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Journal of Agricultural Sciences

Editorial Policy

The Journal of Agricultural Sciences is a peer reviewed journal aiming to publish high quality articles on topical issues in Agriculture, and publish three issues of the journal annually; 1st January, 1st May and 1st September. The journal provides a forum for Sri Lankan and international scholars to publish authoritative and well referenced articles in agriculture related areas. The journal publishes original research works, book reviews, short communications and comparative articles.

Research papers submitted for publication should have a sound disciplinary basis, although cross disciplinary contributions are also accepted. Papers submitted for publication are mainly peer reviewed. However, guest papers from senior scholars are subject to the review of editorial board only.

Manuscripts submitted by the authors are subject to a preliminary screening based on appropriateness of the theme and quality of the content of the manuscript. Those manuscripts that are cleared the initial screening then undergo a double-blind peer review process. Two reviewers in the same or related field are assigned by Editor in Chief in consultation with Coordinating Editor to carry out the review based on the evaluation criteria. Based on the evaluation report of the reviewers, the Editor in Chief and the editorial team then make a final decision for acceptance or rejection of the paper.

Publication Ethics & Publication Malpractice

Funding of the JAS publication is exclusively from the Sabaragamuwa University funds. Also research funders should be acknowledged by the authors on all research papers.

The Journal of Agricultural Sciences publishes only original works of the authors that have not been published earlier either in printed format or electronically. All authors of manuscripts submitted to the JAS must confirm that neither the manuscript nor any part of it, regardless of the language in which it was originally written or published, has been published or is under consideration for publication or accepted for publication elsewhere. Further, authors are expected to be knowledgeable of and comply with best practice in publication ethics specifically with regard to authorship, dual submission, plagiarism, manipulation of figures, competing interests and compliance with policies on research ethics.

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Editorial Foreword

Peer reviewing is the most important practice of a journal by which the quality of the papers of the journal is judged. While the number of scientific articles published each year continues to grow, the standards and the quality of the peer-reviewing process and the recognition of the editorial board are cited as key factors on a journal's recognition, reputation, impact factor, and acceptance in the field.

Scientific journals as Journal of Agricultural Sciences publishing peer-reviewed articles depend mainly on the peer reviewers who typically volunteer their time and expertise even though they are paid an honorarium for their invaluable service. In addition to fairness in judgment and expertise in the field, peer reviewers have significant responsibilities toward authors, editors, and readers. Confidentiality, constructive critique, competence, impartiality and integrity, disclosure of conflict of interest, timeliness and responsiveness are main ethical factors that a reviewer must get into consideration.

The Journal of Agricultural Sciences has become popular among research students, senior researchers and university academics especially in Africa and South Asia. The editorial office has experienced a continuous flow of manuscripts from these countries in all the fields of agriculture and related areas. The editorial committee is highly stern on the quality of the manuscripts and their innovativeness. Therefore, rejection rate of the manuscripts is around 70%.

The editorial office has started an awareness programme through an e mail campaign to make aware about the JAS among the university academics in the faculties of agriculture in all five continents. I am happy to report that there is a very good response from them and through this campaign we were able to find good quality reviewers for number of field of studies. Gradually JAS is progressing towards the standards of a high quality international journal.

There were many people behind this success. This honour must go to Dr. Chandrika Dissanayake, Coordinating Editor of JAS, Mr Prasad C Iddamalgoda, Ms Suiox Cummings of SLJOL, all the authors, reviewers and editorial committee members. I must also thank Dr Kapila Dissanayake for extending his valuable support for JAS despite being a member of the editorial board.

Prof Rohana P Mahaliyanaarachchi

Editor in Chief

01st May 2014