	PERSONAL INFORMATION	Milani Bhagya Samarasinghe
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Date of birth: August, 1990 | Married, have 2 kids

I am interested in research related to novel nutritional (i.e., feed supplements, enzymes, processing techniques) interventions for dairy cows and calves, with a major focus on sustainable dairy cattle nutrition in terms of reduced nitrogen emissions and healthier animals.

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EDUCATION	
2018 – 2022	PhD at Aarhus University, Denmark
	Title: Intact seaweeds as functional milk supplements for preweaning dairy calves (Supervisors: Dr. Mogens Vestergaard, Dr. Lorenzo E Hernandez Castellano, Dr. Jakob Sehested)
	Overall objective was to improve the systemic immune and gut health status of preweaning calves through supplementation of cow milk with 3 different seaweeds as prebiotic milk supplements.
2016 - 2018	Double degree European Master in Sustainable Animal Nutrition and Feeding (EM-SANF)
	 Double degree from Aarhus University, Denmark & University of Debrecen, Hungary
	 Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands - Introductory and coordinating
	Dissertation title: Effect of physical treatment (i.e. shredding) of green forages on silage density and fermentation quality (Main supervisor: Prof. Martin Riis Weisbjerg, Aarhus University)
2010 – 2014	Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Fisheries University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (SL)
EMPLOYMENT	
Oct 2022 - to date	Post-doctoral researcher at Aarhus University-Viborg, Denmark
	Focus: Nutritional interventions (e.g., manipulation of dietary metabolizable proteins and cation anion difference) during dry cow and fresh cow period and subsequent effects on body metabolism and milk production of Danish Holstein dairy cows.
	Tasks so far: Participation in project meetings, reviewing research articles for conceptualization of research ideas, conducting on-farm experiments, sample collection, data accumulation and statistical analysis, publication of results in international conferences and high index journals, communication of results to project partners, discussion of potential research questions for grant applications, coordination of laboratory work.
	PhD fellow at Aarhus University-Foulum, Denmark
Sep 2018 - 2022	My main duties were: 1). Planning, execution, and completion of two experimental trials, 2). Sample collection, processing, planning, and coordination of laboratory analysis at AU-Foulum and in collaboration with ETH Zürich, Switzerland and DTU, DK, 3). Dissemination of results via publishing 4 research articles in well-recognized journals, and presenting at 3 international conferences (Germany, USA and Switzerland), 4). Achieving the project deadlines and delivering the results to the stakeholders at project meetings, 5). Teaching and supervision of MSc students, 6). Peer reviewed research articles at journals "Journal of Tropical Animal Health and Production" and "Journal of Animal and Feed Sciences". 7). I was a student representative in the PhD programme committee at Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences.
2015-2016	Research Assistant, FAnGR Asia Project, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (SL) Assistant lecturer (temporary), Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, SL
AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS	
2016	Erasmus Mundus: Erasmus+ scholarship grant (worth 30 000 € and free tuition) for studying the double degree EM-SANF (from European Union)
2014	Received a scholarship/monetary grant from a collaborative project between SL and South Korea
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	
Research articles	 <u>https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Milani-Samarasinghe</u> (Please refer for complete list) Samarasinghe, M. B., L. E. Hernández-Castellano, N. B. Kristensen, M. Larsen. 2025. Arterial blood ionized calcium activity in periparturient Holstein cows fed an alkaline low energy density or acidified high energy density close-up prepartum diets (ready for submission to Animal). Samarasinghe, M. B., J. Sehested, M. R. Weisbjerg, M. E. van der Heide, J. V. Nørgaard, M. Vestergaard, L. H. Hernández-Castellano. 2021. Feeding milk supplemented with <i>Ulva</i> sp

Technical/Lab skills	 Digesta and blood sample collection from calves and cannulated cows Use of markers for determining digestibility (e.g. Cr-EDTA and TiO₂) Analysis of blood plasma for immune components (e.g., ELISA) and analysis of digesta for VFA profile (gas chromatography), ammonia concentration (Cobas Mira auto-analyzer) and L-lactate concentration (YSI 2900 analyzer)
Languages	English – fluent, Danish – competent
PERSONAL SKILLS	
2019-2022	Gut biology and health (AU-Foulum, DK), Biomarkers, sensors and physiology (Estonian university of life sciences, Estonia), Global Food Venture Programme – stage I (EIT Food, EU), Mathematical modeling in biological systems (University of California Davis, USA), Introduction to chemometrics and metabolomics (AU-Food, DK) Feed ration planning in dairy cattle herds (AU-Foulum, DK), Animal experimentation course (FELASA category B license) (AU-Foulum, DK)
EXTRA TRAINING/ COURSES	-
2017/2018	MSc thesis and internship were industrial research projects, in collaboration with Kverneland Group, Kerteminde, Denmark and DuPont Nutrition and Biosciences, Aarhus, Denmark, respectively.
2018/2021	Collaborated with a project (<u>https://tangnu.wordpress.com/</u>) having industrial partners (for my PhD)
2023	Collaborated with an EU project "Algae and Climate" – partners were from France, Italy, the Netherlands and Denmark- I reviewed research articles related to use of algae to reduce methane emissions in dairy cows and normative values for mathematical calculations in deciding feeding limits.
OUTREACH TO INDUSTRY	
Conference Proceedings	Samarasinghe, M. B. , Yu, S., Weisbjerg, M. R., Larsen, M. 2019. Effect of abomasal infusion of exogenous starch-digesting enzymes on small intestinal starch digestibility of lactating dairy cows. Proceedings of international symposium on ruminant nutrition and physiology, 3rd - 6th September 2019, Leipzig, Germany. pp: 531
	Samarasinghe, M. B., M. Larsen, M. Johansen, P. Waldemar, and M. R. Weisbjerg. 2019. Effects of shredding on silage density and fermentation quality. Grass Forage Sci. 74:244-253. https://doi.org/10.1111/gfs.12424
	Samarasinghe, M. B., J. Sehested, M. R. Weisbjerg, M. Vestergaard, L. H. Hernández-Castellano. 2021. Milk supplemented with dried seaweed affects the systemic innate immune response in preweaning dairy calves. In press J. Dairy Sci. 104:3575–3584. <u>https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2020-</u> 19528
	Samarasinghe, M. B., M. E. van der Heide, M. R. Weisbjerg, J. Sehested, J. J. Sloth, A. Bruhn, M. Vestergaard, J. V. Nørgaard, L. H. Hernández-Castellano. 2021. A descriptive chemical analysis of seaweeds, Ulva sp., Saccharina latissima and Ascophyllum nodosum harvested from Danish and Icelandic waters. Anim. Feed Sci. Technol. 278: 115005. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anifeedsci.2021.115005
	Ascophyllum nodosum, or Saccharina latissima to preweaning dairy calves: Effects on growth, gut microbiota, gut histomorphology, and short-chain fatty acids in digesta. J. Dairy Sci. 104: 12117-12126. https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2021-20680