



Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

08 July 2026

Dear Prof. Jayathilake,

Request to support the World Food Day 2026 Youth Innovation Challenge by displaying promotional materials

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education and Hatton National Bank PLC (HNB), is pleased to launch the World Food Day 2026 Youth Innovation Challenge under the global World Food Day theme, "Innovate Today – Nourish Tomorrow."

The national challenge invites students from state and private universities and higher education institutions to develop innovative, practical and scalable solutions to address real-world challenges in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, environment and climate resilience, and food security and nutrition.

The initiative seeks to harness the creativity and expertise of Sri Lanka's university students by encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration to develop solutions that can contribute to transforming the country's agrifood systems. Shortlisted teams will benefit from mentorship by technical experts, prototype development grants, national recognition, opportunities to engage with industry and development partners, and cash awards for the top three teams.

Recognizing your university's important role in fostering innovation and student engagement, we kindly request your support in promoting the challenge by displaying the enclosed promotional poster in prominent locations across your campus. We would appreciate it if the posters could remain displayed until the application deadline to maximize student awareness and participation.

We would also be grateful if you could encourage your faculties, departments, University Business Linkage (UBL) unit and student networks to share information on the challenge with eligible students. Should you require any additional information, please contact Ms Dilshani Dias, Communications Analyst, FAO 0770152424, Dilshani.Dias@fao.org;

We sincerely appreciate your continued partnership in empowering Sri Lanka's youth to develop innovative solutions for more sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems. We look forward to your university's participation in this national initiative.

Thank you once again for your interest and support.

Yours Sincerely,

Dihan Hettige
FAO Assistant Representative (Admin)

Prof. P. M. B. Jayathilake
Vice Chancellor,
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka,
Mihintale.