

resources is taking place due to the rapid growth of human population. It threatens to deplete natural resources.

Overuse of natural resources causes various environmental problems.

- Environmental pollution
- Biodiversity damage
- Desertification

Natural resources and the environment must be managed to curb these problems. Knowledge of biology can help to solve these problems.

Sustainable Food Production

Sustainable food production is the production of enough food for the human population using environmentally friendly methods.

The current human population is about 7 billion. That number is expected to double in less than 40 years. Therefore, sustainable food production is essential for human survival.

The following methods based on biological knowledge can be used for sustainable food production.

- Production of high yielding plant and animal varieties
- Production of plant and animal varieties resistant to diseases
- Development of post harvest technology.

Understanding Plant Life

Plants are the world's primary producers. All animals depend directly or indirectly on plants. Therefore an understanding of plant life is important. Productivity must increase with the growth of the human population. Therefore, an understanding of plant function and biology is important for high yielding plants and diseases such as disease resistant.

Understanding Diseases And Their Causes

Knowledge of diseases, their causes and their effects is essential for maintaining a healthy human body. In today's world dangerous non-communicable diseases include cancer, heart disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and infectious diseases such as dengue and AIDS.

- Cancer – The causes of this are not yet fully understood. This disease is a leading cause of death.
- AIDS – A viral disease that is a serious health problem that is spreading around the world.
- Heart attack – A serious health problem that is spreading around the world. The reasons for this have not yet been fully identified.
- Chronic Kidney Disease – Chronic Kidney Disease (CKDu) is a serious health problem in Sri Lanka. Scientists are currently working on the prevention, treatment and cure of these diseases.