

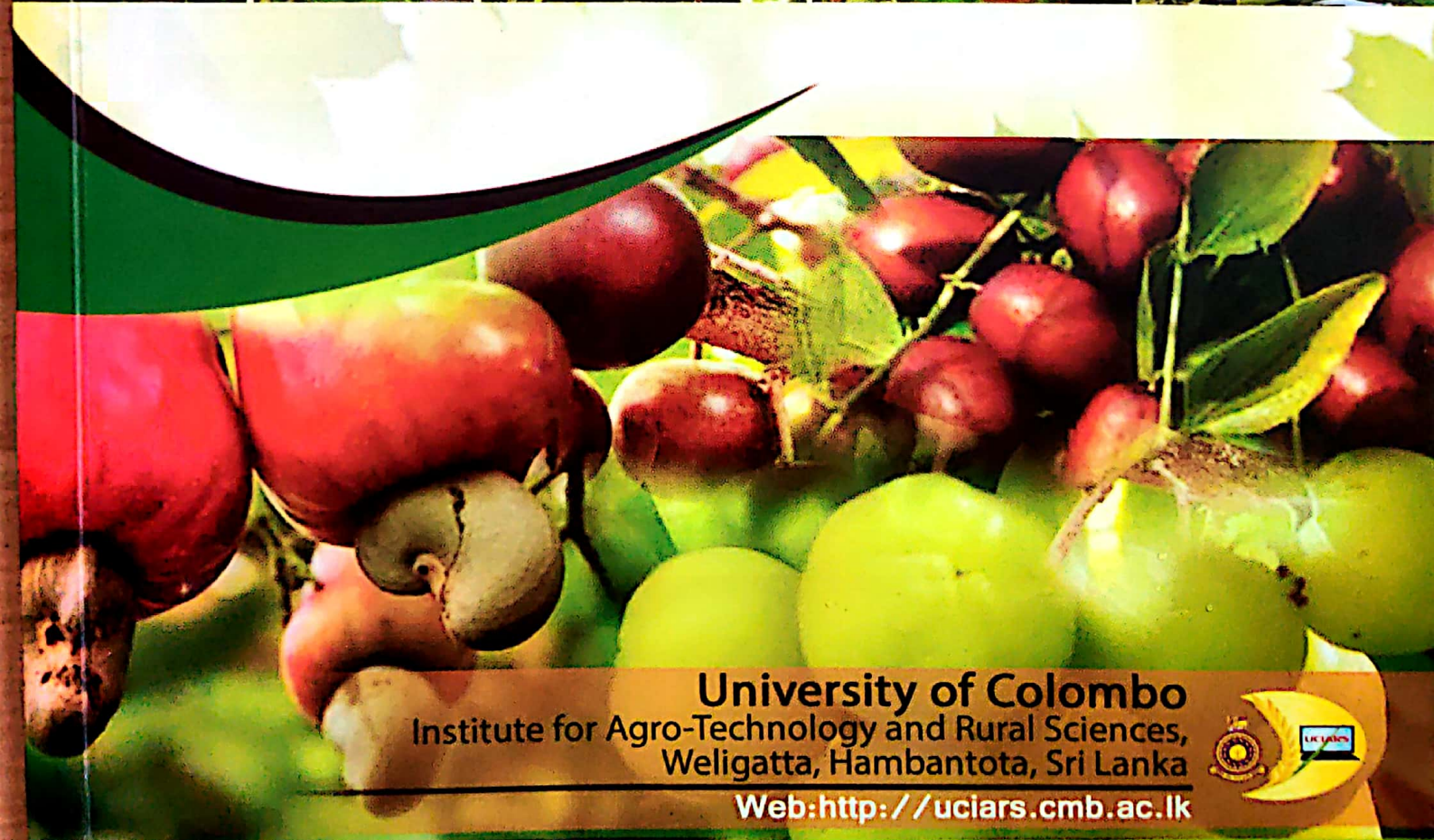


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Proceedings of the 5th International Symposium on Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

Promotion of Medicinal Plants and Minor Fruits for Health Security



University of Colombo
Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences,
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Web-GIS application for managing medicinal plant data: A case study in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Sri Lanka is an island in south Asia located in the Indian Ocean having very old and unique civilization with a tropical climate. It has a great diversity of plant species, and most of those plants have been using for various medicinal purposes. Still the country is well equipped with all the aspects of traditional medicinal system. Several institutions are running under the indigenous medicine sector. Available medicinal plant species have distributed all over the country in different geographic regions. It is a timely requirement to build modernized and updated geo-database service for the medicinal plant sector in Sri Lanka in order to facilitate the easy accessibility for accurate, reliable and sustainable medicinal plant data for development of medicinal plant sector in the country. But still there is no complete system with informative details about the geographic distribution of the medicinal plants together with their availability and medicinal values. Therefore, researchers and policy maker have to search through the traditional documents and use the human resources in order to find the necessary data related to medicinal plants, which is a time consuming process. Therefore, Web-GIS application has been proposed to locate the distribution of all the available varieties of medicinal plants in Sri Lanka along with complete metadata of relevant medicinal plant. Medicinal plant data can be accessed from the existing database and GPS locations of medicinal plant gardens will be stored in a database along with other collected attributes. This system will become a key element for researchers and policy makers to easily access to the reliable medicinal plant data which will require for their research studies.

Keywords: Medicinal plants, Plant data, Web-GIS

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