

Letter from the editors

The *Spanish Journal of Agricultural Research* (SJAR), which started in 2003 as the result of the merging of two of the series (Agricultural and Livestock) from the previous journal *Investigación Agraria*, has undergone a very rapid evolution along these eight years. It appeared for the first time in 2006 in the *Science Citation Index* and in 2007 in the *Journal Citation Reports* (agriculture/multidisciplinary, ranking: 25/44, in 2009). The impact factor has been increasing since then (0.278 in 2007; 0.388 in 2008; 0.407 in 2009). The journal is also covered by Scopus since 2009. There is a webpage (www.inia.es/sjar) based on the open journal system and an alert service which sends a newsletter when a new issue appears to more than 1,700 subscribers. The number of articles submitted and published have been continuously increasing (138 and 49 in 2003; 538 and 168, respectively, in 2010).

This progress has made the management of the journal more complexed. After some reflection, we have decided to select twelve topics with a section editor for each of them, who will be responsible of the evaluation of all items belonging to each topic. These sections and editors are: agricultural economics (Fernando Vidal, UMH, Orihuela, Alicante), agricultural engineering (Francisco Rovira, UPV, Valencia), animal breeding, genetics and reproduction (Manuel Baselga, UPV, Valencia), animal health and welfare (Lorenzo Gonzalez, VLA-Lasswade, Penicuik, Scotland, UK), animal production (Clemente Lopez-Bote, UCM, Madrid), environment and ecology (Ismael Aranda, INIA, Madrid), plant breeding, genetics and genetic resources (Amando Ordás, CSIC, Pontevedra), plant physiology (Jorge Casal, UBA, Buenos Aires, Argentina), plant production (Luis Rallo, UCO, Córdoba), plant protection (Mercedes Campos, CSIC, Granada), soil science (Rafael Espejo, UPM, Madrid) and water management (Alejandro Pérez-Pastor, UPCT, Cartagena, Murcia). They will have the responsibility of choosing the best

originals for each section and of coordinating their evaluation. These section editors will personally select the associate editors, or even directly the evaluators. Many of them have a long experience in SJAR as they were former associate editors. We welcome the new editorial board and thank them for their time and assistance.

We are aware that this progression of the SJAR was achieved due to the convergence of many factors, being one of them, of course, the great work done by the large number (given the journal multidisciplinary character) of the associate editors. We want to express them our gratitude for their cooperation with us during all this time, for their patience and for the prestige it has brought to the SJAR having them as associate editors. We hope they can continue collaborating with us in the future either as authors or reviewers. We would like to remind here Rafael Delfa and Angel Mingo, two associate editors who passed away on 2006 and 2009, respectively.

We greatly appreciate the important contribution of three professional societies, for whom SJAR has been the official scientific journal along these years: *Sociedad Española de Agroingeniería* (SEA), *Sociedad Española de Ciencias Hortícolas* (SECH) and *Asociación Española de Ingeniería de Proyectos* (AEIPRO). Their collaboration helped SJAR to be introduced in their research fields. Francisco Rovira, from SEA, will continue working in the section «agricultural engineering» as editor.

We also would like to thank all the authors who have considered the *Spanish Journal of Agricultural Research* as an outlet for their research results. Some articles were published, some were rejected, but all of them made the journal improve.

We hope that all of you remember this time with pleasure. For our part, we will remember you with affection and gratitude, because you are part of the —still short— SJAR history.