

Foreword

Welcome to the **First Issue 2016** 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 **eleven articles**, out of which one is a review paper, eight are regular papers and two are case reports. The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, **Malaysia, Nigeria** and **Bangladesh**.

The review paper aims to briefly cover four decades of research done on bioactive compounds, nutritional composition, biotechnological applications and antibacterial activities in *Scenedesmus* spp (*Ishaq, A. G., Matias-Peralta, H.M., and Basri, H.*). The eight articles cover a wide range of topics. In the first research paper, 168 one-week old pullet chicks of Nera® strain were used to evaluate the effects of malted sorghum sprouts in the diet of pullet chickens (*A. O. Fafiolu, A. V. Jegede, O.O. Oduguwa and M. A. Adebule*). The other papers are a study of bioproteins production from palm oil agro-industrial wastes by *Aspergillus terreus* UniMAP AA-1 strain (*Khadijah Hanim Abdul Rahman, Siti Jamilah Hanim Mohd Yusof and Zarina Zakaria*); an assessment of genetic variation in selected germplasms of white jute (*Corchorus capsularis* L.) (*M. J. Alam, M. E. A. Pramanik, Jannatul Ferdous and M. M. Islam*); an analysis of the characterisation of pathogenesis-related genes and resistance gene candidates in banana (*Musa acminata*) and their expression during host-pathogen interaction (*Chee-Yong Yang, Sathyapriya, H. and Mui-Yun Wong*); a study to determine the phenological stages of torch ginger inflorescence (*Etlingera elatior*) from emergence of rhizome to full bloom using the extended BBCH scale (*Choon, S.Y., Ding, P., Mahmud, T. M. M. and Shaari, K.*); a retrospective study to evaluate the growth and reproductive performance of farmed timorensis deer, *Cervus timorensis* (*M. Alif Zakaria, M. Zamri-Saad, A. H. Hasliza and H. Wahid*); a study to evaluate the copper and zinc levels of various rice soils of Peninsular Malaysia (*Babar, S. K., Khanif, Y. M. and Samsuri, A. W.*); and finally, a study to determine the effects of water and nitrogen stress on the vegetative and yield parameters of *Brassica chinensis* var. *parachinensis*, commonly known as choy sum (*Khairun, N. K., Teh, C. B. S. and Hawa, Z. E. J.*).

The first case report describes the use of a standing frontonasal bone flap (SFF) to treat a case of primary sinusitis affecting the right frontal and maxillary sinuses in a horse (*Khairuddin, N. H. and Mimi Armiladiana, M.*) while the second describes the procedure of bladder tube cystotomy to relieve progressing bladder distention in a Saanen buck with obstructive urolithiasis (*Khairuddin, N. H., R. Mansor, R. Radzi and M. Y. Loqman*).

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.

Chief Executive Editor

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