



Professor Saman Abeysinghe received his B.Sc. (Hons) Degree in Botany from the University of Ruhuna in 1990 and M.Sc. in Crop Protection from Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands in 1994 and PhD in Molecular Biology from Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, University of Brussels, Belgium in 1998. Since then he served as a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Botany, University of Ruhuna and promoted to Associate Professor in 2007 and to Professor in 2009. He pursued post doctoral positions at University of Nottingham, UK under a Commonwealth academic fellowship in 2010 and at University of Southern Queensland, Australia under an Australian Endeavour Research fellowship in 2015. He also served as an invited visiting research fellow at University of Manitoba, Canada in 2007. His teaching includes courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in Plant Pathology, Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Microbial Ecology, Plant Virology and Economic Botany. His research includes studies mainly on biological control of soil-borne fungal pathogens, molecular detection and phylogeny of phytoplasmas and antimicrobial compounds in plants in which he directed the studies of postgraduate supervisions and has published about 15 full length research articles in peer reviewed index journals and more than 30 publications at national and international conferences and also author of five text books. In the meantime, he served on several university committees including sports advisory board, higher degrees committee, chairman of the quality assurance unit, deputy proctor, activity coordinator and in the project reviewing panels of HETC W2 & W4 grants, Chairman of the National Transport Medical Institute and represented in several committees at national level. He was also instrumental in founding two M.Sc. programs and of which he served as the coordinator and the chairperson of M.Sc. in Crop Protection. Currently he is the Head of the Department of Botany at University of Ruhuna.