

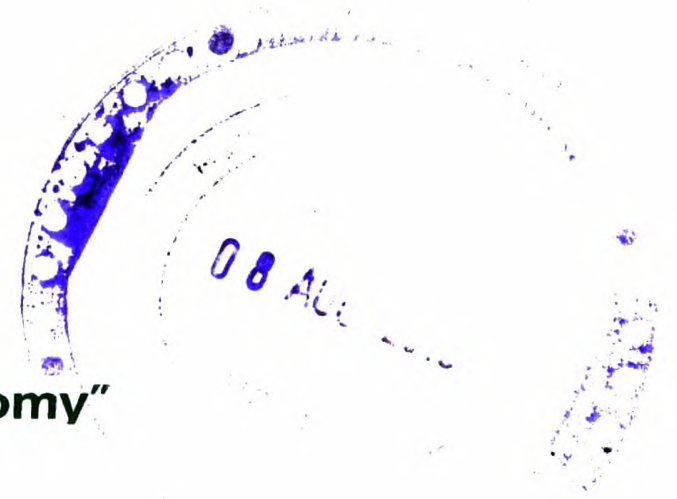
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Faculty of Agriculture  
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Sri Lanka



**"Towards a Knowledge-based Bioeconomy"**

**Proceedings of the  
International Symposium on Agriculture and  
Environment 2016  
ISAE 2016**

**13<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Faculty of Agriculture  
University of Ruhuna  
Sri Lanka**

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## Preface

It is with great sense of intellectual satisfaction; the Editorial Board launches the Proceedings of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment (ISAE 2016). The theme of the ISAE 2016 “Towards a Knowledge Based Bioeconomy” not only reflects a national priority but also has a global significance. Having a fruitful discussion on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at the 4<sup>th</sup> ISAE, it is quite appropriate to focus on Bioeconomy. The pivotal role that bioeconomy could play in the sustainable development of the country is unequivocal. However, a careful analysis on the complex interactions among ecosystem services and biodiversity is a prerequisite towards a knowledge-based bioeconomy. Such an analysis obviously requires intellectual contributions of a diverse range of researchers, academics and thinkers. Proceedings of the ISAE 2016 records and disseminates the findings of research which attempted to identify the opportunities and challenges for Knowledge Based Bioeconomy and to find appropriate solutions.

The main theme is further divided to six sub-themes; (1) Plant Resource Management, (2) Soil and Water Management, 3) Economics and Social Sciences, (4) Innovative Technologies, (5) Food and Nutrition and (6) Livestock and Aquaculture. Fifty two oral presentations and 36 posters will be presented at the ISAE 2016. This proceedings contains abstracts of the best eight papers of the ISAE 2016, which will be published in a special issue of the International Journal, Tropical Agricultural Research and Extension and the extended abstracts of all other presentations. The proceedings is also enriched with the papers based on the keynote speech of the inaugural session by Mr. CJP Siriwardhana, Assistant Governor, Central Bank, Sri Lanka and the keynote speeches presented at the 6 Technical sessions mentioned above.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and the Publication Committee, I would like to thank the chief guest, keynote speakers and all the authors for their intellectual contribution and being corporative with us in the process of preparing this proceeding. A proceeding of the ISAE 2016 is a satisfying outcome of a much dedicated team effort of many, including the coordinator of the ISAE 2016 and, the members of publication committee and the Editorial Board. Their commitment is highly appreciated and acknowledged.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I wish all the participants a fruitful and enjoyable day at ISAE 2016.

**Prof. Mahinda Atapattu**  
Editor-in-Chief  
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