



**Department of Botany**  
**Faculty of Science / University of Peradeniya**



## Dr. H.A.C.K. Ariyaratne

*B.Sc., M.Sc. (Perad.), M.Phil. (CMB), Ph.D. (UWA, Australia)*

**Senior Lecturer**

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### About Me

My research is geared towards developing plants that produce more with less and those that fit better in the natural world. Achieving this goal I need partnerships with diverse skill sets, interests, and backgrounds. I have a interests in traditional crops specifically cereals.

### Higher Education Qualifications



**PhD**

University of Western  
Australia - Australia  
Australia  
(2016)



**PG. Dip.**

PGIA, University of  
Peradeniya - Sri  
Lanka  
(2008)



**MPhil**

IBMBB, University of  
Colombo - Sri Lanka  
(2007)



**MSc**

PGIA, University of  
Peradeniya - Sri  
Lanka  
(2003)



**BSc**

University of  
Peradeniya - Sri  
Lanka  
(2001)

## Awards, Scholarships, Memberships & Fellowships



ACU-British Council Commonwealth Futures Climate Research Cohort -2021



UNESCO- OWSD Early Career Fellowship -2020



Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship -2020



ERASMUS+ Teaching Mobility Program, Cluj-Napoca, North University Centre, Baia Mare, Rumania, 2019



KOP-NFP fellowship, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, Netherlands, 2018



Overseas Travel Award, University of Western Australia - 2015



Underwood PhD Scholarship, University of Western Australia - 2015



Scholarships for International Research Fees (SIRF), University of Western Australia - 2012



University International Stipend (UIS) , University of Western Australia - 2012



University International Stipend-Top-Up Scholarship, University of Western Australia - 2012



Research Assistantship Swedish Agency for Research Corporation with Developing Countries [SAREC] Grant for Capacity Building in Biotechnology - 2003



Research Assistantship Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research [ACIAR] - 2002



Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship awarded on merit basis for students to undertake tertiary education by the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund - 1997

## Positions Held



Senior Lecturer, Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (2011-to date)



Lecturer, Postgraduate Institute of science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (2015-to date)



Teaching Assistant, BIOL1131-Plant and Animal Biology course, School of Animal Biology, University of western Australia- (2014)



Teaching Assistant, PLNT2201- Plant Physiology: Plants in Action course, School of Plant Biology, University of western Australia- (2014)



Teaching Assistant, PLNT2201- Plant Physiology: Plants in Action course, School of Plant Biology, University of western Australia- (2013)





Research Officer, Plant Breeding Division, Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka- (2005 - 2011)



Demonstrator, Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka- (2001 - 2002)

## My Teachings

 BT307: General and molecular Genetics

 BT311: Plant Reproductive Biology and Plant Breeding

## Research Interests (Research Fields/ Projects)

Crop genomics and Molecular breeding

## Ongoing Research and Projects



### **In-silico mining for resistance gene analogs and identification of genetic resources for blast disease resistance in the local finger millet germplasm**

Comparative genomics for pre-breeding enhancement. Funded by an Investigator Driven Research Grant awarded by NRC



### **Strategic recovery plan for natural wild populations of the endemic and endangered species *Osbekia lanata* Alston**

Population genetics and conservation biology. Funded by an Investigator Driven Research Grant awarded by the Mahawelli Development Authority of Sri Lanka.



### **An integrated, fast-track platform for rice breeding for drought and salinity stress tolerance targeting production environments in Sri Lanka**

Rice is the staple food of Sri Lankans and half of the world population. Even in major rice farms in Asia farmers achieve 40% of the yield potential due to biotic/abiotic stresses. Therefore, elite adapted varieties are vital to enhance rice productivity. Innovative technologies can improve breeding programs for rapid variety turnover and cost effective delivery of superior varieties. The goal of this project is to develop drought and saline tolerant elite breeding lines by technology integration and effective utilization of germplasm. The project will deliver a “low-tech” and cost-effective fast-track platform for commercial rice breeding by combining leading-edge science, computing capabilities and genetic resources with marker assisted pre-breeding and selection breeding strategies. In doing so result oriented, intense breeding programs are designed through effective public-private partnerships. The project trains postgraduates, and professionals. The outcome is communicated through publications and workshops. The broader impact of the project will enhance food security, poverty reduction, and crop climate resilience. A total of 49471\$ is requested from OWSD for this project.

## Key Publications



Genome - (2016)

Phylogenetic relationships and protein modeling revealed two distinct subfamilies of group II HKT genes between crop and model grasses.



Journal of Applied Genetics - (2007)

Genetic base of tea (*Camellia sinensis* L.) cultivars in Sri Lanka as revealed by pedigree analysis.

## Conferences



**PGIS Research Congress (RESCON) 2019**

**HELD AT :** PGIS, University of Peradeniya - (11th October 2019)

**TOPIC :** *Eragrostis tef* (Teff) as a bridging species to identify disease resistance genes in underutilized cereal crops.



**Sixth International Conference on Plants and Environment Pollution (ICPEP-6)**

**HELD AT :** Lucknow, India - (28 Nov 2018)

**TOPIC :** *Phylogenetic analysis of HKT homologs in grasses identified conserved domains and potential functional sites.*



**International Conference on Computational Modeling and Simulation**

**HELD AT :** Colombo, Sri Lanka. - (19 May 2017.)

**TOPIC :** *Protein structure variability of OsHKT1;5 Homologous Transporters in Grasses.*



**Sixth International Conference on Plants and Environment Pollution (ICPEP-6),**

**HELD AT :** Lucknow, India. - (29 Nov 2018)

**TOPIC :** *Analysis of HKT homologs in grasses by comparative genomics and protein structure prediction.*



**2015 meeting on Plant Genomes & Biotechnology: From Genes to Networks, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory**

**HELD AT :** New York, USA. - (2-5 Dec 2015.)

**TOPIC :** *Phylogenetic relationships and structural models reveal two distinct subclades of group II HKT genes.*

## My Publications

Please goto the website.

<https://sci.pdn.ac.lk/botany/staff/Chandima-Ariyaratne>