

A milestone of excellence: What's next after ATR's landmark achievement in Scopus indexing?

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The **Annals of Tropical Research** (Ann. Trop. Res. | ATR) of the **Visayas State University** proudly announces its formal inclusion in Elsevier's **Scopus**, one of the world's largest and most respected databases for peer-reviewed literature (Schotten et al., 2017). This accomplishment marks a defining moment in the journal's almost five decades of scholarly publishing. Since its inception in 1979, ATR has remained steadfast in its commitment to knowledge creation, scientific advancement, and societal development as evident in its 47 volumes published in both print and online formats that has steadily expanded its global visibility.

As clear indicators of global scholarly influence, ATR has accumulated **2,542 citations**, with an **h-index of 21** and an **i10-index of 69** on Google Scholar. Each citation signifies not only the academic rigor and relevance of our research but also its real-world impact, as evidenced by notable policy shifts in sustainable agriculture and public health advancements attributed to findings published within our volumes. Its online presence continues to grow, with **183,996 website views** coming from researchers across the Americas, Europe, and Southeast Asia, connecting knowledge seekers and facilitating academic collaborations that drive innovation globally.

Beyond its Scopus inclusion, ATR is indexed and abstracted in several reputable global databases, including the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), CABI Abstracts, AGRIS, and EBSCO. ATR's published works are discoverable to a broad and diverse audience. As an open-access journal, we remain firmly committed to equitable, inclusive, and accessible scientific publishing.

ATR's indexing to reputable databases is far more than a symbolic distinction. It affirms ATR's evolution into a resilient and globally competitive platform for rigorous tropical research, built on ethical publication practices and an enduring commitment to relevance and impact. This achievement is the product of sustained capacity building, editorial strengthening, and the collective effort of authors, reviewers, editors, and institutional partners. It opens a new chapter for the journal, making it an even more vital contributor to global conversations on tropical science, public health, agriculture, environmental stewardship, and community resilience.

Received: 6 December 2025

Revised: 7 December 2025

Accepted: 7 December 2025

Published: 12 December 2025



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Importantly, this milestone aligns with VSU's STRIDES framework: Service, Truth, Resilience, Integrity, Discipline, Excellence, and Social Justice (Visayas State University, 2025). ATR demonstrates these values by serving communities, maintaining scientific integrity, and ensuring the dissemination of science during crises. Improved editorial systems show discipline and accountability, while compliance with international standards highlights excellence. Most importantly, ATR amplifies research for equity and uplifts marginalized populations in the tropics, supporting VSU's mission of social justice. Scopus indexing confirms ATR's alignment with the university's vision and demonstrates how institutional values translate into scholarly achievement.

The impact of this milestone extends across sectors. For faculty, ATR's visibility makes it a competitive venue for research, instruction, extension, and scientific inquiry. This boosts reclassification, strengthens collaboration, and raises VSU scholars' international profile. For students, ATR's prestige nurtures research, mentorship, and writing, which is key in preparing future Filipino researchers. For stakeholders and partners, ATR offers an indexed repository of evidence vital for policymaking, innovation, and sustainable development in the tropics.

This accomplishment is a shared triumph. We extend our deepest gratitude to the authors who entrusted their work to us, the reviewers who ensured scientific rigor, and the editorial staff who labored to improve processes. We also thank the VSU administration for its leadership, which made this milestone possible. Yet, while Scopus indexing is a major achievement, it is not the endpoint of ATR's journey. Rather, it signals a renewed responsibility.

We invite authors and reviewers to join us in this next chapter by sharing their ideas and visions for ATR's future. What innovative research directions should we explore together? How can we enhance our contributions to impactful scientific conversations? ATR aims to further elevate the journal, strengthen its international visibility, diversify its author and reviewer networks, and promote open and ethical science. We believe an open dialogue will transform our gratitude into proactive collaborations, steering ATR's path forward.

Looking ahead, ATR will enhance its digital infrastructure by specifically investing in new software, hardware, and improved data security measures. The planned editorial management system upgrade will include implementing automated workflows, reviewer tracking, and real-time analytics to optimize publication services. ATR will strengthen collaborations with VSU's international partners by establishing joint research initiatives, organizing thematic symposiums, and co-hosting training programs. These actions aim to expand ATR's global audience and increase its scholarly impact. Together, these initiatives will solidify the journal's status as both a platform for research dissemination and an active contributor to scientific advancements that address community needs.

As ATR moves into this new era, it remains unwavering in its mission to serve as an intellectual bridge connecting science, practice, and society. Similar with other existing journals, we envision the journal not merely as a repository of knowledge but as a catalyst for transformative research, collaborative innovation, and equitable development (Prisno, 2022). In alignment with our commitment to

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open science, ATR is planning to introduce several initiatives to widen public access to tropical research. This includes adopting a preprint posting policy and enhancing data-sharing practices, enabling researchers and the public alike to engage more fully with our findings. An engine driving new discoveries for the tropics and a beacon of scholarly excellence for generations to come.

Acknowledgment

The preparation of this editorial was made possible through the support of the Visayas State University.

Author Contributions

HPP: Writing (review and editing), conceptualization, and approval of the final version; JAAD: Conceptualization, writing original draft, and approval of the final version; PIGY: Conceptualization, writing (review and editing), and approval of the final version.

Funding Source

The development of this paper received no financial support.

Availability of Data and Materials

No datasets were generated or analyzed for this editorial article; therefore, the availability of data and materials is not applicable.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval is not required for this editorial article as it does not involve the use of animals or human studies.

Competing Interest

The authors disclose that they occupy key administrative and editorial positions: the Editor-in-Chief (HPP) and Managing Editor (JAAD) of the *Annals of Tropical Research*, and the University President (PIGY). These affiliations are declared in the interest of transparency.

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