

## EDITORIAL FOREWORD

### *COVID 19 and Agricultural Issues*

According to the World Health Organization, the Novel Coronavirus (COVID -19) has been declared to be pandemic. Most of the countries are forced to be locked down for weeks and months. Due to this situation, farming activities at the farm and supply chain to the market, need to be reorganized and revitalized. Further, meat and meat products processing and packing plants, dairy processors, ethanol plants and other processing facilities all play vital roles in delivering food to the world population and due to the prevailing global health issue, food processing and packaging companies adopt social distancing policies in keeping with health directives, and this mode of work could have a significant impact on the processing and packaging plants. Additional impacts could include access to seed, fertilizer and crop protection tools farmers need to grow a healthy crop.

Today, agricultural researchers have a vital role to do rapid researches to find out solutions for possible food shortage in future due to the effect of coronavirus spread. However, we must keep in mind that as COVID-19 leads to widespread income losses, fewer consumers may be able to afford specialized or high-value products, including organic vegetables. Therefore, agricultural researches need to be directed towards more sustainable perspectives. Around 63 percent of the world's poorest people work in agriculture, the majority on small farms. Most of the poorest, hungriest and most marginalized people live in rural areas, and that is where the community now needs development to focus its mid- to long-term efforts. At this point, the Journal of Agricultural Sciences – Sri Lanka prefers to offer priority to publish more specific researches that give sustainable solutions to current issues related to small holder agriculture.

As a journal indexed in Master Journal list of Web of Science, the Journal of Agricultural Sciences – Sri Lanka publishes research papers that are with the highest quality. We always like to assist young researchers to publish their research papers of high quality.

Currently, the Journal of Agricultural Sciences – Sri Lanka has been indexed in Web of Science, SCOPUS, EBOCUS, DOAJ, COPE, AGORA, Cabi abstracts and many other indexing bodies. It shows the wider acceptance of JASSL by international citations and journal databases. This is an indicator for our progress in journal quality during past years. There were many people behind this success. This honour must go to Prof Chandrika Dissanayake - Coordinating Editor of JASSL, Mr Prasad C. Iddamalgoda, Ms Suiox Cummings of INASP, Ms Amila Tennakoon of SLJOL, Mr Harsha Udayakantha Peiris- Copy Editor, all the authors, reviewers and editorial committee members.

Prof (Dr) Rohana P Mahaliyanaarachchi  
Editor in Chief  
01<sup>st</sup> May 2020

ORCID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-3389-5125>

DOI: <http://doi.org/10.4038/jas.v15i2.8793>