

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

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