

Dear reader:

It is our anniversary! La Granja, The Life Sciences Journal, celebrates its 20 years. It is an excellent time to review these 20 years of work and scientific-editorial collaboration. We like to thank all people who have contributed to this project of the Salesian Polytechnic University: layout designers, translators, programmers, social network managers, among others. Additionally, those who have trusted and contributed with our journal from all over the world: authors, reviewers, guest editors and members of the Scientific Board. This scientific journal has become a community project, a virtual research society, where experts coexist with the common purpose of presenting quality scientific production. As long as the contribution is valuable, we will continue working, reason for which it is our duty and commitment to continue offering quality and access to research through La Granja.

This special issue presents the results of research that represent enriching evidence for science and knowledge. The studies carried out by the authors published in this edition have focused on the use of the biological and natural resources of our country. For this reason, Jorge Briceño and collaborators determined the effect of temperature prior to extraction on the yield and fatty acid profile of morete oil (*Mauritia flexuosa* L.F.). As such, morete is a palm tree found in the Amazon region which can be used as a replacement for conventional cooking oils, and this study highlights the use profile under the definition of processes and temperatures. On the other hand, María Ugas and collaborators, from Universidad de Pedagógica Experimental Libertador de Venezuela, quantified the CO_2 flow in the soil colonized by *Avicennia germinans*. The findings demonstrate the importance of the edaphic microbiota, as well as they show the role of mangroves as a CO_2 sink, in which the microorganisms analyzed intervene, especially because of their importance in the face of climate change conditions.

On the other hand, José Iannacone and Diego Elias Estramadroyro, from Universidad Científica del Sur, Peru, conducted a study on the ecotoxicological impact on the red Californian earthworm. The results show the impact of the use of zeta-cypermethrin, a pesticide regularly used in onion production in Lurin, Peru. Thus, an affection to the soil biota is observed, which also benefits the absorption of nutrients to many plants. Finally, the study carried out by Jhony Mendez and collaborators, from Universidad Central del Ecuador, establishes the oenological properties of naranjilla. It shows the feasibility of the product that reaches the standards issued by the Ecuadorian normalizing entity INEN, thus opening new alternatives for crops such as naranjilla produced in the Pacto area, being an alternative to the traditional production of sugarcane in the area.

In the miscellaneous section, in the topic of Agricultural sciences, José Cedeño-Zambrano and his collaborators from Universidad del Zulia, Venezuela; Universidad Laica Eloy Alfaro, Ecuador; and Universidad Técnica de Manabí, Ecuador, present strategies for sustainable and effective fertilization of barraganete plantain. Meanwhile, from the topic of Veterinary Sciences, Wladimir Moya, from Universidad de los Lagos, Chile, shows how betany additives help to control heat stress in broiler chickens.

In the Biological Sciences, Katheryn Sacheri-Viteri and her collaborators from Universidad Espíritu Santo, present a first study on *Aspergillus* isolated from Mangrove forests, through molecular characterization. While, in the area of conservation, Sofía Crespo-Gascón and her collaborators from Universidad Técnica de Manabí, Ecuador, show the analysis of the trafficking of endangered species in Manabí, Ecuador.

In the area of biotechnology, Lucas Pardo and his collaborators from Universidad de Guayaquil; Ecuador, and Universidad Espíritu Santo, Ecuador, show the potential as a preservative of silver nanoparticles synthesized from rosemary leaves. Finally, Xavier León and his collaborators from Universidad Central del Ecuador, Ecuador and Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Ecuador, present lessons learned

about agroecological commercialization spaces in university environments, an important contribution in the area of sustainable development.

We are sure that these articles will contribute to their area of research, reaching more and more scientists in the region.

Sincerely,

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