

## Editorial

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Professor Juha Helenius

*Editor*

The 18<sup>th</sup> volume of *Agricultural and Food Science*, starting with this issue, is published in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the *Scientific Agricultural Society of Finland*. As a scientific publisher, the Society has a history dating back 1928. It published the *Journal of the Scientific Agricultural Society of Finland* until 1991, when the Society got together with co-publisher MTT Agrifood Research Finland to start the current *Agricultural and Food Science*. Over the decades, scientific publishing has been continually subject to change and once again, it is time to review the format and focus of the journal.

The emphasis on *boreal* agriculture will be strengthened. Climate change scenarios agree on major changes in key agroecological parameters, including length of growing season, rates and patterns of precipitation, and increasing amplitudes of variability in weather within and between seasons. Around the hemi boreal and boreal zone, these changes, together with socio-economic turnover and increasing instability of the global agri-food sector, challenge research to generate new knowledge, applications and skills for new, adaptive systems.

Following a decision by the publishers, *Agricultural and Food Science* will become an Open Access journal. The aim is to initiate the changes during 2009, such that web-access would then be available from 2010 onwards. Paper copies will still be printed and available as well. With Open Access, articles will not only be quicker and easier to access but they will also reach a wider audience. This is beneficial both to authors and to the readers. Benchmarking studies show that Open Access increases impact.

The number of manuscripts submitted in 2008 was 166 compared with 205 in 2007. The acceptance rate has remained at about 25% in the past years. Volume 17 included 5 articles in the field of agricultural economics, 2 in agricultural technology, 6 in animal science, 3 in environmental science, 1 in food science, 2 in horticulture, and 13 in plant and soil science. We acknowledge the excellent work of the 98 peers who evaluated the 44 manuscripts in 2008 put forward for review. Through the online service, abstracts of the journal's articles were accessed 12 765 times, which is an impressive doubling of the access rate compared to 2007.

I wish to thank all authors who have submitted papers to *Agricultural and Food Science* and look forward to receiving new submissions for publication during 2009. I trust all our readers will find excitement and inspiration among the pages of volume 18.