

## FOREWORD

Over the past four years *Insect Science and Its Application* has undergone a transformation in its style, focus and scope of scientific coverage. The geographical distribution of contributors and subscribers has expanded and scope of ISA has been revised to encourage methods of pest control that are environmentally friendly, take advantage of naturally occurring phenomena and exploit naturally occurring botanicals, organisms, pheromones, kairomones, gene pools and natural enemies to achieve biological control. Thus, technologies such as biological control (classical and augmentative), use of insect's behavioural characteristics, mass trapping and the use of biopesticides among other IPVM tactics, all hold great potential for the development of viable pest control approaches of the future—approaches that are environmentally benign and compatible with modern thinking in terms of plant pest and vector control. We are also encouraging the publication of plant genetic engineering papers, in particular as they relate to research on the environmental and health impact, economics and pest management potential in an IPM setting.

It is encouraging to note that most of the contributions we have been receiving for the current issue and the two subsequent issues (in press) follow the ISA philosophy. This, we think, is a reflection of increasing awareness of the importance of the ISA approach of encouraging sustainable farming systems and respecting the interrelationship of human, animal, plant and environmental health in development.

We are receiving more manuscripts from North Africa, Europe, the Americas, and as far afield as Japan, Nepal and China. In line with current trends, therefore, this issue contains twelve papers from seven countries in three continents covering botanicals, parasitoids, *Bt*, pheromones, sampling techniques as well as ecophysiological studies.

On the production side, ISA is now fully computerised and we are able to generate manuscript status reports, letters and subscription invoices at the push of a button. As another important development in the journal's production cycle, we shall soon start sending authors their page proofs as Adobe® portable document format (PDF) files. Acrobat® Reader, with which PDF files are viewed, is downloadable free of charge from the Internet. This development is set to bring both authors and the journal significant savings in time and resources.

We were recently able to donate back volumes of the journal to seven eastern African universities. These were very well received. We still have a limited number of back volumes of the journal (a total of 68 books) and are willing to donate them to universities and national research institutions within Africa that are able to meet the cost of their mailing. Please contact the ISA secretariat to take advantage of this offer.

We continue to welcome feedback from our readers, reviewers and contributors and we will strive to be responsive to their valuable comments, criticisms and suggestions for the improvement of ISA.

  
Hans R. Herren  
Editor-in-Chief