

Capacity Building Programme in Social Science Research and Policy Advocacy

Date: 9th January 2026

Time: 09:00 a.m. – 15:00 p.m.

Venue: Narayanasami Conference Hall - Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute

The Capacity Building Training Programme on **Social Science Research and Policy Advocacy** was successfully conducted on **9 January 2026** at the Narayanasami Conference Hall of the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI). The programme brought together early- to mid-career social scientists, alongside experienced academics, to strengthen research capacity and enhance policy advocacy skills.

The programme was organized under the leadership of the **Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS), Section F (Social Sciences)**, in collaboration with the **Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI)**, the **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) – South Asia Office, New Delhi**, the **University of Kelaniya**, and the **Sri Lanka Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA)**.

The training programme aimed to foster a vibrant community of researchers committed to continuous engagement with fellow researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders. It emphasized the adoption of best practices in identifying research priorities, conducting high-quality social science research, and effectively communicating research findings to inform policy and practice. The inaugural programme featured Dr. Suresh Babu, Research Fellow Emeritus at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), as the principal resource person, marking the official launch of this capacity-building initiative.



Dr. Prakrama Weligamage, General President, SLAAS

Dr. Suresh Babu, Research Fellow, IFPRI



Group Photo