

Foreword

Welcome to the **First Issue 2017** 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 an independently owned and managed by the university and run on a non-profit basis for the benefits of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains **15 articles** which are regular research papers. The authors of these articles are from **Malaysia, China, and Indonesia**.

These papers cover a wide range of topics. In the first paper, a group of researchers report on the Magnesium in local edible Ulam *Centella asiatica* and its relation to their habitat soils in peninsular Malaysia (*Ong, G. H., Yap, C. K., Mahmood, M., Tan, S. G. and Hamzah, M. S.*). The next paper discusses the comparative histological evaluations of the submandibular salivary glands of EBN Swiftlets (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*) in man-made houses and natural caves (*Ibrahim, M. M., Zakaria, Z. A. B., Amin, F. M. and Omar, A. R.*). The other papers consist of the report of the physical, chemical and microbiological properties of different combination of soilless media and their effect on the vegetative component and nutrient content of Hempedu Bumi (*Andrographis paniculata*) (*Shara S. A., Zaharah S. S., Radziah O., and Puteri E. M. W.*); Identification and factors affecting *in-vitro* growth of an indigenous mushroom, *Boletus sp.* from Bachok, Kelantan, Malaysia (*Lau Meng Fei, Rosnida Tajuddin, Masratulhawa Mohd and Latiffah Zakaria*); Evaluation of nutritive value of seven Kenaf (*Hibiscus cannabinus* L.) varieties harvested depending on stubble height (*Bai Jie, Li Defang, Chen Anguo, Li Jianjun, Huang Siqi and Tang Huijuan*); Quantification of total phenolic compounds in Papaya fruit peel (*Jamal, P., Akbar, I., Jaswir, I. and Zuharis, Y.*); Detection of *Leptospira* spp. in selected national service training centres and paddy fields of Sarawak, Malaysia using polymerase chain reaction technique (*Chai Fung Pui, Lesley Maurice Bilung, Lela Su'ut, Yee Ling Chong and Kasing Apun*); Xanthones from *Calophyllum inophyllum* (*Kar Wei Lee, Gwendoline Cheng Lian Ee, Shaari Daud and Thiruventhan Karunakaran*); Comparative study of antioxidant level and activity from leaf extracts of *Annona Muricata* Linn obtained from different locations (*Syed Najmuddin, S. U. F., Alitheen, N. B., Hamid, M. and Nik Abd Rahman, N. M. A.*); Supplementation of antioxidant BHT to different bull semen extenders enhances

semen quality after chilling (*Khumran, A. M., Yimer, N., Rosnina, Y., Ariff, M. O., Wahid, H., Kaka, A., Ebrahimi, M. and Aliyu, A. B.*); Physicochemical characteristics of Oil Palm Frond (OPF) composting with fungal inoculants (*Fadzilah, K., Saini, H. S. and Atong, M.*); Morphological and molecular identification of sea cucumber species *Holothuria scabra*, *Stichopus horrens* and *Stichopus ocellatus* from Kudat, Sabah, Malaysia (*Kamarul Rahim Kamarudin, Maryam Mohamed Rehan and Nur Aliah Bahaman*); Effect of combined application of poultry manure and inorganic fertiliser on yield and yield components of maize intercropped with soybean (*Almaz, M. G., R. A. Halim and M. Y. Martini*); Analysis of Gamma irradiated-third generation mutants of rodent tuber (*Typhonium flagelliforme* Lodd.) based on morphology, RAPD, and GC-MS markers (*Sianipar, N. F., Purnamaningsih, R., Gumanti, D. L., Rosaria, and Vidianty, M.*).

I conclude this issue with the article on forming process analysis in environmentally-friendly composite production from fibres of oil palm empty fruit bunches (*Arya, A. C.*).

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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