

## Foreword

Welcome to the **Third 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 **eight articles**, out of which **two** are short communications and **six** are regular research papers. The authors of these articles are from **Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Nigeria** and **Iran**.

The prevalence of mouse and rat parasites in resource recovery plants, farms and housing areas of southern Selangor is the subject of discussion in the first short communication (*Priscilla, D., Jambari, H. A. and Meenakshii, N.*). The second short communication discusses rice production and climate change as a case study of Malaysian rice (*Tiara Herman, Erik H. Murchie and Asgar Ali Warsi*).

The first research paper by researchers from University of Agriculture and Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria reports on the effect of planting patterns and age at harvest of two cultivars of *Lablab purpureus* in *Andropogon gayanus* on agronomic characteristics and quality of grass/legume mixtures (*Amole, T. A., Oduguwa, B. O., Onifade, S. O., Jolaosho, A. O., Amodu, J. T. and Arigbede M. O.*). The second research paper discusses preservative effects of pineapple and cucumber juices on the viability of refrigerated spermatozoa of West African dwarf bucks (*Daramola, J. O. and Adekunle, E. O.*). The next research paper from Fasa University and Payame Noor University, Iran presents the combined effect of soil-applied iron and sulfur fertilisers on monoterpene content and antioxidant activity of *Satureja hortensis* L. extract (*Zahedifar, M. and Najafian, S. H.*).

In the next research paper, a group of researchers from Universiti Putra Malaysia, UPM describes the extract potential from the nut of *Areca catechu* to control mango anthracnose (*Aizad Izha Ahmad Rusdan, Jugah Kadir, Mahmud Tengku Muda Mohammed and Gwendoline Ee Cheng Lian*), and also from UPM, another group reports on the application of multivariate analysis for detection of crude palm oil adulteration through fatty acid composition and triacylglycerol profile (*Anand Kumar Inthiram, Hamed Mirhosseini, Chin Ping Tan, Rosfarizan Mohamad and Oi Ming Lai*). The last research paper in this issue discusses the functional properties of resistant starch type-III from *Metroxylon sagu* as affected by processing conditions (*Zi-Ni, T., Rosma, A., Karim, A. A. and Liong, M. T.*).

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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