

## Contact

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[twitter.com/AkilaWijerathna](https://twitter.com/AkilaWijerathna) (Other)

## Top Skills

DNA extraction

RNA isolation

Nucleic Acid Extraction

## Languages

Hebrew (Elementary)

English (Full Professional)

Sinhalese (Native or Bilingual)

## Certifications

The Research Bazaar Data

Carpentry Digital Literacy

Planning Your Scientific Journey

Pears Foundation Alumni

Symposium in Plant Sciences - 2015

The International English Language

Testing System (IELTS™)

Skills, Pedagogical Approaches,  
Resources and Knowledge (SPARK)  
for University Learning and Teaching

## Honors-Awards

Green Super Rice Scholarship

Pears Foundation (London, UK)  
Scholarship

Pears Foundation (London, UK)  
Scholarship

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The  
International School of Agricultural  
Sciences Scholarship

## Publications

Farming for Tomorrow

# Akila Wijerathna Yapa

Agrobiotechnologist | AFHEA (UKPSF) | Graduate Research Scholar  
at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Rehovot Area, Israel

## Summary

I am passionate about applications of Omics Biology for the advancement of Agricultural Biotechnology with interests in biosecurity. My academic background is in agricultural biotechnology has imbued me with interest in the intersection of science and management. My role as a researcher is beyond research and development. I am an enabler of positive change. I help to develop the R&D infrastructure that enables organizations to develop their full potential and capabilities, so they can achieve UN SDGs within to develop innovations. I want to pursue a career where I could work on the effective inclusion of science into policy directives and management.

## Experience

Higher Education Academy

Associate Fellow

February 2020 - Present (2 months)

United Kingdom

Associate Fellowship is awarded to professionals who meet the criteria of Descriptor 1 (D1) of the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF) for teaching and supporting learning in higher education.

Areas of Activity (A1,A2), Core Knowledge (K1,K2,K3,K5), and Professional Values (V1,V2,V3,V4).

#AFHEA #HEA #AdvanceHE #HigherEducation #TeachingAndLearning

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Graduate Student

August 2014 - Present (5 years 8 months)

Israel

Analysis of constitutively active PYR/PYL/RCAR receptors in early development of Arabidopsis.

Empowering Farmers: examines the nexus between agriculture infrastructure and rural development.

Application of Biotechnology in Intra Cellular Pathogen Diagnostic of Coconut (Cocos nucifera L.) in Sri Lanka

BioTech for Business: explores the commercial viability of biotechnology

THE BIOE-CONOMY. The All-New Investment Opportunity: Sees Scope in a Biotechnology-Led Future

Identifying the function and biological role of novel protein (ABA receptor like protein) and its interactor proteins by Y2H screen with Arabidopsis cDNA library.

The Australian National University

Visiting Researcher

2019 - 2019 (less than a year)

Canberra, Australia

EMBL

Visiting Researcher

2019 - 2019 (less than a year)

Heidelberg Area, Germany

Quantitative Proteomics: Strategies and Tools to Probe Biology.

This course provided both theoretical and practical training in the use of quantitative proteomics approaches. Participants learned the principles of current methodologies including SILAC and TMT as well as targeted proteomics, and trained in the use of bioinformatic tools for data analysis.

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences

Graduate Research Scholar

September 2013 - April 2014 (8 months)

Beijing, China

Molecular Genetics and Breeding

Calcey Technologies

Biotech Information Content Coordinator

October 2012 - August 2013 (11 months)

Colombo

Work with the Development Manager to establish a process for obtaining publicly available information about life science products and reports to the content scientists of the data off-shoring partner CompareNetworks Inc, California, USA.

PR Newswire's news distribution to the target audiences across the globe. Content editing for imSMART (www.imsmartapp.com) mobile application system.

Intertek

Trainee Analyst

July 2012 - September 2012 (3 months)

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Physical and Chemical Testing to determine nutritional value, pesticides, antibiotics and contaminants of Rice, Tea, Spices, Wheat

Testing of ISO Standards for Black tea (ISO 3720:2011), Green Tea (ISO 11287:2011)

Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka

Research Student

January 2012 - July 2012 (7 months)

Lunuwila, Sri Lanka

Molecular Diagnosis of Plant Pathogen in Coconut "Intra cellular Pathogen" CCCVd

Department Of Agriculture ,Sri Lanka

Research Student, Rice Research and Development Institute- BG

January 2011 - September 2011 (9 months)

Bathalagoda, Sri Lanka

Screening of Sri Lanakan Traditional Rice varieties for fragrance in molecular level "badh2 gene" and  
Screening of fragrant rice for salt tolerance

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## Education

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Master of Science of Agriculture (M.Sc.) , Plant Sciences · (2015 - 2017)

Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya

Molecular and Applied Microbiology (Plant Protection) · (2013 - 2014)

Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

Bachelor of Science of Agriculture (B.Sc.)

(Hons.), Biotechnology · (2008 - 2012)

Ibbagamuwa Central College, Kurunegala

Secondary Education · (1999 - 2007)

Gonigoda Maha Vidyalaya, Kurunegala

Primary Education · (1994 - 1998)