

Research & Education: LBA Supports UN's FAO Training of Trainers Programme

LBA will support the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on Circular Economy and Biogas-Based Circular Business Models organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under its Circular Economy in the Food Sector (2024–2027) project. This residential programme is scheduled for 2–3 July 2026 at Negombo. The programme targets MSMEs, Local Authorities, and Farmer Organizations etc., to promote circular economy approaches and sustainable biogas applications. Several members of the LBA Board of Directors will serve as resource persons, delivering technical sessions on biogas technologies, anaerobic digestion science, feedstock and digestate

management, system design, construction, operation, safety, environmental compliance, and sector development. LBA members will also guide the field visit, providing practical demonstrations on the operation, maintenance and troubleshooting of biogas systems, production and utilisation of biofertilizer, use of biogas for cooking, and integration of livestock management with biogas production adopting circular economy principles. The collaboration reflects the growing recognition of LBA as a national knowledge partner and demonstrates its continued commitment to strengthening technical capacity, promoting circular economy principles, and advancing sustainable biogas development in Sri Lanka.



LBA Hony. President Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Hony. Vice President - Research & Education Prof. Nandasiri Weerasinghe, Hony. Vice President - Outreach & Awareness Dr. Athula Jayamanne and Hony. Asst. Secretary Mr. Athula Bulathgama with Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (UN FAO) officials after preliminary discussions at the UN FAO in May 2026

International Relations: LBA Participates in World Biogas Association National Associations Roundtable

LBA virtually participated in the 16th National Associations Roundtable organised by the World Biogas Association (WBA) on 15 May 2026. LBA was represented by Hony. Vice President – International Relations, Eng. Namiz Musafer, and Hony. Vice President – Research & Education, Prof. Nandasiri Weerasinghe. The roundtable brought together representatives from national biogas associations and leading institutions from China, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Sri Lanka to exchange updates on sector

developments, policies, research, and international collaboration. During the discussion, LBA highlighted Sri Lanka's four-decade experience in household biogas, the Association's volunteer-driven initiatives, expanding university research, and ongoing engagement with national and international organisations. LBA also emphasised the need for technology transfer, collaborative research, and stronger policy advocacy to promote medium-scale biogas systems in Sri Lanka. Participation in this global forum further strengthened LBA's international partnerships and knowledge exchange.

Expanding LBA's Internal Policy Framework

Following the recent development of the draft Institutional Environmental Policy, LBA continues to actively strengthen its internal governance. The environmental policy which was circulated among members for review and outlines our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint is now scheduled to be tabled for formal approval at the next LBA board meeting. Building on this foundational step, LBA intends to broaden its governance framework to ensure a highly inclusive, transparent, and equitable organizational culture. Over the next quarter, the Association will prioritize the development of three additional internal policy drafts: Disability Inclusion, Gender Equity & Social Inclusion (GESI), and Conflict of Interest Prevention. These upcoming frameworks reflect LBA's core belief that environmental sustainability must operate hand-in-hand with robust social governance. The Disability Inclusion and GESI policies will establish guidelines to ensure equal opportunity and diverse representation across all LBA initiatives. Meanwhile, the Conflict of Interest Prevention policy will further safeguard the integrity, accountability, and transparency of our administrative decisions. Similar to the environmental policy, these new drafts will undergo a comprehensive review process by the membership prior to formal approval and implementation.

Strategic Directions and Key Decisions from LBA Board Meeting

At the LBA board meeting held on June 20, 2026, chaired by Hony. Vice President Prof. Nandasiri Weerasinghe, the board outlined several corporate governance milestones, including scheduling the Annual General Meeting to prepare the new office to take their positions. Furthermore, a board position has become vacant, and members are actively seeking recommendations for a younger female professional with expertise in environmental activities or environmental law enforcement to fill the role. The secretariat is also focusing on finalizing internal policy on environment, and focusing on drafting other core internal policies covering conflict of interest, disability inclusion, and Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI). In terms of outreach and education, the previously anticipated general public webinar series has been strategically replaced by a specialized Training of Trainers (ToT) program for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The LBA website is now officially up and running and will be updated regularly, with plans to finalize and upload a new promotional leaflet on biogas. Advancing LBA's academic initiatives, the board discussed about the Most Outstanding Undergraduate Biogas Research Award 2027, where a Memorandum of Understanding is set to be signed with the University of Vavuniya (UoV)

following approval from the UoV's Faculty Board and Senate. Additionally, the association will support the university's Biogas Research Centre. Notably, the traditional approach to identifying biogas research priorities has been dropped in favor of a modernized AI-based study. On the technology and industry front, critical research is underway to properly position biogas slurry under Sri Lanka's Agriculture and Environment Regulations, an effort undertaken by Hony. Vice President Eng. Ajith Jayasuriya with terms of reference yet to be developed. The LBA is also preparing new biogas Case Studies and Biogas Technology Briefs to further industry knowledge. Internationally, the LBA continues to strengthen its global presence. Representatives recently attended the World Biogas Association's National Association Round Table virtually, and the board is actively pursuing research collaborations with Indian and global institutions while establishing new ties with biogas associations in South Africa. Looking ahead to other business matters, the LBA is organizing a Prof. Milton Amaratunga (father of biogas technology in Sri Lanka) Memorial Lecture and stands ready to provide technical inputs to the Golden Jubilee Biogas System at Badulla Madya Maha Vidyalyaya, replacing a biogas system that had been commissioned in 1976, designed by Hony. Vice President Dr. Athula Jayamanne upon request.