BIOSAFETY EXPERT (EXP)

BCH-EXP-LK-115819-1

LAST UPDATED: 29 NOV 2020

General information

Country

Sri Lanka **PARTY TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY** **ENTRY INTO FORCE: 26 JUL 2004**

Profile of the expert

Brief profile

Dr. Amitha as an agriculture researcher at the Department of Agriculture (DOA) from 1984, for about 26 years served in all three climatic zones (Dry, Intermediate and Wet) of the country. She contributed the food and nutritional security in the country through her research on varietal development. Next 7 years from 2011-2017, she was given the responsibility in agriculture research management. She led the Grain Legume and Oil Crop Research and Development programme of DOA as an Additional Director of Angunakolapelassa. She do have experience on vegetables and fruit crops during her carrier at DOA. Being the Director (Rice Research and Development) in the DOA, she played the dynamic role, by leading her team in the direction of success in achieving the vision of the DOA through the strategic plan in achieving goals set for Rice Research and Development. She worked with academia and also served in several advisory committees including some foreign funded projects.	EN

Contact details

- PERSON: DR. AMITHA BENTOTA | BCH-CON-LK-253919-1

PERSON

Dr. Amitha Bentota
Ministry of Agriculture, 288, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha, Rajagiriya
Colombo, Western
Sri Lanka
Phone: +94 (0)71 443 6857
Email: amithabentota@gmail.com

Year of birth

1957

Nationality(ies)

Sri Lankan

Details of current employment

Name of Employer / Organization / Company

Department of Agriculture) EN

Type of organization

Government agency (National/Federal)

Department / Division / Unit

Head Office EN

Start Date

2018-01

Type of organization

Government agency (National/Federal)

Main Areas of Responsibility

Provide the expertise knowledge to the relevant scientists, committees and organizations. EN

Employment history

Countries or regions worked in

Sri Lanka

Name of Previous Employer / Organization / Company

Director General of Agriculture) EN

Type of organization

Department / Division / Unit

Department of Agriculture EN

Type of organization

Academic or research institute

Main Areas of Responsibility

Develop rice varieties to the objectives of rice breeding programme in Sri Lanka. EN

Post-secondary education

A. Formal education

First Degree

Title of the Degree or other academic distinction and subject

B.Sc. In Agriculture EN

Name of academic institution

Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka EN

Start Date

1978-01

End Date

1982-01

Second Degree

Title of the Degree or other academic distinction and subject

Ph.D. in Biology (Genetics and Plant Breeding) EN

Name of academic institution

School of Biology, University of Birmingham EN

Start Date

1992-01

End Date

1995-01

B. Other professional qualifications

A Biotechnology Short Course for Developing Countries-2012 at Michigan State University, USA
Regional Training Course on Application of Molecular Marker Technology for induced mutants-2001 International Rice Research Institute, Philippines
QtL mapping in Arabidopsis thaliana – 1993 at University of Birmingham

Areas of expertise

Plant breeding
Botany, forestry and plant agricultural sciences
Field trial regulation/inspection
Agricultural and rural development

Publications

Bentota, A.P., Weerasinghe B.G.D.S., Paranagama D.C.M. and Wicramanayaka W.A.N. N.(2013) Iron toxicity tolerant recently released rice varieties. Tropical Agriculturist VOL 161, 2013 page 1-18
Rathnayake N. R. M. K. N. D, Bentota A. P, Dissanayake D. M. N, Perera K. L. N. S, Sooriyapathirana S. D. S. S and Jayasekera1G. A. U. DNA Markers RM 464A and RM 219 Haplotypes are Effective in Selecting Sub-1 locus for the Introgression of Submergence Tolerance into New Rice Varieties.

Ceylon Journal of Science (Bio. Sci.) 41 (2): 125-136, 2012
Bentota A. P., Wejesundara, S.M., Ranathunga, U.K.D.N.N. and Nelumsheeli G.D., (2010) Traditional Rice Varieties with High Adaptability and Stability for Organic Farmers in Sri Lanka. Tropical Agriculturist (2010)

Professional memberships

Life member of Sri Lanka Association of Science (SLAAS)
Life member of National Science Association (NSF)
Member of Alumina Association of university of Birmingham

Technical committees, expert panels or advisory bodies served

TEG (technical expert group) member on risk assessment in biosafety under FAO-UN project from 2018 to date
Chairperson of working group on milled rice scientific standardization in SLSI 2017-2018
Member in Advisory committee CORIGAP of International Rice Research Institute, (IRRI) representing Sri Lanka from 2014- 2017

Language proficiency

Mother tongue

Singhalese

Other languages

Language	Level
English	excellent

Any other relevant information

She has served as a consultant to the Community based Agro Bio- Diversity Management Project under Li-Bird and Green Movement of Sri Lanka (GMSL) from 2010 to 2017.

Nomination Type

Roster of Experts

Birth Place

Sri Lanka

Other Publications

Bentota A.P., Senadhira D. and Lawrence M.J. (1997) Genetic analysis of new plant type in rice (Oryza sativa L.) with the view of exploiting yield potential. Tropical Agriculturist Research 1997. 9:35-48
Bentota A.P., Senadhira D. and Lawrence M.J. (1998) Quantitative genetics of rice. III the potential of a pair of new plant type crosses. Field Crops Research, 1998. 55:267-273
Bentota A.P. (1996). The genetics of new plant type in rice. IRRN 21:1 pp11.
Bentota A.P.(2006) Mutation improvement of rice variety Bw-267-3 for red pericarp grains and lodging resistance. Plant Mutation Report. Vol.1, No.1. p. 42 - 43.

EN

Bentota A.P., Priyantha G.D.A., Rohini E.A.S and Chandana H.G.J., (2008).Variability among mutants derived from the rice variety Bw361. Annals of the Sri Lanka Department of Agriculture 2008.10:31-36.
Bentota A.P. and Weerasingha B.G.D.S. (2005) Iron toxicity tolerance in some traditional rice varieties in Sri Lanka. Annals of the Sri Lanka Department of Agriculture 2005. 7:337-339
Bentota A. P., Wejesundara, S.M., Ranathunga, U.K.D.N.N. and Nelumsheeli G.D., (2010) Traditional Rice Varieties with High Adaptability and Stability for Organic Farmers in Sri Lanka. Tropical Agriculturist 2010. 158: 61-69
Bentota A.P. (2004) Rice varietal development for iron toxic soils in Sri Lanka. World Rice Research Conference. Abstract 2004. Tsukuba International Centre,Tsukuba,Japan. p.328
Bentota, A.P., Weerasinghe B.G.D.S., Paranagama D.C.M. and Wicramanayaka W.A.N. N.(2010) New improved rice varieties for iron toxic rice soils in Sri Lanka. Abstract. Rice congress (08-12 November, 2010). Hanoi,Vietname
Bentota.A.P., Jinadasa, G.A., Abeysiriwardene, D.S.de. Z., Wanigasuriya, S.C, Weerasinghe, B.G.D.S, and Silva, N.P.S. 2010. Rice variety improvement for the wet zone of Sri Lanka. Rice congress 2010. Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka :29-54.
Bentota, A.P., Weerasinghe B.G.D.S., Paranagama D.C.M. and Wicramanayaka W.A.N. N.(2013). Iron toxicity tolerant recently released rice varieties. Tropical Agriculturist 2013.161:1-18
Padmananda H.A. P., Herath H. M. T., Rajapakse D., Ediriweera N. and Bentota A.P., (2007). Evaluation of rice grain quality in some Sri Lankan rice varieties. Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Session Part 1 -Abstract
Herath H. M. T., Rajapakse D., Ediriweera N., and Bentota A.P., (2007). Screening of traditional rice varieties of Sri Lanka for micro nutrients; Iron, Zinc and Phosphorus. Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, Proceedings of the 63rd Annual Session Part 1 -Abstract
Abeysekera W.K.S.M., Somasiri H.P.P.S., Premakumara G.A.S., Bentota A.P., Rajapakse D., Ediriweera N., (2008).Cooking and eating traits of some Sri Lanka traditional rice varieties across yala and maha season. Tropical Agricultural Reasearch 2008. 20:168-176.
Rathnayake N. R. M. K. N. D, Bentota A. P, Dissanayake D. M. N, Perera K. L. N. S, Sooriyapathirana S. D. S. S and Jayasekera1G. A. U., (2012) DNA Markers RM 464A and RM 219 Haplotypes are Effective in Selecting Sub-1 locus for the Introgression of Submergence Tolerance into New Rice Varieties. Ceylon Journal of Science (Bio. Sci.) 2012. 41 (2): 125-136
Illangakoon, T. K., Marambe, B., Keerthisena, R.S.K., Bentota, A.P., Kulatunge, S., Kumar, V. and Ismail, A..(2017). Performance of Anaerobic Germination-Tolerant Rice Varieties in Direct Seeding: Effects on Stand Establishment, Weed Growth and Yield under Different Seeding Rates. Tropical Agriculture Research 2017. 29(1)
Illangakoon, T. K., Somarathne, J.M.N.P., Paththinige, S.S., Piyasiri, C. H. Keerthisena, R. S. K., Bentota, A.P., Udawela, U.A.K.S., Weerakoon, W.M.W., and Marambe, B., (2017). Screening of rice lines for drought resistance under imposed drought stress during the reproductive and grain filling stages. Proceedings of the 1st International Symposium on Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. 6th October 2017. Pp 11-24.
Piyasiri, C.H. , Illangakoon, T.K., Keerthisena, R.S.K., Bentota, A.P., Weerakoon, W.M.W., Iqbal, Y.B., Rebeira, S. P., Gunapala, K.R.D., Sarathchandra, S.G., Mandanayake, M.A.R.A. and Somarathne, J.M.N.P.. (2017) Evaluation and characterization of promising exotic aerobic rice lines. Annals of the Sri Lanka Department of Agriculture. 19 (2):189-194.
Premakumara G.A.S., W.K.S.M. Abeysekara, W.D. Rathnasooriya, N.V. Chandrasekheran, A. P. Bentota (2013) Antioxident, anti-amylase and ani-glycation potential of brans of some Sri

Lankan traditional and improved rice (Oryza sativa L.) varieties. ELSEVIER. Journal of Cereal science 58 (2013) 451-456

Gunarathna Anil, KAO Wu, Dongqin Li, Amitha Bentota, Harold Corke, Yi-Zong Cai (2013) Anti-oxidant activity and Nutritional Quality of traditional red-grained rice varieties containing proanthocyanidins. ELSEVIER. Food chemistry 138 (2013) 1153-1161

Relevant Awards

Senadhira Rice Research Awards year 2018 by International Rice Research Institute, Philippines

International Rice Research Institute Alumni Awards year 2014 in recognition of achieving in rice research management.

Best scientist award ASDA 2011, Department of Agriculture for contribution of Agriculture Research

BCH-EXP-LK-115819-1

Further Information

Questions about the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety or the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House may be directed to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413 rue Saint-Jacques, suite 800
Montreal, Québec, H2Y 1N9
Canada
Fax: +1 514 288-6588
Email: secretariat@cbd.int