

Editor's preface

This current issue closes volume 2 of *PGR: C&U*, firmly establishing its presence in the field. For an academic journal to have 'arrived', it is all important that it appears in the major scientific citation databases. We are confident that we have largely fulfilled the criteria for inclusion (timeliness of publication; the application of the peer-review process; international diversity among authors; and the publishing record of the journal's authors and editorial board members). We close our second year convinced of the value that the journal has in linking the breadth of activities and knowledge that go under the label of plant genetic resources, as confirmed by the increasing flow of manuscript submission. The coverage of the material published so far has been broad, as has been the geographic diversity of both our authorship and our editorial board. This has confirmed our feeling that there is a continuing need for, and interest in a mouthpiece for the PGR community, across both discipline and locality, which was the motivation for launching the journal at the outset.

In our second year, we have produced three issues of the journal, and are gearing up for our special issue devoted to the topic of medicinal plants in the context of PGR. Thanks largely to the efforts of our guest editors Prof. Umesh Lavania and Dr Monique Simmonds, we are optimistic that this special issue, when it appears in 2005, will represent a substantial contribution to what is currently a hot topic worldwide.

Science seldom stands still, but sometimes too much hurry can result in losing sight of what is valuable in the rush for novelty. Biotechnology in plant improvement is a case in point. Plant genetic resources has been a recognized topic for many years, and has seen a number of magic bullets come and go. We would be wise to consider 'omics technology as a powerful tool to improve our understanding of plant variation, rather than as an end in itself. I believe that *PGR: C&U* has so far lived up to this philosophy in its choice of content, and hope that our readership too thinks along these lines.

A journal is only as good as its content, and unlike a popular newspaper, the content of an academic journal is the product of its readership. Now that we have established the journal as a going concern and a quality product, I am optimistic that you, the reader, will see the benefit of publishing your own contribution in PGR here. We look forward to hearing from you.

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