

**Innovative Agriculture and Hi-Tech Solutions**  
**Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management**  
**Wayamba University of Sri Lanka**

The Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management (FAPM) at the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. As part of the celebrations, we are organizing the "**Innovative Agriculture and Hi-Tech Solutions**" Innovation Challenge. This competition provides a platform for young innovators across Sri Lanka to present their creative solutions to challenges in agriculture and plantation management. Participants will have the opportunity to network with industry experts, researchers, and fellow innovators.

➤ **Focus Areas**

Participants will be encouraged to develop solutions that address key challenges in agriculture from farm to consumers' table, including [not limited to]:

- Aquaponics and Hydroponics systems.
- Artificial intelligence relevant to agriculture.
- Automation and mechatronics.
- Creating mobile apps for farmers.
- Designing software solutions for agricultural management.
- Developing new farming equipment.
- Food processing equipment.
- Improving productivity, sustainability, and efficiency in agriculture.
- Innovative pest management devices.
- Innovating technologies for crop monitoring and management.
- Post-harvest technology and food packaging.
- Solutions to solve issues in supply chains.
- Vertical farming.

➤ **Participants**

- School children (Grade 11-13).
- Undergraduates of university system and students in any tertiary educational institutes.
- Open to individuals or teams (Maximum 5 members per group).

➤ **Terms and Conditions**

- Participants must comply with all competition rules and guidelines.
- All submissions must be original work created by the participants.
- The organizers reserve the right to disqualify any submission that violates the rules or contains plagiarized content.
- The judges' decision will be the final decision.

## ➤ Competition Overview

### Registration:

- Registrations online
- All individuals/teams should complete the nomination form, and submit it.
- Selected applicants will receive a registration number after a preliminary checking of the application and will proceed for the first round.

### First Round:

- All individuals/teams are required to submit a 5-minute proposal video (*.mp4 format, HD format, the minimum resolution should be 720P with minimum Bitrate of 2.5Mbps*) showcasing their innovation, along with a short written description including; *a) Title, b) Introduction, c) Objectives, d) Technical Description, e) Cost of production f) Benefits and Impact in one A4 page*) of their innovation, through the online submission portal (Google Form).
- Language of the description:
  - Young Innovators Challenge: Sinhala or English
  - InnovateEDU Challenge: English only
- Avoid including any names or affiliations in the video and the description.
- All individuals/teams must submit an approval letter from the school/institute/University verifying the originality of the exhibit.

### Second Round:

- Selected innovators from the preliminary selection round must present and showcase their innovation to the expert panel online.
- Participants will participate in a Q&A session with the judging panel to discuss their invention.
- Five innovations will be selected from each category will be showcased on the FAPM social media page, where votes will be taken to select the most popular innovator in each category.
- Three innovations will be selected from each category for the final round

### Third Round/Final Evaluation

- The top three winners from each category will be invited to showcase their projects at the exhibition held on September 22 at the FAPM. An expert panel will evaluate these innovations and select the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners from each category. Selected participants will compete in this event and are required to provide:
  - i. Physical Prototype/innovation: A functional prototype of their invention should be displayed on the final evaluation.
  - ii. A promotional video clip limited to 3 min
  - iii. Q&A Session: Participants will participate in a Q&A session with the judging panel to discuss their invention.

## ➤ Evaluation Criteria

### 1. Innovation and Originality

- Creativity: How novel and creative is the solution? Does it introduce new concepts or approaches?
- Unique Selling Proposition: What distinguishes this solution from existing technologies or practices?

### 2. Impact and Potential

- Agricultural Impact: What is the potential impact on agriculture? Does it address significant challenges in the field?
- Scalability: Can the solution be scaled up effectively? Does it have the potential to benefit a large number of users?

### 3. Feasibility and Practicality

- Technical Feasibility: How realistic and practical is the implementation of the solution from a technical standpoint?
- Market Viability: Is there a clear market demand for the solution? Commercial viability?

### 4. Sustainability

- Environmental Impact: Does the solution promote environmental sustainability? How does it affect resource use, emissions, and biodiversity?
- Long-term Viability: Is the solution designed for long-term sustainability? Can it adapt to future challenges and changes?

### 5. Presentation and Clarity

- Clarity of Explanation: How well is the solution presented and explained?

## ➤ Certificates, Awards & Awarding Ceremony

### Most innovative projects

- The competition will conclude with an awards ceremony to recognize and celebrate the most innovative projects and ideas at the Final Event of FAPM Silver Jubilee 2024 held on October 1, 2024.
- Certificates will be awarded to the groups or individuals who make it to the final round.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> place winners (individual/group) in each category will receive a trophy.
- Cash prizes will be awarded to each category as follows;

Category	First Place	Second Place	Third Place	Most Popular
Young Innovators Challenge	Rs. 50000	Rs. 25000	Rs. 15000	Rs. 10000
InnovateEDU Challenge	Rs. 100000	Rs. 75000	Rs. 50000	Rs. 20000

### **Most popular innovations**

- The Most Popular Innovators (individual/group) in each category will be announced at the Final Event of FAPM Silver Jubilee 2024 held on October 1, 2024.
- Selection of the Most Popular Innovators in each category will be selected based on the votes on the FAPM social media page.
- Winners (individual/group) in each category will be awarded a certificate and a cash price (Rs. 10,000 in Young Innovators Challenge category and Rs.20,000 in InnovateEDU Challenge category).

#### ➤ **Disclosure**

Participants retain ownership of their intellectual property rights. By participating, they grant FAPM a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use, reproduce, and display their submissions for promotional and evaluation purposes. Submissions must be original works of the participants.

#### ➤ **Other**

- Please regularly review our website (<https://fapm.wyb.ac.lk/>) and social media pages for any updates to this document.
- All contestants are required to bring and take back all the materials they need for the exhibition.

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