

Bodhi Dhanapala <bodhi_dhana@yahoo.com>

To:Gamini Seneviratne,Chandre dharma-wardana

Cc:Vijaya Kumar,B.F.A. Basnayake,Nimal Chandrasena,Chandra Dissanayake,Buddhi Marambe
etc

Mon., Dec. 13 at 10:58 a.m.

I only saw Prof. Sirimal Premakumara's posting on how to make the best use of biodiversity ... etc, from the webpage <https://dh-web.org/green/BFF> as I did not get the email. I think that is another email list different from this one.

Professor Sirimal Premakumara wants to make food "toxin free" by a whole-sale embrace of organic fertilizers where he wants to "MAKE HIS OWN FERTILIZE" to be SAFE.

You might find him digging in Eppawala every weekend with a spade and a bucket to take home some phosphate.

I had grave misgivings on Sirimal Premakumara's posting, but decided to wait before I voice my views. Now that Professor Dharmawardana has cleared up the air, I am sufficiently strengthened to state my misgivings on what Professor Premakumara has said.

Dr. Dharmawardana suggests that organic agriculture people should be done as a form of "NICHE AGRICULTURE" for the limited market of those who buy "organic", while modern agriculture is to carry the burden of feeding the masses and evolve towards better and better ecological stewardship.

But I disagree with this concessionary view of Dr. Dharmawardana, of given a place to organic farming, especially in the context of Sri Lanka.

An enclave of organic agriculture is a plot of land containing several crops where at least one (e.g., tomato or potato) may be subject to some prevailing crop infection, e.g., a virus or fungus. The organic farm, with no real protection (although the organic people will say allelopathic inter-cropping will help), will be ravaged by the virus or fungus and the pest will become sufficiently numerous to spread and even mutate in full force to attack even the conventionally grown agricultural areas that may be using suitable pesticides. So our food system gets threatened if a niche is allowed to organic agriculture.

This is entirely similar to countries where a large number of anti-vaccine people refuse to get vaccinated, get infected, and allow the virus to thrive, mutate and infect other people. Small countries like Austria, Switzerland and such countries have made it illegal for you to not get vaccinated. In the same way, I believe that organic farms in Sri Lanka CANNOT be isolated from the rest of the agricultural system. So, organic farming should be BANNED in Sri Lanka unless the farm owners can establish that they can strictly isolate their plots. [Of course, in

big countries like Canada such isolation is possible, and policing is better. So organic farming under controlled conditions is possible].

Let me now return to Prof. Sirimal P (SPremakumara) declaration that those who hold opinion's that are different from him are "UNEDUCATED".

Professor Sirimal P says:

Well... we cannot blame our Agricultural scientists for this as they are trained/mandated to concentrate on primary metabolism, that is the production of biomass. If they are educated, they will realize the importance of secondary metabolism and will definitely think about the importance of soil conservation and ecosystem management in agricultural lands and how important is **toxin free ecological agriculture.**

(I have put the toxin free part in big words)

Educated people do not cast reflections on others, especially those they are trying to engage in discussion.

So we have to grant that Prof. Sirimal P has not written this, but he has been constrained to write this under the influence of secondary metabolites some of which may intoxicate him, and in seeing the folly of these imbeciles, i.e., the set of agricultural scientists who did not join the toxin free ecological agriculture. They are like Pavlov's dogs trained to concentrate on primary metabolism, while the scientists who are supporters of the Toxin-free ecological agriculture are more educated, wealthier and more interested in "secondary metabolism".

Of course, the primary stuff gives you food, while the secondary stuff gives you not only flavours, intoxicants that make you high, but also gives allergies, asthmas and all sorts of natural poisons that are OK (?) in the envisaged Toxin-free ecology.

Prof SP says:

So in essence, application of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and other non eco friendly inputs are detrimental to soil.

Professor Dharmawardana, has attached the link

<https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/public-fears-about-modern-agriculture-pesticides-the-emergence-of-the-two-tier-food-market/>

to an article from six years ago. I looked at it, and it gives details of an experiment by Dr. Bandara et al on comparing organic and conventional farming.

It also points out that the most important non-ecofriendly inputs are from diesel and petrol vehicles, plastic and e-waste, pharmaceuticals from human urine etc., coming Add to them the vast consumption of illicit kassippu and market alcohol, cigarette smoking etc., adulterated food items, Dr. Premakumara is wrongly worrying about agrochemicals detected in parts per billion, while ignoring the avalanche of other toxins and pollutants.

Shouldn't the toxin-free people begin their campaign by stopping all cars and going back to the horse cart and the buggy to cut down fossil-fuel pollution? If that is impractical, starving the people to save secondary metabolites of phyto-chemical reactions to retain some flavours for the palate of the elite is even more impractical.

1. If the soil is good and fertile you DON'T add fertilizers, synthetic or otherwise, and Prof. SP knows that.
2. If the soil is lacking in N, P, K, S etc., this biodiversity that Prof. Sirimal P is thinking of will NOT be found in that ecosystem. Prof. SP knows that. To have good secondary metabolites, you need good supply of N, P, K etc.
3. So, since Sirimal P seems to consider that synthetic fertilizers, pesticides are NON-ecofriendly, what would he do if the area is hit by caterpillars, locusts, viral attacks etc.? He will agree that a different tactic is needed to survive?
4. Has he not read that even in ancient times there were attacks of locusts that arrive periodically and destroy whole NATURAL VEGETATIONS? Each locust can consume 2g of vegetation every day – combined, a swarm of 80 million can consume food equivalent to that eaten by 35,000 people a day. In 2020, locusts have swarmed in large numbers in dozens of countries too poor to use modern agriculture and modern pesticides, in countries like Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia, Eritrea, India, Pakistan, Iran, Yemen, Oman etc. Usually the locusts attack those parts which are grown using traditional agriculture (the "eco-friendly stuff" that Dr. Sirimal P is willing to approve of) and become numerous enough to invade even the farming areas where insecticide is used, but then to no avail as there are too many locusts. Of course Prof. SP knows all this.
5. Since Ayurveda is "so very scientific" (according to Dr. Premakumar) why use vaccines when we can use herbal medicines or "natural cures". Even Dr. Channa Jayasumana who wrote an article supporting the *Dhammika Paneiya* and divine communications (glowingly reproduced in the Lankaweb) is now asking people to take vaccines.

According to the "very scientific Ayurveda", diseases are not caused by vaccines, but by disequilibrium of the humours (vaa, pith, sem etc.)? Or, diseases are caused by the wrong dasaava defined by the planetary positions, or by the mal-influence of Bhootayas and Perethayas.

I have just a few questions to ask from Prof. Sirimal P?

What is a toxin?

Is Vitamin A a toxin?

Even 300 milligrams is dangerous

But does it become beneficial if you take less than 1 milligram?

Do you advise your students to remain vitamin free?

Is fluoride a toxin?
Is sugar NOT a toxin?