

Foreword

Trusted contributors and readers,

It has been a true challenge and adventure to be a part of the team of the journal *Insect Science and Its Application* (ISA). I assumed the job of Editor-in-Chief about the same time I started work at ICIPE as Director General in August 1994. Along with the many other responsibilities of leading this unique institution dedicated to the insect sciences, it was my intention to revamp the journal. With the commitment of our Centre and that of the co-owner, the African Association of Insect Sciences, to seeing the journal revived and placed on a self-supporting track, both management and operations were streamlined, the backlog of papers eliminated and the standard for manuscript acceptance raised through new referee review criteria. The change process was painful, as we did have to reject many manuscripts, but we were pleased to see that the quality certainly did improve significantly. The journal's dual role of information and education - ISA had also been established to allow young scientists from the developing countries to learn how to write up their research for peer-reviewed journals - made it even harder to apply a very strong quality filter and not discourage young authors. ISA was also made available on-line for the first time and so allowed for a much wider readership.

From these drastic up-grading steps emerged the final product known to you today, with quality research results relevant to the development agenda. The *International Journal of Tropical Insect Science* (IJT) is published by a new publisher, CABI, under a beautiful new cover. I have especially mentioned results relevant to development because in its original version, IJT was meant to emphasize the application of insect science to a science-based development agenda that was dear to the journal's founding father, the late Professor Thomas R.

Odhiambo. You are now all well aware of the major transformation of ISA into IJT, and I hope that the increased subscription level and the increased number of quality manuscripts being received are a reflection of the confidence in the new journal and its relevance to the field of tropical entomology.

It has been a challenge leading ISA's metamorphosis, but also a rewarding one, given the present product. The growing up and metamorphosis the journal went through could not have happened without the total commitment and professionalism of our Managing Editor, Dr Annalee Ng'eny-Mengech. Great thanks go to her. Other colleagues who have contributed to the revival and improvement of ISA are the Science Editors, Dr Joseph Mugah and Ms Daisy Ouya, and the Associate Editors, Professor Richard Mwangi, Professor Ahmed Hassanali and Dr William A. Overholt. To them also a great thank you, as well as to the entire Editorial Board, Secretariat staff and the ICIPE production team. There is certainly more to do, and I am pleased that my successor at ICIPE, Professor Christian Borgemeister, a former colleague at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, has accepted to become the next Editor-in-Chief from Volume 26 (2006). He will continue to improve the journal's quality and also widen the author- and readership. He will work with the AAIS in strengthening further the collaboration and sharing of responsibilities with ICIPE.

While thanking you for your confidence in the journal and its mission, I wish Professor C. Borgemeister and his IJT team all the best.

Hans R. Herren
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The Editors