

## Guidelines for Authors: Agricultural Research Symposium 2017

### Introduction

The annual **Agricultural Research Symposium (AGRES)** of the Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management provides an opportunity for final year students to present, discuss and debate the outcomes of their research projects. Students are also benefitted by publishing research outcomes as research articles in the proceedings of the symposium.

This document highlights guidelines for the authors of 16<sup>th</sup> AGRES which will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

### General Instructions

- **Original papers:** Research data presented in the manuscript should be from undergraduate research projects carried out during year 2017. The authors should ensure that they have written original papers avoiding plagiarism. Permission must be obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet).
- **Fundamental errors in the study:** Authors are requested to check for significant errors before submission. Authors are obliged for any fundamental errors found in the final paper.
- **Copyright**  
Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management hold the copy right of published articles. Written permission of the faculty must be obtained for distribution outside the institution including sharing in websites.
- **Ethics**  
Manuscripts that involve human or animal trials should obtain approval from the Ethics committee.
- **Submission**  
Please submit three certified copies of your manuscript to the Coordinator/ publication committee/ AGRES 2017.  
Please submit an e copy of your manuscript to [publication.agres2017@gmail.com](mailto:publication.agres2017@gmail.com)  
Submission deadline: **26<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**
- **Review process:** The manuscripts will be reviewed by three internal reviewers. Revised manuscripts as per the reviewers' suggestions should be re-submitted before the set deadline. The accepted manuscripts should be presented orally at the AGRES and they will be published in the proceedings of the symposium.

### Specific Guidelines

#### **Article structure:**

**Title:** Use a concise and informative title and a short running title.

#### **Author names and affiliations:**

**Abstract:** Stand-alone abstract limited to 200 - 250 words typed in italics. Scientific names in the abstract should be underlined.

**Keywords:** provide 4 to 5 keywords.

**Introduction:** Give a concise background and justification for the study and state the objectives and hypotheses.

**Material and methods:** Provide adequate detail on research method to facilitate the work to be reproduced. Samples, analytical methods and statistical analysis should be explained in a concise manner. Mention the common analytical methods without much description.

**Results and Discussion:** Results should be clear and concise but complete. Discussion should compare the significance of the results of the study with published literature.

**Conclusions:** The conclusions of the study should be given concisely.

**Acknowledgements:** Briefly acknowledge the research grants (if any) and significant support you received for the research.

**Language:** Text should be written in Standard English (American usage). Manuscript should be 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'.

**Units:** Use the international system of units (SI). A single space should be left between the numerical value and the unit or symbol. E.g. 25 mL, 20 °C

**Acronyms and Abbreviations:**

Acronyms should be written in full at the first time of appearance. Abbreviations can be used subsequently.

**Scientific names:** Italicize the whole name and capitalize only the first letter of genus name e.g. *Megalonyx jeffersonii*. After the first use, the genus name can be abbreviated to just its initial: *M. jeffersonii*.

**Non-English terms:**

All non-English terms should be *italicized*.

E.g. *et al.*, *in vivo*, *Yala*, *Maha*.

**Mathematical formulae:** For simple fractions use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line. For separate equations use “equation editor”.

Levels of statistical significance: \*P <0.05, \*\*P <0.01 and \*\*\*P <0.001.

**Tables:**

“Insert” tables next to the relevant text in the article. Use only major horizontal rules and avoid vertical rules and shading in table cells. Number tables consecutively (Arabic numbers) in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table foot notes below the table body. Table footnotes can be included below the table for clarifications

### **Figures:**

Include figures next to the relevant text in the article. Number these consecutively (Arabic numbers) in accordance with their appearance in the text and place figure captions below the figure. Insert a figure of uniform sizing to the original figure not a distorted one. Figures should be of high resolution such as a minimum of 300 dpi and submitted as .tif or .bmp formats.

### **Table Titles and Figure captions**

Titles and labels for tables are always placed at the top of the table. Titles and labels for figures are always placed below the figure.

All tables and figures must have self-explanatory titles. The reader should be able to look at a table or figure and, simply by reading its title, know exactly what was done in that part of the experiment without having to read the text of the paper for information.

### **References**

#### *Citation in text*

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in list of references. Unpublished results and personal communications can be mentioned in the text without adding in reference list.

#### *Reference style*

*Text:* All citations in the text should refer to:

1. *Single author:* the author's name and the year of publication;
  2. *Two authors:* both authors' names and the year of publication;
  3. *Three or more authors:* first author's name followed by 'et al.' and the year of publication.
- Citations may be made directly (or parenthetically). Groups of references should be listed first alphabetically, then chronologically.

Examples: 'as demonstrated (Das, 2000a, 2000b, 1999; Das and Wickramasinghe, 1999). Das et al. (2010) have given ...'

#### *No author Books*

'In Career Guidance (2004) this has been explained ...'

#### *Multiple works by the same author*

... rivers of Sri Lanka (Dasanayaka, 2004, 2006).

#### *Multiple works by the same author, published in the same year*

... rivers of Sri Lanka (Dasanayaka, 1996a, 1996b)

### **List of References:**

References should be arranged first alphabetically and then further sorted chronologically if necessary. More than one reference from the same author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters "a", "b", "c", etc., placed after the year of publication.

*Examples:*

Reference to a journal publication:

Van der Geer, J., Hanraads, J.A.J. and Lupton, R.A., 2000. The art of writing a scientific article. *J. Sci. Commun.* 163, 51-59.

Reference to a book:

Strunk Jr., W. and White, E.B., 1979. *The Elements of Style*, third ed. Macmillan, New York. pp. 446-448.

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Mettam, G.R. and Adams, L.B., 1999. How to prepare an electronic version of your article, In: Jones, B.S., Smith, R.Z. (Eds.), *Introduction to the Electronic Age*. E-Publishing Inc., New York. pp. 281-304.

*Journal abbreviations source*

Journal names should be abbreviated according to the Web of Science journal title abbreviations. [https://images.webofknowledge.com/images/help/WOS/A\\_abrvjt.html](https://images.webofknowledge.com/images/help/WOS/A_abrvjt.html)

*Published conference paper*

Bourassa, S., 1999. Effects of child care on young children. Proceedings of the third annual meeting of the International Society for Child Psychology, International Society for Child Psychology, Atlanta, Georgia, pp. 44-6.

*Unpublished conference paper*

Bowden, F.J. and Fairley, C.K., 1996. Endemic STDs in the Northern Territory: estimations of effective rates of partner change, paper presented to the scientific meeting of the Royal Australian College of Physicians, Darwin, 24-25 June.

*Websites*

Sharma, V.P. (2009). Cyber extension: Connecting farmers' in India - Some experience [on line]. [Accessed on 12.08.2009]. Available at <http://www.gisdevelopment.net/proceedings/mapasia/2003/papers/i4d003.htm>

### **Format for typesetting**

- Paper size: A4 (210 X 297 mm) typed single sided only.
- Margins: Top, bottom and right margins of 25 mm and a left margin of 30 mm.
- Line spacing: 1 line throughout the text.
- Columns – Abstract: single column, body: double column
- Length: Length of the manuscript including text, tables, figures and references should not exceed 5 typed pages. You should submit 4 or 5 full pages without empty space.
- Page and line numbering: All pages should be sequentially numbered using Arabic numbers.
- Font: TNR font, size 10.
- Language/spelling: US English only.
- **Software:** Authors may use MS Word® 2010 onwards format.

**Abstract:** 250 words typed in italics, single column, TNR font, size 9

**Headings:** All headings should be in **bold** Uppercase and centered. E.g. **INTRODUCTION**

**Subheadings:** All subheadings should be in **bold** and in title case. E.g. **Preparation of Land**

Dr. B.L.W.K. Balasooriya  
Coordinator/ Publication Committee  
AGRES - 2017