

Suggestions for original manuscript preparation for
Acta Scientiarum Polonorum Agricultura

MANUSCRIPT TITLE

The title decides whether the text will be interesting to the reader. It should include all the basic words that signal the manuscript content. The most important word or group of words should be placed at the beginning. The title may, for example, relate directly to the study aim. Too long and detailed titles should be avoided and the recommended number of words is around 10. Redundant words should be avoided, for example “Study on ...”. In addition, the title should not be too general, for example “Effect of nitrogen fertilization on the grain yield of winter wheat”.

ABSTRACT

Abstract should be 250-300 words long. It should begin with background which gives information on the state of the art and the problem that exists or may arise and which is supposed to be solved. Aim of the study or research hypothesis should be stated. If the research hypothesis is given, it must be phrased in such a way that the reader has no doubts about what the research aim is.

Methods should be described in two or three sentences at most, and therefore the Authors must decide which information is the most important. In the case of publications based on field experiments, their particular habitat conditions should be stated and, depending on the needs, information on the most important treatments and measurements, as well as chemical analyses. In justified cases, information on the statistic methods is necessary.

The most important results should be described with simple sentences but in logical order. Significant numerical data ought to be presented. The last sentence should form the most important, summarizing conclusion. Results should make at least 50% of the Abstract. Sentences in the Abstract ought to be logically connected. Simple, unambiguous definitions must be used and jargon and mental shortcuts should be avoided.

The art of writing a good Abstract consists in such a quantitative and qualitative presentation of the results that the reader is convinced that the study methods were proper and made it possible to obtain a well-documented answer to the problem presented in the research aim.

Abstract should not:

- contain data that is not presented in the Results,
- consist of unrelated thoughts,
- contain excessive data,
- include direct repetition of the Conclusions.

Key words

Key words make it possible for the index bases to classify the manuscript as a proper scientific branch. They also make it possible for the potential readers to broaden the scope of Internet research, and therefore the key words should be chosen carefully, preferably from the Abstract. Repeating all the words from the title does not make sense.

INTRODUCTION

Introduction should make the reader interested and motivated to read the manuscript. Information given in this chapter is also important for the journal editor and reviewers, who decide on accepting the manuscript for print. Introduction should be concise, well-constructed, and include all the information necessary for understanding the remaining part of the manuscript.

First, the state of the art should be explained. Literature on the problem ought to be presented to the reader. However, the question should not be described chronologically. The work ought to be based on the most recent literature, both Polish and foreign. After presenting the background of the issue, it is necessary to indicate what problem has not been solved yet and what is innovative about the author's work. It ought to be explained why the undertaken research is important.

Introduction and all the other parts should be written with simple, comprehensible sentences, with no digressions, insertions, and complexities. This chapter should not, however, be too brief. Also truisms should be avoided, such as "Nitrogen fertilization affects cereal yield."

This chapter should be concluded with the study hypothesis and aim. Scientific formulation of the study aim is the most important part of Introduction.

Order of information:

1. State of the art.
2. Indication of what problem is unsolved and motivation why it is important.
3. Study hypothesis and study aim.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

If the manuscript is prepared on the basis of a field experiment, which is typical for agronomy, carried out in uncontrolled conditions, then:

- it must be repeated for at least two years,
- in addition to the name of the place where the experiment was carried out, geographical coordinates should be given (N; E),
- describe soil conditions and refer to the soil classification source,
- give the setting and factors of the experiment, number of repetitions, and plot size,
- describe agrotechnical treatments, but in detail only those that are related to the experimental factors,
- give the doses of fertilizers in the element form
- give the plant yield in $\text{Mg}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$, $\text{kg}\cdot\text{ha}^{-1}$ or $\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$,
- give the names of the methods of the chemical analyses of soil and/or plant material,
- if special measuring equipment was used, give the names of the model and producer, for example „Photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) was measured weekly at five places in each plot using a ceptometer (Delta-T, Devices Ltd.)”.

In a separate paragraph, the author should describe the applied statistical methods, as well as state the name of the statistical program that was used.

Description of the weather conditions in the study years should preferably be placed at the end of this chapter. Weather description should be given adequately to the understanding and clarification of the study results.

RESULTS

When describing the study results, the author should concentrate on the main message. An order should be planned according to which the results would be presented and it ought to be consistently adhered to. Only those results should be placed and described that are related to the problems signalled in the Introduction, regardless of the fact whether they confirm the hypothesis or not. In the tables or pictures, all the important results should be presented, but the description should be limited to the most important ones. **The values presented in the tables or pictures should not be repeated in the text but only commented on**, with a particular stress on the innovative information related to the title and aim of the work. Tables and pictures should be constructed in such a way as to be clear even without reading the text. Sentences such as "Relation between factor I and factor II

was found” should be avoided. The author should focus on the description of the identified phenomenon.

In this chapter, like in the whole manuscript, the word “object” must not be used, since it makes the text sound like a study report. Moreover, the word always causes difficulties in translation into English.

DISCUSSION

It is not enough to state that other authors obtained similar or different results but first of all the essence and causes (mechanisms) of those differences should be explained. It should be stated what is or may be the significance of the obtained results. If the study hypothesis is not proved, an attempt should be made to explain why. Innovation of the undertaken research must be underscored. If the significance of the results is cross-regional, the fact must be clearly exposed.

For the sake of transparency of the author’s own message, it is better not to combine the sections of Results and Discussion.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions must not be a strict repetition or summary of the results!!! Conclusions must contain generalizations that result from the obtained study results. Conclusions are generalizations which:

- correspond with the manuscript title,
- are in agreement with the manuscript aim,
- are a confirmation or denial of the study hypotheses,
- demonstrate what significance the obtained results have for theory and practice,
- may suggest the direction of further studies.

Conclusions may be written in points but it is recommended to write them as a continuous text in one paragraph.

Acknowledgements

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The author must not forget about stating the sources of study financing!