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"Global food security and food safety:
The role of universities"

Latin-American Association on Precision Agriculture to Develop and Promote Sustainable Agriculture within the Region

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Abstract

Precision Agriculture (PA) is considered one of the new paradigms to improve productivity in a sustainable manner. The concept of PA has been around in the Latin American region for over twenty years, showing, nowadays, an uneven development among the different countries. Given the large spatial variability of soils and crop yield, the use of PA seems to be ideal to improve agronomic management to increase productivity, product quality, while reducing environmental impact.

On April 11 to 13, 2018, in Santiago of Chile, the First Latin American Congress on PA (CLAP) was held, with the objective of gathering Latin American researchers, companies, users and entrepreneurs in the field of Precision Agriculture, for them to share needs, requirements and challenges in the use of technologies, farm management and data analysis. One of the conclusions of the meeting was the lack of critical mass, since Universities and professional institutes are not forming enough proficient people on the subject, which is limiting the adoption of PA tools in the region. The lack of consistent public policies is also a main reason for the small adoption in some countries.

During the meeting, that gathered people from several countries of the region, the Latin American Association on Precision Agriculture (ALAP) was created. This will have the mission of advancing and promoting the use of PA technologies. Among its tasks, ALAP will organise CLAP every other year, being Córdoba, Argentina, the location of the next meeting. ALAP will have a strong component on education and technology transfer in order to reduce the gap among the different countries of the region.

The results of CLAP2018 and the outline of ALAP will be presented.

Keywords: ALAP, CLAP2018, precision Agriculture, spatial variability

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