Foreword

Welcome to the second issue of 2025 for 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 18 articles: four review articles; one short communication; and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Brunei, India, Indonesia and Malaysia.

A selected article entitled "Plant Growth Regulators Application to Enhance Flowering and Fruit Production in Gac (*Momordica cochinchinensis*)" assessed the effects of four plant growth regulators —indole-3-acetic acid (IAA), gibberellic acid (GA), benzyl adenine (BA), and maleic hydrazide (MH)—at varying concentrations (0, 40, 80, and 120 ppm) using a randomized complete block design (RCBD) with five replications. Results showed that MH at 40 and 80 ppm significantly improved flower development, ovary diameter, early anthesis, and fruit yield, highlighting its potential in gac cultivation. The detailed information of this article is available on the page 339.

A study by Fatin Nabila and team entitled "Evaluating AedesTech Mosquito Home System (AMHS) Effectiveness on Aedes Mosquitoes" analyzed the efficacy of the AedesTech Mosquito Home System (AMHS), an autodissemination ovitrap with pyriproxyfen, through laboratory trials on *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti*. The trials examined the impact of an attractant, trap positioning, and oviposition site selection. The laboratory results indicated that the Mosquito Home Aqua (MHAQ) solution with attractant consistently attracted *Ae. aegypti* effectively (Welch's Analysis of Variance) F (2,68.66) =5.22, p=0.01). However, its efficacy with *Ae. albopictus* was suboptimal compared to other treatments (Two-way ANOVA, F=0.16, df=2, p>0.05), highlighting the need for considering additional attractants. Full information on this study is presented on the page 451.

A review article entitled "Food Wastes for Enhancing Soil and Crop Productivity in Tropical Acid Soils" determines excessive use of inorganic fertilizers degrades soil quality, whereas organic bio-fertilizers, enriched with beneficial microbes,

offer a sustainable alternative. This review examines that food wastes such as eggshell wastes, washed rice water, fruits, vegetables, and animal wastes have positive effects on improving soil and crop productivity. Bio-fertilizers offer environmental, socio-economic, and agricultural benefits, including improved soil fertility, enhanced crop yields, and disease resistance. Further details of this study are found on the page 511.

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.

Editor-in-Chief
Mohamed Thariq Hameed Sultan