

Editorial

Tropical and Subtropical Agroecosystems

CHANGES TO IMPROVE TSA PERFORMANCE AND VISIBILITY

During the past months we have been introducing changes to Tropical and Subtropical Agroecosystems. We expect that these changes will improve the overall performance of the journal and help to increase visibility of the papers published in the journal. The main changes so far are:

New associated editors. We welcome Drs. Rafael Rojas, Víctor Parra (UADY, Mexico) and Octavio Castelan (UAEM, Mexico). Since the beginning of the present year, they have been actively involved in biotechnology, ecology and agriculture (animal production) systems sections respectively.

Papers in press. With this new section we are taking advantage of the facilities given by the online publishing system. There were several reasons to implement this section such as improvement on acceptance-publishing time and increase visibility of manuscripts. Now, authors and readers would be able to download papers before the issue is published. Once the papers are proof-read the full bibliographical information will be included and authors will be able to download the manuscript as “electronic reprint”. Once the issue is ready, they will be moved from this section to be included in the “formally” published issue. Also, with more frequency than we would like it, we have noticed that emails sent from the journal editorial system do not reach the authors. Opening this section also allows authors to realize that their manuscript is ready to be proof-read and sent us their corrections/comments. We welcome this action and encourage authors to continue along this road. If corresponding authors detect their manuscripts as “in press” and the email requesting proof reading have not reach them, please log into the journal system, proof read the manuscript and sent comment within the system.

Publishing fee. The increasing success of the journal has meant that we are receiving more papers to review and publish than ever before. This can be noticed as an increasing number on manuscript included on each new issue. However, it has also caused an increase on work load which was causing difficulties to maintain regularity of the journal. Thus, we have incorporated a new member in the editorial office which now helps with the final editing process, layout and galleys. In addition, the larger number of files in the system (submitted manuscript, reviewer comments, revised versions, final author version, and published pdf, means a larger load in our servers, and increased use of office resources (paper, toner, printer, etc.) not only for regular editorial work, but also to produce the files to be sent to the Mexican National Research Council (CONACYT-Mexico) for the evaluation process to maintain the journal recognition as a journal of high quality. It has to be pointed out that manuscript which are not accepted also generate a work load. Thus, we have implemented a small publishing fee to help us to main the publication of TSA viable. We believe that the current fee is located in the lower range when compared with most journal fees. We do not expect an increment in the near future.

New TSA logo. During the years TSA has been published, we have received occasional suggestions regarding the need to create a logo which could be easily associated and helps to identify the journal. Thus a new a logo was kindly designed by I.S.E.I. Francia Gonzalez Escarela a gifted designer from the academic support services at the faculty. Starting with the next volume it will be used as the official logo and will appear in every paper. We expect all our users: readers and authors will be pleased and feel identified with it.

Some changes are still coming but they will be implemented step by step and likely will not be as noticeable as those already mentioned. However, all of them will aim to improve the quality of the journal and the service we provide.

We are open to comments and suggestions.

Carlos A. Sandoval Castro
Editor

