

IN SEARCH OF PERTINENCE

As the publication of multidisciplinary nature that it has been since its beginnings and intends to continue being. *Interciencia* admits within its pages papers in a great variety of fields of knowledge. Although it is presented as the 'Journal of Science and Technology of the Americas', not only works from this region are submitted, but also from countries in the other continents. It can thus be asked what are the criteria for admission and publication of the papers.

The most important criterion that is required to be fulfilled in order to be published is, undoubtedly, the positive certification regarding the quality of a given paper from the consulted referees, who are in all cases recognized experts in the respective field of knowledge. But not all the papers received are accepted to be refereed. In order to be admitted and sent to the corresponding referees, the manuscripts must have a clear relation to the development of Latin America and the Caribbean, as judged by the journal Editor and the Editorial Committee. In other words, they should contain elements that contribute to the progress of our peoples and the wellbeing of the citizens of this continent.

It is so, that while they are certainly few, some of the received manuscripts from researchers and authors from countries in the region are not admitted. Also few are those papers from authors from other venues that, dealing with a particular theme, are related to our development and are thus admitted and refereed. From countries such as China, Turkey, India, Iran and Malaysia, among many others, there are numerous papers submitted, but few among them refer to studies with a clear pertinence to our region. Nevertheless, it is clear that the results of a study about the cultivation in arid zones of species of interest as food sources in our countries or about the hurricanes in the Caribbean Sea, or about tissue culture of plants with commercial

interest, will have the sought pertinence for us even though they come from Turkish, New Zealander or Chinese authors.

In the current *Interciencia* issue a paper is published that, while being the product of research conducted in a very different location, refers to the industrialization of the fruits of one of the most familiar staples of all those that can be found in the tropical countries of America, in particular in those of the Caribbean basin. It deals with bananas and plantains, the species of the *Musa* genus, and the pre-treatment techniques for their drying, which is required for packing and commercialization. The knowledge acquired and handled regarding these matters in any part of the world is of undoubted pertinence for our region, although it comes from South Africa.

The aforementioned case is a study carried out in the laboratories of the School of Agriculture of the University of Venda, a rural institution established in 1982 in the city of Thohoyandou, which presently counts with a population of ~70.000 inhabitants, almost exclusively negroes. Venda is a small republic located in the northeastern extreme of South Africa, at a similar latitude to that of northern Chile or southern Brazil. Despite the enormous distance and the marked dissimilarities of the two stages, the study concerns an entirely pertinent and admissible research line, clearly fitting for *Interciencia*.

Beyond the pertinence of the topic and, for our journal, its unusual origin, the comparison of approaches, emphases and treatment given to the theme are of interest. These are probably more related to the manner of investigating and presenting ideas that exist in the English speaking Caribbean countries than in those of Latin ancestry.

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Editor