

Foreword

Welcome to the first issue of 2026 of the *Pertanika Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science (PJTAS)*!

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 25 articles: one short communication; two review articles; and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Thailand, United States of America, and Vietnam.

A selected article entitled “*Field Assessment of Plant Growth Performance and Residue Persistence of Saponin-Based Molluscicide Formulations*” evaluates the plant growth performance and environmental residue behaviour of natural saponin-based molluscicide formulations compared to commercial chemicals like niclosamide and fentin acetate. Using varying concentrations of rice crops and analysing residues via HPLC, the study found no significant negative impact on growth parameters such as plant height and biomass. Notably, saponin formulations demonstrated rapid biodegradability with half-lives under 10 days, presenting a safer and more environmentally friendly alternative to synthetic chemicals, which showed higher persistence and food safety risks. Further details of this study can be found on page 77.

The study entitled “*Improving Maize Yield, Biomass, and Selected Chemical Properties of an Acid Soil using Transformed Chicken Dung*” addresses the challenge of low agricultural productivity in Brunei’s acidic Ultisols and Oxisols. The researchers conducted a field trial using a Random Complete Block Design to assess the effectiveness of repurposed chicken dung as an organic amendment (OA). Findings revealed that integrating OA with chemical fertilisers significantly enhanced maize fresh cob yield and aboveground biomass by 89.42% and 50.95%, respectively, compared to using chemical fertilisers alone. This study provides a sustainable waste management strategy to restore degraded tropical soils. Full details of this study are available on page 145.

An article titled “*Optimising Pepper (Capsicum Annuum L.) Seedling Growth with the Synergistic Effects of Seaweed Waste Media and Beneficial Microbes Application*” explores the use of seaweed waste as a sustainable seedling medium to enhance plant productivity. Employing a Completely Randomised Factorial design, the study examined the synergistic effects of seaweed waste media combined with microbial consortia and mycorrhizal applications. Results indicated that these combinations significantly improved seedling growth, chlorophyll content, and nutrient levels, suggesting that seaweed waste can effectively substitute soil in nurseries to reduce transplanting stress and increase vigour. Further detailed information can be found on page 183.

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 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.

Editor-in-Chief
Kamal Md Uddin