poruthumaan; An Underexplored Plant Species R. D. M. Sripriya, and S. Sivakanthan	
15.10	Evaluation of Antioxidant Properties of Heen bovitaya (<i>Osbeckia octandra</i> L.) Leaf Extract K. Saagarey, K. Thadchajini, S. Kirushanthan, and Thatchaneshkanth, S.	
15.20	A comparative Study on microbial and Sensory Quality of Sri Lankan Green Tea Produced by Different Manufacturing Methods	

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	M.P.G.R.C. Madhuhansi, K.P.G.K. Thushara Guruge, and K.P.M. Kahandage
Conclusion of Session G	

Track H: 14.55 – 15.35 pm

14.50 pm - 15.30 pm	Scientific Session (Track H)
Theme: Plant Protection and Biotechnology Chairperson: Senior Prof. G. Thirukkumaran Track Coordinator: Dr. (Mrs.). S. Terenson Venue: Board Room	
14.50	Evaluation of Resistant Rootstocks for Grafting Tomato (<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>) Variety <i>Thilina</i> to Manage Bacterial wilt M.R.D.R. Kumari, I.W.M.I.W.T.K. Illangakoon, W.M.R.S.K. Warnasooriya, P.N.M.S. Piyrathne, and P.G.H.M.S.N. Herath
15.00	<i>In Vitro</i> Antibacterial Activity of Theaflavin against <i>Ralstonia Solanacearum</i> W.R.M.R.L.K. Wickramasinghe, M.R.D.M. Senanayake, and J.A.M.S. Jayatilake
15.10	Eusocial Structure of Macrotermes Termites and Antagonistic Potential of Fungal Biocontrol Agents against <i>Termitomyces</i> Fungus and Termites S. Kugatharshini, S. Sritharan, V. Jegathambigai, and G. Mikunthan
15.20	An Attempt to Develop High-performance Edible Mushroom Hybrids through a Cross-Breeding-Based Approach M.N. Husnil Rila, H.A.P.A. Shyamalee, G.Y.H. Weerasinghe, S.A.M. Niroshani, and P. Saththivel
Conclusion of Session H	
