Introduction to the first issue

With this first issue, we are very pleased to announce the launch of the *Nile Journal for Agricultural Sciences* as a legitimate confinement of Nile Scientific Journal. It is a multidisciplinary, peer reviewed journal dedicated to researches in Agricultural Sciences.

There is a continuous effort experienced by scientists to develop agriculture and related sectors through applying new innovating technologies. However, a brilliant research work is meaningless unless its findings is highlighted and brought to the notice of other researchers and agriculturists, therefore, this journal could act as a common forum for active researches in agriculture and related fields to highlighting their inventions.

The journal will publish articles on a wide variety of issues of relevance to the broad subject area. Each paper will be thoroughly reviewed by 2 independent reviewers beside being in a contentious process of revision and internal judgment by members of editorial board whom will spare no effort to review and accept papers to the journal.

This issue contains seven papers. All contributions are written in English with Arabic abstracts. The papers represent different agricultural disciplines: crop protection, agricultural engineering, water-crop relations, plant ecology, crop science and plant breeding.

This inaugural issue owes much to many people. Thanks are due first to the manager of the research and publication unit at Nile Valley University; Prof. Mohamed I. Shukri, from whom the idea originated, for his wholeheartedly support, encouragement and advice.

Most of all, thanks are due to my colleague editors, Dr. Abdelazim Mohamed Ali, Prof. Abdelrahamn Ali Elmahadi and Dr. Hassan E. Elsayem who have so generously given their time and expertise to make this dream real. We also acknowledge the input of academic counsellors of the journal. Their reputation and great expertise in the field will have a significant contribution in shaping up the journal and making success. Hereinafter, on behave of the Editorial board I wish to thank the authors who submitted papers to the first issue of NJAS. We are grateful that they responded to our invitation.

Finally, we like to dedicate this very first issue to the memory of our late college professor Yahia Magzoub Abdalla who left fingerprints of faith, inspiration and devotion that will support in the endurance of this awaited birth.

*Editor in Chief*
Introduction

The Nile Journal for Agricultural Sciences (NJAS) is a research journal issued twice a year and aimed to publish original high quality research articles in the field of Agricultural Sciences that are not published or not being considered for publication elsewhere. The work for publication will be accepted either in English or in Arabic.

Aims and Scopes

The Nile Journal for Agricultural Sciences is devoted to provide an appropriate forum for the dissemination of high-quality and high-impact original balanced credible academic writings in all aspects of Agricultural Sciences. The journal invites original papers, review articles, technical reports and short communications. The scopes of the journal include the followings:

- Agricultural economics
- Animal production
- Agricultural economics
- Biotechnology
- Crop protection
- Entomology and toxicology
- Extension
- Forestry
- Horticulture
- Land use
- Plant breeding
- Plant virology
- Seed science and technology
- Sustainability
- Water resources
- Zoology
- Agricultural engineering
- Aquiculture
- Agricultural engineering
- Aquiculture
- Botany
- Crop science and agronomy
- Environment and eco-system
- Food science and technology
- Genetics
- Irrigation and water management
- Microbiology
- Plant pathology
- Remote sensing
- Soil sciences
- Waste management
- Weed science
- Apiculture

Editorial Policies

Ethics

The statements and opinions expressed in the articles herein are those of the author(s) and not necessarily of NJAS editorial board. All biological experimental works (such as genetic engineering) should be ethically acceptable and be in accordance with the local and international guidelines provided for both animal and human. Authors must guarantee that the manuscript parts were not being considered for publication elsewhere.

Peer review policy and criteria of manuscript acceptance

Manuscript acceptability is based principally on the importance, objectives, originality, topicality, and appropriateness of the methodology and outcomes. All submitted manuscripts are screened by the editorial board to assure their satisfying the above criteria, and subsequently peer reviewed by two or more reviewers. Manuscripts accepted for publication are copy edited for grammar, punctuation, print style, and format.

Reviewer selection is based on reputation and experience. However, the identity of reviewers is confidential and manuscripts are considered private information. The editorial board will be certain of not allowing authors to realize reviewers identities. Similarly, author(s) identities will not be unveiled to the referees.

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Instructions to authors
The work for publication will be accepted either in English (American or British flair is accepted, but not a mixture of both) with an extra abstract in Arabic language or, in Arabic with an extra abstract in English. The manuscript should be written in clear, concise and grammatically correct language. Latin scientific names at all taxonomic levels are italicized. All scientific manuscripts will be reviewed by at least two reviewers. While submitting a revised manuscript, authors are requested to include a point to point response to reviewer's comments. The final decision relative to acceptance will be made by the editorial board. The corresponding author is considered the guarantor for the legitimacy and correctness of the manuscript as a whole.

Manuscripts submission:
The submission of the manuscript and all correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, takes place electronically through the website: njas@nilevalley.edu.sd, or by post.

The following items should be handled in as one sided printout hard copies and in electronically readable form in either a CD (IBM formatted) or via e-mail:

1. Cover letter:
The cover letter, as a supplement file should include: article title, type of article (full research, review, etc.), scope, author(s) name(s), higher qualification/academic degree(s), affiliations, and e-mail addresses. The name of the corresponding author with contact address, phone number, e-mail and fax number (if available) must be clearly listed. Acknowledgement, if any, could also be represented. Beside any special consideration regarding your submission.

2. Manuscript:
The manuscripts submitted to the journal must conform to all style requirements stated by the Editorial Board of NJAS.

Types of articles:
Full length original scientific papers: regular scientific papers, should report the results of original research that have not being considered for publication elsewhere. A full research
paper should have, in proper order, a Title, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion and References.  

**Review papers:** in which authors should review the up-to-date developments in relevant field of an active current interest. They have to be contemporary and comprehensive. Methods used for locating, selecting, extracting, and synthesizing data should be described. The abstract (250 words) should represent an accurate summary of the article.  

**Short communication:** is a concise, but completely documented, description of a limited research article. The contents should be exceptionally exciting, novel or timely. The maximum length should not exceed 7 pages. These short communications will be peer-reviewed in the same way as full papers.  

**Regular scientific manuscript formatting:**  
Manuscripts should be kept to a minimum length (the whole article length should not exceed 20 pages). The language of manuscript must be simple and explicit. Times New Roman font style with 12 font size should be used. The whole manuscript should be typed double spaced (except tables), with all margins fixed at 2.5cm. Do not leave lines between paragraphs, but instead, indent the first line of each paragraph with one tab space. All pages should be numbered consecutively in the bottom center. Each heading should appear on its own separate line, aligned to the left and bold. The use of footnotes should be avoided.  

**Title and author information:** The title and author information should be centered across the top of the first page. The title should give a concise designation of the paper topic, typed in 16 font style. Capitalize the first letter of all main words (Latin names in *italics*). Abbreviations should not be used. This should be followed by the name(s) of the author(s) displayed as first name, middle and last name (with no commas in between). Numbered and listed author’s affiliations will be provided immediately after the authors line flush left. The name of the corresponding author should be underlined.  

**Abstract:** The abstract, for reviews and research articles, as one paragraph, should be rational, informative and succinctly and clearly state the basic contents of the article with special focus on the scope, objectives, methods, and major findings. The abstract must be precisely and consistently briefed, not exceeding 250 words. References and citations to other works should not be included in the abstract.  

**Keywords:** Key words (3-7 non generic words or phrases) should be provided directly below the abstract to express the article content. They should be written left aligned, arranged alphabetically, separated with commas, capitalize only the first letters of proper nouns, and do not end the list with a full stop.  

**Abstract translation:** An abstract translation is to be prepared and assembled below the keywords, or at the beginning of the succeeding page. It should be precise and presents word-by-word translation.  

**The main text**  
The main text should be structured into paragraphs in the following order: **Introduction** including objectives, **Materials and Methods**, **Results**, **Discussion**, **Conclusion**, **Acknowledgement** (if any) and **References**. Results and discussion could be combined in one paragraph. Each heading should be flush with the left margin and have the first letter of all main words capitalized. All major headings should be separated from the text by 1 line space above.  

**Introduction**  
The introduction is a brief review of literature which should supply sufficient background information on the importance of the topic, the research area of the study and the hypotheses tested in the study. The specific aims of the project should be identified along with rationale for the specific experiments and other work performed. All sub-headings, if any, should be left justified, bold and title case. Objectives of the research should be clearly stated.
Materials and Methods
This section must be concise and include sufficient details of the materials, equipment and techniques used. The sources of laboratory procedures should be cited and information on the equipment model, manufacturers name and address should be provided (if recommended). Measurements should be described precisely (all in SI units) and errors of measurements (if any) should also be included. While, previously published procedures may be indicated by a reference, new procedures should be described in details. The statistical procedure used should be stated in this section.

Results - Discussion
They can be presented together (Results and Discussion) or in 2 different sections (Results followed by Discussion). All results obtained should be simply and concisely presented in a logical order in figures, tables, or text. Tables and figures, whether integrated into the main text, or alternatively, printed on separate pages that follow the reference section, each should be sequentially numbered and titled (above for tables and below for figures). Do not present the same information in both a table and a figure. All printed tables and figures must be referred to in the text. Tabular data, were recommended, could be accompanied by either standard deviation values or standard errors of the means. The number of replicate determinations used for making such calculations must also be included. Sufficient statistical verification should be provided to identify differences in significance.

The results at hand should be concisely discussed in relation to hypotheses advanced in the introduction section and interpreted to previously published works. It must not contain extensive reiteration of the Introduction and Results sections.

Conclusion
The main conclusions of how did the results compare with the expected outcomes and what further predictions can be gleaned from the results should be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a sub-section of the Discussion section.

Acknowledgments
The source of any financial or technical assistant received for the work being published must be indicated in the Acknowledgments section.

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References list: All articles cited in the text should be listed at the end of the manuscript, unnumbered, alphabetized by first author’s last name. Author(s) name(s) are arranged as “last name, initials.”,. Individual authors names should be separated by semicolons. Followed by the year of publication (in brackets), a full stop, title of article, journal name, name of publisher, volume number, a semi colon, specific page numbers (Vol: Start page–End page).
If more than one publication by the same author(s) were cited in the list, arrange publications by date, early to late. If more than one publication by the same author(s) published in the same year were listed, use a, b, c, .. to distinguish the articles cited. Type references flush left as separate paragraphs. The second and successive lines of a reference are indented by 1 cm.

For books include: name of editor(s), edition and publisher.

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Examples:

**Article in a Journal**


**Book**


**Book chapter**


**Conference proceedings**


**Tables and Figures**

Tables should be self-explanatory and the data they contain must not be duplicated in the text or figures. Tables should be submitted in “Word” format (not in excel file) and should be printed single spaced in the main text (appear where should be cited) in numerical order, or otherwise at the end of the manuscript. Place a descriptive, comprehensive, but precise caption at the top of each table begins with the word “Table” followed by a number and a colon (:). Sufficient experimental details could be added in a legend below the table, if required. If a table is taken from other publication, then the reference is to be given below it.

Figures should be properly sized and cropped so that no unnecessary white space is left bordering the figure. Figures should be cited in the main text (appear where should be cited) in numerical order, or otherwise at the end of the manuscript. Figures should have titles set below the figure begins with the word “Figure or Fig.” followed by a number and a colon(:). Legends with sufficient details could be added. Multipanel figures (figures with parts labeled a, b, c, d, etc.) should be assembled into a composite as their final form. For an illustration taken from other publication, the source is to be cited.

**Abbreviations and Units**

SI units (metre, kilogram, etc.) should be used. Consistency must be maintained throughout the text in the use of abbreviations and units. Use standard abbreviations, that are accepted and recognized as common scientific terminology (hr, min, sec, etc.) instead of writing complete words. Define all non-standard abbreviations the first time they are used, then subsequently use the abbreviation.
Examples of some common abbreviations: Time: min, hr, sec; Length: km, m, cm, mm; Mass: kg, g, mg, μg; Concentration: g/cm³, g/L, mg/L, μg/L, ppm; Volume: cm³, L, mL, μL
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