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- The FOUNTAIN Final Event & ICSD 2026 — a five-day flagship in Colombo uniting partners from five countries, with 195 research papers, international keynotes, and the GUICS 2026 summit.
- The FOUNTAIN Final Meeting — work-package reviews, sustainability planning, and strategic closure, followed by field and university engagement.
- The online launch of the Advanced Certificate Course in Entrepreneurship, Invention & Innovation — a free, fully online, 15-credit programme delivered through the FOUNTAIN LMS.
- GreenSpark: Transforming Agriculture with Drones — a hands-on workshop with live multispectral and spray-drone demonstrations by SULECO Pvt. Ltd.

The GreenSpark Workshop Series: Sparking Ideas Where Academia Meets Industry

Under the GreenSpark-2025 initiative, the FOUNTAIN Project and the University of Ruhuna continue to connect university innovators, farmers, and industry professionals transforming agricultural ideas into viable, fundable ventures through collaboration, technology, and financial literacy. This edition captures two standout workshops from the series: a hands-on exploration of agricultural drones, and the inaugural Bridging Innovation workshop that set the series in motion.

Innovations in Action: Transforming Agriculture with Drones

10 February 2026 • Department of Agricultural Engineering & Environmental Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna



The Capacity Building Workshop on Transforming Agriculture with Drones, 10 February 2026.

On 10 February 2026, the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, hosted “Innovations in Action: Transforming Agriculture with Drones” as part of the GreenSpark-2025 initiative. Organized in collaboration with the **FOUNTAIN Project, SULECO Pvt. Ltd., and DJI Agriculture**, the workshop set out to deepen practical understanding of drone technologies and their applications in modern, sustainable agriculture.

The event drew a diverse group of participants agriculture instructors, development officers, technical assistants, farmers, science and technology officers, district officers, and industry representatives creating a valuable platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration among academia, industry, and agricultural practitioners.

Morning technical sessions opened the programme. Session 1, Introduction to Drone Technology, offered an overview of drone systems, operational principles, and emerging trends in agricultural applications. Session 2, Drone Applications in Agriculture, explored crop monitoring, precision agriculture, resource management, and sustainable farming practices. The organizers extended special appreciation to SULECO Pvt. Ltd. for their industry partnership and technical expertise as the key resource partner for the programme.



Technical sessions on drone technology and its agricultural applications.

Live field demonstrations followed, giving participants firsthand experience of drone technologies in real agricultural settings. A multispectral drone demonstration showcased advanced crop-monitoring capabilities through multispectral imaging, while a spray-drone demonstration by SULECO Pvt. Ltd. illustrated precision spraying and efficient crop management. Together, the demonstrations highlighted the transformative potential of drones for productivity, resource efficiency, and environmental sustainability.



A multispectral survey drone (left) and SULECO's spray drone in action (right).



Participants gather around a spray drone during the live field demonstration.

The workshop concluded with a certificate awarding ceremony recognizing the active participation and commitment of all attendees, with special appreciation extended to SULECO Pvt. Ltd. for their outstanding collaboration and dedication to strengthening industry-academia partnerships.



A token of appreciation is presented in recognition of SULECO Pvt. Ltd.'s industry partnership.

By pairing theory with practical exposure, the workshop demonstrated the growing importance of digital and precision technologies in modern agriculture an important step toward empowering agricultural professionals and promoting sustainable, technology-driven agricultural development in Sri Lanka.



Participants and organizers with the demonstration drones at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.

The FOUNTAIN Project Celebrates Its Grand Finale at the Colombo Conference (ICSD 2026)

As the FOUNTAIN Project reached the close of its journey, the first half of 2026 brought together everything the consortium had built over the years. Partners, researchers, and industry leaders gathered in Colombo for a five-days from 25 to 29 March 2026 for flagship event that celebrated shared achievements and charted a path for continued collaboration a fitting finale to an initiative dedicated to sustainable development and transformative education.

Hosted by the University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the University of Ruhuna, the FOUNTAIN Final Event was held alongside the 3rd International Conference on University–Industry Collaborations for Sustainable Development (ICSD 2026) at gapHQ, Colombo 07. Representatives from Estonia, Lithuania, Sweden, Thailand, and Sri Lanka took part, reflecting the project’s shared vision of advancing higher education and industrial development across Asia and Europe under the Erasmus+ programme.



Welcoming the Chief Guest and distinguished guests at the inauguration ceremony.

The programme spanned five distinct days: the Opening Ceremony (25 March), the GUICS Summit and conference sessions (26 March), the FOUNTAIN Final Meeting and further sessions (27 March), a field visit and networking day (28 March), and a university visit with strategic closure (29 March). Each day played a unique role in advancing the project’s goals of collaboration, research dissemination, and forward planning.

A Vibrant Opening: Thema Talk and the Inauguration

The conference opened with a thematic “Thema Talk” on “Tourism in a Changing Climate - Shaping Climate-Resilient Tourism in Sri Lanka,” bringing together a panel from academia, industry, and sustainability-focused organizations. Speakers explored experience design, authentic tourism, and regenerative models, setting a collaborative tone for the days ahead.



The Thema Talk panel on shaping a climate-resilient future for Sri Lankan tourism.

The official inauguration followed, with a Welcome Address by Prof. Emeritus Ranjith Dissanayake, Conference Co-Chair and Founder of gapHQ. Senior Professor K.L. Wasantha Kumara, Vice Chairman of the University Grants Commission, delivered the Chief Guest Address, while Mr. Ravi Nissanka, Chairman of the Industrial Development Board, spoke as Guest of Honour on industrial innovation and entrepreneurship.

Two keynote addresses anchored the ceremony. Prof. Emeritus Clarence W. de Silva (University of British Columbia) connected mechatronic and multi-agent system models with Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in communities, while Prof. Irene Lill (Tallinn University of Technology) offered a European perspective on Estonia’s remarkable digital transformation and the role of university–industry partnerships in building secure, inclusive digital ecosystems.



Keynotes by Prof. Clarence W. de Silva (left) and Prof. Irene Lill (right).

The ceremony concluded with tokens of appreciation, closing remarks by Dr. Pradeep Gajanayake, and a

networking dinner that gave participants an informal setting to exchange ideas and build collaborations.



Live culinary stations brought participants together at the networking dinner.

GUICS 2026: Sustainability, Rankings, and Industry Collaboration

On 26 March, the Global University-Industry Collaboration Summit (GUICS 2026) convened academics, industry leaders, and policymakers around the theme “Sustainability, University Rankings, and University-Industry Collaboration.” Following welcoming remarks by Prof. Chaminda Bandara, Dr. Chalaka Fernando (Evolve Facility Management, Canberra) delivered a keynote on how sustainability practices shape university rankings and long-term impact.



The GUICS 2026 keynote on sustainability and university rankings.

A high-level panel moderated by Prof. G. Yugantha Jayasinghe brought together Prof. Emeritus Ranjith Dissanayake (University of Peradeniya), Assoc. Prof. Evangelia Petridou (Mid Sweden University), Mr. Sujith Gunawardena (INSEE Ecocycle Lanka), and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sarintip Tantane (Naresuan University, Thailand). Discussion centered on green innovation, translating

research into real-world applications, strengthening governance, and building trust for lasting partnerships.



Panelists explore strategies for impactful university–industry partnerships at GUICS 2026.

195 Research Papers Across the Technical Sessions

The conference featured an impressive 195 research-paper presentations across multiple parallel sessions on 26 and 27 March. Spanning climate-smart agriculture, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, food science, renewable energy, digital transformation and sustainable engineering. The sessions gave researchers, academics, and industry professionals a dynamic platform to share innovations and explore practical solutions for sustainable development.



Researchers present across the parallel technical sessions of ICSD 2026.

The FOUNTAIN Final Meeting: Reviewing Progress, Planning the Future



The FOUNTAIN Final Meeting opens on 27 March 2026.

Held on 27 March, the FOUNTAIN Final Meeting was a full-day collaborative session bringing partners together to review progress and plan next steps. After welcoming remarks from Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, the official opening was delivered by FOUNTAIN Project Coordinator Prof. Guttula Yugantha Jayasinghe, who underscored the project's collaborative spirit and ongoing impact.

Throughout the morning and early afternoon, coordinators presented updates on each work package (WP1–WP7): WP1 (Prof. Guttula Yugantha Jayasinghe), WP2 (Emeritus Prof. K.D.N. Weerasinghe & Dr. Phisut Apichayakul), WP3 (Prof. Chaminda S. Bandara), WP4 (Prof. Janaka Gunarathne), WP5 (Dr. Chamila Wijekoon), WP6 (Dr. L.D. Lekamge & Prof. Emlyn David), and WP7 (Prof. Chaminda S. Bandara).



Partners engage in group discussions and the Steering Committee meeting.

After lunch, participants turned to the project's sustainability plan and held a Steering Committee meeting to address strategic decisions and long-term goals. The day closed with summarizing remarks and an informal tea session for partners to network and reflect on a shared body of work.

Exploring Sri Lanka: Field Visit & Networking

On 28 March, a full-day excursion took participants to Sri Lanka's southern coast. The day began with a scenic Madu Ganga boat safari through the region's rich wetland ecosystem, followed by lunch in Hikkaduwa and an afternoon visit to the historic Galle Fort, where delegates experienced the island's cultural heritage and colonial architecture. A networking dinner offered an informal setting to deepen relationships beyond the formal sessions.



A Madu Ganga boat safari (left) and group reflections during the excursion (right).

University Visit & Strategic Closure

The final day centred on academic engagement and institutional collaboration. The morning was hosted at the Wallamadham main campus of the University of Ruhuna, where participants received a warm welcome and a guided tour of facilities. After lunch, the programme continued at the Faculty of Agriculture in Mapalana, Kamburupitiya, with visits to academic departments, research facilities, cultural performances, and product demonstrations.



The University of Ruhuna campus (left) and product demonstrations at the Faculty of Agriculture (right).

The event concluded with closing remarks and a discussion on future directions, reinforcing the partners' commitment to continued collaboration well beyond the life of the project.

Looking Ahead

The five-day finale demonstrated strong academic impact and rich partnership-building across the consortium. As the FOUNTAIN Project draws to a close, partners look ahead to strengthening commercialization pathways and

long-term implementation — ensuring that the knowledge, networks, and curricula developed through

FOUNTAIN continue to deliver value for universities, industries, and communities across the region.



The FOUNTAIN consortium gathers for a group photograph at the close of a memorable five days

OPENING CEREMONY

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE COURSE IN

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INVENTION & INNOVATION

Join us for the official launch of the Advanced Certificate Course in Entrepreneurship, Invention & Innovation offered under the FOUNTAIN Project.

This programme is designed to empower aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators, professionals, and students with the knowledge and practical skills required to transform ideas into successful ventures.

DATE

TIME

MODE

25 JUNE 2026

12.00 PM - 1.00 PM

ONLINE

AGENDA

TIME	PROGRAMME ITEM	DETAILS / SPEAKER
12:00 - 12:05	Opening Ceremony	Commencement of the event
12:05 - 12:10	Welcome Address	Prof. Amila B. Sirisena Director, Distance and Continuing Education Unit
12:10 - 12:20	FOUNTAIN Project Introduction	Snr. Prof. G. Y. Jayasingha Coordinator - FOUNTAIN Project Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
12:20 - 12:25	Project Introduction Video	FOUNTAIN Project
12:25 - 12:30	Special Address	Prof. Emlyn David Tallinn University of Technology Estonia
12:30 - 12:35	Special Address	Assoc. Prof. Evangelia Petridou Mid Sweden University Sweden
12:35 - 12:45	Course Introduction	Prof. M.H.J.P. Gunarathna Project Manager - FOUNTAIN Project Dean-Faculty of Agriculture Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
12:45 - 12:50	Course Guidelines Video	Operational process and course structure
12:50 - 13:00	Vote of Thanks	Dr. WM Chamila J Wijekoon FOUNTAIN project UOR










IN COLLABORATION WITH

The opening ceremony programme, held online on 25 June 2026

FOUNTAIN Launches the Advanced Certificate Course in Entrepreneurship, Invention & Innovation

On 25 June 2026, the FOUNTAIN Project reached another important milestone with the online launch of its Advanced Certificate Course in Entrepreneurship, Invention & Innovation — a free, fully online programme designed to empower aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators, professionals, and students to turn creative ideas into successful ventures.

A New Pathway for Aspiring Entrepreneurs

Organized by the Distance and Continuing Education Unit (DCEU), University of Ruhuna, with national and international academic partners, the course is offered at **SLQF Level 2 / NVQ Level 4, comprising 15 credits and 900 hours of total learning**. It is delivered entirely through the FOUNTAIN Learning Management System (LMS) in the English medium. The programme aims to develop an entrepreneurial mindset, strengthen creativity and problem-solving, build practical skills in startup development and innovation management, and help learners transform innovative ideas into sustainable ventures.

A Warm Welcome and the FOUNTAIN Vision



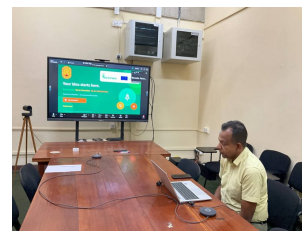
Prof. Amila B. Sirisena, Director of the DCEU, delivers the welcome address.

The ceremony began at 12.00 PM with a welcome address by Prof. Amila B. Sirisena, Director of the Distance and Continuing Education Unit, who highlighted

the importance of entrepreneurial education in addressing emerging societal and economic challenges. Senior Professor G. Y. Jayasinghe, Coordinator of the FOUNTAIN Project and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, then introduced the project's vision of fostering sustainable university–industry collaboration, followed by a project introduction video.

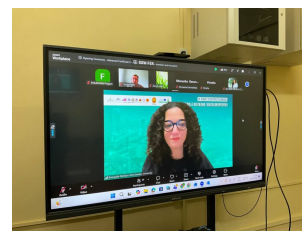
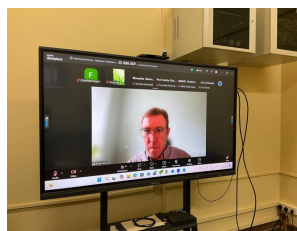


Snr Prof. G. Y. Jayasinghe introduces the FOUNTAIN Project and its vision ("Your idea starts here").



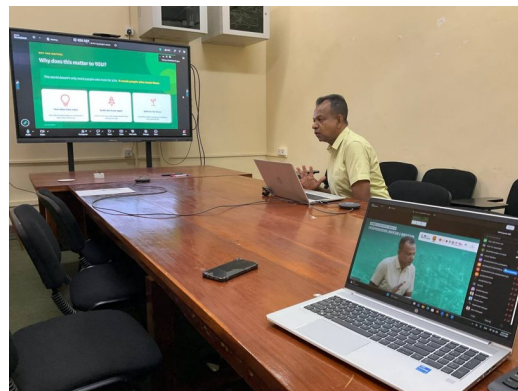
Global Voices: International Special Addresses

The ceremony featured special addresses from distinguished international partners — Prof. Emlyn David of Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia, and Associate Professor Evangelia Petridou of Mid Sweden University, Sweden. Both speakers underscored the importance of innovation, entrepreneurship education, and international collaboration in preparing the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators.



Special addresses by Prof. Emlyn David, TalTech (left) and Assoc. Prof. Evangelia Petridou, Mid Sweden University (right).

Inside the Course

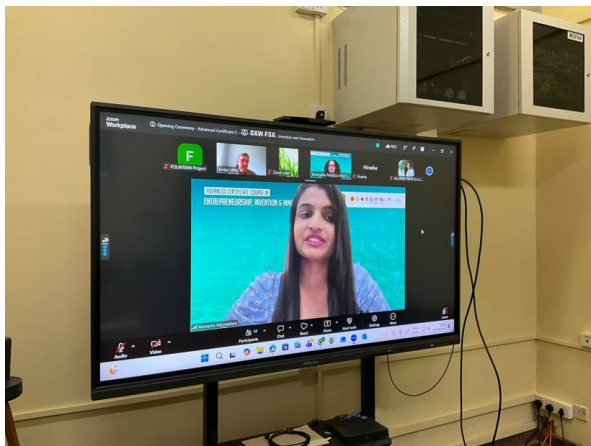


"Why does this matter to you?" — the course connects learning to real-world opportunity.

The course was formally introduced by Prof. M.H.J.P. Gunaratna, Project Manager of the FOUNTAIN Project and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, who outlined its structure, learning outcomes, and practical components. The curriculum progresses through seven modules:

- Foundations of Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Creativity and Ideation
- Lean Startup Methodology
- Business Model Innovation
- Innovation Strategy and Management
- Entrepreneurial Finance and Funding
- Capstone Project

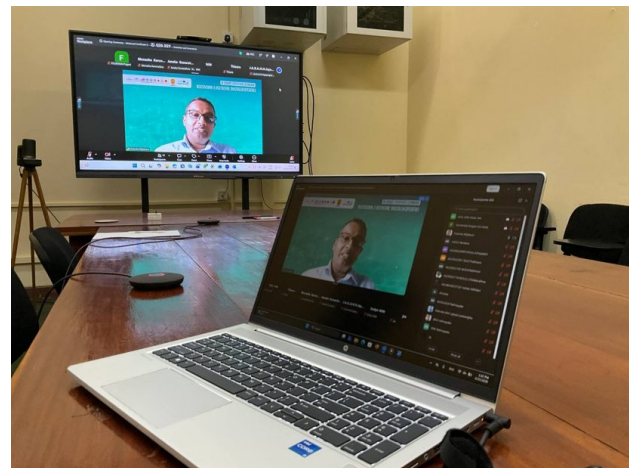
Open to anyone with G.C.E. Ordinary Level qualifications or NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent), the programme welcomes aspiring entrepreneurs and working professionals alike. Its fully online delivery through the FOUNTAIN LMS offers flexible access to teaching, practical activities, and assessments - so learners can study around their own commitments.



Course details and guidelines are shared with prospective learners nationwide.

A Milestone for the FOUNTAIN Project

The ceremony closed with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. W. M. Chamila J. Wijekoon of the FOUNTAIN Project (University of Ruhuna), who acknowledged the contributions of the speakers, partners, and participants. Bringing together local and international stakeholders, the launch marked an important step in the FOUNTAIN Project's educational mission — strengthening higher education, fostering innovation ecosystems, and empowering future entrepreneurs to contribute to sustainable economic and social development.



Dr. Chamila J. Wijekoon delivers the Vote of Thanks.

Together, academia and industry continue to empower the future of sustainable, technology-driven development.

Thank You!

FOUNTAIN Project – Team

