

Foreword

Welcome to the second issue of 2024 for the Pertanika Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science (PTAS)!

PJTAS is an open-access journal for studies in Tropical Agricultural Science published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 16 articles; two short communications; and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand and United States of America.

A selected regular article entitled “Effect of Leaf Pruning and Additional Fertilizer on Growth and Young Pods Yield of Winged Beans” determined the effect of leaf pruning and additional fertilizer on the growth and yield parameter of winged beans. A randomized complete block design was used with two factors and three replications, namely leaf pruning intensities (0, 15, and 30% leaf pruning) and rates of additional fertilizer (0, 6.25, 12.50, and 18.50 g NPK 16-16-16/plant). The observed variables were plant height, leaf number, root length, leaf nutrient, auxin content, nutrient uptake, and young pod yield. The findings revealed that the interaction of pruning intensities and additional fertilizer rates significantly influenced leaf number and root length. Full information of this study is presented on page 323.

A short communication entitled “Spore Germination of *Diplazium simplicivenium* Holtt. (Athyriaceae) in Peninsular Malaysia” reported an efficient method for *D. simplicivenium* spore sterilisation and the effect of plant growth regulators via green globular bodies. The outcomes showed that this is an efficient spore culture approach that would allow for large-scale production of *D. simplicivenium*, which might contribute to conserving species on the verge of extinction and be applied to propagate other fern species. The detailed information of this article is available on page 411.

Azizah Mahmood and her teammates from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu explored the potential of inulin as a fat substitute to produce low-fat muffins. There are in total of five batches of muffins, each with varying levels of inulin replacing oil (ranging from 0 to 100%), were prepared to examine how this substitution would impact the physicochemical and sensory properties. The results proved that incorporating inulin into muffin recipes yields notable fat and calorie content reductions while enhancing fibre. The further details of this study are found on page 495.

We 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.

All the papers published in this edition underwent Pertanika's stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers, Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board Members of PJTAS, who have made this issue possible.

PJTAS 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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