

Foreword

Welcome to the **Fourth 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 **nine articles**, out of which **one** is a review article and **eight** are regular research papers. The authors of these articles are from **Malaysia, Germany, Norway, Bangladesh, India** and **Indonesia**.

The review article discusses the current scenario and risk factors of streptococcosis in tilapia and suggests the control and prevention measures for this disease (*Zamri-Saad, M., Amal, M. N. A., Siti-Zahrah, A. and Zulkafli, A. R.*). The preventive measures focus on combined aspects of selecting farm location, applying good aquaculture farm practices, utilization of antibiotics and proper vaccination programme. A combination of all these measures will perhaps be the key to improve the health of cultured tilapia and prevent the infection by *S. agalactiae*, which in turn will increase the economic profit of tilapia farm operators

The eight research papers cover a wide range of topics. The first research paper, a collaborative work between Universiti Sains Malaysia, National Prawn Fry Production and Research Centre and World Fish Centre, Malaysia reports on the performance of the Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) strain over ten generations of selection in Malaysia (*Azhar Hamzah, Raul W. Ponzoni, Nguyen Hong Nguyen, Hooi Ling Khaw, Hoong Yip Yee and Siti Azizah Mohd Nor*). The second research paper presents an empirical approach in attaining sufficient yield of sugarcane in Bangladesh (*Rana, M. S., Hossain, F. and Roy, S. S.*). The next research paper from the School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia reports on the occurrence of *Fusarium* spp. on vegetable crops and provides an assessment of its pathogenicity (*Nurul Huda Mohamad Saseetharan and Latiffah Zakaria*).

In the next research paper, researchers from Universiti Putra Malaysia submit their findings after comparing preference for *Molineria latifolia* var. megacarpa and *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* as native urban landscape plants (*Sarah, B., Thohirah, L. A., Mustafa Kamal, M. S. and Rosenani A. B.*) while another research paper, also from Universiti Putra Malaysia highlights timber use practices in Malaysia's construction industry (*Mohamed, S. and Abdullah, R.*).

Another research paper examines the molecular characterisation of fowl Adenoviruses isolated from inclusion in body hepatitis outbreaks in commercial broiler chickens in Malaysia (*Juliana, M. A., Nurulfiza, I., Hair-Bejo, M., Omar, A. R. and Aini, I.*). The seventh research paper discusses a comparative study on callus induction, proliferation and plantlets regeneration in two cultivars of *Stevia rebaudiana* Bertoni, which is known as the only non-caloric natural sweetener (*Sharuti Rathore, Kuldeep Yadav, Narender Singh and S. K. Singh*). The last research paper reports on a new latent lovastatin producer viz. *Fusarium pseudocircinatum* IBRL B3-4, produced through laboratory tray system (*Syarifah, A. R., Darah, I. and I Nyoman, P. A.*).

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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