

Instructions to Authors

Journal of Taiwan Agricultural Research (revised on August 1 2023)

General Information

The *Journal of Taiwan Agricultural Research* (JTAR) is published four issues annually by the Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI). Researchers and scientists willing to make the contribution in the fields of agricultural development by publishing their full papers of original research, reviews, or short communications in the Journal are highly welcome and appreciated. Research staff affiliated with TARI is not a requirement for publishing in JTAR. All manuscripts should be submitted online at the Journal's website, <http://www.ipress.tw/J0042>. Follow its instructions. Submissions to JTAR must not simultaneously submit to any other scientific or technical journal.

Scope

After critical review and approval by the editorial board, JTAR publishes articles in plant science; biotechnology; agricultural chemistry; taxonomy of microorganism and arthropod; plant protection; agricultural engineering; agricultural economics and extension; industrial strategic management; biostatistics; and bioinformatics. Articles reporting experimentation or research findings in these fields will be peer-reviewed as research articles. Short articles (no more than 4 printed pages) concerned with experimental techniques, results, or unique phenomena will be peer-reviewed as short communications. Review articles will be under invitation by the editorial board of JTAR.

Style

See the latest issue of JTAR for style and layout. General rules are as follows:

- All abbreviations should be defined at the first mention and in tables and figures, and be used throughout the entire article.
- The Latin names of organisms (e.g., plants, pathogens, insects and pests) must always list when appeared at first appearance (in Abstract or text). Give the complete binomial and authorities.
- At first listing both the common and chemical names of pesticides must be given.
- SI units must be used in the manuscript.
- Use the 24-h time system (e.g., 0200 and 1400) and abbreviate dates such as 3 October 2015 or 10/03/2015.
- Except when used with units, spell out numbers one through nine. Put commas for the decimal separator (e.g., 1,356,078 and 6,078) and place a zero before the decimal point (e.g., 0.6078 and 0.078).

Preparation of Manuscript Files

All submitted manuscript files should write in Chinese or English and save it in Microsoft Word 97–2003 or later versions (.doc files or .docx files). Other word processing software is not accepted. High-resolution figure files may be included in manuscript and submitted separately in forms of .jpg files

or .doc files or .docx files, one figure per file. Do not use word processing features such as automated bulleting and numbering, head and subhead formatting, or internal linking. Text should be typed in A4 size (29.6 cm long, 21 cm wide) in double-spaced and be numbered and aligned to the left side, while tables use single-spaced. Only one font and size (font no. 12) is used. Provide the document with an upper and lower margin of 3 cm and a left and right margin of 2 cm. Starting from the second page, indicate the page number on the lower right corner. When typing the manuscript, use the font of MingLiu (細明體) for Chinese and Times New Roman for English. Leave a single space between each English word and sentence. The author submitting the manuscript should click on “Authors” on the front page of Journal’s Online Submission and Review System. Under “Author” page, click “Submit a new manuscript”. Confirm submission checklist and then complete the information related to the manuscript including a cover letter.

Follow the sequence and instructions to fill out and upload the information. JTAR adopts a single-blind review for all submitted manuscripts. Reviewers will be able to download the submitted files that authors upload to the system. There are three main types of articles published by JTAR, i.e., “Feature Articles”, “Research Articles”, and “Short Communications”.

Feature Articles. A Feature article is invited by editor-in-chief of JTAR and will be reviewed and revised to assure an appropriate style and content.

Research Articles. Write a research article according to the mentioned scope in the following sequence: title, author(s), abstract, and text. Attach tables, figure captions, and figures at the end of text. In general, each manuscript should not exceed 10 printed pages.

Short Communications. An article that has a size less than 4 printed pages concerned with experimental techniques, results, or unique phenomena may be published as a short communication when accepted.

Title. A title highlights the subject and purpose of the article briefly but clearly. Use common names of crops, avoid abbreviations, and limit words where possible. Except prepositions and connectives, capitalize each word in the English title. Write down the suggested running title, with no more than twelve Chinese characters or six English words, in the next sentence.

Author. List names of all authors below the title and place an asterisk after the corresponding author. The next sentence lists professional titles, institutions and complete addresses of all authors. Provide e-mail address of the corresponding author. Place title and author(s) on the same page.

Abstract. Each article has a single self-contained paragraph, containing the rationale, objectives, methods, results, and their meaning or scope of application specifically. Identify the important details to interpret the results but try not to exceed five hundred words. Do not cite references and avoid equations. In the next sentence, include no more than five key words and capitalize the first letter of each word. If the manuscript written in Chinese (English), place English (Chinese) abstract after the main text of the manuscript.

Text. The text includes the following sections in sequence: INTRODUCTION, MATERIALS AND METHODS, RESULTS, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS (optional), ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (may be omitted), and REFERENCES. If required, combine the results and discussion section into “RESULTS AND DISCUSSION”, and incorporate the conclusions into the discussion. If there is an appendix, place

it after the references. Except necessary, do not mix English with other languages. If required, place headings and subheadings at the head of paragraphs of the sections MATERIALS AND METHODS and RESULTS.

Tables. Prepare tables with the tables feature of MS WORD®; do not use tab keys, space bars, or graphics boxes. Number tables consecutively with one table per page. Place tables at the end of text. Each datum needs to be contained in a defined cell. Table heads should be complete and self-contained but brief. All variables should be defined and abbreviations be spelled out in table footnotes. Follow the order of z, y, x, w, v, u, The *, **, and *** are used only to show statistical significance at the 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001 probability levels, respectively. Lack of significance indicates as NS. Asterisks or letters next to values indicate statistical significance and should align them in the same cell as the value. All footnotes should be set on separate lines. Capitalize only the first word in a row of the body of a table with the exception of proper nouns. Use only SI units (e.g., $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$, Mg ha^{-1} , and m s^{-1}) in the singular forms.

Figures. Provide clear contrast figures in high-resolution JPG files (≥ 300 dpi) and upload them on-line as individual files and attach them after tables; one figure one page. Keep relative sizes of symbols, letters, and numbers as the original should be larger than the intended final size. Use English for letters in Arial font. Explain curves or symbols in a legend within the figure. JTAR will publish figures in black and white. Color figures, images, photos or maps are subject to the agreement of the editorial board and fee must be paid before the manuscript is published in the journal. Photographs and drawings for graphs and charts should be prepared with good contrast of dark and light and no more than the size of $25\text{ cm} \times 18\text{ cm}$. Use English for figure captions and separate captions for figures. A caption should be concise but given in sufficient detail. Define the crop or soil involved, the major variables presented, the place and year, and the abbreviations and symbols used in the caption. Indicate the scale for illustrations.

Acknowledgments. If required, provide it in a single paragraph. List institutional sponsors, the institutional article number, and contribution acknowledgment.

References. The reference section lists published literature and unpublished reports, theses, and dissertations cited in the manuscripts. Alphabetize the list by the surnames of the first author, followed by the other authors. Cite unpublished data, personal communications, and reports in the text only (in parentheses). Give the authors, year, complete article title, abbreviated journal title, volume number, and inclusive pages for journal articles. Give the authors, year, chapter title, pages, complete book title, book editor, publisher, and place of publication for book chapters. Add also the place and date of the conference for proceedings. For electronic references and others, see the current issues of JTAR. Single author references precede multiple-author references for the same first author. Use chronological order for references with identical authorship. Add a lowercase letter (i.e., a, b, c, etc.) to the year to identify same-year or multiple-author references for text citation. Write the author and year of the cited references inside parentheses; for example, (Chen & Ho 1983; Sung 1991; Hsu *et al.* 1992). Refer to the “Serial Sources for the BIOSIS Previews Database” published by Biosciences Information Service (1992) for the abbreviations of an academic journal. Some reference examples:

- Reference from an academic journal written in Chinese:
Hsu, S. H., T. Y. Chung, T. C. Kuo, and S. F. Wang. 1992. Studies on the micro-climate of greenhouse. I. Light environment of greenhouse. *J. Assoc. Agric. China (new series)* 157:34–43. (in Chinese with English abstract)
- Reference from a book written in Chinese:
Sung, J. M. 1991. Nitrogen Metabolism of Rice. Chinese Agronomy Press. Taipei. 100 pp. (in Chinese)
- Reference from an edited book written in Chinese:
Yang, C. M. and C. Y. Lin. 2003. Studies on rice precision farming system. p.1–12. *in: Rice Precision Farming System.* (Yang, C. M. and C. Y. Lin, eds.) Taiwan Agric. Res. Inst. Pub. No. 105. Taichung, Taiwan. 252 pp. (in Chinese with English abstract)
- Reference from a proceedings written in Chinese:
Chang, C. A. 2001. Application and extension of virus-free seedling for the control of virus diseases of passion fruit in Taiwan. p.31–38. *in: Proceeding of Symposium on Application of Healthy Plant for Control of Plant Diseases.* Taichung, Taiwan. November 24, 2001. Taiwan Phytopathol. Soc. Publ., Taichung. (in Chinese with English abstract)
- Reference from a website:
Lehtomäki, A. 2006. Biogas production from energy crops and crop residues. *Jyväskylä Stud. Biol. Environ. Sci.* 163. Univ. of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland. <https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/bitstream/handle/123456789/13152/9513925595.pdf> (visit on 12/16/2014)

Units, Abbreviations, and Statistical Analysis

Use the SI system (Système International de Unités) in JTAR. Some commonly used abbreviated units:

- Length: kilometers (km), meter (m), centimeter (cm), millimeter (mm), micrometer (μm)
- Weight (W): ton (Mg), kilogram (kg), gram (g), milligram (mg), microgram (μg)
- Volume (V): litre (L), millilitre (mL), microlitre (μL)
- Surface: hectare (ha), square meter (m^2)
- Temperature: Celsius ($^{\circ}\text{C}$), absolute temperature (K, but must be indicated)
- Time: day (d), hour (h), minute (min), second (s)
- Concentration: mole (M), millimole (mM), normal (N), millinormal (mN)
- Gravitational acceleration: g
- Molecular weight: kDa
- Three macronutrients in fertilizers: element—N-P-K ; equivalent quantity—N-P₂O₅-K₂O

Other abbreviations:

- Average: *avg.*
- Approximate: *ca.*
- Diameter: *diam.*
- Concentration: e.g. mg L^{-1} .
- Frequency of a rotation: $\times g$.

Statistical Analysis

Manuscripts should contain enough details of experimental design so that the results can be judged for validity and repeatability. The symbols * and ** are used to show differences in statistical significance. Add *P* value (e.g. $P < 0.01$) when a, b, c, ... are used to classify statistical significance. Examples of commonly used symbols: *r* for correlation coefficient, R^2 for coefficient of determination, CV for coefficient of variation, *SD* for standard deviation, and *SE* for standard error.

Accepted Manuscripts

When a submitted manuscript is accepted, corresponding author will receive notification from an editor or editor-in-chief, and the accepted files will be used for press. Authors are responsible for obtaining all permissions for use of materials in the manuscripts from other publishers and should notify the editor at the time the manuscript is accepted. JTAR reserves the right to publish and republish any parts submitted with a manuscript.

Plagiarism

Manuscripts may be screened for plagiarism upon submission. If there appears significant duplicate content with other sources, the manuscript will be forwarded to the journal editor for evaluation and action.