

Preface

The production of scientific knowledge is related to organizations that develop research processes, which are the result of the integration that generates from the needs of society. Along with that, the promotion lies on science spreading and, especially, on facing the pressing problems that demand an effective and accurate response. The work developed at the Instituto de Ciencia Animal (ICA), since its creation, has been based on these considerations. Therefore, this institute is considered as a leader in the development and implementation of impact technologies, with emphasis on nutrition and management of ruminant and non-ruminant animals.

For 50 years, ICA has produced technological options that promote development, adapted to climate change, to mitigate its effects on fragile ecosystems and their degradation processes. In addition, this institute performs studies on genetics, agricultural statistics and informatics, and evaluates the social and economic impact. All this allows to reach the recognition for its participation in economic development programs of Cuba and Latin American region. Every technology generated in the ICA is a result from researches that, due to its scientific rigor, contribute to Cuban science and economic, environmental and productive impact, as well as to knowledge and technological innovation.

After many years of scientific work, there are a considerable number of illusions, hopes, passions and obsessions, which combine science and life. The ICA gathered, at the beginning, an active group of young researchers who founded, as an organ of scientific written expression, the Cuban Journal of Agricultural Science (CJAS), in 1967. Undoubtedly, along with this development, there were also new professional opportunities which, subsequently, opened the possibility for other specialties that expanded and integrated results into a more attractive and inclusive current spectrum.

This volume of the CJAS is intended to honor our founders and the extensive work that has accumulated and provided our institution to tropical livestock during fifty years. For that purpose, several review articles on specific topics of basic and applied research are presented. Each of the described contributions represents important advances in the knowledge of our organization, and becomes a required reading for researchers of these subjects.

In this issue, the main results of the studies on soil fertility, the use of grasses and forage together with agro-industrial residues and mineral supplementation for animal feeding are presented, as well as the potentialities of milk production and beef under Cuban conditions. These papers also refer to the production of unconventional foods that contribute to replace imported sources in productive systems of ruminants and non-ruminants, and the use of biotechnology to transform and increase their nutritional value.

The challenge, from now on, is the focus and priority of the topics to research and their effective response to the problems of productive sector, as well as achieving a balance between the new results and technologies generated and their introduction or application on social practice.

Eng. José Andrés Díaz Untoria, PhD.
General Director
Instituto de Ciencia Animal

