

Foreword

Welcome to the **Second Issue 2013** of the Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science (JTAS)!

JTAS is an open access journal for the Tropical Agricultural Science published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university and run on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

In this issue, there are **8 articles** published; out of which **2 articles** are short communication and **6 articles** are regular research papers. The authors of these articles vary in country of origin (**Malaysia, Nigeria, and Iran**).

The short communications in this issue report an update made by the group of researchers in Malaysia. One of the groups has successfully isolate the mitochondrial control region of White-nest Swiftlets (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*) by using the Primer Walking techniques (*Goh, W. L., Lim C. K. and Rahman, M. A.*) while the other research group has successfully identified sexes of Colugo (*Galeopterus variegatus*) by using the gliding motion photography technique (*Dzulhelmi M. N. and Suriyanti S. N. P.*).

The regular articles cover a wide range of topics. Group of researchers from University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria share their findings that the different particle size of pelletized chicken's feed will affect the carcass characteristics and intestinal morphology of Broiler chicken (*Aderibigbe, O. B., Sogunle, O. M., Egbeyale, L. T., Abiola, S. S., Ladokun, O. A. and Ajayi, O. L.*).

Researchers from Universiti Putra Malaysia reported that the use of different extraction methods towards the marine microalgae *Nannochloropsis oculata* and *Chaetoceros gracilis* will yield a different composition of fatty acid and carotenoid yield (*Loh, S. P. and Lee, S. P.*), soil factors and soil types will influence a heavy metals concentration in medicinal plants (*Dayang S. N. and I. Che Fauziah*) and the appropriate desorption isotherm model for a Malaysian rough rice variety (MR219) was derived by comparing five most commonly used desorption models (*M. Nordin Ibrahim, K. Tajaddodi Talab, S. Spotar, Kharidah, M. and Rosnita, A. T.*).

Besides Universiti Putra Malaysia, researchers from Universiti Malaysia Sabah have identified a potential bacterial that play a role in bacteria-algae association of toxin-producing *Pyrodinium bahamense* var. *compressum* (Böhm) that contribute to paralytic shellfish poisoning (*Chin G. J. W. L., Teoh P. L., Kumar S. V. and Anton A.*). I conclude with the researchers from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia in which they successfully evaluated the protein hydrolysate produced from Mentarang (*Pholas orientalis*) (*Normah, I. and Nurfazlika Nashrah, M. P.*).

I anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought provoking, and hopefully useful in setting up new milestones. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the contributors; namely the authors, reviewers and editors for their professional contributions who have made this issue feasible. Last but not the least the editorial assistance of the journal division staff is fully appreciated.

JTAS is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

Chief Executive Editor

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