Editorial Message from the in-coming Editor-in-Chief

Dear Readers, Authors, and Colleagues,

As I step into the role of Editor-in-Chief, I am both honoured and excited to lead our esteemed journal into a new chapter. I thank the CSIR-Crops Research Institute Research Staff Association for the opportunity and support to serve in this role.

In the coming years, I aim to enhance the journal's impact and reach by embracing innovation and inclusivity. My vision is to:

- 1. Encourage interdisciplinary research by promoting studies that bridge disciplines and uncover novel insights and solutions to complex problems.
- 2. Enhance digital presence by leveraging digital tools and platforms to disseminate research more widely and engage with a global audience.
- 3. Implement initiatives to support early-career researchers, providing them opportunities to publish and develop their careers.

We will ensure the journal's high standards of excellence and integrity. Thus, maintaining the highest standards of peer review and academic integrity remains our top priority. We will continue to rigorously evaluate submissions to ensure they meet our criteria for originality, rigour, and significance.

A journal thrives when it actively engages with its community. We will seek to encourage discussions through editorials, letters to the editor, and special issues on current topics.

The advisory board members have rich scholarly experience and expertise and are well-positioned to offer guidance and mentorship to the journal and the editorial team. Therefore, I will involve the advisory board in decisions about the journal by engaging them through invited submissions that can guide editors, reviewers and authors, take stock and provide future research directions.

I thank my predecessor, the editorial board, the advisory board, the reviewers, and our dedicated authors and readers. Your contributions have been invaluable in shaping the journal's success.

Together, we will build on our strong foundation to achieve new heights. I look forward to your valuable contributions and collaboration in this vital endeavour.

With sincere appreciation,

Rev Raphael Kwame Bam, PhD. Editor-in-Chief