

Foreword

Welcome to the 4th 2020 issue of 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; 1 is review article, 1 is short communication and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Articles submitted for this issue cover various scopes of Tropical Agricultural Science including: animal production; aquaculture; biotechnology; crop and pasture production; fisheries sciences; food and nutrition development; genetics and molecular biology; horticulture; plant physiology; soil and water sciences; and zoology.

A regular article entitled “Screening for Sarawak Paddy Landraces with Resistance to Yellow Rice Stem Borer, *Scirpophaga incertulas* (Walker) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae)” screened Sarawak paddy landraces for resistance to *S. incertulas*. Twelve Sarawak paddy landraces were hereby selected randomly for this study. Their levels of antixenosis resistance against *S. incertulas* were different. Kanowit is more preferred by *S. incertulas* for ovipositing on the abaxial leaf surface of rice plant. Whereas, the antibiosis resistance against the eggs and larvae of *S. incertulas* seems absent. The detailed information of this study is available on page 491.

A selected article entitled “Bali Bananas (*Musa* spp. L.) Genetic Relationship Based on Internal Transcribed Spacer 2 (ITS-2)” determined the genetic relationship of Bali banana cultivars using the internal transcribed spacer 2 (ITS-2) region as a molecular marker. The result showed that two clades were formed from thirty-nine banana samples, in which one clade was abundant in A genome (AA and AAA), and the other rich in the B genome (BB and ABB). It suggested that cultivars that had similar genomic compositions tended to be grouped within the same clade and separated with different genomic compositions. Further details of this study are found on page 583.

Mohammad Mijanur Rahman and his teammates from Universiti Malaysia Kelantan focused on the effect of *Asyastasia gangetica* and *Brachiaria decumbens* on intake, digestibility, and growth performance of rabbits. They concluded that the diet containing *A. gangetica* showed more benefits in terms of crude protein (CP) and neutral detergent fibre (NDF) intakes, weight gain and feed conversion ratio (FCR). On the other hand, the diet containing *B. decumbens* gained lower rate of body weight (BW). Overall, a combination of concentrate and *A. gangetica* is recommended to be utilised for feeding the growing rabbits. Full information of this study is presented on page 609.

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 is to ensure that the quality of the papers justifies 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, 37% were accepted. This seems to be the trend in Pertanika 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.

Chief Executive Editor

Dato' Dr. Abu Bakar Salleh

executive_editor.pertanika@upm.edu.my