EDITORIAL

Mar Cátedra Cerón

Technical Adviser to the General Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock and Food of the Junta de Andalucía

In this issue of the C3-Bioeconomy magazine, four outstanding scientific studies provide us with an enriching and clear perspective on essential topics related to sustainability, bioeconomy, and circular economy, as a response to a global scenario increasingly attentive to environmental and economic challenges.

The first article, *"Sustainable Valorization of Organic Waste in the Circular Bioeconomy: Exploratory Analysis and Application of the Lean Canvas Model,"* explores the challenges faced by environmental entrepreneurs in the organic waste valorization sector, focusing on compost production. It examines aspects such as current legislation and potential markets, using the Lean Canvas model to evaluate the key components of a potential entrepreneurial initiative in this field.

The second article, *"The Road to Sustainability: Building Process of Ecuador's Sustainable Bioeconomy White Paper and Its Positioning Strategy,"* describes the development of Ecuador's Sustainable Bioeconomy White Paper, covering its initial conception through the implementation of its communication strategy. Key pillars such as sustainability, biodiversity conservation, technological innovation, and economic growth are highlighted, positioning it as a strategic tool to address the challenges of the current context.

The third article, *"Circular Economy of Whey: Bioprocess for Its Conversion into Agronomic Biostimulants and Biofertilizers,"* presents a biotechnological approach based on circular economy principles to valorize whey, a waste product with high organic content. The process converts it into a high-value-added biostimulant/biofertilizer for the agricultural sector. This proposal not only enhances agricultural sustainability but also provides an innovative solution to efficiently manage this waste.

Finally, the fourth article, *"In Vitro Evaluation and Characterization of Olive Pulp as an Ingredient in Dairy Goat Feed,"* analyzes the use of olive pulp, an agro-industrial byproduct from the olive oil industry, as an ingredient in animal feed. It highlights its potential role in the transition toward a bioeconomy.

This issue also includes a monographic study that examines circular bioeconomy as an opportunity for territorial development, emphasizing the need for a participatory and inclusive approach. It compiles the discussions and conclusions from the Circular Bioeconomy Forum held in Seville in November 2023, which brought together more than 350 participants from various sectors and regions. Topics addressed include regional policies and strategies, success stories, challenges, opportunities, business models, and the role of cooperation among key stakeholders. The monograph also highlights the importance of social awareness, education, and research in promoting this sustainable model in rural areas.

Additionally, this 5th issue of the magazine features two success stories showcasing sustainable and innovative solutions in key sectors.

The first, *"Water2REturn Project: A Practical Case of the Circular Economy Model in Slaughterhouses,"* addresses the environmental impact of slaughterhouses by transforming wastewater treatment plants into biorefineries that produce regenerated water, energy, and agricultural raw materials, promoting a circular economy. The analysis highlights how water reuse and resource recovery become essential solutions to global challenges, particularly in industries such as slaughterhouses, which consume large amounts of water and generate nutrient-rich waste. This initiative treated 50 m^3 of wastewater daily, producing

regenerated water, energy, and raw materials for agricultural products, demonstrating its contribution to agri-food sustainability.

The second case, "*Bioinputs and Circular Bioeconomy Against Climate Change: An Alliance for Productivity, Soil Regeneration, and Carbon Capture in Mexican Agriculture,*" focuses on the agricultural sector, showing how soil regeneration and the use of bioinputs in crops improve productivity, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and promote carbon capture through a sustainable approach based on public-private partnerships. It addresses how agriculture, despite being a significant source of GHG emissions, can become a key solution to climate change through soil regeneration, which is essential for carbon sequestration and improving agricultural productivity.

Sincerely,

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