

Dear readers:

We started 2018 with excellent news, our Journal of Life Sciences, La Granja is indexed in the Emerging Source Citation Index ESCI of the prestigious Web of Science, sing of the excellence and scientific quality of our publication, becoming us the first journal in environmental and agricultural science of Ecuador.

The efforts that have been carried out have not been few: the great and improved quality of the investigations of our authors; full English translations, of the articles, and abstracts, titles and keywords in Portuguese; aggressive internationalization of our Scientific and Reviewer Board, presence in social networks and shorter review times. All this within an open access policy without any economic charge for our readers and authors.

That's why I am pleased to present the articles of this first volume of 2018. We started with a review of international regulations to get the best out of our products with a origin designation. Manuel Maldonado and his team of researchers from Spain and Ecuador, led by the University of Cuenca, present this interesting investigation.

Next, Javier Casteblanco from Colombia, presents an exploration of remediation techniques to eliminate heavy metals in cocoa crops. Within the scientific articles, the Ecuadorian researchers Esteban Terneus-Jácome and Patricio Yáñez, from the International University of Ecuador, show us principles of improvement water quality through bioindicators use, in the topic of aquatic ecology.

In the area of forest ecology, Carlos Jumbo and his team from the Universidad Politécnica Salesiana, show us the measurement of carbon in the Tinajillas forests in

Ecuador. While Carlos Congo and his team, into an agreement between INIAP, ESPOCH and ENA present the effect of dispersed trees on the productivity of pastures in the Ecuadorian Amazon. And in the same subject, Diego Caicedo and his team, from the Universidad del Carchi, show us a study of the macrofauna in silvopastoral systems dedicated to the livestock industry.

On the other hand, in the subject of agrometeorology, Barlín Olivares, from the University of Córdoba, Spain; shows us how climate change has affected rainfed agriculture systems in Carabobo, Venezuela, a worrying reality of our times.

And turning to the topic of remediation, Renato Sánchez and Katty García, from the Universidad Politécnica Salesiana, show us techniques for the treatment of industrial waters with advanced oxidation, while Miguel Santillán and Lorena Paredes from the Polytechnic School of Chimborazo show us techniques for the removal of sulfuric acid in industrial waters of the food industry, but this time using microorganisms.

Finally, in sustainable rural development research, Eloy de la Cruz and his interdisciplinary team ESPOCH and UPS, show us how to improve the quality of lacteal products in collection centers and artisanal dairies through a proper management.

I know that these research are an important contribution in each of the different branches of science and I am sure that they will be a valuable contribution to your own studies.

Cordially,

Fis. Sheila Serrano Vincenti Ms.C Ph.D(c)
EDITOR