

Prof. (Mrs.) M.R.J.C. Mahendranaathan**Full Name:** Marina Rose Josephin Chandrakantha Mahendranathan**Date of Birth:** 08 May 1965**Nationality:** Sri Lankan**Religion:** Roman Catholic**📍 Official Address:**

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Current Position**Professor in Botany**

Department of Botany, Faculty of Science
Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Over **29 years of academic service** in teaching and research

- Expertise in plant pathology, microbiology, and postharvest technology

Research Interests

- Plant Pathology
- Postharvest Pathology and Technology
- Industrial and Environmental Microbiology
- Food Microbiology

Education & Professional Qualifications

- **PhD** (2014) – Eastern University, Sri Lanka – Conducted the research at the Cranfield University, United Kingdom as a Commonwealth Scholar of the UK.
(*Commonwealth Split-Site Scholarship*)
 - **M.Phil.** (2003) – Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya
 - **B.Sc. (Hons.) in Botany** (1995) – Eastern University, Sri Lanka
 - Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (1999) – University of Colombo
 - Overseas Training in Laboratory Management & Food Analysis – India
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Academic Experience

- Professor in Botany
 - **Associate Professor** (2021 -2023)
 - **Senior Lecturer Grade I** (2009–2021)
 - **Senior Lecturer Grade II** (2003–2009)
 - **Lecturer (Probationary)** (1997–2003)
 - **Temporary Assistant Lecturer** (1996–1997)
 - **Temporary Demonstrator** (1995–1996)
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Administrative Positions

- Head, Department of Botany (2021-2024)
 - Director, Centre for External Degrees & Extension Courses (2015–2018)
 - Director, ICT Centre (2012–2013)
 - Director, Career Guidance Unit (2004–2008)
 - Faculty Representative to Senate (multiple terms)
 - Coordinator, M.Sc. Science Education Programme
 - Student Counsellor (multiple terms)
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National & Professional Leadership

- **President**, Sri Lanka Association for Mycology and Plant Pathology (2024–2026)
- **President**, Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association (2019–2020)
- Executive Committee Member, Organization for Women in Science (Sri Lanka Chapter)
- Vice-President, Federation of University Teachers' Association (Sri Lanka)
- *Elected by the Council of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka for the post of Vice-Chancellor as “One of the nominees among the first Three” at two occasions..*

University & Professional Service

- Member, Senate – Eastern University
- Member, Faculty Board of Science
- Member, Curriculum Development Committee
- Member, Quality Assurance Cell
- Resource Person – Staff Development Centre
- Visiting Lecturer – Faculties of Technology & Agriculture

Scholarship and Awards

1. Commonwealth Scholarship for the Split-site PhD programme tenable at the United Kingdom for the year 2008.
2. Fully funded for the M.Phil. programme by the Eastern University, Sri Lanka from 1998 to 2000.
3. Asian Development Bank scholarship for three months overseas training programme in 2004.
4. Financial assistantship from National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka, for participating “2nd Asian Conference on Plant Pathology” at Singapore in 2005.

International Recognitions and Exposures as an Invited Guest Speaker;

Year	Country	Programme	Category
2026	India	“IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PLANT DISEASE AND PRODUCTIVITY”; LifeCon 2026; Bridging Life Sciences and innovation"Sadguru Gadge Maharaj College, Karad, Satara, Pune, India, affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Pune, India.	Guest Speaker
2026	India	“Science for a Sustainable Future: Innovation of Pure and Applied Research”. Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India.	Guest Speaker
2026	India	“Epidemiology, Trends and Economic Impact of Emerging Foliar Diseases in Asia”. At the International Conference in “Research Interventions & Advancements in Plant Science” Dapoli Urban Bank Senior Science College, Dapoli, India.	Guest Speaker
2025	India	“Innovations in Food Processing and Quality Assurance:, and Safety Technologies”Swami Shri Swaroopanand Saraswati Mahavidyalaya, Hudco, Bhilai, India. AICTE Training and Learning Academy (ATAL) sponsored Basic Faculty Development Program (FDP) titled “Technological Innovations in Aggrotech and Food Processing”.	Guest Speaker
2024	USA	“Drinking water quality and water-borne diseases in developing countries”. Global Alliance for Rapid Diagnostics (GARD) forum-2024; College of Engineering, Michigan state University (MSU), USA.	Guest Speaker
	India	International Conference on “Microbiology Research: Current Challenges and Future Perspectives (ICMR: CCFP-2024)”. Department of Microbiology, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, India in collaboration with International Microbiologists Society, India.	Guest Speaker
	India	3 rd International Conference and Exhibition on Sustainability, Challenges and Opportunities in Global Sugar Industry, Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI), Pune, Maharashtra, India; 12 th to 14 th January, 2004.	Guest Speaker

2023	India	International conference on ‘Microbes for Sustainable Agriculture, Animal husbandry and Environment - MSAAHE-2023	Invited Speaker
2021	India	International e-Conference on “Microbes with Entrepreneurship”	Invited Speaker
2021	India	International e-conference on “ <i>Postharvest disease management and value addition of horticultural crops</i> ”. Division of Plant Pathology, ICAR, and Indian Agricultural research Institute, New Delhi, India, 18-20, August, 2021 . pp. 138-139.	Invited Speaker
2021	India	International conference on “ Bioengineering and LifeSciences ”, held at New Arts, Commerce and Science College of the Pune University, Ahmednagar, Pune, Maharashtra.	Invited Speaker
2020	Maldives	International Conference on “Biotechnology for Better Tomorrow -2020 (BTBT-2020), Maldives University, Male, Maldives, 22-23, February, 2020 .	Invited Speaker
2019	Annamalai University, India	International Conference on “Recent Innovations in Bio-Sustainability and Environmental research (RIBER) - 2019	Invited Speaker

2018	Chicago, USA	“3 rd world congress on Medicinal Plants and Natural Products Research”	Invited Speaker
2018	Pune, India	International Conference on “Microbial Technology for Better Tomorrow (ICMTBT-2018)	Invited Speaker and Guest Lecture
2018	Pune, India	International Conference on “Nanotechnology for Human Welfare (ICNHW-2018)	Invited Speaker and Guest Lecture

2017	Pune, India	6th International conference on Recent trends in life Sciences (ICRTLS2017)	Invited Speaker
2016	New-Zealand	9 th Australasian Soil-borne Symposium	Oral Presentation of research paper
2016	Pune, India	Plant Research and Resource Management and 25 th APSI Silver Jubilee Scientists Meet 2016	Invited Speaker
2014	Dubai	International Conference on “Biotechnology and Bioengineering”	Invited Speaker
2013	Mauritius	Biotechnology for Better Tomorrow (BTBT-2013)	Oral presentation of research paper
2009	Turkey	6th International Postharvest Symposium, 2009	Oral presentation of research paper
2008-09	United Kingdom	Commonwealth Scholarship	PhD research
2005	Singapore	2 nd Asian Plant Pathology Conference – 2005” (ACPP-2005)	Oral presentation of research paper
2004	India	Asian Development Bank scholarship	International training programme (03 months)

International Referee for PhD programme

1. Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra, India
2. Islamic University, Bangladesh
3. Mangalore University - 2021

Reviewer – National and International

- “Ceylon Journal of Science”, University of Peradeniya.
- *Journal of Environmental Biology* (www.jeb.co.in)
- “Indian Phytopathology” – A peer Reviewed Journal, Springer Publication.
VINGNANAM – Journal of Science, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna.
- Journal of AGRIEAST, Journal of Agricultural Science, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.
- *Journal of Science*, Faculty of Science, EUSL
- “International Conference on Dry-Zone agriculture – 2019 (ICDA-2019)” Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna.
- Rubber Research Institute (RRI), Sri Lanka -2019.
- 2016 – International Conference of Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.
- 2015 - International Research Conference - Eastern University, Sri Lanka.
- Second Examiner and moderator for Plant Pathology and Industrial
- Microbiology, South Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Membership in Professional Organizations:

1. President of the Sri Lanka Association for Mycology and Plant Pathology, 2024-2025
2. Exco-member of National Chapter of Organization for Women in Science in Developing World
3. Board member of the Lanka Biogas Association (LBA)
4. Alumni Member – Association of Commonwealth Universities, UK and eastern University, Sri Lanka.
5. Member- American Phytopathology Society (APS)
6. Member – Sri Lanka Society for Microbiology
7. Member – Microbiologists International, India
8. Alumni Member - EUSL
9. Charter Member- of the Sri Lanka National Chapter of “Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)”, Inaugurated by the OWSD on 29th March, 2018 at the Hilton Residence, Colombo, Sri Lanka.