

Foreword

Welcome to the **Second Issue 2017** 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 **10 articles**, out of which **two** are review papers and **eight** are regular papers. The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, **Malaysia, Iraq, Indonesia** and **Thailand**.

The first review paper aims to briefly cover the utilisation of oil palm fronds as ruminant feed and its effect on fatty acid metabolism (*Ghani, A. A. A., Rusli, N. D., Shahudin, M. S., Goh Y. M., Zamri-Saad, M., Hafandi, A. and Hassim, H. A.*). The second review paper focusses on the formation and utilisation of acid sulfate soils in Southeast Asia for sustainable rice cultivation (*J. Shamsuddin, Q. A. Panhwar, F. J. Alia, M. A. R. S. Shazana, O. Radziah and C. I. Fauziah*).

The eight regular papers cover a wide range of topics. In the first research paper, the effects of soaking periods and adhesive concentrations on the properties of phenol-formaldehyde-resin-treated oil palm wood was studied (*Khairunnisha, I. P. N., Bakar, E. S., Rachel, J. L., Halis, R. and Choo, A. C. Y.*). The next paper discusses the hypo-osmotic swelling test modification to enhance cell membrane integrity evaluation in cryopreserved bull semen (*Baiee, F. H., Wahid, H., Rosnina, Y., Ariff, O. M., Yimer, N., Salman, H., Tarig, A. A. and Khumran, A. M.*). The other papers are studies on: effects of shading and fertiliser on the growth and antioxidant content of olives (*Olea europaea* L.) (*Arlinda Puspita Sari, Triadiati Triadiati and Diah Ratnadewi*); enhancing solubility of curcumin in turmeric oleoresin for

improving productive performance of broiler chickens (*Porn-anek, P. and Promkot, C.*); translocation and elimination of Cu in *avicennia marina* (*Martuti, N. K. T., Widianarko, B. and Yulianto, B.*); utilisation of local crops as alternative media for fungal growth (*Wongjiratthiti, A. and Yottakot, S.*); a comparison of ossicle-shape and 12s rRNA gene-sequencing techniques for species identification of *gamat*-based *beche-de-mer* from Langkawi Island, Kedah (*Kamarul Rahim Kamarudin, Maryam Mohamed Rehan, Hanina Mohd Noor, Nur Zazarina Ramly and Aisyah Mohamed Rehan*); and finally, the role of heritability as being higher than genetic variability in the estimated selection response of soybean lines on tidal swamp land (*Heru Kuswantoro*).

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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