

# Foreword

Welcome to the second issue of 2023 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 20 articles; one review article, one short communication, and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, United State of America, and Yemen.

A selected article entitled “Revisiting *In Vitro* Micropropagation Protocols of *Mimosa pudica* for Enhanced Seed Germination, Shoot Multiplication, and Root Initiation” outlined a procedure for seed germination, shoot multiplication, and root initiation of *in vitro* micropropagation of the undervalued medicinal plant, *M. pudica*. They found out that the developed micropropagation protocol of *M. pudica* could facilitate its large-scale cultivation, indicating its potential as a medicinal crop for the extraction of bioactive compounds. Full information of this study is presented on page 571.

A regular article entitled “*Parthenium hysterophorus* Weed Fecundity and Seed Survival at Different Soil pH and Burial Conditions” evaluated the effect of soil pH on *P. hysterophorus* weed growth and fecundity, as well as the effect of burial depths on *P. hysterophorus* seed survival and emergence. The findings suggested that *P. hysterophorus* seed could survive a wide range of conditions with high germinability. The seed, however, showed a marked decline in viability if buried for more than 12 months without tillage. The further details of this study are found on page 593.

Azman Abd Samad and his team from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia extracted and purified protease from the crown of MD2 pineapple using anion exchange chromatography, gel filtration, and desalting. They also identified the protease using liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) and determined the proteolytic activity using the well diffusion method and Casein Digestion Unit. The results showed that the purified enzyme that was extracted from pineapple crown was ananain-like protease, one type of cysteine protease like other papain family members. The detailed information of this article is available on page 607.

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.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers, and Editorial Board Members of PJTAS, who have made this issue possible.

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.

PJTAS 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**

**Mohd Sapuan Salit**

[executive\\_editor.pertanika@upm.edu.my](mailto:executive_editor.pertanika@upm.edu.my)