

Seeking to potentiate its publishing activity, *Agronomía Colombiana* has been incorporated to the recently founded Editorial Center of the Faculty of Agronomy. In this way, we expect the production of local and foreigner professors and researchers to keep up to its highly innovative and qualified level, for which it is amply recognized in the agricultural sector.

Said implementation has also changed the composition of the journal's Editorial Board, which is also the Consulting Committee of the Editorial Center of the Faculty. In effect, now we count with the participation of professors Gustavo Ligarreto, Luis J. Martínez, Iván Montoya and Guido Plaza as new members of the Editorial Board, in charge of accompanying the publishing activity of the journal and the Editorial Center. Also, we want to thank the collaboration of professors María Isabel Chacón and Víctor Julio Flórez, who were active members of our staff group.

As an innovative improvement of our dissemination strategy, the journal is now available through the UN journal portal (Sinab), which not only allows accessing the full text of its recent articles, but also the submission of articles to the journal, and online interaction of the publishing team. Along these lines, and seeking to strengthen its cultural exchange and scientific production dissemination activity, the journal will soon enter the Scientific Journal Network of Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal (a Scientific information system known as Redalyc –*Red de Revistas Científicas de América Latina y el Caribe, España y Portugal*–), from Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México.

In this number we present several articles in the “Breeding, genetic resources and molecular biology” section, which are the result of breeding research programs on important products such as cassava, pea and diploid potato. Due to its special gourmet quality, the latter is a unique product, although difficult to export. This has led researchers of Universidad Nacional de Colombia to develop a series of more productive varieties that still maintain their culinary quality, and are more suitable for exportation. Also,

a review on the historical and current trends of cultivated potato taxonomy is included.

Cassava being a high starch content crop, its industrialization has recently raised special interest. For this reason, we present an article on starch quality of plants irradiated with gamma rays and neutrons from Co<sup>60</sup>.

Within breeding programs, it is important to characterize the existing germplasm, in order to determine the materials that can contribute features of interest. Regarding pea genetic resources, such topic is approached by two papers, the first of which presents an innovative classification of 85 accessions, while the second one establishes heritability of widely grown cultivars.

In the section about “Propagation and tissue culture”, two works tackle propagation methods adapted to crop characteristics. In the case of cape gooseberry, which is usually propagated by seed, propagation by cuttings with the aid of hormones and substrates seems to be a suitable way to overcome undesirable variability of certain crop features. A more complex technique is tissue culture itself, which is developed in the article on micro propagation of ‘frailejon’ (*Espeletiopsis muiska*), due to its contribution to rapidly spreading this type of wild species.

Agronomic crop management is continuously seeking more exact techniques in face of diverse environmental or biological conditions. Thus, in the “Crop physiology” section we introduce a plantain potential production model, and an assessment of mango fruit quality and productivity as affected by different scion and interstock materials.

The “Crop protection” section contains three topics, namely plagues, weeds and diseases. *Macrosiphum euphorbiae* is a plague with numerous hosts, among which there are several ornamental crops. *Praon pos. occidentale* is a parasitoid that rose spontaneously in the flower and vegetable greenhouses of the Bogota Plateau. As a contribution to the knowledge about this biological controller, this section presents a paper on its biology and reproductive cycle.

In addition, and as a complement to the flower growing activity, the weed community associated to cut roses in greenhouses was diagnosed, resulting *Cardamine hirsuta* and *Pennisetum clandestinum* as the dominant species.

Finally, an evaluation of the control of *Rhizoctonia* through the presence of antagonists like *Trichoderma* in the mycoflora of two different substrates completes the section.

Table tomato is the most abundantly consumed vegetable worldwide. Its ample variety of forms, colors and sizes has turned this product into a central culinary attraction at all social levels. Along these lines, the section on “Postharvest physiology and technology” brings in a research study on those features of cherry tomato that render better post mechanical harvest resistance.

In the section on “Soils, fertilization and water management” the paper on multi-stage filtration of residual water looks for more enduring high frequency irrigation alternatives.

To conclude the present volume, we have included a different type of publication, which are the scientific notes.

They consist in short, unique topics of crucial importance. Such is the case of the reporting of *Faustinus* sp., an insect that has been found plaguing tomato crops in Southeastern Brazil. For Colombia, this insect has already been reported in the Cauca Valley.

With the series of works introduced in this number, our readers will be in broader contact with international co-authors in tropical agriculture topics, thus conferring our journal more advanced levels of recognition.

Finally, we advice authors who intend to base their documents for publication on undergraduate or master’s theses, newsletters, leaflets, reports and bulletins not to do it, because this type of literature is simply not globally recognized or consulted, and will negatively affect their works. Likewise, we recommend all authors to unify the way they write their names in all their papers, so that their production can be easily identified in their area of research. The staff of Agronomía Colombiana hopes to continue improving the quality and visibility of your publications, as to keep your preference on us when it comes to disseminate your works.

Gerhard Fischer  
Director and Editor