

Editor's Note

It is with great pleasure to release Volume 11, Issue 1 of the Journal of Dry Zone Agriculture. This issue was originally scheduled for publication in 2025; however, it was delayed due to a few important developments initiated by the Editorial Office to strengthen the journal's quality, transparency, and integrity.

In the past year, the journal has undergone a substantial transition, including revisions to author guidelines and editorial policies, upgrades to manuscript-handling procedures, and improvements to the peer-review process. These changes were implemented to elevate the scientific standards of the journal and ensure a globally connected research environment.

The delay in publication was not solely attributable to these administrative and procedural improvements. A substantial factor was maintaining a rigorous and complete peer-review process. Many manuscripts required extensive evaluation, revision, and reassessment before reaching the standards expected for publication. In several cases, the review and revision process extended from six months to more than one year, indicating our commitment to scientific quality rather than rapid publication.

In this issue, we are delighted to publish four original research articles that contribute to the field of dry zone agriculture. These studies address important challenges and opportunities relevant to agricultural productivity, sustainability, and innovation in dryland agriculture.

As we enter an era increasingly influenced by artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies, scholarly publishing faces both new opportunities and emerging challenges. AI-

assisted tools have the potential to enhance research productivity, data analysis, and scientific communication. However, the responsibility for ensuring the accuracy, originality, ethical compliance, and scientific validity of research remains firmly with authors, reviewers, and editors. The Journal of Dry Zone Agriculture remains committed to upholding the principles of academic integrity, transparency, and responsible use of emerging technologies in research and publication.

The Editorial Board recognizes that high-quality scientific publishing requires the collective efforts of authors, reviewers, editors, and readers. We extend our sincere appreciation to our reviewers for their invaluable expertise and dedication, and to our authors for their patience and commitment throughout the review process. Their contributions have been instrumental in maintaining the quality and credibility of the journal.

Looking forward, the Editorial Office has implemented several measures to streamline manuscript processing and publication workflows. These improvements are expected to significantly reduce turnaround times and ensure that forthcoming issues are published according to schedule. We are committed to bringing the journal back on track while maintaining the standards of scientific excellence.

We thank our readers, authors, reviewers, and stakeholders for their continued support and trust in the Journal of Dry Zone Agriculture. We look forward to receiving and publishing impactful research that advances agricultural science and contributes to the sustainable development of dry zone regions worldwide.

Editor-in-Chief - Dr N. Thiruchchelvan

Associate Editors - Dr K. Jeyavanan & Dr S. Sivashankar; **Copy Editor** - Mr K. Venugoban

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