Editorial

Advancing Science for Sustainable Agriculture

Hynek Roubík

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Kamýcká 129, Prague, 16500, Czech Republic

roubik@ftz.czu.cz

Received for publication on December 30, 2024

Accepted for publication on December 31, 2024

As we close the year 2024, it is with great satisfaction that we reflect on productive and enriching publishing cycle at *Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica* (SAB). This year, the journal has continued to grow as a platform for rigorous, internationally relevant and interdisciplinary research in the fields of agriculture, food, forestry, and rural development.

The past year has seen an exceptional diversity of contributions from around the world, reinforcing SAB's international scope and our commitment to addressing local and global challenges. Among the most pressing issues featured in this year's publications was the impact of conflict on food systems, with several studies examining Ukraine's agricultural resilience. Zadorozhna et al. (2024) evaluated the sustainability of the Ukrainian food system during war, focussing on food security risks and the importance of initiatives such as the Black Sea Grain Initiative. In a complementary study, Broshkov et al. (2024) proposed the Agrisharing model, a novel GIS-based platform aimed at optimising Ukraine's agricultural production during wartime recovery and contributing to global food stability.

The socioeconomic impact of climate change was also addressed through the lens of rural development. Hrušovský et al. (2024) examined how climate variability, particularly in the form of disrupted mango production, affects local livelihoods on Guimaras Island in the Philippines, highlighting the vulnerability of crop-specific rural economies.

Another standout contribution came from Vaskina et al. (2024), who conducted a comparative analysis of financial and legislative frameworks for biogas development in Poland and Ukraine. Their study offers important insights for postwar energy reconstruction, sustainability policy, and the European Union's renewable energy goals.

In the area of food technology and natural preservatives, Stepanova et al. (2024) evaluated honeysuckle leaf water extract as a natural antioxidant for fresh chicken, demonstrating its effectiveness in prolonging shelf life while maintaining sensory qualities, contributing to the ongoing shift toward clean-label food production.

From Nigeria, Kehinde and Tijani (2024) provided a thoughtful analysis of pesticide use among cocoa farmers, showing how membership in agricultural organisations significantly shapes farmers' preferences and the adoption of approved, safer pesticide alternatives. Their results are crucial for policy interventions aimed at improving agricultural health and safety standards in West Africa.

The SAB volumes of this year also featured valuable research in agronomy and plant nutrition. Zamani et al. (2024) presented a comprehensive three-year study on optimising saffron yield

through iron chelate foliar application, offering practical recommendations for farmers in semi-arid climates.

On the topic of urban ecology and zoonotic risk, Cellengová et al. (2024) conducted a detailed survey of tick populations in Kosice, Slovakia, identifying public health risks posed by urban tick host ecosystems.

Lastly, Oluwadele et al. (2024) contributed important findings for forage management in tropical livestock systems, evaluating Napier grass varieties under different cutting regimes. Their results recommend optimal strategies to balance biomass yield and forage quality for smallholder farmers.

Together, these studies highlight the interdisciplinary and international character of the SAB in 2024, with contributions from Europe, Africa, and Asia. They also underscore the role of our journal in promoting sustainable agricultural systems aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.

As you can see in Figure 1, the trend for publication has been changing in the last few years. However, you can also see the growing tendency there. And we want to continue growth of SAB in the upcoming years. With expected growth in 2025 to at least 20 published articles (Figure 2) and 2026 back to the level from 2018. Already now, at the end of 2024, we have received more than 110 submitted manuscripts.

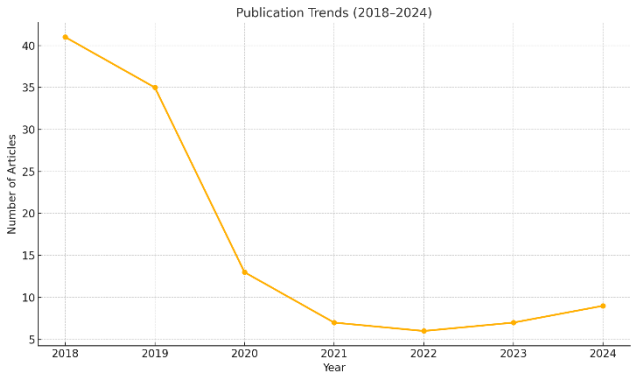

Figure 1. Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica publication trends (2018-2024).

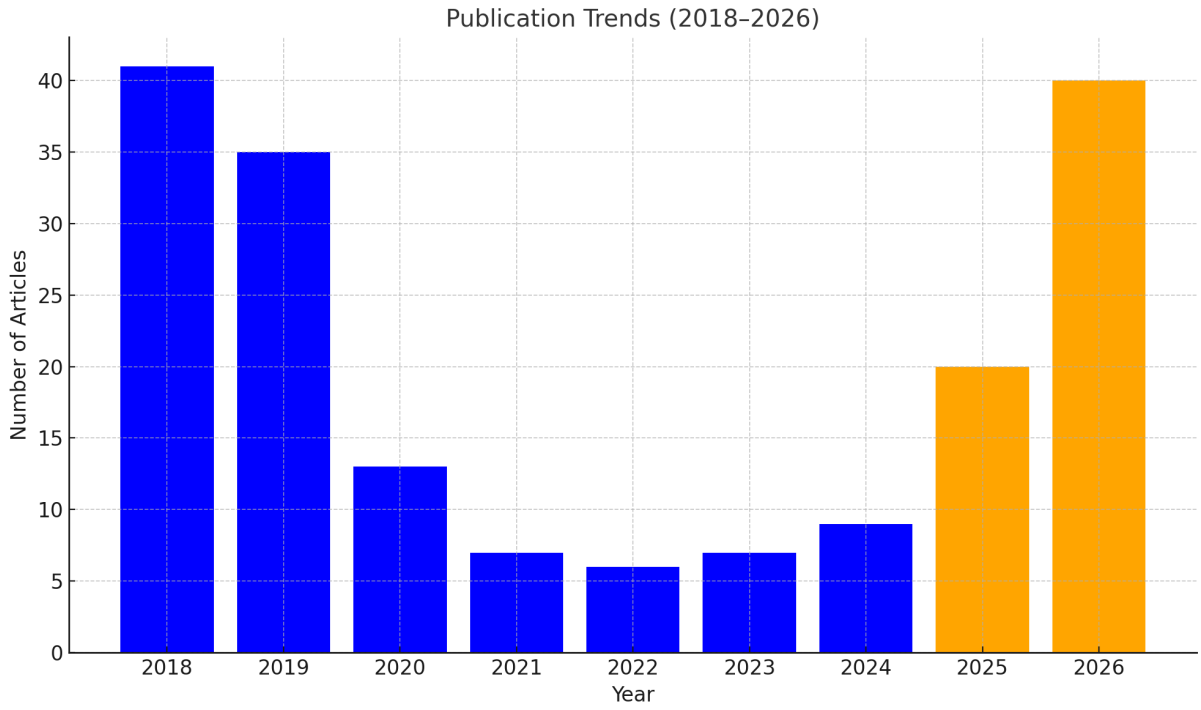

Figure 2. Publication trends of Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica (2018-2024 + expected for 2025-2026).

Looking ahead, we remain committed to supporting science that informs resilient, sustainable, and innovative agricultural development. We encourage submissions that bring rigorous methods, local insights, and global implications.

Looking ahead to 2025, SAB is incorporating several important changes aimed at improving the author and reader experience, while aligning with international publishing standards. A new article template and layout style will be introduced, featuring a single-column format that enhances readability across digital platforms and devices. To streamline citation and referencing, each article published from 2025 onward will be assigned a unique article number, with pagination starting from page 1 for every individual article. In addition, SAB is adopting stronger transparency policies by requiring authors to include a Declaration of Competing Interest, and to follow the CRediT (Contributor Roles Taxonomy) system for detailing Author Contributions. These updates reflect our continued commitment to quality, accessibility, and integrity in scholarly publishing.

As Editor-in-Chief, I extend thanks to our authors for their commitment to excellence, to our reviewers for their critical insights and generous time, and to our readers for their continued interest and engagement.

Finally, let me close with a simple thought, that **Advancing Science for Sustainable Agriculture** is not just a slogan or a title for this editorial —it is a call to action that shapes the direction of this journal and the work of our contributors. It speaks to a future where agricultural research is driven by purpose, grounded in evidence, and responsive to the needs of both people and the planet. It challenges us to reimagine how food is grown, processed, distributed, and

valued—through interdisciplinary collaboration, context-specific innovation, and a deep respect for ecological balance. This vision invites scientists, educators, practitioners, and policymakers to align their efforts in building agricultural systems that are not only productive but also resilient, inclusive, and sustainable for generations to come. As Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica, we are proud to be a conduit for this progress. Therefore, I also warmly invite you to join us at the Multidisciplinary Conference for Young Researchers (MCYR 2025; https://mcyr.ftz.czu.cz/)—a vibrant platform to share ideas, build collaborations, and contribute to the future of sustainable agriculture.

On behalf of the editorial board, I wish you a healthy and inspiring 2025.

With regards,
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hynek Roubík
Editor-in-Chief
Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica
Czech University of Life Sciences Prague

References

Broshkov, M., Zapsha, G., Bulysheva, D., Sakhatskyi, M. (2024): Agrisharing as the Basis of Sustainable Agriculture in the Conditions of Solving the World Food Problem as a Result of War in Ukraine. Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica, 55, 27-38. DOI: 10.7160/sab.2024.550204

Cellengová, Z., Peťko, B., Hajdová, B. (2024): Slovakia's Urban Tick Ecosystem: Exploring Hosts, Pathogens, and Public Health in Košice (Eastern Slovakia). Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica, 55, 14-21. DOI: 10.7160/sab.2024.550102

Hrušovský, T., Lošák, T., Flora, R. J. D. (2024): Rural Development of Guimaras Island, Philippines: How Does Climate Change Threaten Local Mango-Driven Development? Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica, 55, 22-26. DOI: 10.7160/sab.2024.550103

Kehinde, A., Tijani, A. (2024): Impact of Membership in Agricultural Organizations on Cocoa Farmers' Preferences for Approved Pesticides in Osun and Ondo States of Nigeria. Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica, 55, 65-78. DOI: 10.7160/sab.2024.550307

Nan H., Stepanova, T., Li, B. (2024): Application of Water Extract from Honey-Suckle (*Lonicera Japonica Thunb*) Leaves and Its Effect on the Quality of Fresh Chicken Meat. Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica, 55, 79-87. DOI: 10.7160/sab.2024.550308

Oluwadele, J.F., Ekeocha, A.H., Aganga, A.A. (2024) Forage Growth Biomass, Yield, and Quality Responses of Three varieties Napier at Cutting Intervals in the South west Nigeria. Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica, 55, 87-xx. DOI: 10.7160/sab.2024.550309

Satyr, L., Zadorozhna, R., Kepko, V., Stadnik, L. (2024): Sustainability of Food Systems: Ukraine's Agricultural Sector in the Face of War. Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica, 55, 1-13. DOI: 10.7160/sab.2024.550101

Vaskina, I., Hopkalo, D., Shkarupa, O., Dach, J., Vaskin, R., Sydorenko, S. (2024): Financial and Legislative Aspects of Biogas Development in Poland and Ukraine. Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica, 55, 50-63. DOI: 10.7160/sab.2024.550206

Zamani, E., Salari, H., Bahraminejad, S. (2024): Investigate Different Levels of Iron Chelate Fertilizer and Foliar Spraying Time on the Economic Yield of Saffron (*Crocus Sativus* L.). Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica, 55, 39-49. DOI: 10.7160/sab.2024.550205

Acknowledgment

I would like to acknowledge the OSIRIS project, which is funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101094725 (https://osiris4r.eu/) as it is project, which inspired me to do various improvements of our journal.