Pontificia Universidad JAVERIANA Bogotá

Universitas scientiarum

XIII Congreso Nacional de Ciencias Farmacéuticas



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Business model for the development of a sustainable bioproduct from avocado seed waste in Colombia

Thulie P. Jiménez Villalobos^{1*}, Olga I. Cuadrado Vega¹, María del Rosario Osorio Fortich¹, Leonor Cervantes Ceballos², Claudia Baena Aristizábal³, Dolly Mayorca Beltrán¹

- 1. Grupo de investigación ENAIKA, Facultad de Ciencias Farmacéuticas, Universidad de Cartagena. Cartagena, Colombia.
- 2. Grupo de Investigación en Química Orgánica Medicinal, Facultad de Ciencias Farmacéuticas, Universidad de Cartagena. Cartagena, Colombia.
- 3. Grupo de Investigación en Tecnología Farmacéutica, Cosmética y de Alimentos, Facultad de Ciencias Farmacéuticas, Universidad de Cartagena. Cartagena, Colombia.
- * tjimenezv@unicartagena.edu.co

Abstract: In the Montes de María region of Colombia, avocado cultivation faces significant challenges, primarily due to the inadequate management of avocado seed waste. This situation not only causes damages crops and the environment but also affects the sustainability and profitability of agricultural production in the area. In this context, developing sustainable bioproducts from avocado seeds represents an innovative strategy to promote agro-industrial waste valorization and strengthen bioeconomy-based agriculture. This study aimed to design a business model for *MicroHass*, a bioproduct derived from avocado seeds with potential applications in organic and regenerative agriculture A mixed qualitative-quantitative exploratory design was applied, structured in four phases. First, a documentary review and participatory diagnosis with key actors (farmers, distributors, agricultural technicians) were conducted to identify unresolved problems and market inefficiencies, Second, user-centered innovation tools, including design thinking, empathy mapping, and co-creation workshops, were employed. Third, a business model was designed using the Business Model Canvas framework. Finally, the proposal was validated through SWOT analysis to assess viability. The participatory diagnosis identified a limited availability of effective bioproduct formulations from agro-industrial residues, insufficient technical knowledge in field applications, and weak market articulation. The business model highlighted *MicroHass* as an ecological, safe, and easy-to-apply solution within the organic agriculture market. Key activities include raw material collection, technical formulation, field trials, and farmer training. Distribution strategies combine direct sales, agricultural fairs, and e-commerce. SWOT analysis highlighted strengths such as ecological formulation, circular economy innovation, and university spin-off support, alongside opportunities arising from the growing demand for sustainable solutions.

Keywords: Agro-industrial waste; Avocado seed; Bioeconomy; Business model; Sustainability.