

POSTGRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK
2024/2025

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERISTY OF RUHUNA

VISION OF THE DEPARTMENT

Advance technologies in the spheres of plant sciences to meet present and future challenges in augmenting plant productivity

MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT

Encompass agronomy and physiology of plant species, which are nutritional, industrial, medicinal and environmental importance.

INTRODUCTION

University of Ruhuna

The University of Ruhuna was established on 1st September 1978 as Ruhuna University College by a Special Presidential Decree. Currently, the University of Ruhuna comprises ten faculties: Agriculture, Engineering, Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences, Management & Finance, Medicine, Science, Technology, Allied Health Sciences, and Graduate Studies.

The Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences, Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, Management & Finance, Science, and Graduate Studies are located at the main university premises at Wallamadama, Matara. The Faculty of Agriculture is located in Mapalana, Kamburupitiya; the Faculty of Engineering in Hapugala, Galle; the Faculties of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences in Karapitiya, Galle; and the Faculty of Technology in Karagoda-Uyangoda, Kamburupitiya. The university's central administration is also situated at the Wallamadama complex.

The University offers Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. degrees in various disciplines. Additionally, Diploma and Certificate courses are available in several fields.

Faculty of Agriculture

The Faculty of Agriculture, one of the pioneering faculties of the University of Ruhuna, is located at Mapalana, 16 km from Matara and 2 km from Kamburupitiya along the Matara-Kamburupitiya main road. The faculty spans 50 hectares and includes several academic and administrative buildings housing lecture theaters, laboratories, a library, student residences, recreational facilities, a canteen, and an auditorium to support academic and research programs. Additionally, the faculty farm, located on campus, integrates farm activities with teaching, research, and outreach programs.

The Faculty of Agriculture is dedicated to contributing to national development by generating new knowledge and producing skilled, efficient, and marketable graduates. Resources are directed toward offering three undergraduate degree programs: BSc in Agricultural Resource Management and Technology, BSc in Agribusiness Management, and BSc in Green Technology. These are all four-year, career-oriented degrees. Currently, the faculty has seven academic departments: Agricultural Biology, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Engineering, Animal Science, Crop Science, Food Science and Technology, and Soil Science. All three-degree programs are classified as SLQF Level 6 and are conducted in the English medium. The faculty admits 250 students annually and is recognized as a leading center for agricultural research, extension, and education in southern Sri Lanka.

The faculty also offers six MSc degree programs through the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Ruhuna to address the contemporary needs of graduates in the region, in addition to offering MPhil and PhD degrees by research. Each department is equipped with facilities and laboratories to support both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and research in fundamental and applied areas. Currently, seven postgraduate courses are available: MSc in Agricultural

Economics and Resource Management, MSc in Agribusiness Management, MSc in Animal Science, MSc in Food Science and Technology, MSc in Green Technology, MSc in Crop Production Technology, and MSc in Crop Protection, the latter being jointly offered with the Faculty of Science.

Department of Crop Science

The Department of Crop Science offers a comprehensive and rigorous academic program for the BSc in Agricultural Resources Management and Technology. This program equips students with the necessary knowledge, experience, and skills for the sustainable production of plant species of nutritional, industrial, medicinal, and environmental significance. To achieve this, the department offers a broad range of courses, including seed biology, crop production and management, crop physiology, post-harvest management, cropping systems, agroforestry, forestry, controlled environment agriculture, biostatistics, and climate change. Additionally, the department supports the Faculty of Agriculture's other degree programs, Agribusiness Management and Green Technology, by offering foundational courses in Crop Science.

The department combines theoretical knowledge with practical training through a “student-centered approach,” ensuring that graduates possess the capacity to develop solutions to issues and challenges in crop production and related fields. The department also offers a Master's program in Crop Production Technology, as well as opportunities for higher studies leading to MPhil and PhD degrees. By promoting academic and research excellence, the Department maintains close ties with the community and industry, making its academic programs and research relevant to real-world applications.

With a dedicated and competent staff, the Department of Crop Science is emerging as a leader in addressing local and national agricultural challenges.

The Department includes a teaching laboratory, research laboratory, and plant tissue culture unit, which are equipped to support ongoing teaching and research programs. Additionally, two plant houses and a protected agriculture unit with a hydroponics system are available for further practical training and research. Recognizing the scientific merit of the department's research programs, national and international funding agencies have awarded research grants to several senior members of the department.

**Master of Crop Production Technology (MCrop.Tech.)-SLQF Level 09
AND
Master of Science in Crop Production Technology [MSc (Crop.Tech.)]-SLQF
Level 10**

01 General Requirements for Award of the Master of Science in Crop Production Technology

Subject to By-Law a student shall be awarded the Degrees by the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, hereafter referred to as the "University," if he/she has:

- a) fulfilled the eligibility requirements set out in Section 3 of this By-Law and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder.
- b) been accepted by the Department of Crop Science and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, hereafter referred to as the "Department" and the "Faculty," respectively.
- c) thereafter been registered as a student at the University with the approval of the Senate and the Council of the University (hereafter referred to as the "Senate" and "Council") for the required duration as set out in Section 5 of this By-Law.
- d) paid all fees and other dues according to the Rules and Regulations prescribed by the University in his/her case.
- e) followed the prescribed course as outlined in Sections 5 and 9 of this By-Law.
- f) passed all examinations as prescribed by this By-Law and the Regulations made thereunder.
- g) no ongoing disciplinary inquiry conducted by the University; and
- h) no ongoing inquiry conducted by the University on examination offences.

The Degree of Master of Crop Production Technology (SLQF Level 09) shall be abbreviated as MSc (Crop.Tech.)

The Degree of Master of Science in Crop Production Technology (SLQF Level 10) shall be abbreviated as MSc (Crop.Tech.)

02 Programme of Study

MCrop.Tech.: The programme of study leading to the MCrop.Tech. degree consists of two academic semesters over one academic year, including a full 5-credit Guided Independent Study.

MSc (Crop.Tech.): The programme of study leading to the MSc (Crop.Tech.) degree consists of two academic semesters over two academic year, including a one-year research component consisting of 30 credits.

The programmes will be conducted exclusively in the English medium.

With a comprehensive focus on advanced aspects of the Crop Production discipline, both the degree programmes aim to enhance students' knowledge and skills in modern crop production techniques, sustainable agriculture, and the science behind improving crop yield and quality. The programme is designed to equip graduates with both theoretical and practical expertise in crop management, soil science, plant physiology, and advanced

agricultural technologies.

Graduates of these degree programmes can pursue diverse career paths, such as becoming agronomists, crop consultants, or research scientists, where they contribute to the development of sustainable farming practices. Additionally, they may advance into leadership roles within agricultural organizations, government bodies, or private sector companies, shaping policies and strategies related to food security, crop production, and environmental conservation.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies shall offer both these degree programmes.

03 Eligibility Requirements for Registration

An applicant fulfills the minimum eligibility requirements to follow the prescribed courses leading to the Degrees of MCrop.Tech. and MSc (Crop.Tech.), if he/she has:

EITHER

A Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Biosystems Technology Degree (SLQF 5 / 6) from a recognized university or an equivalent qualification as recommended by the Coordinating Body (CB) and approved by the Board of Study of Agriculture (BOS), Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), Senate, and Council of the University of Ruhuna.

OR

A Bachelor's degree (SLQF 5 / 6) in any other field that includes 30 credits related to Agriculture, Biosystems Technology, or Biological Sciences, from a recognized university or an equivalent qualification recommended by the CB and approved by the BOS, FGS, Senate, and the Council of the University of Ruhuna.

OR

Completion of NVQ Level 7 in a related field of Agriculture, Biosystems Technology, or Biological Sciences, as determined by the relevant BOS and approved by the Senate of the University of Ruhuna.

OR

A First Degree (SLQF Level 06/SLQF Level 05) or NVQ Level 7 in a discipline other than Agriculture, Biosystems Technology, or Biological Sciences, with 2 years of managerial work experience in a recognized government, semi-government, or private organization related to Crop Production, as determined by the relevant BOS and approved by the Senate of the University of Ruhuna.

04 Registration for the Degree Programmes

Applications shall be received from potential candidates through paper advertisements and/or other suitable advertising media. These advertisements shall be forwarded to the media by the Registrar of the University at the request of the FGS.

A student who wishes to become a candidate for the postgraduate programme shall make an application to the DR/SAR/AR of the FGS, University of Ruhuna, when the programme is advertised.

The application must be on the prescribed form, providing the information required,

including the applicant's qualifications for undertaking the course of study.

The DR/SAR/AR of the FGS shall hand over the applications to the Coordinator of the study programme. The CB, after examining the applications for the necessary initial qualifications, shall shortlist the applicants. Shortlisted applicants shall be called for an interview or an admission test and interview. The FGS shall inform the selected applicants after approval by the Senate of the University.

Selected applicants shall be registered as postgraduate students of the University upon payment of the prescribed registration and other fees. All payments are non-refundable after the commencement of the programme. However, with Senate approval for acceptable reasons, candidates may transfer the paid course fee to follow the same course with the immediate next batch, retaining the original registration date.

The effective date of registration shall be the date of commencement of the programme as approved by the Senate on the recommendation of the BGS.

All candidates shall renew their registration annually until the effective date of the degree. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure continuous registration until completion.

No registered candidate shall take leave or be absent from the study programme, including examinations and assessments, without prior approval from the BGS and the Senate.

A student who fails to conform to the By-Law in respect of registration is liable to be regarded as having withdrawn from the candidature.

05 Registration for Course Modules

A student shall register for all required course modules for each semester as prescribed by the BOS.

A student who fails to register for any course module shall be considered a repeat student unless granted an academic exemption by the Senate.

06 Fee Structure of the Degree Programmes

The course fee and fee structure of the Degree Programmes shall be proposed by the BOS in accordance with internal circular 2014/1 and shall be approved by the Finance Committee. All payments shall be made according to the approved budget.

All relevant fees must be paid at the time of registration. To renew registration, the relevant fee(s) must be paid at the beginning of each year, calculated from the date of the first registration.

Fees shall not be refunded if a registered student exits the degree programme early.

All fees applicable to the programme are subject to change with the approval of the relevant authorities at the University of Ruhuna.

07 The Study Programmes Structure

MCrop.Tech.: The programme of study leading to the MCrop.Tech. consists of two academic semesters over one academic year, with a full-time guided independent study in Semester II.

MSc (Crop.Tech.): The programme of study leading to the MSc (Crop.Tech.) consists of four academic semesters over two academic years, with a full-time research project in Semester III and IV.

There shall be a Programme Coordinator for the overall administration of the both study programme, nominated by the BOS in Agriculture and the BGS, approved by the Senate, and appointed by the Vice-Chancellor.

The official academic calendar, with dates approved by the Senate on the recommendation of the BOS/BGS, shall be announced before each student intake.

The approved curriculum shall be announced by the Programme Coordinator at the commencement of the study programme.

There shall be a Module Coordinator for each course module, appointed by the Senate. The Module Coordinator shall inform students of the approved Module Information Sheet for the respective course module, which includes details on the distribution of notional hours, teaching-learning methods, and assessment methods, as per the format approved by the FGS. The Module Coordinator shall be provided with a list of responsibilities along with the appointment letter.

The course structure of the MCrop.Tech. and MSc (Crop.Tech.) align with SLQF Level 09 and SLQF Level 10 respectively.

The curriculum of the study programme consists of core and elective course modules, which include both theory and practical components. Theory course modules consist of lectures, assignments, and tutorials, while practical course modules are laboratory/field-based.

Students shall follow all core course modules.

All elective courses focus on Crop Production Technology and its applications. Depending on the candidate's area of specialty, he/she may choose the most suitable elective courses related to their work or personal preference.

The detailed course module structure of the complete programme, including the number of credits allocated for each course, is shown in Table 01 below.

Table 01: Detailed Course Structure

| Programme Structure | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Semester | Module Code | Module Name | Credit Value | Status (Compulsory /Elective) |
| 1 | CS51301 | Principles of Agronomy and Horticulture | 3 | Core |
| | CS51202 | Advanced Plant Protection | 2 | Core |
| | CS51203 | Integrated Plant Nutrient Management | 2 | Core |
| | CS51204 | Regenerative Crop Production | 2 | Core |
| | CS51205 | Floriculture and Landscaping | 2 | Core |
| | CS51206 | Seaweed Farming | 2 | Elective |
| | CS51207 | Bioenergy and Plantation Crop Management | 2 | Elective |
| | CS51208 | Industrial Herbs and Medicinal Plants | 2 | Elective |
| | CS51209 | Smart Agriculture and Precision Farming | 2 | Elective |
| | CS51210 | Vegetable and Field Crop Production | 2 | Elective |
| 2 | CS52201 | Biostatistics | 3 | Core |
| | CS52202 | Agroecology and Sustainable Farming Systems | 2 | Core |
| | CS52203 | Protected Agriculture and Hydroponics | 1 | Core |
| | CS52204 | Advanced Plant Tissue Culture Techniques | 2 | Elective |
| | CS52205 | Emerging Issues in Global Crop Production | 1 | Elective |
| | CS52206 | Fruit Crop Management | 2 | Elective |
| | CS52207 | Beverage and Spice Crop Production and Value Addition | 2 | Elective |
| | CS52208 | Postharvest Technology for Crops | 2 | Elective |
| | CS52209 | Advanced Agroforestry and Forest Management | 2 | Elective |
| | CS52210 | Guided Independent Study | 5 | Core (only for MCrop.Tech.) |
| 3&4 | | Research Project | 30 | Core (Only for MSc (Crop.Tech.)) |

08 Requirements to Complete the Programme

A deadline for the submission of each assignment, presentation, report, etc., shall be announced by the Module Coordinator. Any student who fails to submit such assignments

on time shall not be eligible to sit for the end-semester examination of the relevant course module.

Guided Independent Study Module of the MCrop.Tech. Programme

- a) The guided independent study module, worth 5 credits, shall be completed during the second semester of the programme.
- b) The study shall be carried out either at the University of Ruhuna or any other institution recommended by the BOS and approved by the BGS.
- c) A supervisor (or supervisors) holding at least a Master's degree shall be assigned to each student, as recommended by the BOS and approved by the BGS.
- d) Each student shall submit a detailed project proposal to the appointed supervisor before the end of the first semester.
- e) Each student shall submit their independent study report to the programme's Course Coordinator, with the supervisor's recommendation, prior to the specified deadline.
- f) The Course Coordinator shall arrange a viva-voce examination with the Board of Examiners, which shall include the following personnel:
 - The supervisor(s) of the student (as observers)
 - At least three members of the teaching panel of the MCrop.Tech. programme
- g) A candidate's performance on the independent study shall be graded according to the marks allocated in the following table. The examiners shall allocate marks in the format provided by the BOS.

| Marks given by the Supervisors for the written report | Marks Given at the viva** | Total |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 50% | 50% | 100% |

Marks given by the examiners shall be averaged for the final mark for the viva.

- h) The grade for the independent study will be awarded as described in section 8.5 of this regulation.
- i) In the event a student fails to complete the independent guided study the corrected dissertation he/she shall be eligible to apply for the Postgraduate Diploma of Crop Production Technology (PGDip (Crop.Tech.)) if course work equivalent to the SLQF Level 8 has been completed in compliance with the relevant By-law and Regulations.

Dissertation of the MSc (Crop.Tech.) Programme

The research module, worth 30 credits, shall be completed during the second year of the programme (Semester II and IV).

The research shall be conducted either at the University of Ruhuna or at any other institution recommended by the BOS and approved by the BGS.

Each student shall submit a detailed research proposal, including the required budget and source of funding, to the programme coordinator before the end of the second semester. The student shall then present the proposal to an evaluation panel appointed by the CB for recommendation. The program coordinator shall submit the recommended list of research proposals for approval by the BOS, BGS, and the

Senate.

- j) A supervisor(s) with at least a Master's degree and a research component shall be assigned to each student, recommended by the BOS and approved by the BGS. If the research, or part of it, is conducted at an external institution, a Co-supervisor from that institution, acceptable to the BOS and BGS, shall be appointed. Each student shall defend the research proposal before starting the research (at the end of the second semester). Additionally, there shall be a research progress evaluation on the ongoing research at the end of the third semester.
- k) Each student shall submit the dissertation to the program coordinator with the supervisor(s)' recommendation at the end of the fourth semester.
- l) Each dissertation shall be evaluated by two examiners appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the BGS and BOS.
- m) The examiners shall recommend one of the following outcomes for the dissertation:
- (i) acceptance as is,
 - (ii) acceptance with minor corrections,
 - (iii) acceptance with major corrections, or
 - (iv) rejection

The program coordinator shall arrange a viva-voce examination with the Board of Examination, which shall include the following members:

- (i) Chairman of the Board of Study in Agriculture (Chairperson)
- (ii) The Program Coordinator (Secretary)
- (iii) The Supervisor(s) of the student (as observers)
- (iv) The Examiners appointed to evaluate the dissertation
- (v) Head of the department of Crop Science

The viva-voce examination shall take place with at least 50% of the Board of Examination members present, including at least one of the examiners appointed to evaluate the dissertation.

- n) The dissertation shall be graded according to the following scheme (Table 02):

Table 02. Marks ranges and grades for performance level

| Marks | Grade | Performance |
|----------------------|---------|--------------|
| $marks \geq 75$ | Grade A | Excellent |
| $75 > marks \geq 65$ | Grade B | Good |
| $65 > marks \geq 50$ | Grade C | Satisfactory |
| $marks < 50$ | INC | Incomplete |

The examiners shall allocate marks based on the format provided by the BOS. Marks for the dissertation shall be allocated as follows:

- Marks given by the examiner(s) for the dissertation = 80%
- Marks given at the viva-voce = 20%

If the marks given by the two examiners differ by 20 marks or more, the dissertation shall be sent to a third evaluator appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the BGS/BOS. Otherwise, the average of the marks given by the two examiners shall be the final mark for the dissertation.

If the dissertation requires major corrections and is not satisfactory to the examiner, the student must complete the corrections and re-submit the dissertation to the program coordinator within three months from the date of the viva-voce examination. The examiner shall then evaluate the corrected dissertation again and provide a report to the program coordinator on whether the corrections meet the required standards.

If the corrected dissertation still does not satisfy the examiner, the incomplete dissertation shall be rewritten in consultation with the supervisor and re-submitted within six months from the date of the viva-voce examination. A second viva-voce examination shall be held for the corrected dissertation, and such a student will graduate with the next batch.

If a student fails to resubmit the corrected dissertation, they shall be eligible to apply for the Master of Crop Production Technology (MCrop.Tech.), provided they have completed coursework equivalent to SLQF Level 9 in accordance with the relevant By-Law and Regulations. The research work done will be considered equivalent to an independent study unit of 5 credits required for SLQF Level 9 qualification.

All students shall register for the end-semester examinations at the FGS. To be eligible to sit for the end-semester examination of each course module, students must complete all continuous assessments relevant to that course module.

Examiners appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the BOS and BGS shall conduct all end-semester/final examinations of the course modules. The DR/SAR/AR of Examinations or the DR/SAR/AR of the FGS shall administer such examinations.

The grades for course modules shall be released semester-wise according to the grading scheme in Table 03.

Table 03. Range of marks and corresponding grades and GPVs

| Range of Marks | Grade | Grade Point Value |
|----------------|-------|-------------------|
| 85 -100 | A+ | 4.0 |
| 80 - 84 | A | 4.0 |
| 75 - 79 | A- | 3.7 |
| 70 - 74 | B+ | 3.3 |
| 65 – 69 | B | 3.0 |
| 60 – 64 | B- | 2.7 |
| 55 – 59 | C+ | 2.3 |
| 50 – 54 | C | 2.0 |
| 45 – 49 | C- | 1.7 |

| | | |
|---------|---|-----|
| 40 – 44 | D | 1.3 |
| 00 - 39 | E | 0.0 |

Note to Table 03:

| | |
|--|----|
| Not applied/ Absent without accepted reason(s)/ Not Eligible | E* |
| Accepted Medical Certificate | MC |
| Results withheld | WH |

A student must earn a minimum of 2.0 GPV to pass a course module. If a student fails a course module (with a GPV less than 2.0) or is absent from an examination without providing a valid/acceptable reason, he/she shall be considered a repeater. A repeat student shall sit the next immediate examination after paying the relevant examination fee, and the highest grade that can be obtained by such a student is a "C" (2.0 GPV). However, if acceptable reasons are submitted within two weeks to the BGS through the BOS, the student shall be allowed to sit the next immediate examination as a first timer after paying the relevant examination fee. Requests for medical reasons must comply with the Regulations approved under the university examination By-Law.

A minimum grade of "C" must be maintained for all course modules to be eligible for the degree.

The Grade Point Average (GPA)

The Grade Point Average (GPA) shall be computed using the following formula at the end of the MCrop.Tech. degree programme to determine the overall performance of the courses followed by a student.

$$GPA = \frac{\sum_i C_i GPV_i}{\sum C_i}$$

where C_i is the number of credits for the i^{th} course module and GPV_i is the grade point value obtained for the i^{th} course module

$$\left(GPA = \frac{\sum (\text{Grade Point Value for a course module}) \times (\text{Number of credits of that course module})}{(\text{Total number of credits})} \right)$$

A student who does not maintain the minimum GPA of 2.00 shall be deemed to have failed the programme. A student who does not pass any course module during the minimum period shall re-register for the course module and sit for the examination after paying the registration and examination fees. However, students must complete all requirements within the maximum period allowed or within any extended period as stated under section 5.4 of this By-Law.

Award of the Master of Crop Production Technology (MCrop.Tech.) (SLQF Level 09)

- a) A student registered under this By-Law shall be qualified for the award of the MCrop.Tech. if they have:

- (i) Obtained a minimum of 30 credits required for the MCrop.Tech., including the guided independent study as prescribed by this By-Law/Regulations, within the stipulated period;
- (ii) Achieved a minimum grade point value of 2.0 (grade C) for all course modules;
- (iii) Attained a minimum GPA of 2.00 for all course modules.

b) Award of the MCrop.Tech. Degree with Recognition for Higher GPA Achievement

A student who has fulfilled all the stipulated conditions mentioned above section (8.9a) shall be awarded a Distinction or Merit pass if they obtain a higher GPA, as indicated in the table below, within the minimum period of one year for the MCrop.Tech. Degree.

| GPA | Level of Achievement |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| $GPA \geq 3.70$ | Distinction |
| $3.00 \leq GPA < 3.70$ | Merit pass |
| $2.00 \leq GPA < 3.00$ | Pass |

Award of the Master of Science Crop Production Technology [MSc (Crop.Tech.)] (SLQF Level 10)

- (i) A student registered under this By-Law shall be qualified for the award of the MSc (Crop.Tech.) if they have:
- (ii) Obtained a minimum of 60 credits required for the MSc (Crop.Tech.), including the research project as prescribed by this By-Law/Regulations, within the stipulated period;
- (iii) Achieved a minimum grade point value of 2.0 (grade C) for all course modules;
- (iv) Attained a minimum GPA of 2.00 for all course modules.
- (v) Satisfactory completion of the dissertation.
- (vi) One publication from the research study (either conference abstract or a peer reviewed journal paper)

a) Award of the MSc (Crop.Tech.) Degree with Recognition for Higher GPA Achievement

A student who has fulfilled all the stipulated conditions mentioned above section (8.9a) shall be awarded a Distinction or Merit pass if they obtain a higher GPA, as indicated in the table below, within the minimum period of one year for the MSc (Crop.Tech.) Degree.

| GPA | Level of Achievement |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| $GPA \geq 3.70$ | Distinction |
| $3.00 \leq GPA < 3.70$ | Merit pass |
| $2.00 \leq GPA < 3.00$ | Pass |

Exit Points (MCrop.Tech.)

Exit from the Program with the Postgraduate Diploma in Crop Production Technology [PGDip (Crop.Tech.) - SLQF Level 8]

If a student registered under this By-law is unable to complete all the requirements to qualify for the MCrop.Tech., they may request to exit the programme with the Postgraduate Diploma in Crop Production Technology [PGDip (Crop.Tech.)] if they have completed a minimum of 25 credits in course modules and fulfilled the other requirements for the PGDip (Crop.Tech.). Such a student shall be awarded the PGDip (Crop.Tech.) under the relevant By-law/Regulations.

Exit Points MSc (Crop.Tech.)

Exit from the Program with the Master of Crop Production Technology (MCrop.Tech.) (SLQF Level 9)

If a student registered under this By-Law is unable to complete all the requirements for the MSc (Crop.Tech.), they may request to exit the program with the Master of Crop Production Technology degree (MCrop.Tech.) if they have passed a minimum of 30 credits of course modules, including a five-credit independent research course module (or an equivalent amount of work done under the research component as stated in 8.2 above), and have fulfilled the other requirements to be awarded the MCrop.Tech. degree. Such a student shall be awarded the MCrop.Tech. degree under the relevant By-Law/Regulations.

Exit from the Program with the Postgraduate Diploma in Crop Production Technology [PGDip (Crop.Tech.) - SLQF Level 8]

If a student registered under this By-Law is unable to complete all the requirements for the MSc (Crop.Tech.) or MCrop.Tech., they may request to exit the program with the Postgraduate Diploma in Crop Production Technology [PGDip (Crop.Tech.)] if they have passed a minimum of 25 credits of course modules and have fulfilled the other requirements to be awarded the PGDip (Crop.Tech.). Such a student shall be awarded the PGDip (Crop.Tech.) under the relevant By-Law/Regulations.

09 Release of Results

The results of course modules shall be released on a semester-wise basis. The results of each examination, as well as the final results, shall be released by a Results Board comprising the following members:

- (i) Dean, FGS (Chairperson)
- (ii) Chairperson, BOS in Agriculture
- (iii) Programme Coordinator
- (iv) Course Module Coordinators/Examiners
- (v) DR/SAR/AR, FGS (Secretary).

A student who wishes to verify the results must submit a request, along with the receipt of the payment made, to the DR/SAR/AR of the FGS within 14 days of the release of results.

The Board of Results Verification (BRV) shall comprise the following members:

- (i) Dean, FGS (Chairperson)
- (ii) Chairperson, BOS Agriculture
- (iii) Programme Coordinator
- (iv) Course Module Coordinator
- (v) Examiners of the Relevant Course Module
- (vi) DR/SAR/AR, FGS (Convener).

The student shall be invited to attend the BRV meeting and shall be provided with a copy of the answer script, including the marks given for all components of the course module (i.e., written, oral, continuous assessments, etc.) and the relevant marking scheme(s) for review and feedback.

A special Results Board meeting shall be held within two weeks to ratify the results. With Senate approval, the student shall be informed of the outcome, regardless of whether the marks and/or grades are changed.

10 Academic Concessions

If a student fails to complete any part of the continuous assessments of a particular course module due to medical or other acceptable reasons, they may appeal within one week from the date of the assessment with supporting documents to the course module coordinator, who may arrange an alternative to complete the assignment. If the course module coordinator determines that an academic concession is necessary, the student should be directed to submit the documents to the BOS for an academic concession. Such requests require the recommendation of the BGS and the approval of the Senate. Supporting documents must comply with the rules and regulations of the University of Ruhuna. If the concession is granted, the student may take the same component at the end-semester examination as a first-timer in the next immediate attempt in the following year.

If a student fails to sit for the end-semester examination of a course module(s) due to medical or other acceptable reasons, they may appeal within one week from the date of the examination with supporting documents to the BOS for an academic concession. Such requests require the recommendation of the BGS and the approval of the Senate. Supporting documents must be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the University of Ruhuna. If the concession is granted, the student may take the same examination(s) as a first-timer in the next immediate attempt.

Absence for Course Modules/Examinations

a) Absence from Course Modules due to Illness

If a student is unable to attend lectures and/or practical classes due to illness, they must inform the university medical officer within one week. Students may seek medical assistance from a government or private doctor, but the University Medical Officer must approve any medical certificates issued by them. Medical certificates can be obtained from the following authorized individuals:

- (i) University Medical Officer
- (ii) District Medical Officer
- (iii) Certified Medical Officer
- (iv) Consultant Specialist in the relevant field
- (v) Head of a Government Hospital
- (vi) Medical Superintendent of a Provincial Ayurvedic Government Hospital
- (vii) Ayurvedic Physician registered with the Ayurvedic Medical Council

b) Absence from Course Modules due to Other Reasons

If a student is unable to attend lectures and/or practical classes for reasons other than illness, they must inform the Programme Coordinator in writing with acceptable evidence within 14 days.

c) Absence due to Illness During an Examination Period

If a student is unable to sit for any examination in a particular semester due to illness, they must contact the University Medical Officer and inform the faculty office according to the prescribed procedure. Medical certificates obtained from external medical officers must be submitted to the Programme Coordinator within one week of returning to the faculty or recovering from the illness. These certificates will only be accepted with the approval of the University Medical Officer.

11 Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to maintain full integrity in all academic endeavors. Any use of words, formulas, or ideas that are not one's own must be properly acknowledged. Providing or receiving any unauthorized assistance on papers, examinations, or other academic work is a violation of the University's policies on academic integrity.

The consequences of cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaborations, excessive use of AI-generated content, and other forms of academic dishonesty shall be handled in accordance with the examination rules and regulations of the University.