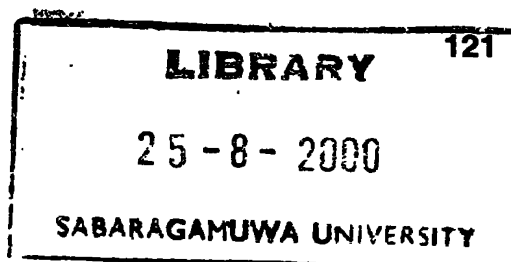


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Dedicated to

Late Prof. Sinnappan Sandanam

Prof Sinnappan Sandanam - An Appreciation

The late Professor Sandanam was clearly a man with a sense of mission, both in his mind and in his heart. This was the overriding impression of the person that I always had from my first meeting with him in the early seventies at the Tea Research Institute Talawakells and subsequently in our several associations at the Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka and also at the annual sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Sciences (SLAAS).

Dr Sandanam was the "third man" in the team with Dr Joshua and myself that initiated the first studies on the water balance of the tea crop at Talawakelle. But he was in every sense the "first man" in the conduct and consummation of these studies using the then latest techniques of the neutron probe that enabled a study of the moisture profile of the tea crop over its entire root depth.

What impressed me most about Dr. Sandanam during the conduct of these studies was his keen perception of both long-term and short-term implications of the results arising from these studies. He was certainly not a man who was interested solely in short term gains. He had a large vision of seeing the outcome of his work in the broader setting of the total tea-growing environment. This is clearly reflected in the substance and quality of his early research publications at the Tea Research Institute.

A person of the spirit of Dr Sandanam could certainly not have confined himself solely to the conduct of scientific research over the rest of his life span. He clearly recognized that building and fostering institutions for scientific education, and the preparation of minds for carrying out scientific research was as important as the conduct of research at research institutions. Hence his transition in later life to building up science faculties in Universities, and also handling the complex field of University Administration.

It was only a person of the selfless spirit of Dr Sandanam who could wrench himself from the comfort of a satisfying research station environment, and throw himself into hurly burly of building up Eastern University Faculty of Agriculture, and also sacrificing his safety and comfort in steering the University through its most turbulent period.

It was some kind destiny that diverted him into the Sabaragamuwa University in the last years of his life. It was almost a recompense for the preceding years of trouble and torment that he underwent in his final years at the Eastern University. He had the satisfaction of realizing a fulfillment of both a sense of mission and a vision, in joining hands with the Vice Chancellor of the newly created Sabaragamuwa University, where he made an enduring contribution both to the academic life of this new University, and also to the Environmental Sciences, in conceiving of the Environmental Research Centre that was supported by CEB. May this be a lasting monument to the memory of a person of his genre.

Dr. C.R. Panabokke
Chancellor

Message from the Vice Chancellor

It gives me great pleasure to send this message to the second volume of the Sabaragamuwa University Journal. It is most heartening to note that this issue would be released on the 25th July 2000, the day the University will hold its third convocation, in view of the fact that, the first issue of the journal was launched in 1998, the year Sri Lanka celebrated its Golden Jubilee of Independence. Besides, it also signifies the continuous progress in one of the innovative ventures initiated by the Sabaragamuwa University in our formative years.

In this new millenium, when knowledge and information go hand in hand, volumes of information can conveniently be assessed through the internet and perused via Computers. However, to the wider scientific community and to the general public, information is still largely mediated by means of the printed page, and therefore Journals still remain one of the major instruments for the dissemination of knowledge and especially of scientific results. Towards this end may the Sabaragamuwa University Journal contribute towards the exchange of knowledge even in a small way, for the greater good of the country in particular and that of mankind in general.

The Sabaragamuwa University Journal is not confined to a specific or a limited set of disciplines but instead encompasses all fields of human knowledge. Though review papers would be solicited from specialists in their fields, contributory papers, research and technical notes, papers on education would all be considered for publication after a stringent review process.

It is with profound sadness that I announce the sudden demise of our coordinating editor Prof. S. Sandanam who passed away after a brief illness in October 1999. In appreciation of his many contributions to our University, where he served since the year 1997, holding many positions, extending from Senior Professor & Head of Department of Export Agriculture, Director of the Career Guidance Unit, the Staff Development Centre and the Sabaragamuwa University Centre for Environment & Sustainable Development (SUCEDS), and eventually its Deputy Vice Chancellor, the Editorial Board unanimously decided to dedicate this issue in his memory.

I would also like to take this opportunity to profusely thank Prof I.K. Perera who took over from Prof Sandanam the role of the Coordinating Editor and assured the successful publication of this issue of the Journal.

Prof. Dayananda Somasundara
Vice Chancellor
25th July 2000