Students assessment of the practicum period required for graduation at National Agricultural University, Peru.

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Introduction

Innovating education at National Agricultural University La Molina Peru is the objective of a project with collaboration of the Flemish interuniversity council (VLIR) led by KU Leuven.

In order to improve the practicum period (2 months), which is a compulsory requirement for all degree programs.
Methodology

• An on-line survey study was conducted among students of the animal science program that successfully completed the requirement in 2016 and 2017.

• All students had to have a minimum of 60 % advance in their BSc programs before entering the practicum.

• All placements were coordinated by appropriate office in the college.
Results

• Voluntary participation of 42 students to the survey was 60% of the total enrolled in the practicum for that period.

• 90 % of the placements were private livestock production units. All located in rural areas.

• The students considered that the work load during the practicum was appropriate (90%).
The practical knowledge that I gained

It improved my personal confidence

I learned new methodologies

I acquired contacts for future employment

It allowed me to identify my weaknesses

100% of the students considered that the practice period was valuable in helping them decide what they want to do in their profession
It was also indicated the need to have better coordination between university, placement of the practicum and students as well as better scheduling of activities during the period.

In order to improve the internship period, which of the following options should be considered?

- More communication between faculty, company and student before the practice: 81%
- Give more credits to the practices: 26%
- Search for best site to do the practice: 29%
- Visit of teachers during the practice: 23%
- That companies give more attention to what the practitian does: 24%
• It also gave them the opportunity to identify options for employment (55% of the students).

• A new project (EDULIVE) led by BOKU University, with funding from Erasmus Plus Program EU, is focusing now on developing strategies to promote stronger links with the industry in order to improve practicum periods at two animal science programs of Peru and two of Argentina.
THANKS

Coast

Andes

Amazonian