Agroclimatic feasibility of quinoa cultivation in Chilecito, La Rioja (Argentina), for two dates of planting

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Summary

Quinoa or quinua, *Chenopodium quinoa* Willd, ancestral crop of the Andean communities of South America, belonging to the Chenopodiacea family, is a species with high nutritional value destined for self-consumption, mainly in the Puna, although with reduced diffusion in the rest of the country. The National Administration of Drug, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT) incorporated the specifications of quinoa into the National Food Code. In this context, producers and technicians are evaluating the possibility of incorporating the Real Blanca quinoa variety among the productions of the family economy in Chilecito, province of La Rioja. The objective of this analysis was to carry out an agro-climatic characterization of Chilecito in order to evaluate the possibility of cultivating quinoa on two sowing dates; rainfall, temperatures, frosts and soil water availability were evaluated. From the analysis of the agroclimatic availabilities based on the bioclimatic requirements of the crop in the different sowing dates –March and December–, it is observed that the sowing date of December, with a critical flowering period in March, with provision of supplementary irrigation, could be a good management alternative for an acceptable production, even if it is intended for self-consumption.

Key words: *Chenopodium*; adversities; agroclimate.