

## Foreword

Welcome to the First 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 14 articles; 10 are regular articles and the rest are review articles. Articles submitted in this issue cover the scope of animal production; aquaculture; biotechnology; crop and pasture production; food and nutrition development; microbiology; soil and water sciences; forestry sciences; and zoology. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Columbia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, and Thailand.

Douglas Law and his teammates from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Malaysia Kelantan focused on the finding of a sex marker for the *Oxyeleotris marmorata* using the amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP) method. The found SCAR marker has the potential to be used for the sexual identification of the *O. marmorata* at the juvenile stage; thereby it is useful in the breeding programs. Further details of this study are found on page 107.

A regular article entitled “Effectiveness of Bioinoculants *Bacillus cereus* and *Trichoderma asperellum* as Oil Palm Seedlings Growth Promoters” tested on the plant growth promotion potentials of bacterium, *Bacillus cereus* (UPM15) and fungus *Trichoderma asperellum* (UPM16). The production of indole acetic acid (IAA) was considered as the indicator of the plant growth-promoting potentials. Both *B. cereus* and *T. asperellum* were capable of producing IAA. In addition, the mixture of these isolates yielded good vegetative growth. Full information of this study is presented on page 157.

A special thanks to the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Dr. Mohd. Zamri Saad, and all the Editorial Board Members of PJTAS (2018-2020) for serving *Pertanika Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science* for the past two years, in ensuring *Pertanika* plays a vital role in shaping the minds of researchers, enriching their lives, and encouraging them to continue their quest for new knowledge. We welcome the new Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Dr. Amin Ismail, and new

Editorial Board Members on board. We hope that their involvement and contributions towards *Pertanika* would not only improve its quality but also support the development efforts in making it an international journal of good standing. 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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