



# CALL FOR APPLICATION

**FOR THE POST OF RESEARCH ASSISTANT (Contract Basis)**  
Department of Manufacturing & Industrial Engineering  
University of Peradeniya



**Title: Developing a decision-making tool to optimize the sustainability dimensions of the value-adding production of fresh-cut vegetable processing to enhance the food security**

- Duration : 6 months or 1 Year option
- Stipend : LKR 50,000 (monthly) – Additional funds available for transportation
- Funded by : The University Research Council - – University of Peradeniya
- Based at : Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
- Investigators : Dr. Subodha Dharmapriya; Prof Asela Kulatunga; Dr. D.M.S S. Daundasekara  
Dr. H.D.P. Premarathne (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)
- Collaborators: Dr. Senevi Kiridena (University of Wollongong, Australia)  
Prof. Palitha Weerakkody (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)

An adequate intake of fruit and vegetables (FVs) makes a healthy nation. However, society tends to go for fast-food or pre-cooked/prepared food due to their fast day-to-day lives. Meal preparation has also become a problem with busy lifestyles. Regardless of the convenience of fresh-cut fruits and vegetables (FFVs), are not popular because of their price, food safety concerns, and misconceptions. The main challenge is to keep the quality and safety of FVs which are evaluated mainly in terms of appearance, freshness, and colour. The other challenge is to maintain FFV production at the commercial level while providing it at an affordable price. Several attempts have been tried in the past, however, addressing FFVs processing & supply chain sustainability in terms of economic, quality and safety, environmental and social holistically is limited. This research tries to address this gap by adapting Industrial Engineering, Food Technology, and Sociological aspects.



## Desirable education qualifications and skills

- 4-year BSc. degree with a class specialized in Food Science & Technology/ Agriculture & Nutrition / Industrial Engineering / Statistics and Operations Research/ BA in Sociology or equivalent.
- Knowledge and skills in food microbiology and/or statistical analysis.
- Ability to conduct fieldwork, and surveys whilst displaying a strong commitment to work in teams.
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and effectively manage research work.
- Demonstrated high-level written and verbal communication skills.

## How to apply:

Please send your CV with an expression of interest to Dr. D.M.S S. Daundasekara (saumalid@agri.pdn.ac.lk) on or before 20th of March 2023.

For more information: Dr. D.M.S S. Daundasekara (saumalid@agri.pdn.ac.lk; 071-4857600)