

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AS A DRIVER OF KNOWLEDGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

Since its creation in 1976, the journal *Interciencia* has been a platform dedicated to reflecting on and disseminating scientific and technological advances that directly impact the well-being of Latin American and Caribbean nations. Over the years, it has maintained a strong commitment to regional development by encouraging research in key areas such as the environment, ecology, agroindustry, and social studies. In this ongoing pursuit to understand and transform reality, we now find ourselves at a turning point where one of the most powerful tools of the 21st century—artificial intelligence (AI)—is beginning to play a crucial role.

AI, like the sciences, is a discipline that, through its ability to process vast amounts of information, analyze patterns, and make decisions, offers a new horizon for addressing the challenges of our time. Within the *Interciencia* context, AI emerges as a powerful ally to accelerate scientific progress, improve the quality of life of the peoples of the Americas, and optimize processes across various sectors—from healthcare to agriculture.

One of *Interciencia's* core missions has been to promote the humanitarian use of science. In this regard, artificial intelligence can be a transformative tool to solve complex social problems. From analyzing massive data sets to predict and prevent natural phenomena that threaten our communities, to developing innovative technologies in the agricultural sector that sustainably increase production, AI has the potential to reshape the landscape of applied science in the region.

Moreover, AI can enhance collaboration among scientific and technological communities across the region, fostering joint efforts to create regional solutions tailored to our specific needs. AI applications can improve communication among researchers and facilitate knowledge transfer—something especially valuable on a continent as diverse and unequal as ours.

The inclusion of AI in the studies and projects presented by *Interciencia* also opens the door to new interdisciplinary

approaches. At the convergence of science, technology, and humanity, AI invites us to question how we can use it not only to solve concrete problems but also to promote ethics, social justice, and equity. How can we ensure that AI-based tools are accessible to all and do not deepen inequality gaps? How can we ensure that AI development respects the values and needs of our cultures?

This is where *Interciencia's* approach—advocating for the study of science in its social context—becomes more relevant than ever. As artificial intelligence becomes an indispensable tool in research and decision-making, it is essential that this technology be developed inclusively and applied responsibly, so its impact can be genuinely positive for the development of our nations.

The integration of AI within the *Interciencia* framework not only responds to the need to remain at the forefront of scientific advances but also reflects a commitment to equity and social justice. *Interciencia's* mission to promote the well-being of the peoples of the Americas aligns perfectly with AI's potential to transform our realities—provided it is used for the common good, with respect and commitment to cultural diversity, sustainability, and justice.

Thus, just like the scientific and technological innovations that have been an integral part of *Interciencia* since its founding, artificial intelligence is a tool with the potential to transform the future. The challenge now is to steer this power toward the collective benefit, guided by ethics, solidarity, and respect for the social and environmental richness of Latin America and the Caribbean. The path is open—and with it, new opportunities to improve our people's lives through science, technology, and artificial intelligence.

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