

Significance of the Faculty Green Initiative

Faculty of Livestock, Fisheries & Nutrition

With the escalating urbanistic, consumerist premise the countries in the modern world are rapidly moving towards sustainability emphasizing environmental protection, and social and economic development fueled by the notion of ‘going green’. Green policies and concepts are becoming an essential part in, leading nations, organizations, industries and businesses to serve environmentally friendly and ecologically responsible decision-making and lifestyles, that are designed to help protect the environment and protect its natural resources for existing and forthcoming generations. In this milieu, the state universities in Sri Lanka have the opportunity to foster sustainable and eco-friendly cultures, communities and livelihoods going beyond their teaching, research and service capabilities. With this backdrop, the Faculty of Livestock, Fisheries & Nutrition has taken the initiation and leadership to transform itself into a Greener Faculty by following in the footsteps of the road to sustainability.

In order to facilitate the initial transformation from going grey to green, the Faculty has established a ‘Green Faculty Initiative’ that goes hand in hand with the ongoing AHEAD operations to breath life to a slew of activities including setting up a Live Fence, converting the existing barren courtyard areas in the main faculty building to two lush and verdant gardens namely Water Garden and Blooming Garden and setting up a Plant House to host an array of fruit and flower-bearing plants.

The Live Fence will serve as a linear green habitat. Apart from the aesthetics, this multipurpose living structure can act as a windbreaker, can provide fodder and food, act as bee forage, enrich the soil and can control dust and provide shade. The live fence will also serve as a biodiversity hub attracting butterflies and bees while providing a splash of green to everyone who passes by.

The two proposed gardens in the midst of the Faculty building will bring much-needed relaxation and a pleasing visual to the Faculty staff, students and community. The Water Garden will host an aquatic pond while Blooming Garden will facilitate a flora and fauna setup with blooming flowers, hanging creepers and a stone foundation that will set up a stage that can be used for Faculty functions/gatherings as a meeting center. The aquatic pond will house indigenous fish varieties and water plants setting up a mood for wildlife mimicking visual and auditory aesthetics and a ‘zen’ feeling. These Green landscapes will bolster Green lifestyles and will act as stress alleviating and mental relaxation focal points.

The Plant House will serve as an economical and multipurpose environment that allows the breeding and growing of an array of food crops and flowering plants. The Plant House will accommodate fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, herbs and in if possible, spices and will cater to a year-round supply prompting and participating in food security even in the smallest ways. Given the current economic and food crisis the country is facing, such activities will greatly benefit the young generation to cultivate green attitudes and mindsets. The Plant House will also serve as a hub where plant donations, plant swaps and plant businesses can happen. The excess plant supply will be sent out to the Faculty Wayamart generating business and entrepreneurship avenues for students.

All these proposed activities will include and engage all the staff and student community residing within the Faculty. Every single student of the Faculty will take part in each of these proposed activities either as part of the academic programme, or as co-curricular/extracurricular activities or as volunteer work. They will engage and actively participate in designing, executing, maintaining and finally converting the Green initiative to become a functional and sustainable system that will spill over to the generations of students to come.

The Faculty recognizes sustainability skills and environmental awareness as a priority in many corporate jobs at the graduate level and as many enterprises and industries seek to adhere to environmentally sustainable and socially responsible practices. By doing so we impart our graduates to be morally aware of these global concepts to become intellectually autonomous, social and emotionally competent while being able to produce advanced innovative solutions to global challenges. We believe through this ‘Green Faculty Initiative’ of the Faculty of Livestock, Fisheries & Nutrition, we can train a generation of tomorrow's leaders that instill and inculcate the benefits of environmental sustainability in forthcoming generations and communities who will lead the path to Greener landscapes, livelihoods and lifestyles.



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