

Editorial

Scientiam communicare cupio*: Towards 30 Years of *Agrociencia Uruguay*

Scientiam communicare cupio: Hacia los 30 años de *Agrociencia Uruguay*

Scientiam communicare cupio: Rumo aos 30 anos da *Agrociencia Uruguay*



Ferrer, Milka

Universidad de la República, Facultad de Agronomía, Montevideo, Uruguay

Editor-in-chief of Agrociencia Uruguay (2016 - 2025)

milka.ferrer39@gmail.com

ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3572-8056>



Dalla-Rizza, Marco

Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria (INIA), Unidad de Biotecnología, Canelones, Uruguay

Editor-in-chief of Agrociencia Uruguay (2016 - 2025)

mdallarizza@inia.org.uy

ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4065-0940>

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1. Purpose of *Agrociencia Uruguay*

Twenty-nine years have passed since the publication of the first volume of *Agrociencia Uruguay* in 1997. For some, its continued existence is almost a miracle, and for others, confirmation that, with teamwork and professional and academic rigor, it is possible to edit a scientific journal with high-quality standards; to such an extent of being included in numerous databases, repositories, digital libraries, and directories, especially in Scopus, making it the first journal of the Universidad de la República to be indexed. This demonstrates that it is possible to multiply tools for the dissemination of scientific research at international, regional, and local level, as an alternative to large global publishing companies. The journal serves as a source of prestige, academic discussion, and collaboration among researchers nationally and internationally, supported by the commitment of its publishing institutions: the Facultad de Agronomía of the Universidad de la República and the Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria (National Institute of Agricultural Research).

* Meaning 'I want to communicate knowledge'.



2. Actions Carried Out in Recent Years

Agrociencia Uruguay required growth across three structures that evolved in parallel based on a deep and continuous interaction between the journal's managers. On one hand, the responsibility for scientific content was modeled (definition of the thematic areas and roles of the members of the editorial committee, and national and international reviewers), and the material production of the document was improved, creating the figure of the technical editor: copy-editing, layout design, and related tasks. On the other hand, it was necessary to ensure the dissemination and follow-up through the professional management of the online community, including the creation and publication of valuable content through social media and other digital platforms. All these aspects (scientific content, material production, and dissemination and interaction with users) have been guided by a common view, based on the specificities of a scientific journal.

Therefore, to consolidate the journal, it was necessary to support the professionalization of the editorial and management teams, strengthen the internationalization of the journal through improving the regularity of publication and digitizing the editions, and increase its visibility and user engagement, including the adoption of the English language to broaden its reading, citation, and impact.

The growing integration of researchers into the scientific system has led to increased submission of research projects and academic publications to the research community, both for access to funding and for the evaluation of their scientific activity. Choosing where to publish has become a very important decision, and, in this context, the challenge for *Agrociencia Uruguay* was to become a scientific journal of recognized quality, capable of being selected by researchers to cement their academic future, particularly important within a small scientific community like Uruguay's, with its own regional characteristics. Therefore, maintaining and improving a scientific journal that is internationally competitive justify the sustained funding provided by the Facultad de Agronomía and the Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria.

To meet basic quality standards, a scientific journal must comply with criteria related to information quality, editorial processes, and scientific rigor. These include the identification and action of the editorial committee to meet the journal's objectives, the selection of articles by two or more independent reviewers, the regular publication frequency, and the international projection through indexing in international databases.

Agrociencia Uruguay has progressively developed a professional editorial structure where trained editors ensure quality and contribute to the journal's impact. To this end, the integration of institutional disciplinary peer editors helped guarantee an impartial management of the assigned manuscripts, avoiding conflicts of interest. Additional support is provided by the guest editors/associates, who further improved editorial management. Bearing in mind that it is an academic journal with an institutional foundation, it is consolidated and strengthened by the structuring of the areas of knowledge, mainly through interaction with the postgraduate programs. In the current context of a knowledge-based society, the value of publishing in prestigious, internationally indexed journals is increasingly recognized. Therefore, the indexing achieved by *Agrociencia Uruguay* is a recognition for the constant effort and the exposure to external and independent evaluations, with an additional contribution that reflects the genuine institutional basis of two centennial non-profit national institutions. The journal's open-access model is especially important for democratizing knowledge and promoting unrestricted dissemination of research, particularly on topics of national interest in the agricultural sector.

A persistent challenge in editorial work is finding expert reviewers with the ability to understand and judge the merit of publication-quality manuscripts. To address this, collaborations with other prestigious regional journals have been initiated to share editors and reviewers. Finally, the need for professional management of the online community to amplify the reach and visibility of research has become evident. This has required active participation in digital environments to create a community of readers and researchers, foster discussion and feedback,

and connect academic content with wider audiences through social media and digital platforms, breaking down academic walls.

3. Research Dissemination Updated in *Agrociencia Uruguay*

The journal has published results of national and international research on aspects of public concern, such as the need to promote sustainability, encourage practices that reduce the use of agrochemicals and deforestation, enhance carbon sequestration, and, in general, support actions to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions.

Many published studies reflect concern for the sustainability of agricultural-livestock production systems in Uruguay, based on crop and pasture rotations aimed at conserving soils and surface waters for agricultural purposes. This has led to the identification of technologies and practices that optimize outcomes in normal or favorable years and/or reduce vulnerabilities under adverse climatic conditions. Another historical aspect that is very relevant and the object of applied national research is animal and plant protection technology, based on local environmental conditions.

Undoubtedly, increasing attention has been given to ecosystem services as indicators of sustainable intensification in intensified production systems. The benefits that people obtain from nature or the processes that maintain it have been published in the journal, such as climate regulation, clean water, crop pollination, among others, contributing to the broader concept of one health. These benefits are essential for human well-being and sustainable development, as they contribute to people's health, economy, and quality of life.

To conclude, approaching its 30th anniversary, *Agrociencia Uruguay* has served as a continuous platform that supports its sponsoring institutions, contributing to academic training and high-quality research in a society deeply rooted in agricultural activity.