

THE PERTINENCE FOR SCIENCE OF THE PUBLISHED MATERIAL

As the multidisciplinary journal that it has been all along its existence of 42 years, *Interciencia* considers that the pertinence for science and the development of the region of the published material, should be the most relevant characteristic of the papers that are admitted, evaluated and finally published in the journal. Pertinence for the development of the nations and for the wellbeing of their people.

In this sense, the current issue includes a wide spectrum of very diverse topics where, as it is usual in the journal, there is a predominance of matters related to the earth, food and health, but which cover as well distant areas, such as education, the economy and business.

In the latter realms, all of them having an undeniable social significance and importance for development, in one of the articles, the impact that the selectivity in the access and the provision of teachers has on the graduation rate is studied in a quantitative manner, in a group of universities and colleges of acknowledged standing in the state of California. In another paper, the implications that the changes in environmental regulations that promote the consumption of biofuels instead of fossil fuels in the European Union have on exports from a biodiesel producing country are presented. A third work analyzes the influence of the variables corresponding to enterprise and family performances on the evaluation of competitiveness of family enterprises.

A review article deals with the zinc containing enzymes, or enzymes activated in the presence of this metal in plants, which constitute fundamental compounds in the metabolism and in multiple functions, such as water transport, photosynthesis, protein synthesis, as well as for the cell membrane integrity. Other authors present in this issue approach subjects related to ecology and the environment, as are the study of the diversity found in the rich floristic vegetation of littoral tropical areas and its similarity with that of other studies in

the same regions, or the simulation by means of mathematical models of the changes in soil organic carbon as a result of the change of use of land, from agriculture to forests, employing different tropical tree species.

Also related to the field of agronomy, but with very direct connection to food production are included a study of the complete production chain for the utilization of a fruit species of great market potential that grows abundantly on the banks of Amazonian rivers, and a second study that analyzes the effects of the application of different doses of a herbicide widely used for the control of undesired weeds in crops of soybean established in succession of sunflower crops, in order to prevent plagues and yield reduction from competition between the two species.

Research concerning the possible relationship between the polymorphism of a gene associated with the metabolism of fats and the levels of blood lipids in young people with or without obesity, a public health emergent problem of great significance nowadays, and the report about the characteristics of the somatotype of either sex elite athletes specialized in Olympic race walking, complete the wide spectrum of interests of the scientific community and the societies of our region.

The intention of *Interciencia* has been that of being the voice and dissemination medium for the production of researchers from our countries, showing the ample gamut of their interests. At the same time it is pursued to gather information about matters that, besides being varied, are pertinent to the regional development and the progress of society in our continent, whatever the field of specialization within which the respective studies are to be considered.

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