

EDITORIAL

Esteemed readers,

The 13th World Buffalo Congress in Venezuela 2023 brought together scientists, academicians, researchers, farmers, breeders, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss the importance of buffalo farming committed to achieving a neutral carbon footprint of livestock for a sustainable world. Our scientific and Congress program had enclosed a complete agenda that combined academia, scientific exchange, and the business and industry arena, but also included a buffalo exhibition and judgment and social and cultural activities to integrate the Buffalo family from all over the world. After the Congress ended, the traditional Buffalo Tour took place, allowing nationals and foreigners to visit emblematic livestock and buffalo industry from the country.

We witnessed an entire program to discuss different areas to understand better and release new information and knowledge about buffalo Management, Animal Welfare, Feed and Nutrition, Animal and One Health, Breeding and genetics, Reproduction, Biotechnology, Buffalo's products, industry and marketing, Precision Technologies, Sustainability, and Socioeconomics. Additionally, several practical workshops allowed the participants to learn by their hands how to transform Buffalo's values into high-quality and nutritious products, as well as witness the application of modern reproductive biotechnologies and understand the approaches to warrant animal welfare and the tools for sustainable livestock farming. In addition, we had three scenarios in the format of forums for discussion and networking building. The Academician and Scientific Forum allowed the participants to strengthen ties and explore opportunities for scientific-academic exchange, studies, financing, and scholarships available. Similarly, the forum for Breeders and Associations allowed breeders to enhance collaboration and alliance with America's Buffalo Breeders Associations. Finally, the discussion for Professionals and Entrepreneurs was an extraordinary showcase to explore business opportunities and empower success.

Our scientific call received over 150 abstract proposals for poster and short oral communication presentations worldwide. Moreover, twenty-two lectures by internationally recognized scientists paved the way for an enriched discussion and nutritious feedback. The information released in the Congress is compiled into this volume of our internationally recognized scientific journal from the College of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Zulia. Herein, the abstracts accepted for publication and invited lecture manuscripts are presented in English and Spanish to allow a broad divulgation. The knowledge, experiences, and vision authors share in this compilation will contribute to advancing buffalo farming, addressing the challenges, and creating a better world for us and future generations.

It is a great honor to have had the opportunity to contribute to this legacy, and I hope it will be part of your digital library and contribute to your knowledge on this noble species.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Juan Carlos Gutiérrez-Añez, DVM, MS, PhD

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President of the 13th World Buffalo Congress Scientific Committee
Editor