



# NEWSLETTER – Vol. 01, 2023

## WORLD'S POULTRY SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

### SRI LANKA BRANCH

WPSA Secretariat - Madapatha & Company, 83 ½, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Subadrarama Road, Gangodawila, Nugegoda.  
(Tel: 011 2099278, 011 5231519).



#### President's Message-

First of all I wish to thank all members of the WPSA-SL for appointing me as President of WPSA-SL for the second tenure.

From the inception of Sri Lanka Branch of World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA-SL) in 1995, the organization has contributed to elevate the poultry sector of Sri Lanka from that of back yard farming to integrated poultry operations. Association has carried out several programs and activities to educate our members, farmers, entrepreneurs and related technical officers on poultry farming, production and quality enhancement, health management and bio security etc., and various awareness programs for the general public on poultry products.

Further, we have supported them to get exposed to novel technologies used by other developed countries in poultry farming by facilitating them to participate at local and international events. The organization has encouraged scientists to carry out research in poultry industry and has made a platform to present their research findings locally as well as internationally. Annual Session of the WPSA-SL is one of the best local symposia for scientists to present their researches on poultry science.

It is a challenging tenure for us to achieve the organizational objectives amidst the prevailing situation of the country and the poultry sector. As a responsible association, we need to work within the frame work of Education, Organization, Research giving priority for Food Safety and Security in respect to eggs and chicken meat. Food security itself is a challenge due to scarcity and unbearable prices of basic raw materials required for the poultry feed

production. Other than feed, fuel, power, market and even newly imposed taxes have become issues now. Therefore, this is the time to work hard and strategically to support the industry to overcome these issues.

As we know, chicken and eggs were luxurious food items in the past and the general public was able to enjoy these foods only in special occasions. At present, chicken meat and eggs play a major role in human nutrition. Among all other livestock farming, Poultry gives the highest harvest per given amount of feed and land space. Due to progressive developments in the poultry sector and limitations for agricultural farming, these products have become essential food items in Sri Lankan diets fulfilling national protein requirements. Unfortunately, prices of eggs and chicken have gone up than ever due to unaccountable and highly fluctuating production costs. Current prices of these items and economic crisis in the country have lowered the purchasing power of consumers.

Therefore, this is the time that we should be more corporative and work closely with the industry and stake holding authorities to come out from the fallen abyss. Since the export of poultry products has been identified as one of the major solutions for this, we all have to work collaboratively to develop this towards a foreign exchange earning industry.

I am geared to work with the executive committee as a team to strengthen the relationship with our members and all other stake holders of the industry. We greatly appreciate contributions from members, poultry professionals/expertise, financial supporters and relative authorities for lifting the WPSA-SL up to a more prestigious level. We warmly welcome suggestions and guidance of our members, stake holders and any concerned parties including the general public to make our lined-up programmes more fruitful for the poultry sector of Sri Lanka.

#### Dr. Ushan Pallegama

President-World's Poultry Science Association,  
Sri Lanka Branch

## **Annual General meeting and Scientific Sessions-2022**

24<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting of the World's Poultry Science Association-Sri Lanka Branch and Scientific sessions were held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo on 11 November 2022.

New executive committee appointed at the AGM:

### **President:**

Dr. Ushan Pallegama

### **President Elect:**

Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi

### **Vice President:**

Mr. Raj Mohan

### **Secretary:**

Dr. Krishan Dulanga

### **Asst. Secretary:**

Dr. Kaundika Wanigasundara

### **Treasurer:**

Dr. Athula Mahagamage

### **Executive Committee Members:**

Dr. Dilan Amila Satharasinghe

Dr. Prabath Samarathunga

Mr. Shanthilal Mendis

Mr. Saffar Jeevunji

Dr. Neshma Kumudinie

Dr. Priyantha Kekunamulla

Dr. Susil Silva

Dr. Thushara Jayawardhane

Dr. Wimal Ganewatta

### **General Secretary:**

Dr. P. Wijewantha

## **Scientific Sessions**

The theme of this year's annual scientific sessions and the industrial evening had been '**Application of Scientific Knowledge for Resilience of Poultry Industry in Sri Lanka**'. Seven (07) scientific papers were presented by scientists at this session:

### **Black soldier fly larvae meal as a fishmeal replacer for broiler chickens: Effects on carcass characteristics and meat quality parameters**

*Ellawidana E.W.D.M, Mutucumarana R.K, Ruwandeepika H.A.D and Magamage M.P.S*

### **Variable feeding systems and their influence on egg quality and fertility of backyard chicken; a case in Jaffna district**

*Fernando P.R.M.K, Abiramy K, Kumara T.G.I.S and Silva G.L.L.P.*

### **Response of poultry egg and meat prices to changes in maize prices**

*Pathmasiri D.P.T.M, Korale-Gadara P.M. and W.N.U.Perera.*

### **Effects of marination technique, holding time and holding temperature on physicochemical properties of Japanese quail breast meat**

*Uduwawithana N. D, Mutucumarana R. K. and Senanayake M. P.*

### **Egg shape index and age of broiler breeders impact on incubation and chick quality parameters in commercial Cobb 500**

*Munasinghe M.A.J.P and Kumara K. P.*

### **Effect of pre-storage incubation (pre-heat treatment) on embryonic development and chick quality in Cobb 500 broilers**

*Kospalawaththe P.K, Rupasinghe W.H.A., Munasinghe M.A.J.P and Madhuwanthi K.M.D.*

### **Effects of Kaolinite, Acidified Bamboo Biochar or their combinations on the nitrogen losses from spent broiler litter**

*Malinga R.D.N.L and Atapattu N.S.B.M*



**Figure 1: Award for the best scientific paper**

### **Award for the Best Presentation**

From the papers presented at the scientific sessions held in 2001, the following paper was adjudged the **'Best Scientific Paper'** for the year. The Author was awarded with a certificate and a cash prize at the Industrial Evening held on the same day.

**A survey on public perception on utilization of Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL: *Hermetia illucens*) in waste management and poultry feeding in Ratnapura District.**

Ellawidana E.W.D.M, Perera R.N.N, lakmini P.K, Priyadarshana M. K. C and Magamage M. P. S.

**Our Congratulations to the Team for your achievement...!**

### **Industrial Evening .....An Unforgettable Event**

Annual Industrial evening of the association was held on the same day at the same hotel, commencing from 06.00 pm onwards. In order to set up a platform to build up a healthy dialog between poultry companies anticipating to export their products and relevant responsible authorities, **Mr. Suresh De Mel**, Chairman of the Sri Lanka Export Development Board was invited as the Chief Guest for this year's industrial evening. A large gathering comprising of invited special guests, members, industry stake holders, sponsors and well-wishers were participated to grace this event.

### **Guest Speakers**

**Key Note Speech on the 'Role of Eggs and Chicken in Eliminating Malnutrition'** was made by Dr. Renuka Jayatissa, Consultant Nutritionist, President-Sri Lanka Medical Nutrition Association and Head of Nutrition, MRI. She made a very informative presentation highlighting scientific facts on the importance of chicken meat and eggs in enhancing nutritional standards of the Sri Lankan populace.

Mr. Zaffar Jeevunji, CEO, Switz Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, a leading layer entrepreneur, in his presentation made on **'Insight to the Sri Lankan Poultry Industry'**, gave an excellent analysis of the Sri Lankan poultry sector, export potential, challenges and recommendations for sustenance.

This gathering was also addressed by **Dr. Suren Batagoda- Presidential Adviser of National Food Security.**

WPSA-SL anticipates continuing its role as a facilitator between the industry stake holders and relevant authorities to establish an international market for Sri Lankan poultry products.



**Figure II: Ceremonial Opening of the Industrial Evening**



## WPSA-SL Felicitates Mr. Shanthilal Mendis.....

This year, WPSA-SL felicitated Mr. Shanthilal Mendis, Country Manager for Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh in Zagro Singapore Pte Ltd, Singapore, for his commendable service to the Sri Lankan Poultry Sector. Having completed his basic education in Sri Lanka, he had followed a Diploma course in Poultry Husbandry including Feed and Milling Programme at Barneveld College, The Netherlands. He has gained vast knowledge and experience in poultry farming and feed milling by serving at several poultry related companies locally and internationally in various capacities. He also served as the President, WPSA-SL, (2007/2009) and President, Barneveld College Alumni Association, Sri Lanka (1996-2001).

**We wish him all the best and good health!**



**Figure III : Mr. Mendis receives his award**

## Egg Day Programme

Two seminars were carried out at Hotel Shangri-La under the theme of '**Benefits of Protein for Healthy Lifestyle (with special reference to Eggs)**' to celebrate the World Egg Day 2022 on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Dr. Renuka Jayatissa-Consultant Nutritionist, Dr. Susil Silva-Head of Animal Utilization, SAASSA, USSEC, Dr. Athula Mahagamage-Team Lead of Sri Lanka, USSEC and Dr. Priyantha Kakunamullage-AGM Technical, Bairaha Farms (PLC) made presentations at these seminars. These seminars were well represented by industry stake holders and Veterinarians.



**Figure IV & V: President of WPSA-SL delivering the welcome speech (above) and Consultant Nutritionist Dr. Renuka Jayatissa-President of Sri Lanka Medical Nutrition Association addressing the gathering (below)**

## Other Programmes and Activities

- WPSA-SL actively participated in series of discussions with responsible state organizations such as Department of Animal Production and Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade, Consumer Affairs Authority and even with State Ministry of Defense and few other Parliamentary groups in resolving the issues faced by the poultry industry. Our contributions for those discussions include identification of root causes for problems and proposing solutions from scientific perspective.
- Association participated in few media conferences even to make aware the society about the reasons for price hikes of poultry products and alarm the government on possible long term impact on importing eggs from countries not declared HPAI free status in accordance with OIE guidelines.



**Figure VI: WPSA-SL together with SLVA, participating at a Media Conference**

### Egg Donations

Egg donations were made to needy pregnant mothers who were visiting the maternity clinics at two government hospitals (Castle Street Hospital for Women , De Soya Maternity Hospital) in order to make aware the society on the importance of consuming eggs for elimination of malnutrition.



**Figure VII & VIII: Eggs were handed over to hospital Director (above) and few packs were donated to pregnant mothers by WPSA-SL Officials marking the donation (below).**

### Continuous Professional Development Program on Poultry Science – Workshop 01

Training program for government Vets in the North Western Province (NWP) was conducted on 31 March 2023 at the Government VS office and Hotel Jayalanka, Kuliypitiya to update knowledge on Post-mortem techniques, Disease diagnosis and Brooding management.



**Figure IX: CPD Training Program for Veterinary Surgeons, NWP.**



## Career Guidance Program for undergraduates.

A career guidance programme for undergraduate Veterinary students of the Faculty of Animal science and Veterinary Medicine was held in collaboration of the faculty staff was held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Around 1.00 pm. Third year students were participated at this programme. Job opportunities in the poultry sector and soft skills that need to be cultivated to work in the private/government sector were highlighted at these sessions. Students participated very lively during discussion time and, the programme was well appreciated by them. Dr. Susantha Mallawa arachchi and Dr. Athula Mahagama participated as resource persons for this programme.



Figure X: Students participating in the 'Career guidance Programme'.

### Dilemma of Egg Imports.....

Sri Lankan layer industry is currently facing the worst ever challenge it had to face since its emergence and gradual development as a commercial layer industry.

Though there were several contributory factors leading to shortage of eggs and resultant high prices, general public was not concerned about those issues. Plight of layer farmers and associated problems were not

given much publicity and allegations were made against egg farmers, associations and even Authorities by media throughout the period. Instead, public was made to believe on 'unreasonable egg prices, egg-mafia, etc. etc' through our somewhat 'unethical medial culture'. Unfortunately **lack of or no coordination and understanding** between two responsible Ministries of Agriculture (Livestock) and Trade added fuel to this scenario. On the other hand, there was no straight forward solution for shortage of eggs and eventually a policy decision was taken by the government to import eggs to fulfill the seasonal demand. As a result, large consignments of eggs were being imported into the country, for the first time in the history since stoppage of table egg imports in early 60's following self- sufficiency in the egg industry.

Although it is expected to resume production levels into normalcy and price drops of eggs to affordable levels in the near future , past events would likely to be a '**highly unfavorable precedence**' to the Sri Lankan Layer Industry.

**Who could assure that import of eggs would never happen in the future, whenever there is an imbalance between supply and demand? Similar to what has happened to the Paddy Industry in Sri Lanka ?????.**

Thus ,this is a good '**Opportunity**' to all stake holders of the layer industry to get together and to develop and implement short, medium and long term plans **collectively** , with the support of policy makers, in order to reduce production costs and provide '**quality eggs**' at affordable prices to consumers.

**WPSA-SL is geared to facilitate and support any such move, within our purview, for the betterment of layer industry in our country.**

## **Scientific Sessions 2023.... Be ready with your scientific paper.**

Annual Scientific Sessions of the WPSA-SL for this year is planned to be held in early November. Deadlines for submission of scientific papers and guidelines for submissions will be communicated soon.

Those who are interested in presenting a scientific paper at this forum are kindly requested to initiate your documentation now itself .....

## **WPSASL encourage Poultry Scientists..**

In the future the nominee of the 'Best Scientific Paper' presented at the Annual Scientific Sessions of the association will be encouraged to submit a scientific paper in an International Poultry Science forum by providing them with some financial support to cover their foreign expenses. Details will be conveyed in due course. This is in addition to 'Travel Grants' offered by the WPSA (World body) to eligible applicants on the recommendation of the WPSASL.

## **Travel Grants offered by the WPSA...**

WPSA world body provides funds for two types of Travel Grants for WPSA events:

- ***For young WPSA members***

This to provide international travel assistance for young WPSA Members (both Scientists and Producers) and Students to attend and participate in regional and international poultry conferences.

- ***For older (>40 yrs.) scientists from developing countries***

To provide some financial assistance to attend and present (oral/poster) presentations at International meetings.

**Only WPSA members are eligible to apply for Travel Grants.** (*Further details: WPSA website*)

## **WPSA Calendar- Key upcoming events**

- **Nutrition and Feed Colloquium (NFC '23)**  
**28 -30 August 2023**  
**Rawalpindi, Pakistan.**
- **7<sup>th</sup> World Water Fowl Conference**  
**20-22 September 2023**  
**Jakarta, Indonesia.**
- **12<sup>th</sup> Asian Pacific Poultry Conference (APPC)**  
**1 -3 November 2023**  
**Nanjing, China.**
- **12<sup>th</sup> European Symposium on Poultry Genetics**  
**8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**Hannover, Germany.**

**Note: Members who not have paid their annual membership fees yet are kindly requested to pay their dues to the WPSA-SL Secretariat (Contact: 011 2099278, 011 5231519). You can send your Membership fee in cash/ cheque or by direct transfer from your bank Account to our BOC current account No: 0009090397 Kollupitiya 2<sup>nd</sup> Branch through on-line transferring Systems.**

# Industrial Evening at a Glance.....

