

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Tropical Agricultural Research and Extension is a half-yearly international scientific journal covering a wide range of subject areas in tropical and subtropical agriculture, published by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.

Manuscripts and all correspondence relating to them should be addressed to:

The Editor-in-Chief
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EDITORIAL POLICIES**Submission of manuscripts:**

Tropical Agricultural Research and Extension publishes research results of broad practical significance for tropical and subtropical agriculture. The subject areas covered include crop genetic resources, agronomy, crop improvement, crop physiology, plant protection, weed science, ecology and sustainable management of tropical and subtropical agricultural environments, restoration of degraded environments, agro-forestry, utilization and domestication of under-exploited plant and animal resources, bio-technological applications, horticulture, perennial crops, animal science including fisheries, food science, post-harvest technology, farming systems, agricultural economics, extension and education.

The papers submitted to the Journal should not have been published previously in the same, or any other form or language, or being considered for publication elsewhere. However publications appearing as abstracts or as part of a published lecture or thesis may be submitted as a research paper.

The Journal publishes **review articles** on critical evaluations of existing knowledge in a specialized field, **research papers** and **short communications**. The Editorial Board encourages publications relating to research on indigenous, under-exploited plant and animal resources, traditional methods and techniques, work containing new methodological approaches, etc.

Language of publication: English

Refereeing and editing:

All material submitted for publication will be reviewed. The papers will be edited if necessary to improve clarity and ease of communication. Papers conforming to the conventions of the Journal with regard to symbols, illustrations, tables, references, nomenclature, etc. will be processed expeditiously.

Frequency of publication:

Tropical Agricultural Research and Extension is a half-yearly journal with two issues per volume published in the months of June and December.

MANUSCRIPTS

The original and two copies of the manuscript should be submitted.

Length:

Although there is no maximum length prescribed for **Review Articles** or **Research Papers**, the authors are requested to write clearly and concisely. **Short Communications**, which should carry an abstract of about 50 words, should not exceed 2000 words including a maximum of two tables. They need not be structured as prescribed below for Research Papers. Nevertheless, the text should include the objectives of the study, materials and methods used, results obtained, discussion of the results, conclusions and relevant references. Longer articles and reviews, proceedings of relevant conferences and symposia may be published from time to time as a supplementary issue of the Journal.

Organization of the text:

Research Papers should preferably be divided into the following sections: (a) Abstract (b) Introduction (c) Material and methods (d) Results (e) Discussion (f) Conclusions (g) Acknowledgements (if any) and (h) References. If necessary, each section may be divided into sub-sections, and the sections (d) and (e) above may be combined for clarity and convenience. Titles and sub-titles should be typed on separate line without indentation. The manuscripts should be typed on one side of A4 paper, **double spaced**, with 4 cm margin on all sides. They should be accompanied by a **title page** with following information; (a) Title (the title should be as short as possible, but should contain sufficient information reflecting the contents) (b) Running Title- a shortened version of the title with less than 30 letters for running headlines (c) Names of authors and their affiliations and addresses (in the order in which they appear in the paper) (d) Name and address of the corresponding author if different from the first author (e) Fax number and E-mail address of corresponding author.

The next page- first page of the text, should begin with the title, names of authors and address/addresses of the establishment/establishments where the work was carried out. Indicate the present address (es) of authors in a footnote if different from the establishment where the work was carried out. Include Fax and Email addresses as well.

Abstract should contain objectives of investigation, experimental material and methods of investigation, results and conclusions. The abstract should not exceed 175 words. Up to six **key words** should be included at the end of the abstract.

The text should begin immediately after the key words, starting from the **Introduction**, which should be as short as possible and should concentrate on the topic of the paper. It should be limited to the statement of the problem and aim of the experiments. Only the most recent and the most relevant previous publications should be cited.

Materials and methods should give sufficient details of the experimental materials, techniques, designs and methods employed so that the experiment could be repeated. Where the methods are well known, citation of the standard work is sufficient. The statistical methods used should be clearly stated.

Results should be supported by brief but adequate tables, or graphic or pictorial materials, whenever necessary. Self-explanatory **tables** should be typed on **separate sheets**. The place for inclusion

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Figures and tables should be limited to the necessary minimum. **Running title** should be written on the reverse side of each table and figure, using pencil.

Discussion of the results should include recent literature relevant to the findings and lead on to clear **conclusions** and areas for further investigations. If warranted, a separate section on **conclusions** may be included.

Acknowledgements should, as far as possible, be limited to financial and technical assistance, and supply of material that are not readily available.

References should be arranged alphabetically, typed double-spaced and in text referred to as: author (last name without initials) and year of publication, e.g. (Malik 1995). Unless absolutely necessary, citation of personal communications and unpublished data should be avoided. Such citations should appear only in the text as, for example: (D.L. Eskew Personal Communication). They should not be listed in the reference list and *vice versa*. Please follow the examples given below:

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Book : Date RA, Grundon NJ, Rayment GE and Robert ME (eds.) 1995 *Plant Soil Interactions at Low pH: Principles and Management*. Kluwer Academic Publ., Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

Section of book : Kumarasinghe KS and Eskew DL 1995 *Azolla* as a nitrogen fertilizer in sustainable rice production. In: *Nuclear Methods in Soil-Plant Aspects of Sustainable Agriculture*. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna. pp. 147-154.

Hauck RD, Meisinger JJ and Mulvaney RL 1994 Practical considerations in the use of nitrogen tracers in agricultural and environmental research. pp.907-950. In: Weaver RW (ed.) *Methods of Soil Analysis. Part 2. Microbiological and Biochemical Properties*. SSSA Book Ser. Number 5. SSSA, Madison, WI, USA.

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Whenever physical units, names and symbols are used, the SI-system should be employed. Abbreviations should be explained when they first appear in the text. Non-standard abbreviations should not be used in the abstract. Abbreviations and symbols recommended in the British Standard 1991: Letter Symbols, Signs and Abbreviations should be used.

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PRINTING

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If available, the tables feature of the word processor should be used to generate tables. Include all tables after the text, as they appear in the print. If a spreadsheet package was used for the preparation of tables, such files can still be used if they are saved in ASCII format. When aligning columns, one tab per column should be used. **Do not use space bar to align columns.** If the figures have been generated using a computer package, please include the disc version of the figures as well, with a note of the software package and its version. If any additions

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