

## EDITORIAL FOREWORD

### *Current Trends in Research in Agriculture*

In agriculture there are numbers of areas such as science in agriculture, engineering, economics and business management where researchers conduct various researches. At present, in all these areas, a large volume of data are involved towards the constructions of solutions to problems, and it is not easy to handle this large volume despite using new techniques. Artificial intelligence (AI) is one of the technologies that has changed processes and developments in the field of science, technology, and business in recent years and currently, used in agriculture based research too. AI has been used in applications of expert systems and decision support systems for the simulation of processes and the management of supply operations, in quality control research to investigate the price behavior in agri-food products.

The drive of the agricultural research has been changed in past few decades due to a number of factors such as advancement of science and technology, global urbanization, rapid increase of global population, changes in food habits, changes in food preferences, etc. In the past century, due to green and white revolutions in agriculture employing new technologies, productivity in agriculture has been rapidly increased. However, the threat to total global environment, due to high dependence on chemical fertilizers and synthetic pesticides for increasing productivity and pest management respectively is major constraint that affect the global food production.

These trends recommend that innovations in agriculture are inevitably needed and these innovations should be integrated with the main stream agriculture. Organic farming and vertical farming become major research areas to address these constraints. Vertical farming is well suited for the rapidly growing global urban population as the demands of food supply can easily be met from within the cities and thus reducing the transportation cost and environment deterioration in rural areas. Organic farming on the other hand is based on the principles of minimization of the chemical inputs in agriculture and hence, is environment friendly. These two areas become new trends in agricultural research in recent years.

At present, the Journal of Agricultural Sciences of Sri Lanka (JASSL) has been indexed in Web of Science as an ESCI journal and also in SCOPUS. We are expecting to receive SCI status this year. There were many people behind this success. This honour must go to Prof Chandrika Dissanayake – Ex. Coordinating Editor, Prof. Ruvini Muthukumarana - Current Coordinating Editor, Ms. Anuradha Rajapaksha - Editorial Assistant, Deputy Coordinating Editors and Assistant Coordinating Editor - Mr Prasad C. Iddamalgoda, Ms Amila Tennakoon of SLJOL, Mr. Harsha Udayakantha Peiris- Copy Editor, all the authors, reviewers and editorial committee members.

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01<sup>st</sup> May 2021

<http://doi.org/10.4038/jas.v16i2.9322>