EDITORIAL

The journal "Engenharia Ambiental: pesquisa e tecnologia" is publishing the largest number of articles in a single issue since it was founded in 2004. In this second issue of 2008, fourteen articles are published from the following Brazilian research and educational institutions: Federal University of Campina Grande (UFCG); Federal University of Piauí (UFPI); Federal University of Ceará (UFC); Federal University of Paraíba (UFPB); Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN); Federal University of Mato Grosso (UFMT); State University of Mato Grosso (UNEMAT); University of São Paulo – School of Engineering of São Carlos (USP-EESC); State University of Paraíba (UEPB); Technology Faculty of Indaiatuba (FATECID-SP); Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (EMBRAPA – PB); Federal Agrotechnical School of Crato (EAFC-CE); Federal Agrotechnical School of Araguatins (EAFA-TO); Federal Technology Education Center of Petrolina (CEFET-PE); Regional University Center of Espírito Santo do Pinhal (UNIPINHAL). The articles are related to the following themes:

- **Utilization of industrial wastes**: study developed by Medeiros et al. (2008) who evaluated the application of dross produced by the steel industry on soil. Researchers from UFC, UFCG, and UFPI participated in the study.

- **Use of indexes to evaluate the sustainability of productive activities:** Herculano et al. (2008), from EMBRAPA-PB, UEPB, and UFCG, evaluated an index of sustainable development for the agricultural sector, using colored cotton as a case study.

- **Evaluation of techniques and products**: these studies were developed for the sapoti fruit (LIMA et al., 2008) and the mango (GOMES et al. 2008a), seeking alternatives to reduce environmental impacts caused by agricultural chemicals. The researchers involved are associated with EAFC-CE, UFPB, and UFCG (LIMA et al., 2008,) and UFPB, CEFET-PE, and EAFC-CE (GOMES et al. 2008).

- **Survey of native vegetable species**: this study was done by Gomes et al. (2008b) and involved vegetable species native to the savannah that are commercialized in open markets in northeastern Brazil. The institutions represented in this study are UFPB, CEFET-PE, and EAFC-CE.

- **Evaluation of crop performance**: Freire et al. (2008), from EAFC-CE, UFPB, and UFCG, evaluated characteristics of irrigated acerola trees under different environmental conditions, and in various regions of the state of Paraíba, to inform decisions regarding agricultural, economic, and environmental zoning.

- **Waste treatment**: Silva et al. (2008) evaluated a way to treat liquid waste generated in the process of chemical delinting of cotton seeds, in a study carried out by researchers from UFCG and EMBRAPA-PB.

- **Environmental impacts of garbage disposal**: Medeiros et al. (2008), of FATECID-SP and UNIPINHAL, researched the impact of the Engenheiro Coelho (SP) garbage dump on surrounding natural water and soil resources. Santos et al. (2008), of the UFMT, assessed water resources in areas near the Cuiabá (MT) municipal sanitary landfill.

- **Water resources**: Five articles related to water pollution are published in this issue, developed in the Vale do Ribeira – SP (CUNHA & CALIJURI, 2008), in the Mogi Guaçu Watershed – SP (LIMA & MEDEIROS, 2008; MADRUGA et al., 2008), in Campina Grande - PB (CARVALHO et al., 2008), and in Tangará da Serra – MT (SOUZA & NUNES, 2008). The institutions involved were USP-EESC (CUNHA & CALIJURI, 2008), UNIPINHAL (LIMA & MEDEIROS, 2008; MADRUGA et al., 2008); EAFA-TO, UFCG, UFRN (CARVALHO et al., 2008), and UNEMAT (SOUZA & NUNES, 2008).

The articles published in this issue reinforce the mission of the journal "Engenharia Ambiental: pesquisa e tecnologia" as a vehicle for multidisciplinary themes in environmental engineering in the national context. We thank all the researchers and professionals who published their articles in this issue, and take the opportunity to invite, once again, the entire environmental community to use this periodical as an instrument to disseminate their work.

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Editors