

THE ZIMBABWE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

AIM AND SCOPE

The Zimbabwe Journal of Agricultural Research (ZJAR) is owned and published by the Agricultural Research Council of Zimbabwe. The ZJAR is a refereed international journal which publishes scientific research and development work in agriculture and renewable natural resources. It publishes papers based upon original research in the broad fields of soils, mechanization, irrigation, hydrology, biotechnology, agricultural economics, extension services and renewable resources in the crops, livestock, wildlife, fisheries and forestry productive subsectors. It is published bi-annually in both print and electronic format. Articles accepted following peer review are published online ahead of production and copyedited as Papers in Press. The Editor-in-Chief, Section Editors and Editorial Board are responsible for editorial policies under the general authority of the Agricultural Research Council of Zimbabwe. The publication of ZJAR provides a facility for local and international researchers to publish their work hence creating opportunities for R & D synergies.

The Editors of ZJAR especially welcome papers describing an interdisciplinary approach showing how different disciplines can be integrated into practical application, covering high and low input **agricultural systems**. Papers will be accepted only on the understanding that they have not been published formally, and are not being offered for publication elsewhere.

Types of paper

ZJAR will consider contributions falling into the following categories:

- Original high-quality full research papers - No more than 35 double-line spaced manuscript pages, including tables and illustrations and Arial font size of 11.
- Short communications - These should not exceed 15 double-line spaced manuscript pages, Arial font size 11, excluding references and legends. Results reported must be based on repeated trials or experiments. Submissions should include a short Abstract which summarizes briefly the objectives of the study, main findings and conclusions. The bulk of the text may be in a continuous form but generally will follow the usual format that does not require numbered sections such as Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion. However, a Cover page, Abstract and a list of Keywords are required at the beginning of the communication and Acknowledgements and References at the end. These components are to be prepared in the same format as used for full-length research papers. Occasionally authors may use sub-titles of their own choice to highlight sections of the text.
- State of the art Review articles on agriculture and natural resources - Authors should contact the relevant Editor-in-Chief with proposals before submitting.
- Perspectives in Agriculture and Natural Resource articles - The editors and members of the editorial board will invite commentary/insightful papers on topical issues. Authors should contact the Editor-in-Chief with potential ideas. New data will not be published in commentary papers, but one table or figure to illustrate key points may be included (e.g. livestock productivity or crop yield trends). The papers should range from 2,000-3,000 words or 6-8 double-line spaced manuscript pages (including references cited). The articles will be peer-reviewed with emphasis given to rapid publication.
- Research Notes - These are reports of new developments in agriculture or natural resources or geographical location (country, province, district, etc.), e.g. insect pest, disease, or weed outbreaks at levels previously unknown or unexpected, exhibit a significant expansion in habitat or host range, or require new techniques for effective management. A Note should contain a justification for its significance as well as sufficient information including the date or date range of observation, symptoms, incidence, type and severity of damage, and spatial distribution. Scientifically accepted methods of proof must be used to document new pests, diseases, or weeds. A Note should not exceed 2,500 words or eight double line spaced manuscript pages, Arial font size 11, excluding references, tables, and illustrations.

- Correspondence - Authors should contact the Editor-in-Chief with a proposal before submitting. Correspondence should focus on the scientific basis for comment or disagreement with a recently published article in the ZJAR, and be a maximum of 4-5 pages with double-line spacing, and a limited number of relevant citations. Correspondence will be peer-reviewed, but processed in a timely manner. Upon receipt of a correspondence that is critical of a previous article in ZJAR, the author(s) of the previous article will also be invited to submit a rebuttal article; both the original letter and rebuttal letter will be published in the same issue.
- Editorials - Reserved for ZJAR editors. An editorial presents an editor's or a group of editors' opinion, analysis, or synthesis of a topic that is relevant to the aims and scope of the journal. An editorial should not exceed 3,000 words or 10 double line spaced manuscript pages, Arial font size 11.
- ZJAR also publishes book reviews and a calendar of forthcoming events. Please contact one of the Editors-in-Chief.

THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Authors should aim at a concise and lucid style, and large bodies of primary data should be avoided. Figures and tables should be selected to illustrate the points made, to summarize, or to record important quantitative results. Well-designed tables or graphs should need little explanatory matter. Photographs and drawings should be restricted to the absolute minimum to support the text.

Contributors are asked to write on their papers the address to which proofs are to be sent. Contributors from outside Southern Africa are advised to nominate someone in Zimbabwe to correct their proofs and to order their reprints. Authors' names should be given without titles or degrees. An author is requested to state his/her full address, which should include the name of the station or institution, the branch or department, where appropriate, and the ministry, university or other organisation where the work was carried out. This information will appear under the title of the paper.

Manuscripts must be typewritten, using double spacing throughout and leaving ample margins. The appropriate positions of tablets, figures and plates should be indicated in the text.

Proofs are sent to authors in order that they make sure that the paper has been correctly set up in type, and not that they may add new material. Manuscripts must therefore, be submitted in final form fully revised and checked for errors. The only alterations permitted on page-proofs will be for typographical errors.

More detailed suggestions to contributors follow.

Title

The title should be concise, yet sufficiently informative to give a clear idea of the paper to be of value in indexing and coding.

Abstract

The abstract is a shortened version of the paper. Write it concisely and precisely as one standalone paragraph of not more than 250 words. Include the rationale, objectives, methods, major results, and main conclusions and their significance. It should be informative and should contain no discursive matter or references. It should give, in highly condensed form suitable for direct use in abstracting journals, information on what has been attained, and what new facts have been brought to light.

Keywords

Include up to 6 keywords specific to your article and must not include words appearing in the title. These must not be acronyms or abbreviations but common vocabulary in the subject area.

Headings

Except for italicizing for scientific names, headings and sub-headings should not be underlined. Headings and subheadings should be numbered.

Introduction

The introduction should state the nature and magnitude of the research topic or problem, explain why the research was done, provide background information, highlight knowledge gaps and the novelty of the research, critical review the relevant literature or existing knowledge on the subject, state the hypotheses, rationale, and objectives, and define terms and abbreviations.

Materials and methods

Clearly describe what was done and how, when, where, and under what conditions in sufficient detail to enable another researcher to repeat the experiment independently. Include descriptions of the study site, experimental design including treatments, replications and experiment repetitions, the materials used, the data collected and how the data were collected, the statistical and mathematical procedures used to analyse the data, and assumptions made and their rationale. Descriptions should be in past tense and SI units should be used unless otherwise stated in the author instructions.

Results

Results must be presented clearly and precisely. Present only analysed summary data. Detailed, supporting data can be presented as supplementary material. Cite all tables, figures and supplementary material within the text describing the results.

Discussion

Start by discussing own results. Discuss variability among repeated experiments. Compare the results to those of previously published in similar studies. Discuss the significance of the work and highlight the novelty of the work. Avoid excessive speculation. Avoid conclusions that are not supported by the data.

Conclusion (optional)

The Conclusion must speak directly to the objectives or hypotheses. It includes a summary of the key findings and potential implications of your study/report without exaggeration and supported by the data presented. This may be applicable, especially if the discussion section is long.

Scientific Names

The complete scientific name (genus, species and, where appropriate, cultivar) must be cited for every organism at the time of first mention. The generic name may be abbreviated to the initial thereafter, except where intervening references to other genera with the same initial could cause confusion. If vernacular names are employed, they must be accompanied by the correct scientific name on first use.

Units of measurement

The SI system should be adopted as the standard.

Abbreviations

Standard chemical symbols may be used in the text where desirable in the interests of conciseness. For long chemical names, and other cumbersome terms, widely accepted abbreviations may be used in the text (e.g. ATP, DNA), but the full term should be given at first mention. It is confusing and unnecessary to use abbreviations for common English words (e.g. L for light).

Dates should be cited thus: 7 June 1972. Units of measurement should be spelt out, except when preceded by a material, when they should be abbreviated in standard form: mg, *ug*, cm³, etc., and not followed by full stops.

Numbers up to nine should be spelt out in the text, except when referring to measurements. Numbers from 10 upwards are to be represented as numerals, except at the beginning of a sentence.

Fractions, in general, should be expressed as decimals, but this does not preclude the use of percentage and simple fractions in descriptive text.

Tables

Tables should be numbered in Arabic numerals and each submitted on a separate sheet, with an appropriate legend. Table captions should be concise and self-explanatory and must be at the top of the Table. The number of replicates should be indicated eg Table 1. Mean (SEM) percentage maize grain weight loss due to insect pests in Mudzi district, Zimbabwe (n = 10)

Statistical treatment

In general, it is not necessary to publish all the individual results of replicated tests. Means and other estimates should be accompanied by a statement on their viability. The method of analysis followed should be indicated, but statistical details such as tables of analysis of variance should be given only if they are relevant to the discussion.

If statements of confidence limits or least significant differences are more appropriate than standard errors, the probability levels should be clearly stated. Similarly, probability levels of significance tests should be shown.

References

Citation in the text should take the form: Takawira and Hove (1960). If several papers by the same author in the same year are cited, they should be recorded in sequence (1960a,b) etc. When papers are by more than two authors, *et al.* should be used, e.g. Takawira, Hove and Ncube (1960) should be written as Takawira *et al.* (1960). In the list of references, authors must be placed in alphabetical order. Titles of journals must be given in full and not abbreviated. The following standard form of citation should be used.

Journals

Smith, I. K. and Fowden, L. 1996. A study of mimosine toxicity in plants. *Journal of Experimental Botany* 17, 3, 750-761.

Books

Hall, K. J. 1999. *Agricultural management principles and practices*. Prentice-Hall, Sydney.

Jones, M. D. (ed.) 2000. *Farm management in Zimbabwe*. Academic Press, London.

Blackie, M. 2006. Indigenous knowledge, African voices and transformation of southern African agriculture. Chapter 31 in *Zimbabwe's agricultural revolution revisited*. Rukuni, M., Tawonezvi, P. and Eicher, C. with Munyuki-Hungwe, M. and Matondi, P. University of Zimbabwe Publications, Harare, pp351-361.

Thesis

Chatambudza, J. P. 2020. *Innovative fertiliser application systems in developing countries*. PhD thesis, University of Zimbabwe, Harare.

Conference Proceeding Paper

Moses, K. K. 2015. Gender relations in Agriculture. In Gender Issues in Zimbabwe. *Proceedings of the fifth Gender Association conference*, ed. Chinyemba J, Gender Association, Mutare, pp. 124-140.

Newspaper

Chaitezvi, J. 2010. Availability of agricultural input supply in Zimbabwe. *The Herald*, 23 October, p11-12.

Website

AMA (Agricultural Marketing Authority), 2021. *Agricultural Market Information*. Available from: <<https://ama.co.zw/>>. [Accessed 5 July 2021]

https://guides.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/harvard_citation/all-examples

Reference to private communications and documents not available to the general scientific public should be avoided wherever possible. The list of references must be 1-spaced throughout and checked thoroughly for accuracy and full citation before submission.

Illustrations

Text-figures - These should be kept to a minimum.

Figures should not be more than twice the linear dimensions desired in the final reproduction. The maximum space available on a page is 165 x 110 mm, and thus for a full page figure an original should not be larger than 330 x 220 mm, and it should conform to these proportions i.e. approximately 3 : 2. Wherever possible, smaller figures should be so designed that two or more can be grouped together to fill a page.

It is most important that lines and symbols should be drawn boldly enough to stand reduction to the desired size. For graphs where reduction to one-half in linear dimension is intended, a suitable thickness for the axes is 0.3 mm and for other lines 0.4 or 0.5 mm depending on the complexity of the graph. The preferred symbols are ●○■□▲△ and should be used at this size for simple, open graphs for reduction. The symbols x and + should be avoided.

Each legend should contain sufficient explanation to be understandable without cross-referencing or referring to the text.

The scale of all maps must be clearly shown.

Plates - Photographs for plates must be of high quality. When several photographs are to be combined in a single plate they should be grouped to give a height-width of 3: 2, leaving a narrow gap between them. Irregular and asymmetrically distributed groups of photographs will not be accepted.

Individual plate figures should be lettered A, B, C, etc. Reference in the text should take the form Figure 1 A, etc. A scale should be included wherever necessary or the reduction or magnification should be stated. Plates must acknowledge the source or the originator

Illustrations can be embedded in the exact desired position within the text and also referred to within the text.

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

For the Manuscript:

- Include keywords
- All figures (include relevant self-explanatory captions)
- All tables (including self-explanatory captions, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if colour should be used for any figures in print

Further considerations

- Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
- A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
- Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

Offprints

The corresponding author will be given access to the published paper through an online link which can be shared with co-authors and fellow-researchers.

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