

## Foreword

Welcome to the Third Issue of 2019 for the Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science (JTAS)!

JTAS is an open-access journal for studies in Tropical Agricultural Science published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 19 articles; 2 are review articles, 1 is short communication and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Phillipines, Thailand and United Kingdom.

Articles submitted in this issue cover various scopes of Tropical Agricultural Science including aquaculture, crop and pasture production, fisheries sciences, food and nutrition development, forestry sciences, genetics and molecular biology, microbiology, plant physiology, soil and water sciences and zoology.

A regular article entitled “Improvement of Physico-Chemical Properties, Antioxidant Capacity and Acceptability of Carrot Cake by Partially Substituting Sugar with Concentrated *Nypa fruticans* Sap” discussed on the effects of nutritional, textural, antioxidant properties and acceptability of carrot cake formulated with concentrated NFS as partial replacement (0, 5, 10, 15 and 20%) for table sugar. Nutritious carrot cake with desirable physical and sensorial acceptability can be developed with the incorporation of concentrated NFS up to 20% in carrot cake. The detailed information of this article is presented on 883.

A selected regular paper from the scope of genetic and molecular biology, entitled “Response of *Cayratia trifolia* towards Pb, NaCl, Diesel And Wounding Stresses through Expression of a *CtSRG1* Gene” identified and characterized a candidate gene, named as *CtSRG1* gene, which involved in the stress response. The up- and down-regulation of this gene with the treatments of Pb, NaCl, diesel and wounding were shown through the running of qRT-PCR, respectively. Details of this study is available on page 957.

Ivan Kar Mun Chiew and the researchers summarized the major viral and bacterial pathogens of fish and crustaceans of Malaysian aquaculture industry in their review paper, which entitled “The Significance of Major Viral and Bacterial Diseases in Malaysian Aquaculture Industry”. The characteristics and the consequences of diseases as well as the potential for future disease emergence in these aquatic animals were discussed. The further details of the study can be found on page 1023.

We 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.

All the papers published in this edition underwent Pertanika's stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers, Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board Members of JTAS, who have made this issue possible.

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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