

Dear reader:

We are pleased to present our Special Issue in Food Science in volume 38 of La Granja. Food is the basis of human life and health, and today it faces challenges and threats ranging from the search for healthier and more varied foods, as well as shortages of quality raw materials due to intensive agriculture, land degradation and climate change. Thus, the importance of a discipline such as food science, which is a multidisciplinary field of knowledge that studies food from the raw material to the final product, covering chemistry, biochemistry, nutrition, microbiology and engineering for its production, transformation, conservation and consumption, as well as the use and valorization of its by-products and wastes. The papers published in this volume relate to this topic.

Firstly, the volume presents the paper by Sebastián Yáñez-Segovia, Leticia Silvestre, Ignacio Chamorro-Warnken, researchers from the University of Talca- Chile, Universidad Central del Ecuador, Universidad Austral de Chile and the University of Reading- UK, who present a quick method to determine the content of foliar chlorophyll as an effective tool to estimate the quality of potato tuber. Then, Luis Intriago, Viviana Talledo, Rudyard Arteaga, Anderson Pazmiño and Gerardo Cuenca-Nevárez, from the Technical University of Manabí, study the use of propolis in the conservation of red tilapia filets to propose it as a promising organic preservative for the food industry.

Likewise, Mayra Montalvan, Omar Malagón, Nixon Cumbicus, Fani Tanitana and Gianluca Gilaroni from Universidad Técnico Particular de Loja, analyze the chemical composition of the essential oils from four Amazonian species of the Shuar Antuash center in Morona, province of Morona Santiago - Ecuador. Finally, the article by Tatiana Mora, Martha Suárez, Carlos Brito and Dennys Almachi, from the Central University of Ecuador, presents

the solvatochromic behavior of the natural dye of mortiño (*Vaccinium floribundum* Kunth), whose effect shows potential applications.

As for the productive and veterinary point of view, Leonardo Reyes-Trigueros, María del Carmen Monroy-Dosta, Erika Torres-Ochoa, Alejandro De Jesús Cortés-Sánchez and Luis Daniel Espinosa-Chaurand from the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur, the Metropolitan Autonomous University and Xochimilco, along with the CONACYT of Mexico analyze the reproductive parameters of Tilapia. They present the main factors for an efficient reproduction of this new species that has become widely known and accepted.

Regarding meat and milk, from the veterinary sciences, the risk factors of burcellosis in the livestock industry are analyzed. Omar Santiago Andrade Guzmán, Andrea Elizabeth Vintimilla Rojas, Mateo Damián López Espinoza, Guillermo Emilio Guevara Riera and Sergio Emiro Rivera Pirela, in a collaboration between the University of Cuenca in Ecuador and the University of Zulia in Venezuela, carry out an exhaustive study of the main risk factors.

From Egypt, Mohammed Sabry Sultan, Ashraf Elsayed, and Yasser Ahmed El-Amier from the Botany Department of Mansoura University for the first time isolated endophytic bacteria from the internal cells of *Senecio glaucus*'s roots, stems, leaves and capitular tissue.

Then, from the environmental sciences, Renato Sánchez, Carlos Cerón and Karla Landeta from Universidad Politécnica Salesiana UPS of Ecuador, evaluate the fluvial load of pesticides in the Pisque River, a highly productive sector in Floriculture of the Community of Cayambe.

Likewise, from the UPS, Ernesto Delgado, Mari-
bel León, Carlos Cantos Guamán and Martha Guz-
mán Juárez analyze the effects of mining activity on
biodiverse areas of the country, which is valuable
research at crucial moments for the country when
in August 2023, the citizens will vote on the perma-
nence in certain areas of this controversial activity.

Finally, Oscar Portilla, César Leiva, Marco Luna
and Izar González, in a joint work between the ES-
PE University of Armed Forces and the companies
Geoint and ETSI, carry out a thorough evaluation of
digital terrain and geopotential models in Ecuador.
In this way, we hope that the following selection of
scientific articles will be useful and serve in more
socially relevant research in the region and abroad.

Sincerely,

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