

## FOREWORD

A recent analysis of our contributors' and subscribers' geographical profiles revealed that, although *Insect Science and Its Application* reports on research that is largely produced in, by and for the developing world, its readers are concentrated in the North. For example, whereas about 60% of ISA's contributors are from Africa, African institutions make up only 10% of ISA's subscribers. Almost two-thirds of our subscribers are in North America and Europe. In our view, although access to the latest information is a necessary prerequisite for meaningful research and development work, the majority of Third World institutions are unable to afford the subscription costs of scholarly journals. In this regard, we gratefully acknowledge a grant from UNESCO-ROSTA, courtesy of which 10 target African institutions will receive a year's free subscription to the journal.

ISA is still seriously under-represented or unknown in many areas of the tropical world, particularly Africa, China, South America, the Near and the Far East—regions that would benefit from the information contained in the journal and from publishing in it. We would now like to call upon other well wishers, institutional or individual, to participate in making ISA more available in the tropics. Our proposal is that for every new subscription that is taken out by or on behalf of a developing-country institution, *Insect Science and Its Application* will donate to the institution, all available back issues of the journal\*. This is an offer that Third World institutions cannot afford to pass up, and we hope to see a good response.

The Internet publishing of the journal is progressing well. Under the guidance of Bioline Publications (UK), ISA is well on its way to becoming self-sustaining in web publishing. The next step will be to incorporate hyperlinks from keywords in articles to public domain databases on the Internet, thus converting the on-line papers into dynamic information resources.

We are greatly encouraged by the positive feedback that ISA is receiving from authors, reviewers, subscribers and other interested parties. ISA has recently been reinstated or introduced into the following major abstracting services: Chemical Abstracts, Zoological Record and the USDA/IBIDS Dietary Supplements database (see the back cover).

It therefore gives me great pleasure to usher in this 1998 Volume. The second and third issues of Volume 18 are also in press and we anticipate releasing one of them before year-end.

As the journal forges ahead in supporting and publishing research aimed toward ecologically sound pest and vector management, the use of insects in income-generating activities, and their conservation to cater for essential ecosystem services, sustainable development is becoming a reality. It is heartening, furthermore, to see key global bodies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Bank and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) contribute to and support our ideals.



Hans R. Herren  
Editor-in-Chief

\*Please contact journal secretariat for further details.