

### **Extension of post harvest life of fresh banana using vacuum packaging techniques.**

Banana is one of the most important and economical fruit crops in Sri Lanka. However, the high post harvest loss of 20-80% was occurred after ripening due to poor keeping quality of ripen banana. Hence, a study was conducted to identify a cost effective method of prolonging the shelf life of banana variety "Embul" using vacuum packaging techniques. The result of the study conducted with fresh banana hands dipped in hot water for 20 minutes and air dried and then treated with 5% ethanol by spraying on hands followed by vacuum packaging them in low density polyethylene (LDPE) was found to be the best treatment to extent the shelf life up to 24 days under ambient conditions.