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To Whom It May Concern: CESAQ

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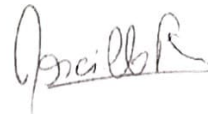
As Director of Research in plant biology at the “Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement” (CIRAD, France), within the joint research unit DIADE (Diversity, Adaptation, Development of Plants), I work on the biology of palm fruits. More particularly, I am interested in the process of fruit development and the determinants of its biochemical composition.

Within the framework of a project developed in collaboration with Rommel Montúfar, Professor at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE), on the characterization of lipid diversity in fruits of several populations of palms in Ecuador, I was hosted for one week at the CESAQ laboratory. I was accompanied by my colleague Stéphane Dussert from the ‘Institut de recherche pour le développement’ (IRD, France), a specialist in the chemical analysis of lipids in tropical plants.

During our stay, we appreciated the warm welcome of the laboratory staff and their high level of professionalism. We noted in a very positive way the wide range of analytical tools available and the capacity of the lab to conduct experiments in the conditions needed within the framework of this partnership.

Thanks to its highly qualified staff and the quality of its equipment, the CESAQ laboratory and its technical director, David Romero, possess all the necessary elements that should allow it to be a reference laboratory in Latin America for participation in research programs relating to lipid chemistry. Further training of David Romero in plant lipid analysis techniques in the DIADE analytical chemistry platform will provide the complementary skills required for the current project on Ecuadorian palms and for research on other oilseed species of interest to PUCE and UMR DIADE in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,



Fabienne Morcillo