

Foreword

Welcome to the **Third 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 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 **13 articles**, out of which **one** is a review paper, **one** is a short communication, **one** is a clinical case study and **six** are regular papers. This issue also features **four** selected papers from the INTROP Research Colloquium 2015 (IRC 2015). The authors of these articles come from different countries, namely, **Malaysia, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Indonesia**.

Joey Ee Uli, Christina Yong Seok Yien and Tan Soon Guan in their review article discuss a glimpse into the genomic outlook of the long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*), while the short communication discusses the correlation between sperm parameters in West African dwarf goat bucks during storage (*Daramola, J. O. and Adekunle, E. O.*). The clinical case study by *Khairuddin, N. H., Roslim, N., Affandi, S. S., Lau, S. F. and Lim, S. Y.* discusses a case of diaphragmatic rupture in a criollo pony.

The 6 regular papers cover a wide range of topics. In the first research paper, the potential use of papaya juice as fermentation medium for bacterial cellulose production by *Acetobacter xylinum* 0416 is studied (*Zahan, K. A., Hedzir, M. S. A. and Mustapha, M.*). The next paper discusses the temporal expression of a putative homogentisate solanesyltransferase cDNA in wounded *Aquilaria malaccensis*, an endangered tropical tree (*Azzarina, A. B., Mohamed, R., Siah, C. H. and Wong, M. T.*). The other papers are studies on: a genetic analysis of Nigerian 'Egusi' melon

accessions based on sequence-related amplified polymorphism (SRAP) (*Idehen, E. O.*); the response of calves to supplementation of forage legume-based concentrate diets (*Bello, R. A., Fasae, O. A., Oluwatosin, B. O. and Olanite, J. A.*); diseases and disease conditions with associated post-mortem lesions diagnosed in cats and dogs at the post-mortem laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Putra Malaysia between 2005 and 2015 (*Rathiyamaler, M., Zamri-Saad, M. and Annas, S.*); and fractionation of anticholesterol bioactive compounds from *Bekasam* (Indonesian fermented fish product) (*Rinto, Nopianti, R., Herpandi and Oktaviani, S.*).

I conclude this issue with 4 articles arising from the research colloquium featuring the following: an evaluation of *ricinus communis* as a phytoremediator of manganese in soil contaminated with sewage sludge (*Nur-Nazirah, P. M., Arifin, A., Shamshuddin, J., Rezaul, K., Muhammad-Nazrin, Mohd-Hadi, A. and Aiza-Shaliha*); spectroscopic analysis of epoxidised jatropha oil (EJO) and acrylated epoxidised jatropha oil (AEJO) (*Wong, J. L., Aung, M. M., Lim, H. N. and Md. Jamil, Siti Nurul Ain*); characterisation of pulp and paper manufactured from empty fruit bunches and kenaf fibres of oil palm (*Rafidah, D., Ainun, Z. M. A., Hazwani, H. A., Rushdan, I., Luqman, C. A., Sharmiza, A., Paridah, M. T. and Jalaluddin, H.*); and finally, the properties of paper manufactured from kenaf as function of alkaline pH medium and retention of precipitated calcium carbonate (*Ainun, Z. M. A., Nurul, I. N., Zaida, S., Hazwani, H. A. and Latifah J.*).

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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