

Foreword

Welcome to the Second Issue of 2021 for 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 13 articles; 12 are regular articles and a review article. Articles submitted in this issue cover the scope of aquaculture; biotechnology; botany; crop and pasture production; food and nutrition development; forestry sciences; food and nutrition development; forestry sciences; genetics and molecular biology; microbiology; soil and water sciences; microbiology; plant physiology; plant physiology; and zoology. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

A regular article entitled “Protocols for the Extraction of High-quality RNA from Pineapple Tiller, Flower, Inflorescence, and Fruits” reported the protocols for the extraction of high-quality RNA from two types of pineapple tissues, which are thickly lignified hard tissue and watery soft tissue via modified Kim and Hamada (2005) method. High-quality RNA, which is suitable for subsequent molecular analysis, was successfully extracted through this modified method. Full information of this study is presented on page 293.

A selected article entitled “The Effects of Sago (*Metroxylon sago*) Bark and Frond Waste as Substrates on the Growth and Yield of Grey Oyster Mushrooms (*Pleurotus sajor-caju*)” examined the effects of sago bark (SB) and sago frond (SF) waste on the growth and yield of grey oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus sajor-caju*). The results showed that SB and SF can be utilised and further developed for the cultivation of oyster mushroom by replacing the usage of sawdust (SD). The detailed information of this article is available on page 307.

Budi Setiadi Daryono and his teammates from Gadjah Mada University investigated the screen house effect on *Begomovirus* diversity severity and coat protein diversity in chili. They concluded that optical manipulation using a UV screen or a screen house was effective in reducing either *Begomovirus* infection or whitefly population. These findings may serve as the alternatives to the development of resistant cultivars for controlling *Begomovirus* infections. The further details of this study are found on page 449.

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 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.

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