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Foreword

It is our great pleasure to present the first issue of this new International Journal of Agricultural and Biological Engineering(IJABE) co-published by AOC and CSAE. The journal publishes original research papers, research notes, review articles, case studies, editorial, commentary, brief communications, book and media reviews for the professionals in agricultural, biological, and food engineering.

The journal adopts an **Open Access policy** which makes our articles freely accessible online immediately upon publication. With this policy, we expect our journal to reach a broader spectrum of readership by removing the limitations caused by financial hardship that some individual readers and libraries may experience. With many renowned scholars on our editorial board and an efficient manuscript management system, we offer fast review and decision making procedures and publish papers online immediately they are accepted.

We have 11 papers published on the first issue. These papers cover topics including agricultural robots in China, soil infiltration rate measurement, modeling and characterization of soil nutrients, thermochemical conversion of biomass, extraction of phytochemicals, fruit firmness measurements, etc.

This first issue would not have been published without the excellent work, dedication, and active support of many colleagues. We thank all division editors and associate editors; our special thanks go to the editorial office management team led by Dr. Wang Yingkuan and Paul Chen; we are grateful to all the authors and peer-reviewers who contributed to the high quality of the papers published in this first issue.

We will constantly improve the journal. Your feedbacks to the technical topics, quality of papers, management of manuscripts, and accessibility are critical to the well being of the journal. You are welcome to contact us or any Division Editors and Associate Editors if you have any suggestions and concerns.

We hope that you will continue to use and support our journal. Let's work together to make this journal a great success.

Wang Maohua, Roger Ruan

Editors in Chief