

Foreword

Welcome to the **First Issue 2014** of the Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science (JTAS)!

JTAS is an open-access journal for the Tropical Agricultural Science published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university and run on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains **12 articles**, out of which **one** is a review article and **11** are regular research papers. The authors of these articles are from **Malaysia, Nigeria, Australia** and **Iraq**.

The review paper discusses chromosomal anomalies and infertility in farm animals (*Yimer, N. and Rosnina, Y.*). The authors mention that chromosome abnormalities in farm animals can cause significant adverse effects on fertility through failure of production of viable gametes or early embryonic death, both of which lead to great economic loss. The paper discusses several strategies to prevent and control the propagation of chromosomal aberrations in farm animals, especially in the tropics.

The 11 research papers cover a wide range of topics. In the first research paper, researchers from Universiti Putra Malaysia investigate the potential of *Polymesoda erosa* as a biomonitor and food safety concern (*Yap, C. K., Edward, F. B. and Tan, S. G.*). A research group from Nigeria discusses in detail the correlation and path analyses of seed yield in okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench) grown under different cropping seasons (*Adekoya, M. A., Ariyo, O. J., Kehinde, O. B. and Adegbite, A. E.*). In the next research paper, the light and scanning electron microscopy of the small intestine of young Malaysian village chicken and commercial broiler is reported (*Khalid K. Kadhim, Md Zuki Abu Bakar, Mohamed Mustapha Noordin, Mohd Amin Babjee and Mohd Zamri Saad*).

Another group of researchers from Nigeria reports on morphological and leaf epidermal features of some Capsicum species (Solanaceae) from Nigeria (*Aworinde, D. O., Ogundele, A. and Ogunairo, B. O.*), while a group of researchers from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia reports on the ongoing human-macaque conflict on the main campus of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (*Md-Zain, B. M., Ruslin, F. and Idris, W. M. R.*). From Universiti Sains Malaysia, a group of researchers completes the amphibian checklist of Bukit Larut, Perak, Malaysia (*Shahriza Shahrudin and Ibrahim Jaafar*).

Members of the Federal University of Agriculture, also from Nigeria, describe carcass and meat characteristics of traditionally managed Nigerian *yankasa* and West African dwarf breeds of sheep (*Fasae O. A., Oduguwa B. O., Adejumo L. A. Makinde T. E. and*

Sanwo K. A.), while collaboration among researchers from three countries, Australia, Malaysia and Iraq, sheds light on the impact of Xylanase supplement on the bacterial community of a chicken's intestinal tract (*Samsudin, A. A. and Al-Hassani, D. H.*).

Subsequent papers describe the antioxidant properties of two varieties of bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia*) and the effect of blanching and boiling on them (*Choo, W. S., Yap, J. Y. and Chan, S. Y.*); the successful induction of skin ulcers in moon light gourami (*Trichogaster Microlepis*) with *Aphanomyces Invadans* Zoospores (*Afzali, S. F., Hassan, M. D. and Mutalib A. R.*); and the isolation and characterisation of *Lactobacillus* strains as potential probiotics for chickens (*Shokryazdan, P., Kalavathy, R., Sieo, C. C., Alitheen, N. B., Liang, J. B., Jahromi, M. F. and Ho, Y. W.*).

I 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.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all the contributors, namely, the authors, reviewers and editors who have made this issue possible. Last but not least, the editorial assistance of the journal division staff is fully appreciated.

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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