

## Editorial Note from the Outgoing Editor-in-Chief

As we reach the final issue of *Agriculturae Conspectus Scientificus* (ACS) that I will edit during my current mandate, it is natural to reflect with gratitude and pride, and to look forward with confidence to the journal's future.

Over the past five years, our Editorial Board has worked with a clear goal: to strengthen ACS as an internationally visible, high-quality scientific journal while preserving its long tradition, dating back to 1887. Thanks to the combined efforts of authors, reviewers, editors, and readers, we have made tangible and measurable progress towards this goal.

According to SCImago-based indicators, ACS improved its SJR from 0.166 (Q4) in 2020 to 0.205 (Q3) in 2024, while the two-year citation average (Impact Score) increased from 0.55 to 0.83 over the same period. In the latest data, ACS has 118 citations over the past three years for 121 citable papers, confirming that articles published in the journal are increasingly visible and used by colleagues worldwide. These are not just numbers; they show that ACS now occupies a stronger position in the international scientific community than it did at the beginning of this mandate.

Beyond these citation metrics, there are several achievements from the closing mandate that I wish to highlight:

**Continuity of publication in challenging times** – ACS was published regularly, in both print and online editions, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and in the aftermath of two strong earthquakes that struck Zagreb and its surrounding area. During a period when laboratories were closed, fieldwork was disrupted, and many academic activities were reduced or postponed, ACS maintained its publishing schedule without interruption. This continuity is a collective success and a clear sign of our commitment to the scientific community.

**Reinforcement of scientific quality and editorial standards** – Throughout this mandate, we have consistently applied rigorous peer-review procedures and editorial policies in line with international standards. Manuscripts submitted to ACS undergo careful evaluation, with special emphasis on scientific soundness, transparency of methods, and clarity of presentation. We have also strengthened adherence to good publication practice and research ethics, guided by the principles of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and by applicable Croatian and EU legal requirements, ensuring that ACS remains a reliable and respected outlet for agricultural sciences.

**Strengthening the international character of the journal** – In recent years, ACS has increasingly attracted submissions from a wide range of countries and institutions. The composition of the Editorial Board and the pool of reviewers have become more internationally diverse, bringing broader perspectives, topics, and methodological approaches.

This internationalisation is essential for the long-term development of ACS and for maintaining its relevance in a global research environment.

**Support for open access and broad dissemination** – ACS has continued to be published as an open-access journal, allowing all readers free and unrestricted access to the full text of articles. This model significantly increases the visibility and potential impact of published work, particularly for researchers and students in institutions with limited access to subscription-based journals. Our online platform, archiving policies, and encouragement of responsible sharing of the published version have all contributed to the wide dissemination of research findings.

**Stability and recognisability of the journal** – In times of rapid change in scientific publishing, ACS has preserved its identity as a general agricultural journal grounded in rigorous review, editorial independence, and long-standing tradition. Maintaining this stability while continually improving quality and visibility has been an important task – and one that we can now see has borne fruit.

These achievements belong to all who have contributed to ACS during this mandate:

- to our authors, for entrusting us with their research;
- to our reviewers, for their careful and often demanding work that safeguards scientific quality;
- to our Editorial Board members, for their expertise, advice, and continuous support;
- and to our readers, whose interest and engagement give purpose to everything we do.

With the conclusion of 2025, my mandate as Editor-in-Chief, as well as the mandate of the current Editorial Board, comes to an end. I may step down with a clear sense of accomplishment and sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve the journal and the scientific community in this role.

At the same time, it is a pleasure to look ahead and welcome the colleagues who will lead ACS into its next chapter. I extend a warm welcome to the new Editors, Prof. dr. sc. Marina Piria and Prof. dr. sc. Boris Duralija, and to the new Editorial Board members who will join them. They will inherit a journal that has maintained continuity in the most challenging circumstances, improved its international visibility, and strengthened its editorial and ethical standards. I am confident that they will build further on these foundations, develop new ideas, and guide ACS through the coming period of change in scientific publishing.

I invite you – our authors, reviewers, and readers – to continue your support for *Agriculturae Conspectus Scientificus* under its new editorial leadership by submitting your best work, providing

thoughtful and timely reviews, and citing and sharing research published in ACS. In this way, the efforts invested during the past mandate will serve as a firm basis on which the new Editorial Board can shape the future of the journal.

Thank you for your trust, cooperation, and collegiality throughout these years. It has been a great privilege to work with and for you.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes for the future,

**Tomislav Jemrić**

Editor-in-Chief (outgoing)

*Agriculturae Conspectus Scientificus*

