

Foreword

Welcome to the Fourth 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 15 articles; 2 are short communications and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely China, Ecuador, Indonesia, Malaysia and Nigeria.

Articles submitted in this issue cover various scopes of Tropical Agricultural Science including animal production, aquaculture, biotechnology, fisheries sciences, food and nutrition development, forestry sciences, genetics and molecular biology, horticulture, soil and water sciences and zoology.

Hui Yin Fan and her team mates from Universiti Malaysia Sabah explored the potential of blends of fish gelatin and sodium alginate as gelling agents and a delivery system for virgin coconut oil (VCO). They found out that the viscoelasticity and firmness of the puddings were increased with the blending of high fish gelatin content with sodium alginate. Details of this study is available on page 1209.

A regular article entitled “Effect of Monocalcium Phosphate Supplementation on the Growth Performance, Carcass Characteristic, Gut Histomorphology, Meat and Bone Quality of Broiler Chickens” discussed on the effect of different concentration of monocalcium phosphate supplementation on the growth performance, carcass characteristics, gut morphology, meat quality, and bone quality of broiler chickens. It concluded that this supplementation brought the positive effect on the growth performance, gut histomorphology and bone quality of broiler chickens without affecting the carcass characteristics and meat quality. The detailed information of this article is presented on page 1237.

Bun Poh Keong and his colleagues from Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris discussed the optimal preservation and storage regimes of total RNAs from different fish tissues. The results showed that satisfactory amount of RNA from dorsal fin and gonad was produced by preserving fish tissues in RNA $later$ with subsequent storage at -80°C , but not from muscle tissues. Further details of the study are found on page 1289.

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.

In the last 12 months, of all the manuscripts processed, 34% were accepted. This seems to be the trend in Pertanika Journals for JTAS.

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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