

## Foreword

Welcome to the **Fourth Issue 2017** of the Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science (JTAS)!

The 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 to benefit the science community.

This issue contains **20 articles**, consisting of **two** review papers, a short communication and **17** regular papers. The authors come from different countries, namely **Malaysia, Iran, Thailand, Nigeria, Bangladesh** and **Indonesia**.

The first review paper discusses the micropropagation of rodent tuber plant in Medan (*Typhonium flagelliforme* Lood.) by organogenesis (*Nesti, Merry, Chelen and Bahtiar*), while the second examines the signalling behaviour of abscisic acid on physiological activities in plants under stress (*Naimah, N. and Jahan, M. S.*). Rafidah, O., Firdaus-Nawi, M., Sitti Raehanah, M. S., Ina-Salwany, M. Y., Ching, F. F., Abidin, N. A. and Zamri-Saad, M. in their short communication discuss an outbreak of *vibrio alginolyticus* infection in juvenile sea cucumbers *Holothuria scabra* in Sabah.

The 17 regular papers cover a wide range of topics. In the first research paper, in-vitro antioxidant potential in leaf, stem and bark of *Azadirachta indica* (*Abdulaziz Rabiul Abdulkadir, Nashriyah Mat, and Md Sarwar Jahan*) is discussed while the next paper examines the effect of elemental sulphur application rates on soil Al<sup>3+</sup> solubility and its concentration in maize plants (*Zea mays* L.) (*Karimizarchi, M., Aminuddin, H., Khanif, M. Y. and Radziah, O.*). The other papers focus on: adding L-Tyrosine to improve betalain production in red pitaya callus (*Fadzliana, N. A. F., Rogayah, S., Shaharuddin, N. A. and Janna, O. A.*); isolation and characterisation of ascomycetes isolated from *Eurycoma longifolia* Jack

and Malay traditional vegetables (Nur Ain Izzati, M. Z., Nur Adni, M. and Mohd Razik, M.); interaction between the long-tailed macaque and the dung beetle in Langkawi (Muhaimin, A. M. D., Aifat, N. R., Abdul-Latiff, M. A. B., Md. Zain, B. M. and Yaakop, S.); enhancement of performance of farmed buffaloes pasture management and feed supplementation in Sabah (Zamri-Saad, M., Azhar, K., Zuki, A. B., Punimin, A. and Hassim, H. A.); weed seed bank of parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus* L.) in Batang Kali, Selangor, Malaysia (Karim, S. M. R., Nurzafirah, Z. and Norhafizah, M. Z.); micropropagation of *Dendrobium signatum* Rchb.f. (Khwanduean Rattana and Supavee Sangchanjiradet); morphological and molecular characterisation of *Campylocarpon fasciculare* and *Fusarium* spp., the cause of black disease of grapevine in Iran (Khosrow Chehri); food and feeding habits and allometric relationship of *Synodontis schall* in Lower Ogun River, Akomoje, Ogun State, Nigeria (F. I. Adeosun, I. Abdulraheem, B. T. Adesina and O. M. Amrevuawho); comparative evaluation of growth functions in three broiler strains of chicken in Nigeria (Adenaike, A. S., Akpan, U., Udoh, J. E., Wheto, M., Durosaro, S. O. Sanda, A. J. and Ikeobi, C. O. N.); short-term heat exposure effect on PSII efficiency and growth of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) (Dongsansuk, A., Theerakulpisut, P. and Pongdontri, P.); *Pleurotus ostreatus*: Its effect on Carcass, serum metabolites and meat lipoprotein content of broiler chicken (Ekunseitan, D. A., Ekunseitan, O. F., Odutayo, O. J. and Adeyemi, P. T.); nutritional values and amino acid profile of *Clinacanthus nutans* (belalai gajah/ sabah snake grass) from two farms in Negeri Sembilan (Kong, H. S. and Abdullah Sani, N.); integrated management of stem canker and black scurf of potato (Md. Matiar Rahman, Md. Ayub Ali, Tapan Kumar Dey, Md. Monirul Islam and Laila Naher); characterisation of phytochemical compounds and antimicrobial activity of crude alkaloid from papaya (*Carica papaya* L. var. Eksotika) leaf extract (Keong Bun Poh and Phua Wan Jien); and isolation and characterisation of genotype VII Newcastle disease virus from NDV vaccinated farms in Malaysia (Aljumaili, O. A., Yeap, S. K., Omar, A., R. and Aini, I.).

The articles in this issue are intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. There, we urge you to recommend the JTAS to your colleagues and students.

I also take the opportunity 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 is appreciated.

The JTAS is currently accepting manuscripts for its upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

**Chief Executive Editor**

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