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Editorial Forward

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Volume 15, Issue 2 of the Journal of Environmental Professionals Sri Lanka (JEPSL). This issue brings together eight contributions that, read side by side, trace the breadth of environmental scholarship being undertaken in Sri Lanka and by our regional and international collaborators, spanning industrial pollution control, climate resilience, renewable energy, and biodiversity conservation.

Two studies in this issue address the environmental footprint of small-scale industry and the technologies available to manage it. Wijayasenarathne and Dilini apply a gate-to-gate Life Cycle Assessment to batik saree production, identifying dyeing and boiling as the principal hotspots for water, energy, and ecotoxicity, and pointing to heat recovery and natural wax substitution as practical mitigation pathways. Complementing this, Wijekoon and colleagues examine the use of biomass-derived bottom ash as a low-cost adsorbent for removing textile azo reactive dyes from wastewater, offering a circular-economy response to the very effluent challenges the batik study identifies. Together, these papers underscore how process-level data and waste-derived materials can be marshalled to make Sri Lanka's textile and craft industries more sustainable.

Climate resilience is examined from two very different vantage points. Priyadarshani, Kumudini, and Kumara present a systematic review of crop yield studies on rice and tea, synthesizing what is known about climate risk and adaptive capacity in Sri Lanka's two most economically significant crops. Weerasinghe, Perera, and Jayasinghe turn to the coast, assessing how climate variability is reshaping the tourism sector that underpins so much of Sri Lanka's coastal economy. Read together, these studies remind us that climate adaptation is not confined to any one sector, and that agriculture and tourism will need coordinated, evidence-based responses.

On the energy front, Dickmadugoda, Prashantha, and Fernando offer a timely critical review asking whether Sri Lanka can become a regional hub for algal biodiesel production. Their assessment of ecological potential and technological readiness is a valuable contribution to the national conversation on reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Finally, three papers advance our understanding of biodiversity and natural capital. Oyebade, Areo, Ajayi, and Amao-Onidundu compare volume estimation methods for young teak plantations in Nigeria, work with clear relevance to forest inventory practice in Sri Lanka's own plantation sector. Samarakoon and Rathnasri document the diversity and abundance of macrobenthic fauna across the mangrove, saltmarsh, and tidal flat ecosystems of Baththalangunduwa Island, reaffirming the ecological value of these often-overlooked coastal habitats. And Rathnayake and colleagues evaluate tree diversity and carbon sequestration potential in Kandyan home gardens, a traditional agroforestry system that continues to offer lessons for climate-smart land use.

Taken as a whole, this issue reflects JEPSL's continuing commitment to publishing rigorous, locally grounded environmental research with practical relevance for policy and practice. I extend my sincere thanks to the authors for their contributions, to our peer reviewers for their careful and constructive evaluations, and to the editorial board for their continued support. I hope readers will find in these pages both new findings and new questions worth pursuing.

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