

Foreword

Welcome to the second issue of 2026 of the *Pertanika Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science (PJTAS)*!

PJTAS 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 27 articles: five review articles and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand.

A selected article entitled “Behavioural Response of Cabbage White Butterfly (*Pieris rapae*) as Affected by Different Levels of Deltamethrin Insecticide” investigates the impact of sub-lethal and lethal insecticide exposure on the movement and feeding patterns of a major cruciferous pest. Using a dual-container setup and a “one-way no-choice method,” the researchers evaluated larval survival, distance travelled, and leaf area damage under varying deltamethrin coverage levels. The findings revealed that while 100% coverage effectively induced high mortality, partial coverage led to behavioural changes, such as increased movement, as larvae attempted to avoid treated surfaces. This study underscores the importance of achieving uniform insecticide application to prevent pest dispersal and ensure effective crop protection. Further details of this study can be found on page 519.

The study entitled “Early Performance Results of Polyhalite on Newly Planted Oil Palms” explores the efficacy of a natural multi-nutrient mineral as a sustainable alternative to conventional fertilisation programs. Conducted in a Malaysian oil palm estate, the study evaluated the vegetative growth performance and cost-efficiency of Polyhalite, which provides essential potassium, calcium, magnesium, and sulfur. Results demonstrated that incorporating 0.3 kg of Polyhalite into planting holes during transplanting delivered vegetative growth comparable to conventional practices while remaining more cost-effective. The study suggests that Polyhalite serves as a viable slow-release fertiliser that can help mitigate labour shortages by reducing application rounds and minimising environmental risks associated with polymer-coated fertilisers. Full details of this study are available on page 607.

The review article titled “Life Cycle and Feeding Behaviour of Rice Stem Borer Species in Southeast Asian Regions Paddy Fields” provides a comprehensive synthesis of the biological and ecological characteristics of six major rice stem borer species. The authors correlate the distinct egg-laying behaviours, feeding sites, and infestation timings of species such as *Scirpophaga incertulas*, *Scirpophaga innotata*, *Chilo suppressalis*, *Chilo polychrysus*, *Chilo auricilius*, and *Sesamia inferens* with rice phenology to explain variations in damage symptoms like “deadheart” and “whitehead”. By identifying critical research gaps in economic thresholds across Southeast Asia, the review advocates for an ecology-aligned Integrated Pest Management (IPM) framework. This strategic alignment aims to enhance the precision of control measures, such as biological agents and cultural practices, thereby reducing the agricultural sector’s reliance on broad-spectrum insecticides. Further detailed information can be found on page 937.

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 and Editorial Board Members of PJTAS, who have made this issue possible.

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

Editor-in-Chief
Md Kamal Uddin