

Editor's Exordium

Research diversity in horticulture

“Only kings, presidents, editors, and people with tapeworms have the right to use the editorial ‘we’” (Mark Twain, 1835-1910)

‘WE’, in the Editorial Board of this JOURNAL, are continuously striving hard to raise the standards bar, by putting ‘YOU’, the readers, as our cynosure. To achieve this, we are constantly upbringing in measures and means; as somebody says “one step forward at a time”. Content and quality remain the prime moving force. Considering this, THIS ISSUE indeed addresses a wide and diverse of subjects in the field of horticultural sciences. Articles on vegetable crops (5), fruits (4), flower crops (1), medicinal and aromatic crops (1), economic analysis (1) and techno-engineering (1), appear IN THIS ISSUE. These articles discuss topics in breeding and crop improvement (2), agronomy (or can we coin ‘hortonomy’?) (3), engineering (3), nutrient management (2), post-harvest technology (1), economics (1) and biochemistry (1). THIS ISSUE, therefore, truly imbues a sense of gratification in its wider coverage and diversity.

*Tomato is an important vegetable crop of the world. However, biotic and abiotic stresses create havoc and severely reduce the crop yields globally, including in India. Sadashiva et al. review the progress towards identification and gene pyramiding-based tomato improvement through domestication of wild and feral resistance genes from tomato’s ancestral alley, *Solanum habrochaites* LA-1777 ecotype. In the process, the researchers have also improved various quality parameters too. This research group successfully symbolizes a ‘mission mode’ approach to crop improvement.*

*Dhatt et al. discuss plastic tunnel and mulch on various parameters in brinjal, another important solanaceous vegetable crop, for enhancing production and profitability. Mounika et al. study the effects of *Azospirillum*, phosphate solubilizing bacteria and micronutrients on coriander, a green leafy vegetable. Continuing in vegetable crops, while Sudha et al. assess the importance of storage behaviour of five Kuftri potato varieties under Nilgiris conditions, Jat et al. analyze the inheritance of the much desired parthenocarpy in a gynoeocious cucumber line to be under the regulation of an incompletely dominant gene.*

In fruit crops, Singh et al. carry out investigations on the impact of pruning on growth, yield and quality parameters of Dashehari mango (now, its that delicious season of enjoying the “King of the fruits” labor!). Shivashankara et al., speaking of the season, use



the biochemical approach to identify the best times for maximum volatile accumulation and corresponding harvest of banana cultivars, albeit under Kerala conditions. Manjunath et al. report the standardization of the partial root zone drying technique of irrigation in papaya for enhanced water productivity and water use efficiency. In grapes, Sharma et al. evaluate commercial dipping oil and other potassium salts for the production of good quality raisins.

While Bhuvanewari and Sangama reveal that arecanut sheath cup is a better ecofriendly package in tuberose, Baraa AL-mansour et al. recommend better integrated nutrient management techniques in French Basil for increased profitability.

Taking the ICAR-IIHR campus as a paradigm, Bhanu and Ramaswamyreddy exhaustively analyze extant landscape data points and offer technological solutions and interventions of rainwater harvesting, while finally Indhushree et al. identify key constraints in exporting of horticultural products and subsequent measures to be taken in sustaining growth of exports internationally.

The Editorial Board of JHS heartily acknowledges the erudite assistance received from various referees nationally, who selflessly and meticulously perused the manuscripts, offered their valuable comments and helped building the two issues in this year.

ICAR-IIHR celebrated its year-long Golden Jubilee commemorations, ending with an International Symposium on Horticulture, on its 50th Foundation Day. A glimpse of the various scholarly events is presented in the closing pages IN THIS ISSUE, along with salient varieties and technologies of this Institute. The JOURNAL offers best wishes to the quinquagenarian IIHR. Readers, may please suggest other horticultural institutions for similar recognition in this JOURNAL and “WE” will duly consider it.

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