

Foreword

Welcome to the first issue of 2025 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 17 articles: two review articles; and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Australia, Bangladesh, China, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Philippines, Poland and Thailand.

The regular article entitled “Morphological Sex Determination of East Asian Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) in Tropical Wintering Region” determines the best morphological parameters for sexing East Asian Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) in Bentong, Pahang, Malaysia. Tail fork depth (the difference between the outermost and innermost tail feathers, T6-T1) and the length of the outermost tail feather (6th rectrix, T6) were identified as the best predictors. Using these variables, sex determination achieved an accuracy of 89.47% for females and 96.3% for males, providing a reliable and convenient method for field-based sex determination in this population. Further details of this study are found on page 19.

A selected article entitled “Sequential Cropping Productivity Evaluation of Corn, Mung Bean, and Sweet Potato Intercrop under Coconut Field in Zamboanga del Sur, Philippines” assessed the effects of eight cropping patterns on the agronomic performance, yield, and profitability of corn, mung bean, and sweet potato under coconut ground in Zamboanga del Sur, Philippines. Results showed that cropping patterns influenced key growth parameters and yields of the crops. The CP6 pattern (sweet potato followed by corn) had the highest total yield and a 98% return on investment, making it the recommended cropping pattern for coconut-based farming systems in the area. The detailed information of this article is available on page 117.

A study by Sian Nee See and team entitled “Heavy Metals Assessment in Selected Leafy Vegetables from Selangor, Malaysia” analyzed heavy metal concentrations (Al, Cd, Cr, Cu, Fe, and Pb) in leafy vegetables (cabbage, mustard, spinach, and pak choi)

from Selangor wholesale wet markets using inductively coupled plasma–optical emission spectrometry. Results showed that Al and Fe concentrations were within permissible limits, with spinach containing the highest Al level (41.37 mg/kg). The mean Fe levels in cabbage, mustard, spinach, and pak choi were 6.30 ± 5.78 , 4.12 ± 1.84 , 13.59 ± 4.73 , and 4.14 ± 0.31 mg/kg, respectively. Cd, Cr, Cu, and Pb were not detected in any samples. Full information on this study is presented on page 215.

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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