

Editor's Note

On behalf of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Dry Zone Agriculture (JDZA), I am delighted to present its 7th Volume (Number 1 and Number 2). JDZA is a peer-reviewed scientific journal aiming to publish up-to-date, high-quality original research articles related to all facets of dry zone agriculture. Six volumes of the JDZA have been published so far with the substantial contribution of many individuals, especially the authors and reviewers to the early development and success of the journal. Since the publication of the maiden volume, the editorial board of the JDZA constantly aspires to improve the quality and visibility of this journal. In this journey, initial steps are being taken to include the JDZA in online journal databases. Further, I am pleased to announce that, starting from the current volume (Volume 7), the JDZA operates under the terms of a Creative Commons license: Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) which allows reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Sri Lankan economy. Currently, the country is facing additional challenges due to COVID 19 pandemic together with the unpredictable climate changes which threaten the nation's food production profoundly. The research aiming to find innovative solutions to address these challenges has a key role to ensure food production sustainably. Despite the pandemic that intruded the scholarly works, the researchers are striving to discover solutions for the issues related to agriculture. As a result, thirty manuscripts were submitted to the Volume 7 of this journal. After preliminary screening and rigorous double-blind review, thirteen full-length research articles are published in this Volume. Needless to say that the findings published in this volume will contribute to improving the dry zone agriculture and related industries. I am certain that, upcoming volumes of this journal will carry more research articles in a diversity of perspectives related to dry zone agriculture.

I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed immensely amidst the pandemic to bring out yet another volume of JDZA as per the schedule. My special thanks are due to the authors who submitted their works to the JDZA. I am especially indebted to the reviewers for sacrificing their time voluntarily to ensure the standard of the journal. Further, I would like to thank the Associate Editor and members of the Editorial Board for their relentless support to the release of this Volume of the JDZA possible. On the last note, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the University of Jaffna for providing iv

partial financial assistance (University Research Grant - 2021) for the successful publication of this journal.

Best wishes and thank you in advance for your contribution to the upcoming volumes of JDZA.

Mrs. Subajiny Sivakanthan

Editor-in-Chief

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