NEWSLETTER

SriLanKoRAA

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16th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Korea Rural Development Administration Alumni Association (SriLanKoRAA) was held on 30th March 2024 at the Rice Research & Development Institute, Batalagoda with the participation of 41 Members and their family members.

The inaugural session commenced with hoisting of National flags of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka by Dr. Jayantha Senanayake, Director RRDI on behalf of the Director General of Agriculture, the flag of Republic of Korea by Mr, Upali Yapa on behalf of the Director, KOPIA and SriLanKoRAA flag by Dr. W.M.W.Weerakoon, President SriLanKoRAA. National anthems of both countries were played during the event.

The in-house session started with the lightening of traditional oil lamp by the invited dignitaries and representative from membership of SriLanKoRAA. Thereafter, one minute silence was observed to mark the respect to the late members who are no more with us. The President of SriLanKoRAA delivered the welcome speech. He welcomed all the members and their family members for this inaugural session of the AGM. He specially welcomed Dr. Jayantha Senanayake as the Chief Guest. In his speech, he briefly highlighted 19-year history of SriLanKoRAA and the progresses so far achieved.

Dr. Jayantha Senanayake, Director RRDI, delivered the congratulatory message from the Director General of Agriculture and thanked SriLanKoRAA for supporting Department of Agriculture in various ways. Delivering his keynote speech as the chief guest, Dr Senanayake illustrated, “Current Issues of the Rice sector and the possible strategies”.

The President and the Secretary hand over the cheques to 10 recipients of SriLanKoRAA scholarship awarded under the members’ children scholarship programme and a recipient appreciated financial support made and thanked SriLanKoRAA for her generosity. The business session of the AGM was commenced at about 11.00 am with the participation of 41 members.

ASDA (2024) LIFETIME EMINENT AGRICULTURIST AWARD



Emeritus Professor Chelliah Sivayoganathan, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya was the recipient of ASDA 2024 best agriculturist lifetime award. He obtained Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya in September 1971.

He began his career as a casual Research Officer at the Agricultural Research Station, Maha-Illuppallama in the Department of Agriculture and worked for a year. Then he served as an Extension Officer of the Mahaweli Development Board for nearly two years. In May 1975, he joined the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management at the University of Peradeniya as an Assistant Lecturer. In 1979, he earned a Master of Agricultural Studies (Extension) degree from the University of Queensland, Australia in 1980. He earned his Ph.D. in Adult and Extension Education and Communication. in December 1982.

He was promoted on to Associate Professor in November 1993, and subsequently to full Professor in November 1999. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, he was elevated to Senior Professor in 2007. After an illustrious career, he retired in January 2014, and was honoured with the title of Professor Emeritus by the University of Peradeniya.

After his retirement, he continues to contribute to academia as a Visiting Lecturer at the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, and the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, where he also served as a Council Member.

PARTICIPATION OF RDA TRAINING PROGRAMME

The following officers have been nominated by the SriLanKoRAA to attend the training programmes organized by the RDA, Korea.

Ms. Awanthi Udeshika Iddawela, Research Assistant, Natural Resources Management Centre, Peradeniya - Agricultural Policy Applications of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus, February 5, 2024 to November 31, 2024 (10 months).

FELICITATION OF NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AGRICULTURE



Dr Thushara Wickramaarachchi, Executive Committee member of the SriLanKoRAA has assumed duties as the Director General of Agriculture. A felicitation ceremony was held on14th June 2025 at the Oak-Ray regency by the SriLanKoRAA to congratulate him and wishing him for the achievement. Dr.Park, Director KOPIA Prof. Barana Jayawardana, the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, one of the patron of Sri LanKoRAA was present to grace the occasion. The President, Secretary and executive committee members participated the event.

MID-YEAR PROGRAMME



The Midyear programme of the SriLanKoRAA was held in 15th and 16th March 2025 at the Carolina Beach Hotel, Chilaw. Altogether, 40 members and their spouses participated including Director, KOPIA Dr Park and Madam Park of KOPIA centre. Sri LanKoRAA appreciated the generous sponsorship offered by the Director, KOPIA.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR THE CHILANDRENS OF MEMBERS

The scholarship programme for the children who have entered the local universities and higher education institutes recognized by the University Grant Commission was continued. Altogether 15 scholarships have given and the following members have received cash grant from SriLanKoRAA for the past financial year.

1. Mr. D.L.J. Tilakaratne
2. Mr. S.Gabishan
3. Mr. M.A.C.D.B Dissanayake
4. Mr. B.A.S.M. Bombugala
5. Mr. I.N.D. Imbulgoda
6. Ms. W.A.D. Wickramaarachchi
7. Mr. W.S.P.Y.J.C. Yapa
8. Ms. P.Lakshala
9. Mr. I.U.Senarath
10. Ms. H.K.M.K. Kumarasinghe
11. Ms. K.W.D.M.V. Karawita
12. Mr. W.A.K. Peris
13. Ms. F.N.S.Roshan
14. Mr. Rajapaksha
15. Ms. B.A.C.D.Bombugala.