

Journal Update

Prof. Ghaleb A. Alhadrami

Dean, College of Food and Agriculture, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain 17555, United Arab Emirates

Email: hadrami@uaeu.ac.ae

Dear Colleagues,

Last year (2012) many of the Emirates Journal of Food and Agriculture (EJFA) strategic initiatives achieved in support of its strategic goals. The journal increased the number of published articles to a minimum of 12 per the 6 regular issues published in 2012. Also, the journal succeeded in publishing proceeding and abstracts of regional and international scientific conferences. Supplementary issue of abstracts was published for the IX^o Italian Congress of Food Chemistry "Food, Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals" organized by the Italo-Latin American Society of Ethnomedicine, Italy, June 03-07, 2012. Also, the regular issue of Vol. 24(5) contained date palm papers presented at the "Arab Palm Conference 2011" the First Scientific Conference for the Development of the Date Palm and Dates Sector in the Arab World, Held in King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, December 4-7, 2011. Similarly the December issue was reserved for papers of "Plant UV B Responses" in collaboration with the European COST ACTION FA0906 (UV4Growth), UV4 Growth is a European COST Action that brings together more than 180 Europeans and international researchers.

Recently, EJFA signed agreement with CrossRef, a collaborative reference linking service that functions as a sort of digital switchboard. CrossRef holds no full text content, but rather effects linkages through CrossRef Digital Object Identifiers (CrossRef DOI), which are tagged to article metadata supplied by the participating publishers. The end result is an efficient, scalable linking system through which a researcher can click on a reference citation in a journal and access the cited article. Now, EJFA articles have DOI numbers. Assigning DOI number for back issues is underway. The indexing/abstracting for the journal is now 145. There is a drastic increase in the indexing during last year. The Index Copernicus value (ICV) is 5.78 and NAAS Rating is 4.6 out of 6 for 2011.

This year (2013), which is Silver Jubilee year for EJFA, we are planning to increase the number of issues to 12 per year, so that the EJFA become a monthly journal, first monthly scientific journal from the region! In online version, the "Coming Issue" page will be replaced by "e-Preview Issues", and which will give the tracking option to authors for their accepted manuscripts. The advance online publication of articles will be effected, in regular issues soon after proof correction by the authors. It will enhance the possibilities of citations with the help of DOI numbers. The print issues will be published according to the time schedules as regularly. As in the previous year, this year also we will consider publishing special issues for international scientific conferences. Also, special issue for camel research will be published.

The editorial board of the journal was restructured to keep improving the quality and ranking of the journal. I am sure that the new structure will help in moving the EJFA to new level and create system to guarantee the sustainability and continuation of the EJFA. One of the editors from the previous editorial board will now take charge as Executive Editor and number of senior Editors will support him. There will be a group of Reviewing Editors who will handle the review process for the journal. An editorial office was developed with a Managing Editor, Internal Reviewing Editors and two Assistant Editors for quality assurance.

On behalf of the EJFA team, sincere thanks the previous editors of the EJFA for their effort during last year in managing the journal and to all our contributors, readers and reviewers for the achievements of 2012 and wish all of you a great productive year in 2013.