



UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS



# UoM VIRTUAL RESEARCH WEEK 2021

*Building Resilience through Research  
in the COVID-19 Era*

## Faculty of Agriculture

Tuesday 09 November 2021



**UoM Virtual Research Week 2021**  
**Faculty of Agriculture Virtual Research Day**  
**Tuesday 09 November 2021**

<https://zoom.us/j/91992196144?pwd=Y'TZ4UExwdFlxRkhJMzB6cVFKR3JaZz09>

**Meeting ID: 919 9219 6144**

**Passcode: 734708**

Time	Virtual Session Programme
10.45 – 11.00	Admission of Participants
11.00 – 11.05	Welcome Address by <b>Dr H. Neetoo</b> <i>Chairperson of the Faculty of Agriculture Organising Sub-Committee</i>
11.05 – 11.35	Keynote Address by Mr T. Berman <i>Regeneration Mauritius</i>
<b>ORAL SESSIONS</b>	
<b>Crop and Animal Science</b>	
<b>Session Chair: Mr K. Boodhoo</b>	
11.35 – 11.55	Agronomic performance and root characteristics of two IITA cassava ( <i>Manihot esculenta Crantz</i> ) varieties: Orniita and Blanchiita <b>Sandeeren Sunassee, Mala Gungadurdoss, Akash Doobooree and Lomlata Jeewaheer</b>
11.55 – 12.15	Progress achieved in the development and selection of local potato breeding clones in Mauritius <b>Yusuf Cadarsa and Joyce Govinden Soulangue</b>
12.15 – 12.35	Performance of new chilli varieties in different agro –climatic conditions in Mauritius <b>Banumaty Saraye and Rita Devi Nowbuth</b>
12.35 – 12.55	A ten-year status of litchi phenological response to climatic variation in Mauritius <b>Yogeeta Devi Luchoomun and Rajendr Kumar Ramnauth</b>
12.55 – 13.15	Evaluation of sugar cane trash-based ration on milk production in dairy cows <b>Geerjanand Saraye, Noor Gobindram and Parmessur Toolsee</b>

<b>Crop Pests and Diseases</b> <b>Session Chair: Assoc Prof A. Ruggoo</b>	
13.15 – 13.35	Management of the fall armyworm, <i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i> (Smith) in Mauritius <b><i>Jenny Caphane Victoire and Devi Lalsing</i></b>
13.35 – 13.55	Postharvest fungal diseases of tomatoes in Mauritius <b><i>Nooreen Mamode Ally, Hudaa Neetooo, Mala Ranghoo-Sanmukhiya, Aleksandra Bulajic and Teresa Coutinho</i></b>
13.55 – 14.15	Postharvest fungal diseases affecting potato tubers of Mauritius <b><i>Sandhya Devi Takooree, Hudaa Neetooo, Mala Ranghoo-Sanmukhiya, Aleksandra Bulajic and Jacquie van Der Waals</i></b>
14.15 – 14.35	Adopting strategic measures to mitigate effects of threatening banana diseases in Mauritius <b><i>Babita Dussorut</i></b>
14.35 – 14.55	Status of Pineapple mealybug wilt-associated virus across major pineapple growing localities in Mauritius <b><i>Arty Gungoosingh Bunwaree, Fazal Maudarbaccus and Wulf Menzel</i></b>
<b>Sustainable Production &amp; Consumption</b> <b>Session Chair: Dr H. Neetoo</b>	
14.55 – 15.15	Screening of local banana varieties as source of bast fibre from agro-wastes: Variety Dwarf Cavendish identified for further works as alternative to synthetic fibres <b><i>Babita Dussoruth, Hareenaden Ramasawmy, Jaykumar Chummun and Daneswar Puchooa</i></b>
15.15 – 15.35	Food waste generated by the Mauritian Hotel Industry <b><i>Cheetra Bhajan, Shane Hardomar, Hudaa Neetoo, Navindra Boodia, Mahindra Chooneea, Marie Françoise Driver, Dayawatee Goburdhun, Brinda Ramasawmy and Arvind Ruggoo</i></b>
<b>Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks:</b>  <b>Dr H. Neetoo</b>  <i>Chairperson of Faculty of Agriculture Organising Sub -Committee</i>	

\*Each time slot includes 5 minutes for Questions & Answers

## PARALLEL SESSION

<https://zoom.us/j/94975939303?pwd=bk4vUkQ5MEVZeEhYV1B4Mjh0QkRsdz09>

Meeting ID: 949 7593 9303

Passcode: 689629

### ORAL SESSIONS

#### Freshwater and Marine Research

Session Chair: Assoc Prof J. Govinden Soulangue

11.35 – 11.55	Genetic variation in the sea slug <i>Dolabella auricularia</i> (Lightfoot, 1786) (Mollusca: Gastropoda: <i>Aphysiidae</i> ) within Mauritius, Rodrigues Islands and the Pacific <b>Lisa Ah Shee Tee, Daneshwar Puchooa, Vishwakalyan Bhoyroo and Chandani Appadoo</b>
11.55 – 12.15	Phylogenetic studies and endosymbiotic association of soft corals in Mauritian waters <b>Deeya Jahajeeah, Vishwakalyan Bhoyroo and Mala Ranghoo-Sanmukhiya</b>
12.15 – 12.35	A comparative study of the cyanobacterial population density in Valetta reservoirs and Bagatelle Dam <b>Ballah Mohun</b>

#### Food Science

Session Chair: Dr S Santchurn

12.35 – 12.55	Surveillance of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in commercially available ready-to-eat (RTE) chilled products of the Republic of Mauritius and survivability on product packages <b>Mohammad Zishaan Sheik Manoga, Mala Ranghoo-Sanmukhiya, Hudaa Neetoo</b>
12.55 – 13.15	Measurement of food safety culture and climate in selected micro and small food manufacturing enterprises in Mauritius and Rodrigues <b>Aishah Bibi Zainab Joomun, Carol Anne Wallace, Deena Ramful-Baboolall and Badroonesha Aumjaud</b>
13.15 – 13.35	Predictive Microbiology as a Risk-Based Tool to Assess the Safety and Quality of Cooked Yellowfin Tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ) <b>Keshnee Reega, Hudaa Neetoo, Elna Buys and Anandavallee Soobhooroyen</b>
13.35 – 13.55	Effect of pectin-based edible coatings, extracted from citrus fruit peels, on the microbial quality of fresh-cut pineapples <b>Liza Cloete, Hudaa Neetoo, Deena Ramful-Baboolall, Brinda Ramasawmy, Carene Picot-Allain and Mohammad Naushad Emmambux</b>

POSTER SESSION	
13.55 – 14.05	Status of <i>Stemphylium</i> Leaf Blight Disease of Onion in Mauritius <b>Vivian Vally, Vijayanti Mala Ranghoo-Sanmukhiya, Seelavarn Ganeshan, Rajendr Kumar Ramnauth and Fazal Maudarbaccus</b>
14.05 – 14.15	Assessment of mycotoxin contamination in selected vegetables in Mauritius <b>Sandhya Devi Takooree, Nooreen Mamode Ally, Ramona Anaelle Duchenne-Mootien, Ajjmeerah Bibi Ameer Khan, Hudaa Neetoo and Mala Ranghoo-Sanmukhiya</b>
14.15 – 14.25	First report and evaluation of the biochemical composition of Ulvophyceae microalgae <i>Rhexinema paucicellulare</i> as a source of fatty acids <b>Ritesh Bhagea, Vishwakalyan Bhoyroo and Daneshwar Puchooa</b>
14.25 – 14.35	Antimicrobial and cytotoxic properties of <i>Aspergillus</i> species isolated from <i>Iotrochota</i> sp (sponge) and <i>Turbinaria conoides</i> (brown algae) <b>Jessica Melanie Wong Chin, Daneshwar Puchooa, Theeshan Bahorun, Vidushi Neergheen and Rajesh Jeewon</b>
14.35 – 14.45	Characterisation of the in-vitro antioxidant and antimicrobial activity of peel extracts of locally grown citrus fruits <b>Liza Cloete, Hudaa Neetoo, Deena Ramful-Baboolall, Brinda Ramasawmy, Carene Picot-Allain and Mohammad Naushad Emmambux</b>
14.45 – 14.55	A surveillance study of the prevalence of foodborne viruses in selected fresh salad vegetables grown in Mauritius <b>Hena Johaheer, Narvadh Devi Khooblall, Zishaan Sheik Manoga, Hudaa Neetoo, Mala Ranghoo-Sanmukhiya, Yasmina Jaufeerally-Fakim, Vishwakalyan Bhoyroo and Sunita Facknath</b>
14.55 – 15.05	Food Additives: distribution, occurrence and compliance of food products manufactured by the Small and Medium Enterprises in Mauritius <b>Dhamawatee Harnarun Etwaroo, Dayawatee Goburdhun, Arvind Ruggoo and Viswen Armoogum.</b>
<b>Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks:</b> <b>Dr H. Neetoo</b> <i>Chairperson of Faculty of Agriculture Organising Sub Committee</i>	

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