

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

REVIEWS IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE (RAS) aims to provide an international forum for the dissemination of review articles. RAS welcomes comprehensive reviews in the area of agricultural science: breeding science, crop science, weed science, horticulture, plant pathology, applied entomology, plant nutrition, soil science, applied microbiology, applied biochemistry, bioproduction chemistry, bioorganic chemistry, food science, landscape architecture, forest science, wood science, agronomy, irrigation, drainage and rural engineering, rural planning, agricultural environmental engineering, agricultural information engineering, grassland science, and animal science. RAS has a distinguished editorial board with extensive academic qualifications, ensuring that the journal maintains high academic standards and has broad international coverage.

1. Submission of manuscript

Submission of manuscripts to RAS must be made using the online Editorial Manager® system by logging on to <<https://www.editorialmanager.com/ras/>> and uploading all material files following the instructions provided on the website. On behalf of all the co-authors (if any), the corresponding author will be required to submit a cover letter in which the author confirms that the manuscript, or any part of it, has not been published yet or is not under editorial consideration for any other journals. The authors who are unable to submit online or have other technical difficulties, please contact:

The editorial office of REVIEWS IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

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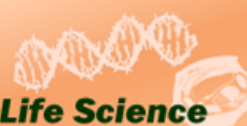
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2. Policy on the Frequency of Manuscript Submissions

Reviews in Agricultural Science (RAS) does not charge article processing fees and receives a large number of submissions each year. In order to ensure the appropriate allocation of editorial and peer-review resources and to maintain diversity and fairness in the content published in the journal, RAS has established the following policy regarding the frequency of manuscript submissions.

In principle, when a manuscript has been accepted and published in RAS, the authors of that manuscript are requested to refrain from submitting another manuscript to RAS for a period of one year following the date of publication, particularly in cases where the new submission originates from the same research group or involves substantially overlapping authorship.

This policy is intended to promote diversity in authorship and to ensure equitable access to the peer-review process for all contributors. The policy is applied flexibly at the discretion of the Editorial Office. Exceptions may be considered where the new submission represents clearly distinct research, involves substantially different collaborators, or is deemed to have particular academic significance.



Please note that this policy does not apply to manuscripts submitted for special issues or to invited contributions, which will be considered separately in consultation with the Editorial Office.

The Editorial Board appreciates the understanding and cooperation of all authors in adhering to this policy, which has been established to uphold the academic quality, integrity, and sustainability of Reviews in Agricultural Science.

3. Editorial Review

All the manuscripts submitted, regardless of whether solicited or unsolicited, are peer-reviewed anonymously by outstanding reviewers who specialize in the field of the author choice at manuscript submission and are designated by the editorial board. The manuscripts are evaluated solely based on the originality, logic, and significance of the contents. To minimize the potential conflict of interest in the review process, the author needs to indicate a few potential reviewers of his/her choice with their e-mail addresses or request a specific individual who is not involved in reviewing the manuscript. All the procedures, from the submission to acceptance of the manuscript, are confidentially managed in the online system. If the number of published papers per year is expected to exceed approximately 20, we may not accept submissions. In that case, the editor will recommend authors to postpone the submission.

New submissions will be accepted during the following four periods:

- January 1 to March 15
- April 1 to June 15
- July 1 to September 15
- October 1 to December 15

Please note that any submissions received outside these periods will be discarded.

4. Originality and Copyright

The preparation of a review article must closely rely on the literature contributed by fellow scientists, therefore, authors should take the precaution of being accused of plagiarism when they cut and paste for citing and quoting from some other publications to formulate an original idea and novel expressions. To verify the originality of the submitted manuscript, the editorial board possibly investigates the suspicious manuscripts of plagiarism by using the Similarity Check® service. In addition, the authors must obtain permission from the copyright holders to reproduce the previously published figures or tables and clearly identify them in the legend or footnote in the manuscript.

The “Copyright Transfer Agreement Form” should be submitted at the time when the manuscript is accepted for publication. It can be downloaded via;

<<https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/files/ras/1/104/-char/en>>

Send it to the editorial office of Reviews in Agricultural Science by the e-mail attachment during self-typesetting process (see Section 5). For the corresponding author’s signature, pasting the scanned image is available.

5. Preparation of Manuscript

The manuscript should consist of items in the following order: title page, abstract, main text, acknowledgments, references, legends to figures (photographs, illustrations, graphs etc.), figures and tables. Do not embed figures and tables within the main text. The main text may be divided into several chapters with appropriate short headings and subheadings. All manuscripts must be written in English. Manuscripts submitted by non-English speakers are requested to include an English proofreading certificate at the time of submission. In case of linguistic deficiencies of the submitted manuscript by English speaker, a certification for English proof reading may be also requested.

5-1 Length of Submission and Other Requirements

The length of submissions must be between 5,000 to 10,000 words, including at least 30 references. Articles must be written using Times New Roman in font size 12 point in Japanese A4 size (210 × 297 mm) or US Letter Size (8 1/2 × 11 in.) paper with 24 to 26 lines per page. The lines should be numbered along the left margin, and the margins should be 25 mm on all sides. Pages should be numbered consecutively at the bottom center option. Manuscripts and tables should be prepared with Microsoft Word, while the figures should be prepared with JPEG, TIFF, PDF or EPS formats. The submitted manuscript must include figures and tables to aid the reader's understanding.

5-2 Page Format and Arrangement of Included Materials

First Page should include the title of the article, total number of words including references and legends, name of author(s) with their affiliation and address. The corresponding author's name and e-mail address should be clearly indicated. The first and last names of the author(s) should be written in full, and the middle name(s) should be abbreviated to initials. Second Page should provide an Abstract, not exceeding 300 words. Abbreviations should be avoided in the abstract. Three to six key words should be listed in alphabetical order. Main text should begin from the third page and continue. Acknowledgments and references should follow the main text. After references, subsequent sections should be legends to the figures collected in one or two pages, figures and tables.

5-3 Citation of References

Number citations consecutively in square brackets [] in the text. Some examples:

- A high skill level is not needed, and many involve workers who can be employed [1].
- Both farmers and non-farmers can participate in fulfilling domestic food demands [2, 3].
- Through food consumption diversification, farming systems can also diversify [4, 5, 6, 7].

(Using “– (en-dash)” between the numbers like as “[4–7]” is not allowed. Indicate all citation's numbers in the brackets as mentioned above.)

If a reference cites a publication written by two authors, the name of both authors should be indicated; e.g.

- Rozaki and Senge [8] predicted that COVID-19 would grow around the world.

If the cited publication is written by three or more authors, only the first author should be named, followed by

“*et al.*”; e.g.

- Rozaki *et al.* [8] predicted that COVID-19 would grow around the world.

5-4 References list

The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Personal communications based on unpublished works (those not easily accessible to the scientific public such as private communications in letters and emails) should be mentioned only in the text without a reference. Abbreviations of the journal title should be described according to ISO 4.

Individual entries should be formatted as follows, depending on the type of materials cited.

(Journal article)

- [1] Kondo S, Nakajima S and Unno M (2012) Ratiometric fluorescence detection of anions by an amide-based receptor bearing pyrenyl groups. *Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn.*, 85: 698–700.

Note:

- The author’s name is described as “Kondo S”, not “Kondo S.”
- Except for proper nouns etc., capitalize only the first letter of the first word of the paper title, and do not capitalize the first letter of other words like “Ratiometric fluorescence detection...”, not “Ratiometric Fluorescence Detection...”.
- Using “– (en-dash)“, not ”- (hyphen)“ between the pages like “698–700”.

- [2] Syukri D, Thammarong M, Naznin HA, Kuroki S, Tsuta M, Yoshida M *et al.* (2018) Identification on a freshness maker metabolite in stored soybean sprout by comprehensive mass-spectrometric analysis carbonyl compounds. *Food Chem.*, 269: 588–594.

Note:

- Ideally, the names of all authors should be provided, but the usage of “*et al.*” in long author lists (more than 7 authors) will also be accepted.

- [3] Zhuang D, Li L, Tatematsu T, Nagaoka F, Nakano K, Kageyama K and Fukui H (2012) Relationship between tolerance against root rot disease and phenolic substances in root of *Rosa multiflora*. *Hort. Res.*, 11 (2): 153–158. (In Japanese with English abstract)

Note:

- If the cited reference is in a language other than English, at the end of this reference, the original language (such as French, German, Chinese or Japanese) should be included.

(Article by DOI)

- [4] Slifka MK and Whitton JL (2000) Clinical implications of dysregulated cytokine production. *J. Molecular Medicine*, 12 (3): 265. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s001090000086>

Note:

- If the cited reference has ‘DOI’, appending its URL is preferable. DOI number is expressed as “<https://doi.org/...>”

(Book)

- [5] Fieser LF and Fieser M (1959) *Steroids*. Reinhold Publishing Co., New York.

(Chapter in a book)

- [6] Conkie D (1986) Separation of viable cells by centrifugal elutriation. In: Animal Cell Culture -A Practical Approach (Freshney RI, ed.), pp.113–124, IRL Press. Oxford.

(Online document)

- [7] Chu MM (2020) COVID-19 pandemic causes labour shortage for Malaysia's palm industry. <https://www.agriculture.com/markets/newswire/covid-19-pandemic-causes-labour-shortage-for-malaysias-palm-industry> (Accessed on 28 July 2020)

(Dissertation)

- [8] Rozaki Z (2017) Economic and Social Study on Rainwater Harvesting in Karanganyar Regency, Central Java, Indonesia. Dissertation, Gifu University.

5-5 Figures and Tables

Figures (photographs, illustrations and graphs) should be prepared in final printed size in more than 300 dpi. Figures should not exceed 165 mm horizontally and 230 mm vertically. Lettering must be sufficiently large and clearly readable (Century font in size 8 or more). The size of lines in illustrations should be 0.2 mm or more. Legends to figures should be cumulated in one or two pages and presented first. Then, each figure should be numbered in order of appearance with Arabic numerals, and presented one figure per page.

Tables with suitable brief titles should be numbered with Arabic numerals and presented in order of appearance and presented one table per page. Tables should be prepared in final printed size, not to exceed 165 mm horizontally and 230 mm vertically. Vertical lines should not be used. Any explanations, if needed, for understanding the table may be provided at the bottom of the table. Footnotes, if needed, should be labeled as a), b), c) etc. and typed on the same page below the table. The position of each figure and table in the main text should be clearly indicated in the main text.

5-6 Abbreviations

Special abbreviations should be given in parentheses after the non-abbreviated full description upon their first appearance in the text. The International System of Units (SI) should be used

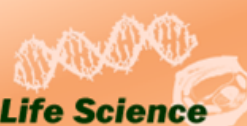
<<https://physics.nist.gov/cuu/Units/index.html>>.

Genus and species names/terms of organisms and normally-italicized words should be types in italics (e.g. *Escherichia coli*, *in vitro*).

5-7 CRediT authorship contribution statement

All submitted manuscripts must include a CRediT authorship contribution statement. Authors are required to describe their individual contributions using the CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy). This statement should be placed after the main text and before the References section. Each author's contribution should be indicated by assigning one or more of the following roles:

Conceptualization; Methodology; Software; Validation; Formal analysis; Investigation; Resources; Data curation; Writing – original draft; Writing – review & editing; Visualization; Supervision; Project administration; Funding acquisition.



All listed authors must have made a substantial contribution to the work and approved the final version of the manuscript prior to submission.

Example:

CRedit authorship contribution statement (example format):

Author A: Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing – original draft. Author B: Formal analysis, Data curation, Writing – review & editing. Author C: Supervision.

Manuscripts that do not include a CRedit authorship contribution statement in accordance with this guideline may be returned to the authors prior to peer review.

5-8 Funding

All submitted manuscripts must include a Funding statement. Authors should clearly identify all sources of financial support for the work reported in the manuscript. This includes, but is not limited to, grants from funding agencies, foundations, institutional support, or commercial sponsors. The name of the funding organization(s) and the grant number(s) (if applicable) should be provided. If the research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors, authors should state:

Funding: This research received no external funding.

The Funding statement should be placed after the main text and before the References section, following the CRedit authorship contribution statement.

5-9 Acknowledgements

Authors may include an Acknowledgements section to recognize individuals, institutions, or organizations that contributed to the work but do not meet the criteria for authorship. This section may include technical assistance, language editing, administrative support, or other contributions. Financial support should not be included here and must be described in the Funding statement. The Acknowledgements section should be placed after the Funding statement and before the References section.

5-10 Conflict of Interest

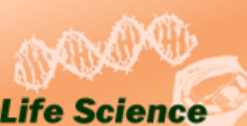
All authors must disclose any financial or non-financial conflicts of interest that could be perceived to influence the interpretation of the manuscript. If no conflicts of interest exist, authors should explicitly state:

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

This statement should be included after the Acknowledgements section and before the References section.

5-11 Data Availability Statement

All manuscripts must include a Data Availability statement describing the availability of data supporting the findings of the review. Where applicable, authors should specify where data can be accessed, including repository names and persistent identifiers (e.g., DOI or accession numbers). If data are not publicly available,



the reasons for this restriction should be stated.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

Data are available in a publicly accessible repository.

Data are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

No new data were generated or analyzed in this study.

The Data Availability statement should be placed after the Conflict of Interest statement and before the References section.

5-12 Reviewers

During the submission process, the corresponding author should be indicated the names and e-mail addresses of two potential reviewers of their choice for manuscript review. This will help the editorial committee in the choice of pertinent reviewers for the submission. Processing of the manuscript may be delayed, if this step is omitted. If there are no suitable reviewers, the submission may not be accepted.

6. Proofs

Once the manuscript is accepted for publication, it undergoes copyediting, typesetting and reference validation to provide the best possible, highest quality publication. The typesetting will be conducted by authors themselves using the template file provided from the editorial office after the acceptance for publication. It should be sent back promptly within a week to avoid a delay in publication. Corrections to the proof are limited to those on mistyping and other copyediting errors. The necessary information such as DOI and the page number on the head and foot notes will be added by the editorial office after the preparation of the proof by authors. Occasionally, the editorial board may revise the accepted manuscript to align with the journal's specifications. The accepted article will be published online on the J-STAGE platform within a month after finalizing the proof editing.

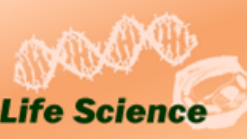
7. Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement

RAS subscribes to the revised guidelines on good publication practice as issued by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) of March 7, 2011. These guidelines incorporate, (1) COPE guidelines originally proposed in 1999, (2) the Code of Conduct developed in 2003, (3) Best Practice Guidelines developed in 2007 and (4) Revised Guidelines for journal editors. <https://publicationethics.org/>

Detailed responsibilities of editors, peer reviewers, and authors, as well as procedures for handling publication misconduct, are described in Chapter 7.

8. Roles, Responsibilities, and Handling of Misconduct

REVIEWS IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE (RAS) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of publication ethics and academic integrity. The journal follows the guidelines and best practices established by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). The responsibilities of editors, peer reviewers, and authors, as well as procedures for handling publication misconduct, are outlined below.



8-1 Responsibilities of Editors

Fair Play: Submitted manuscripts are evaluated for intellectual content only, disregarding ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship, or political philosophy of the authors.

Confidentiality: Confidentiality of submitted intellectual property is strictly maintained. These materials are accessible only to reviewers, other editorial advisers, as appropriate.

Publication decision: Acceptance, revision or rejection of submitted manuscript is made by the Editor in Chief, guided by other editors and/or reviewers of that submission.

Conflicts of Interest: Editors and peer reviewers of the submitted manuscript will ensure that unpublished materials in the submission will never be used in their research publications, without written consent of the author(s) of submission.

8-2 Responsibilities of Peer Reviewers

Promptness: All invited referees for a submitted manuscript will offer timely review of the assigned manuscripts. In case of conflict of interest or lack of qualification to assess the manuscript, they will recuse themselves promptly and notify either the handling editor or the Editor in Chief of their inability.

Confidentiality: Confidentiality of submitted intellectual property is strictly maintained. The contents of the assigned manuscript will not be discussed with a third party, unless authorized by the Editor in Chief.

Objectivity: Reviewers are responsible for maintaining high standards of objectivity in assisting the editors to make their decision of acceptance, revision or rejection of the submission.

Reference citation practices: RAS being a review journal, peer reviewers should check whether previously published studies have been appropriately cited by the authors and bring to the attention of authors any notable omissions for inclusion.

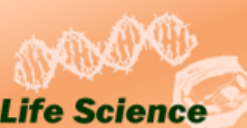
Conflicts of Interest: Peer reviewers of the submitted manuscript will ensure that unpublished materials in the submission will never be used in their research publications, without written consent of the author(s) of submission.

8-3 Responsibilities of Authors

Responsibility: All authors of a submission take public responsibility for the content of their review.

Reporting standards: Authorship of a submission is limited to those who have made intellectual contribution to the conception, analysis and writing. The listing of authors should be decided by prior consultation among the authors themselves. The corresponding author have the responsibility in checking that (a) all co-authors have approved the final submission version of the text; (b) copyright permission(s), if necessary for previously published materials, has been obtained from the parties concerned. Plagiarism avoidance will be strictly enforced.

Submission standards: All authors assure that their submission to RAS do not fall foul of multiple, redundant or concurrent publications, as outlined in the COPE guidelines.



8-4 Malpractice Statement

Editors of RAS assure that they have a duty to act if misconduct by authors and/or reviewers or an allegation of misconduct is brought to their notice, according to item 11 ('Dealing with possible misconduct') and item 12 ('Ensuring the integrity of the Academic Record') of COPE's 2011 guidelines for journal editors.

Wherever applicable, the editors will follow the COPE flowcharts for misconduct.