

Foreword

Welcome to the **Second Issue 2014** 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.

This issue contains **eight articles**, out of which **one** is a review article and **seven** are regular research papers. The authors of these articles are from **Malaysia, India, Iran and Indonesia**.

The review paper discusses senescence and postharvest studies of cut flowers (*Pooja Rani* and *Narender Singh*). Postharvest events in floricultural crops reflecting petal senescence are reviewed in this paper. This review also pays attention to issues related to carbohydrate metabolism and change in anthocyanin pigmentation during postharvest life.

The seven research papers cover a wide range of topics. In the first research paper, researchers from Universiti Putra Malaysia examine the enzyme activities of the contents of the pancreas and small intestines in the Malaysian village chicken and broiler strains (*Khalid K. Kadhim, Md Zuki Abu Bakar, Noordin Mohamed Mustapha, Mohd Amin Babjee* and *Mohd Zamri Saad*). The next research paper discusses the responses by gut-associated and bronchus-associated lymphoid tissues of buffalo calves following oral exposure to *Pasteurellamultocida* B:2 (*M. S. Abu Bakar, Mohd Zamri Saad, S. Jasni* and *Zuki Abu Bakar*). The following research paper, which was done locally at Merbok, Malaysia, shows that the use of different lime sources on an acid sulphate soil will significantly increase rice production (*Elisa Azura Azman, Shamshuddin Jusop, Che Fauziah Ishak* and *Roslan Ismail*).

The next research paper discusses the effect of cattle grazing on *Mimosa pudica* L. in the tropical pasture system (*Majid Ajorlo, Ramdzani Abdullah, Ridzwan Abdul Halim* and *Mahboubeh Ebrahimian*) while the following research paper discusses on stored carbon in the dominant seaweeds (*Enteromorpha intestinalis, Ulvalactuca* and *Catenellarepens*) of the Indian Sundarbans (*Mitra, A., Zaman, S., Pramanick, P., Bhattacharyya, S. B.* and *Raha, A. K.*).

Researchers from the Sriwijaya University, Indonesia have studied the effect of mixed viral infection and growth stage on chilli (*Capsicum annum* L.) production (*Nurhayati Damiri*). The last research paper is from a group of researchers from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia who successfully report on a new species of endoparasitoid associate with beet armyworm, *Spodopteraexigua* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidea) from Malaysia using DNA barcode (*Ghazali, S. Z., Md-Zain, B. M.* and *Yaakop, S.*).

I anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. 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 who have made this issue possible. Last but not 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.

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