

CIGR Journal Yearly Report

From the May 1st, 2020 to April 30th, 2021, the Editorial Office of CIGR Journal has continually been working hard and achieved progresses under the guidance of CIGR Presidium, with strong support of Prof. Fedro Zazueta, the active volunteering work of all the Associate Editors, the enthusiastic support and efforts of the reviewers and the authors. The numbers of manuscript submissions and registered users continue to grow steadily. The table 1 shows the statistics of the CIGR Journal from the May 1st, 2020 to April 30th, 2021, using Open Journal System (OJS).

Improving both the technical level and paper quality has been the primary task of the Editorial Office of CIGR Journal. Authors, reviewers, Associate Editors, Editors-in-Chief and CIGR Presidium members are the keys to ensure upgrading the quality of CIGR Journal. Here I want to particularly express my sincere thanks to the Associate Editors. With the help of CIGR Presidium, the total number of Section Editors of CIGR Journal is 25 at present. They are from 17 countries of the Netherlands, Spain, Egypt, Iran, Turkey, China, the United States, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, Hungary, New Zealand, Greece, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Bulgaria.

The number of total submitted papers from the May 1st, 2020 to April 30th, 2021 is 292, 24 submissions per month on average. Submissions accepted are 115. Submissions declined after review are 104. The average time to complete the review process, editorial process to publish a manuscript is near eight months. Among the 292 submitted manuscripts, 78 are unassigned. During the 214 assigned manuscripts, it is also notable that 40 (15.4%) of newly submitted manuscripts were archived by the Editor-in-Chief before assigning to the Associate Editors because of their incompatibility with the author's guideline, not in scope of the CIGR Journal and poor English level. It is the responsibility of Editor-in-Chief to filter unqualified manuscripts, sustain and improve the quality of our Journal. 55 (21.2%) have finished peer reviewing and are in editing, 93 are in the review process and 57 (22.1%) are with reviewers' comments. The other 26 manuscripts were sent to reviewers, but they didn't get any responds. So, some Associate Editors need to assign the manuscripts to more reviewers in order to speed up the review process since the selected reviewers did not accept the reviewing invitation or didn't send back comments timely.

In 2020, four issues of CIGR Journal, Vol. 22, No. 1 to No. 4 with 111 manuscripts and total pages of 1054 were published on time. In 2021, Vol. 23, No. 1 with 30 manuscripts were published, Vol. 23, No.2 with 30 manuscripts will be published at the end of June.

By April 30th, 2021, the total number of registered users in CIGR Journal through OJS reached 28782 with 5457 new users compared to the statistics accounted last time on April 30th, 2020. The number of registered readers is 26392 with 5591 new compared to the database of April 30th, 2020.

Recently, OJS upgraded to OJS3. In order to cooperate with the upgrading and make the progress of the job go smoothly, the editorial team has prepared a lot. These days, we have been familiar with this system. We probably knew how to use it and could use it to handle most of our work. Next step, we will try our best to be familiar with the more functions to serve the journal better.

In summary, our work is going well. However, there are some problems we should pay attention to:

1. The work efficiency of Associate Editors varies greatly. We found some Associate Editors didn't work for a long time, which shows that the manuscripts have not been handled since sent to them. Therefore, we also need to strengthen dynamic management for Associate Editors.

2. The overall quality of the journal has improved but there is still a big gap compared with excellent journals. The Cite Score of Scopus raised from 0.6 in 2017 to 0.8 in 2019, Cite Score Tracker 2020 is 1.0 by the end of April 6th, 2021, but the academic quality of journal is still lagging behind in the same professional field. The quality of the manuscripts still needs to be improved, especially in terms of scientificity, advancement, innovation, etc.

3. Unbalanced manuscript professional field. The following table shows the overall publishing situation in 2020. Manuscripts are concentrated in section 6, 1, and 3, and the amount of manuscripts in section 2, 5, and 7 is relatively small.

Publishing situation in 2020		Vol 22, No.1~No.4, 2020				
Section	No.1	No.2	No.3	No.4	Total	
1. LWE: Land and Water Engineering	4	4	8	8	24	
2. FBC: Farm Buildings, Equipment, Structures and Environment	1	1	1	1	4	
3. EEPP: Equipment Engineering for Plant Production	7	3	3	3	16	
4. EA: Energy in Agriculture	2	6	3	1	12	
5. MESE: Development Strategy, Ergonomics and System anagement	1	2	1	1	5	
6. PTPE: Postharvest Technology and Process Engineering	10	12	12	13	47	
7. IS: Information Systems	0	1	1	1	3	
Total	25	29	29	28	111	

4. Author group distribution

There are total 111 manuscripts published in 2020. In order to understander which countries our manuscripts mainly come from, we analyzed the distribution of the first authors. They come from 25 countries. We found it was Nigeria occupied the first place. A total of 38 manuscripts published in CIGR came from Nigeria. The second is Iran with 12 manuscripts. The third are Indonesia and India with 10. The specific information is shown in the table below. Through this table, we found our authors concentrated in fewer countries. If possible, it is better to attract more authors from different countries. This could enhance the level or diversity of the manuscripts published in CIGR.

Author group distribution		Vol 22, No.1~No.4, 2020
No.	Countries of authors	Number of published manuscripts
1	Nigeria	38
2	Iran	12
3	Indonesia	10
4	India	10
5	Bangladesh	6
6	Egypt	5

No.	Countries of authors	Number of published manuscripts
7	Brazil	4
8	Uganda	3
9	Thailand	3
10	USA	2
11	Germany	2
12	Philippines	2
13	Iraq	2
14	Costa Rica	1
15	Cameroon,	1
16	Brunei	1
17	Serbia	1
18	Algeria	1
19	Ireland	1
20	Czech Republic	1
21	Japan	1
22	Turkey	1
23	Sri Lanka	1
24	Kenya	1
25	Pakistan	1
Total		111

Table 1 Statistics for the CIGR Journal (May 1st, 2020 to April 30th, 2021)

Issues	Published 4 (Vol.22, No.2-4; Vol.23, No.1)
Items (Research papers)	29 in Vol.22, No.2; 29 in Vol.22, No.3; 28 in Vol.22, No.4 and 30 in Vol 23, No.1
Total new submissions	292
Assigned submissions	214
Archived submissions	40(15.4%)
Peer reviewed	93
In review with some review comments	57 (22.1%)
In review without review comments	36 (16.8%)
Papers were not held by Associate Editors	26 (12.1%)
Accepted as assigned, including published and in editing	55(21.2%)
Total manuscript in handling(including the ones submitted before)	436
Days from submission to complete review	Over 60
Days from submission to publication	near eight months

Thank you!

Prof. Zhao Fengmin