



Editorial

A PAPER ON ESSENTIAL OILS AS MODIFIERS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR IN A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS?

The present issue (Vol 21, No. 1) includes a selection of papers from the 1st International congress on Sustainable Agriculture held at Universidad Técnica de Ambato (UTA), Ecuador (2017). A selection of the offered/submitted and invited plenary lecture papers were sent for peer review following the standard journal procedures. The outcome; 25 papers from a total of 80 were approved for publication (after the reviewing rounds). Plenary lectures are presented as Invited reviews and the remaining manuscripts were classified as research papers, short notes and forum. The present issue includes 16 papers and the remaining papers will be included in the following issue (vol. 21, No. 2).

The invited review by Castillo et al. (2018) on “Essential oil as modifiers of human behaviour” might call the attention of our readers as it seems to fall out of the scope of the journal. As editors, we would like to add context to the inclusion of such paper in this journal. Besides being a place for gathering and exchanging ideas amongst colleagues within a common field. A scientific conference provides greater services when organizers carefully include invited plenary lectures covering aspects which a first sight would seem outside the area. Such lectures might cover general issues in science, though provoking issues within a discipline, or research from a seemingly far area or discipline of research. The ideal outcome of such lectures will be to update and broaden the perspective of researchers and students and ideally to encourage multidisciplinary collaboration arising from listening results, methodologies or perspectives from disciplines which were not previously or totally aware of. Organizers of the meeting (UTA) do included lectures closely related with the scope of the meeting, but also included topics such as science visibility and evaluation (always a good discussion topic), and a lecture on essential oils and human behaviour which originated the invited review topic of the present editorial. This plenary lecture yielded the expected result. Agricultural scientist learned about a different and equally important use for essential oils. The Q&A session led to aspects of how to improve production, quality and extraction processes (from agricultural industry point of view) for such market. Parallelisms and potential uses in the agriculture and livestock industry were also discussed. In summary, the audience came out of such lecture with some “food for thought” and the goal of such lecture was achieved. As with all plenary lectures, authors were invited to prepare and submit their manuscript to undergo peer review and possible publication in this journal.

We are pleased to have their paper and aim to present a topic worth to be read with interest. We are following the same rationale the congress organizers employed at the moment they invited the authors to present their lecture. However, as editors, we want to make clear that papers outside the regular scope of the journal will be included only in the context already described, and always based on previous agreement with the editors.

REFERENCE

Castillo, M.A., Carrero, Y., Urdaneta, K.E., Renouf, M., Lubin, C., Nola, M. and Semprún-Hernández N. 2018. Essential oils as modifiers of human behavior. *Tropical and Subtropical Agroecosystems*, 21, 69-89.

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