

Foreword

Welcome to the Third Issue of 2020 for 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 12 articles; all are regular articles. Articles submitted in this issue cover the scope of animal production; biotechnology; crop and pasture production; food and nutrition development; forestry sciences; horticulture; plant physiology; and soil and water sciences. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Thailand.

A regular article entitled “Bioactivity Evaluation of *Melaleuca cajuputi* (Myrtales: Myrtaceae) Crude Extracts against *Aedes* Mosquito” discussed on the insecticidal properties of *Melaleuca cajuputi* crude extracts, which were in four different solvents viz dichloromethane, ethyl acetate, hexane, and methanol, against *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquito. It concluded that the extract of *M. cajuputi* could potentially be the plant-based product in controlling dengue *Aedes* vectors, particularly in the adult mosquito. The detailed information of this article is presented on page 303.

Piyanan Nualhnuplong and Chaiyawan Wattanachant from Prince of Songkla University investigated on the effects of age at slaughter and sex on carcass characteristics and meat quality of Betong chickens. In order to control the quality of the meat, they found out that the males should be slaughtered at 20 weeks, while the females should be slaughtered when they reach the age of 24 weeks. Details of this study is available on page 343.

Nurul Najwa Mohamad and Nor Azizun Rusdi from Universiti Malaysia Sabah observed the morphological changes of flower initiation and early development by apical dissection and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). This study demonstrated ten stages of the early flower development pattern of *Renanthera bella*. The identification of the essential genes that may be involved and significant for the floral development process is needed. The further details of the study are found on page 377.

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 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.

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