

Editorial

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Editor

Agricultural and Food Science starts its 17th volume in an era of growing and diversified public interest in agricultural and food issues. Several global concerns, ranging from market changes to resource limitations and environmental problems, are stimulating increased research efforts and will hopefully boost research funding in our field. The journal focuses on research especially relevant to the boreal agroecological zone. The northern production systems will be affected by increasing temperatures, shifts in rainfall timing and rates, and increasingly variable weather patterns. At the same time, globally increasing commodity, feed, and food prices call for innovation and adaptation in the farming and food sector in the north. We can expect a good coverage of topical research topics in the 17th volume.

The journal has been available online through Ingenta (www.ingentaconnect.com) since 2004. This may have contributed to the continuous increase in the number of manuscript submissions from 94 in 2004 to 205 in 2007. At present, about 15 % of submitted manuscripts are accepted for publication directly or after revision. In 2007, 163 peers from 24 countries reviewed the manuscripts. As of the writing of this editorial, the impact factor of Agricultural and Food Science is 0.354 (ISI Web of Science), based on the 166 citations made in 2006 to 23 articles published in 2005 and in 2004. The growth in impact from the previous volume is 39 %.

Agricultural and Food Science continues to be an independent, peer-reviewed, non-profit scientific journal, co-published by the Scientific Agricultural Society of Finland and the publicly funded research institute MTT Agrifood Research Finland. I would like to thank the readers and subscribers for their interest, the active researchers for the submitted articles, the editorial board for its diligent work, and especially the peers for their invaluable contributions in maintaining the high scientific standard of the journal. I welcome new submissions (www.mtt.fi/afs) and wish the readers enlightening moments with Agricultural and Food Science, Volume 17.

