Editorial

The second issue of the Revista Colombiana de Ciencias Hortícolas presents a variety of local and regional studies. For instance, the Fruit Section describes the biological and molecular diagnosis for the health of citrus cultivars against HSVd, aimed at nursery stock multiplication and certification. In the case of Japanese plum, thermal time and base temperature were determined during the reproductive stage to improve precision in scheduling cultural activities and estimating phenological events. On the other hand, knowledge regarding the genetic improvement of the lulo (naranjilla) crop is limited, mainly in the stability of traits of agronomic interest. The results with 10 half-sibling families in four locations identified five superior genotypes and stability in most of the evaluated parameters. Regarding the integration of precision agriculture technologies, a bibliometric analysis for avocado cultivation showed that in producing countries, research is limited and mainly focused on remote sensing and image processing.

The Vegetable Section describes the excess of zinc on the growth of bulb onions. Using nutrient solutions, the study describes the drastic effect on dry matter accumulation, growth rate, leaf area, water use, and root length starting from a concentration of 20 mg L^{-1}. Likewise, the critical period of weed competition was studied in cowpea beans, showing that the humid Caribbean subregion of Colombia ranged from 14 to 33 days after emergence for both climate seasons. The issue with the dormancy period of hawthorn yam is its duration, leading to phytosanitary problems and reduced quality at the time of crop planting. Dormancy breaking was studied with different growth regulators, resulting in differences depending on the tuber section and the type of regulator.

Calla lily is an ornamental species valued for its beauty and used in floral arrangements, but phytosanitary problems limit its production. The Ornamental Plants Section presents a literature review with an inventory of diseases affecting this species and the protocols used to obtain healthy material, in addition to rapid clonal propagation.

Within the Aromatic, Medicinal, and Condimentary Plants Section, results related to the phenological description of lemon verbena from cuttings are grouped, along with the identification of arthropods associated with each one. This species is widely used in traditional medicine, cosmetics, and food, and in Colombia, it is mainly sold as fresh herbs. The complete cycle took 32 weeks under conditions in Santa Rosa de Cabal, and 50 insect families with different feeding habits were identified. The essential oils of *Piper marginatum* and *Piper tuberculatum* show acaricidal activity against *Rhipicephalus microplus* and larvicidal activity against *Aedes aegypti*. The results indicate that essential oils can be a natural alternative against these pests and vectors. Orange peel extracts are used as protectants due to their antioxidant capacity from phenolic content. Moreover, ethyl methanesulfonate is a mutagenic agent used in crop genetic improvement. It was found that the extracts and microencapsulated orange peel extract has a phytoprotective effect on soybean plants exposed to ethyl methanesulfonate under *in vitro* conditions.

The Other Species Section provides information on the physiological performance, yield, and compositional analysis of the seeds of three quinoa cultivars. This species has high nutritional value and tolerance to extreme environmental conditions. Late-maturing materials showed higher protein content. Lima beans and leucaena are species that support various basic production systems. Different

inoculants (nitrogen-fixing and plant growth-promoting) and humic substances were applied to the plant growth, finding a synergistic effect on establishment and dry matter accumulation. The section also includes results on the estimation of soil organic carbon content for páramo ecosystems through remote sensing.

The publishing institutions acknowledge the financial support received through resources from the *Patrimonio Autónomo Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento para la Ciencia, la Tecnología y la Innovación, Francisco José de Caldas*, managed by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (*MinCiencias*) and executed by the *Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia* (UPTC) in project SGI 3623: *Plan de fortalecimiento institucional: hacia los continentes distantes y los continentes digitales en el contexto de la ciencia abierta: estrategias para la consolidación, la visibilidad y el impacto de la colección de revistas científicas de la editorial Uptc*.

Germán Eduardo Cely Reyes, PhD
Editor en Jefe
Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia