Introduction

The pre-professional practices and internships create a “bridge” between academy and society. However, putting into practice the acquired knowledge according to the needs of the territories still remains a challenge for the academy.

The rural sector in the different contexts of the territories demands the participation of competent professionals, capable of facing the challenges of the future. The Organic Law of Higher Education in Ecuador establishes that the relationship with society is part of the academic curricula, where the student must compulsorily complete 400 hours of community service practices according to their professional profile.

Knowing the perceptions of different study groups on the practical training of agricultural graduates in Ecuador and their contribution to the productive-rural sector was the interest of this research.

Methodology

The research is semi-quantitative, which analyzes the perceptions of four study groups in order to know the degree of linkage of the Ecuadorian University with the productive-rural sector.

PHASE I

- **Bibliographic review**
  - Organic Law on Higher Education (LOE) in Ecuador
  - Models of pre-professional practice management
  - Regulations for the implementation of pre-professional practices
  - Linking university-state-agricultural sector

- **Selection of variables**
  - Study approach
  - Selection of criteria
  - Survey design and validation
  - (Scales: 0=regular; 1=good; 2=very good; 3=excellent)

PHASE II

- **Survey application (5 Universities)**
  - 19 Managers
  - 83 Students
  - 84 Graduates
  - 8 Public and private institutions

- **Cluster analysis - IBM SPSS Statistic 25**
  - Hierarchical group of multivariate techniques
  - Ward’s Method

Conclusions

The linking of pre-professional practices with the productive-rural sector to train agricultural graduates, the results allow us to conclude:

1. The perceptions of the study groups show that the link between pre-professional practices with the rural productive sector has not been made visible.
2. The current linking regulations for the fulfillment of pre-professional practices has not managed to transcend the articulation between the university and the rural productive sector.
3. It is necessary to integrate the variables of context and curricula to achieve knowledge in the sufficient inter-institutional articulation in the territories.
4. State and institutional policies could have failed to visualize the articulation processes between academia, the state and the productive sector to meet social demands.

Keywords

- Ecuador
- High education
- Pre-professional practices

Aim

Analyse the link between pre-professional practices with the productive-rural sector in the training of agricultural graduates.