

## Foreword

Welcome to the **Second Issue 2015** 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 **eleven articles**, out of which **one** is a review article and **ten** are regular research papers. The authors of these articles are from **Malaysia, Sri Lanka, China, Canada, Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Philippines** and **India**.

The potential use of PCR and marker assisted selection (MAS) towards the assessment of genetic diversity of rice germplasm in breeding programmes is discussed in the review paper (*Wijerathna, Y. M. A. M., Perera, A. N. K., Hamama, I. B. and Hoang, L.*). The first research paper, researchers from Malaysian Rubber Board reports on the effects of combination ethephon and urea on productivity of *Jatropha curcas* L. Thai accession (*Shuib, N. H. and Sulaiman, Z.*). The second research paper discusses on the effective elements on technical knowledge of agricultural section for sustainable soil management (*Mohammad Sadegh Sabouri, Meysam Solouki and Marzieh Bordbar*). The next research paper from the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh presents an ethnomedicinal study of plants in Hathazari, Chittagong, Bangladesh (*Sajib, N. H. and Uddin, S. B.*).

In next research paper, a group of researchers from Universiti Putra Malaysia describes the relation between length-weight and relative condition factor of *Parapenaeopsis sculptilis* (Heller, 1862) from the coastal waters of Perak, Malaysia (*Amani A. A., Arshad, A., Yusoff, F. M. and Amin, S. M. N.*). Researchers from Philippines validates the dissemination of natural resource management technology for Irrigated Rice in the Philippines (*Corales, A. M., Sibayan, E. B. and Palis, F. G.*), and while in Malaysia, group of scientists reports a characterization and isolation of EgGST, a glutathione S-transferase protein transcript in oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis* Jacq.) (*Conie Toh, Parameswari Namasivayam, Ho Chai Ling and Sharifah Shahrul Rabiah Syed Alwee*).

Next research paper reports on the optimisation of solid liquid extraction of *Orthosiphon stamineus* leaves using response surface methodology technique (*Mohd Farhan, A. R., Pin, K. Y., Zamree, M. S., Luqman Chuah, A. and Nazira, M.*), followed by the reports from a group of Indian scientist on garlic: An effective functional food to combat the growing antimicrobial resistance (*Shivani Gupta, Suman Kapur, Padmavathi DV and Apoorva Verma*). The next research paper is on the comparison of protein extraction protocols for proteomic analysis of red algae, *Eucheuma cottonii* (*Lim, H. T. and Teo, S. S.*). The

last research paper discusses on the relationship between size of fish, temperature and parasitic intensity in snakehead fish species from Kepala Batas, Penang, peninsular Malaysia (*Rajiv Ravi and Zary Shariman Yahaya*).

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.

**Chief Executive Editor**

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