

Lifelines

Cigdem Kilicariskan Ozkan graduated from Ege University Department of Leather Engineering in 2008. The same year she started to M.Sc. She studied on extraction of vegetable tanning materials. She joined the staff of Leather Engineering Department as research assistant in 2010 and completed her PhD in 2018. Her research activities and fields of interests are tanning materials, extraction techniques, modification of biopolymers and leather technologies.

Fitsum Etefa Ahmed is a senior researcher and lecturer at Bahir Dar University, EiTEX, since 2015. He is also serving as a Director of Leather Processing and Product Research and Innovation Centre at Bahir Dar University, EiTEX, since March 2020. He holds MSc Degree in Leather Product Design and Engineering from Bahir Dar University, in 2018. He served as Leather Engineering Program Head at Bahir Dar University, EiTEX from Sept 2018 to March 2020. He has mentored total of 28 undergraduate students in data collection and analysis for their BSc Thesis and guided the students in preparation and presentation of research findings since 2015. He has more than 7 published articles in internationally reputable journals.

Kefyalew Alemayehu Wondmagegn is an associate professor who has a PhD in animal genetics and breeding. He worked as an Animal and animal by-product management, processing and marketing expert, particularly on raw hides and leather from 1993-1994. He was a department head at Bahir Dar University for 4 years. Currently, he is working at Bahir Dar University as a Lecturer and senior researcher since 2003. He is participating in different administration positions including Director of Biotechnology Research Institute, Animal Genetics and Breeding postgraduate coordinator. Pro. Kefyalew conducted different research studies on animal issues and has around 55 research articles published in internationally reputable journals.

Mwinyikione Mwinyihija is an internationally recognized scientist in the field of the leather industry, and the Executive Director of Africa Leather and Leather Product Institute (ALLPI). Prof. Mwinyihija received his Ph.D. in Environmental Science (Ecotoxicology and Bioremediation related to the Tanning Industry) at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. Later, he undertook a Post-Doc leading to DSc (Remediation and Tannery Waste Management) at the Atlantic University, USA. To enrich his leadership and managerial skills he pursued a doctorate degree in management which lead to D.Mngt. from SMC-University, Switzerland with a dissertation 'Conceptualization of Opportunity Management towards Value

Addition Strategy for the Leather Sector in Kenya'. Prof. Mwinyihija has been awarded D.Phil. award in Management from UCN-Nicaragua. Prof. Mwinyihija has published numerous papers and books in internationally reputable journals and book publishers and a reviewer in various prestigious peer-reviewed journals.

Tamrat Tesfaye is a Scientific Director of the Ethiopian Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology (EiTEX) at the Vice president level of Bahir Dar University. Associate Professor Tamrat Tesfaye also a Lecturer and senior researcher at the University and has more than 70 research articles in reputable publication journals. He has worked at Bahir Dar University since 2011. Associate Professor Tamrat Tesfaye holds Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Howard College, KwaZulu-Natal University, South Africa in May 2019 and has MSc in Textile Technology from Bahir Dar University in 2012. He has been a Co-principal Investigator and Tutor at Howard College, KwaZulu-Natal University, South Africa from 2015 - 2018. He worked as a Material research Laboratory Head at ADC Research and Development PLC, Ethiopia from June 2013-August 2014.

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R. Renganath Rao obtained his B. Tech and M.S (By research) in Leather Technology from Anna University during the year 2014 and 2018, respectively. He then worked as a Senior Research Fellow at Inorganic and Physical Chemistry Laboratory of CSIR-CLRI for his doctoral work. Subsequently, he joined as a Scientist at Leather Process Technology Department, CLRI in the year 2020. His research work includes bioprocessing of leather, solid waste management, functional leather coatings based on organic-inorganic hybrid materials and multifunctional polymers for leather processing.

Deepika Arathanaikotti earned her B.Sc and M.Sc Degree in Chemistry from Stella Maris College, University of Madras. She was working as a Project Assistant in CSIR-CLRI (2013-2018). She also received CSIR- Senior Research Fellowship (2018-2021) and she is currently pursuing her PhD degree in Anna university. Her field of interest includes Leather Tanning Chemistry.

Mohammed Abu Javid completed his Diploma and B. Tech course in Leather Technology from Institute of Leather Technology and Anna University, respectively. Prior to joining CSIR-CLRI as a technical assistant, he worked in leather manufacturing industries and obtained experience in post-tanning and finishing operations. His research interests include greener leather processing and commercial level implementation of cleaner leather processing technologies developed at CSIR-CLRI.

Karthik Vijayarangan secured his B. Tech and M. Tech in Leather Technology from Anna university. He then joined M/s. Tata International, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh where he obtained his experience in leather manufacturing. After that he joined CSIR-CLRI, Chennai as a Scientist and currently working as Senior Scientist at Regional Centre - Jalandhar, CSIR-CLRI. His research interests include cleaner leather processing technologies.

Xiang Zhong is a postgraduate student at Sichuan University, China. He is working at industrial enzyme application technology , mainly the mechanism and application of glycosidase for leather manufacture. He is under the guidance of Prof. Biyu Peng.

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Jinzh Song received a master's degree in leather science and engineering from Qilu University of Technology, China, in June 2021. And now, she is a Ph.D. student at Sichuan University, China, and working at the application of glycosidases and proteases in the leather manufacturing process. She is under the guidance of Prof. Biyu Peng.

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