

Editorial

It is a pleasure to announce two new developments in the journal's policy. First, the Editorial Board has decided to broaden the journal's scope. Agricultural science activities in the Netherlands are manifold and, until recently, only some aspects were regularly reported in this journal. *Netherlands Journal of Agricultural Science* will now be open to all fields of Dutch agricultural research – from human nutrition to microbiology, from animal husbandry to rural sociology.

The second novel development is synoptic publishing. This first issue of Volume 32 includes the first synopses. A synopsis is a concise two-page paper in which the essentials of material and methods, results and conclusions of a completed piece of research are given.

The Royal (Netherlands) Society for Agricultural Science, the publisher of this journal, recently agreed to cooperate with Pudoc (Centre for Agricultural Publishing and Documentation) in a new activity, the Netherlands Agricultural Report Depository (NARD). NARD aims to provide access to Dutch 'grey' literature on agricultural research. 'Grey' literature consists of reports with a limited circulation produced under a research institution's or a research worker's own control. They mostly contain detailed information that is of value to a limited group of specialists.

The procedure chosen is simple and effective. Synopses are published in *Netherlands Journal of Agricultural Science*. Since the 'grey' report is in a formal sense unpublished, the synopsis is considered as an original publication and is covered by the relevant abstract journals. The reader finds titles and abstracts in the abstract journals, which refer him to the published synopsis in the journal, which is readily available throughout the world. If he requires more detailed information on the subject treated he orders the report. Bibliographic information on the report, order number, price, and the address of NARD – entrusted with document delivery – are given with the synopsis.

We expect to publish at least one hundred synopses per year within a couple of years. We trust that both new developments described will enhance the journal's value for international agricultural research.

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