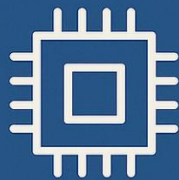




INNOVATION DIALOGUE IN AGRI-FOOD



Abidjan, 15th April 2026

The Spanish Innovation Agency CDTI (Centre for Technological Development and Innovation), under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities of Spain is co-organizing, with the FONSTI (Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation) de la République de la Côte d'Ivoire and the Embassy of Spain in Côte d'Ivoire, an Agri-Food R&D Seminar.

Objectives and Strategic Priorities

- To renew the FONSTI&CDTI MoU, signed in 2023, until 2030. The goal of this partnership is to enhance the collaboration on technology projects between Spanish and Ivorian companies, with the possible participation of research and technology centers, in areas of mutual interest.
- To showcase cutting-edge technologies and advanced solutions in the Agri-Food sector, fostering a multidisciplinary approach to innovation-driven Agri-Food initiatives.
- To present a comprehensive portfolio of Spanish and Ivorian R&D activities, capabilities and research outcomes in the Agri-Food domain, contributed by leading research centres, technological institutes and private-sector companies.
- To strengthen bilateral dialogue between Côte d'Ivoire and Spain, promoting the development of R&D partnerships aimed at addressing key technological gaps that currently hinder the deployment, operational efficiency, sustainability and global competitiveness of the Agri-Food sector in Côte d'Ivoire.
- To convene prominent experts from academia, research and industry in Spain, enabling them to explore opportunities for joint R&D projects and technological cooperation with Ivorian counterparts.
- To facilitate the identification of concrete areas of collaboration, which may subsequently be channelled through bilateral R&D co-funding mechanisms established between the governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Spain.

CEREMONIE DE SIGNATURE DE CONVENTION AVEC L'ESPAGNE

Abidjan le 15 avril 2026

Seen Hôtel Plateau

Programme

Horaires	Activités	Intervenants
09 H30 – 10H00	Accueil et installation des invités	Equipe FONSTI
10H00 - 10H10	Mot de bienvenue	Dr SANGARE Yaya Secrétaire Général du FONSTI
10H10 – 10H20	La coopération entre la République de Côte d'Ivoire et le Royaume de l'Espagne	H.E. Guillermo MARIN, Ambassadeur d'Espagne à la Côte d'Ivoire
10H20 - 10H30	Importance du Partenariat dans le domaine de la Recherche Scientifique	M. Adama DIAWARA Ministre de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique de Côte d'Ivoire
10H30 - 10H40	Mot du CDTI	Ms. Angeles VALBUENA, Chef du Département des Programmes de Coopération Internationale du CDTI
10H40-10H50	Exemple de projet R&D conjoint objet de la convention	M. Roger KPON – Centre Suisse de la Recherche Scientifique Projet Nageru Hive CI
10H50 - 11H00	Signature et échange des copies de la convention entre les parties	Secrétaire Général du FONSTI / Ambassadeur d'Espagne à la Côte d'Ivoire
11H00-11H20	Adresse à la presse	Secrétaire Général du FONSTI / Représentants du Royaume d'Espagne
SEANCE DE COOPERATION BILATERALE		
11H20-12H30	Présentation de entités espagnoles & Ivoiriennes et échanges	Potentiels partenaires pour la coopérations scientifique & technologique Espagne-Côte d'Ivoire dans les domaines de santé et agricole

		<p>Représentants du Royaume de l'Espagne</p> <p>Ms. Natalia Battle – CORALIM</p> <p>Mr. Diego Teruel - TECNOVA</p> <p>Mr. David Vieites – SCIENCE AND BUSINESS SL</p> <p>Mr. Leopoldo Machado – VULKANIA LABS</p> <p>Lauréats FONSTI</p>
<p>12H30</p>	<p>Cocktail & Networking</p>	

CDTI, Centre for Technological Development and Innovation

<http://www.cdti.es>

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The CDTI is a Public Legal Entity, under the ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, whose purpose is to promote innovation and technological development of Spanish companies. It is the entity that channels requests for assistance and support to R&D&I projects of Spanish companies at both state and international levels.

Currently, CDTI maintains a Declaration of Intent with the Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI) of Côte d'Ivoire. Through this initiative, FONSTI and CDTI aim to collaborate in the fields of technology and innovation on a reciprocal basis, with the shared objective of strengthening the competitiveness of their respective national companies, industries, and business ecosystems. This collaboration framework supports technology transfer, industrial research, technological development, and innovation projects, with the goal of generating economic benefits for both Côte d'Ivoire and Spain.

Ángeles Valbuena Puente

Head of the Department of Foreign Technological Action

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Industrial Engineer specialized in Construction, with further technical studies in Project Management for Renewable Energies. She has 27 years of professional experience in both the public and private sectors, always in international environments.

She spent 8 years working for multinational companies in the automotive sector, Tier 1 suppliers in Germany and Spain, mainly focused on the development of new products and processes: Robert Bosch AG, ZF GmbH, and Grupo Antolín.

Since 2017, she has been working for CDTI, the Spanish Innovation Agency under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.



During her time in public administration, she has been part of the Evaluation Directorate, managing projects in the fields of mobility, energy, and construction. She has also managed bilateral programs in the Asia-Pacific region and currently serve as the Head of the Foreign Technology Action Team.

In this role, she leads the design and management of international R&D&I collaboration programs aimed at supporting the internationalization of Spanish companies across various sectors and geographic regions. The team consists of a technical group based in Madrid and a network of delegates abroad.

Vulkania Labs S.L. (KANARA LABS)

[http:// www.kanaralabs.com](http://www.kanaralabs.com)

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38390, Santa Úrsula, Santa Cruz de Tenerife



kanara

Kanara is a biotechnology company based in the Canary Islands, specialised in the development and production of plant material and plant-derived compounds through in vitro and cell culture techniques. Its work focuses on innovative, traceable and sustainable biotechnological solutions, always without genetic modification.

The company develops high-quality plant material for multiplication, conservation and production purposes. It also produces sanitised in vitro plants, enabling the supply of pathogen-free material suitable for propagation, crop improvement and agricultural production programmes.

Kanara does not yet report ongoing operations in Côte d'Ivoire, but it has a strong interest in developing projects with Ivorian companies and research centres. Its current priority themes in Côte d'Ivoire are agri-tech and plant biotechnology, and it is already in discussions with relevant local stakeholders.

Leopoldo Machado Expósito

Co-founder and CEO

leopoldo@kanaralabs.com



Leopoldo Machado is the CEO and co-founder of Kanara Labs (Vulkania Labs S.L.). A marine engineer by training, he previously served as an engine officer in the Spanish Merchant Navy. In 2021, he co-founded Kanara Labs, a biotechnology startup focused on improving the efficiency of producing plant-derived active compounds through innovative plant biotechnology solutions.

Under his leadership, Kanara Labs has received several recognitions, including Best Canary Islands Startup 2024, Top 10 finalist at South Summit Madrid 2024, and participation in the Moeve Light Up programme.



At this event, he will present “Tailored Approaches in Plant Biotechnology: In Vitro and Cell Culture.” His presentation will highlight the practical applications of plant biotechnology, particularly in crop improvement and the production of plant active compounds, while also exploring opportunities for collaboration with companies and research centres in Côte d’Ivoire.

Coralim Ingredients S.L

<http://www.coralim.com>

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CORALIM is a company with a strong and innate commitment to innovation, dedicated to delivering high-quality ingredient solutions and customized formulations for the agrifood sector. Our approach combines scientific rigor, technical expertise, and continuous improvement to provide reliable, high-performance products tailored to the specific needs of our clients.

A central pillar of our value proposition is the development of formulations, with particular specialization in advanced natural color solutions designed to enhance product identity and differentiation, like norbixin, spirulina, etc. CORALIM works in close collaboration with its clients, ensuring proximity, responsiveness, and a deep understanding of their operational and commercial challenges.

With an established subsidiary in Senegal, CORALIM maintains a strategic interest in Côte d'Ivoire, a key regional leader in agrifood production. Our interest in the country focuses on opportunities related to ingredient innovation, color applications, and customized technical solutions to support the growth and modernization of its dynamic agro-industrial sector.

Natalia Batlle Vertiz

CEO

natalia@coralim.com



Dr. Natalia Batlle, General Manager of CORALIM, holds a PhD in Chemical Sciences from the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV) and brings over 20 years of experience in the agrifood and ingredients sector. She began her career at the Institute of Agrochemistry and Food Technology (IATA-CSIC), building a strong scientific background before joining CORALIM in 2006. There, she contributed to the technical-commercial department and later established the company's R&D structure, reinforcing its innovation strategy.



She has led CORALIM since 2014, focusing on customized ingredient solutions, particularly advanced colour applications.

From 2022 to 2024, Dr. Batlle directed the NUCALSEN project with UCAD-Senegal, funded by CDTI, strengthening CORALIM's innovation presence in West Africa. She continues to collaborate with international companies on strategic technological projects.

Her presentation focuses on innovation in tailor-made ingredient solutions, aiming to highlight collaborative models and new opportunities for technological advancement in global agrifood markets.

Science And Business S.L.

[http:// www.sandb.es](http://www.sandb.es)

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S&B is a startup biotechnological company focused primarily on developing diagnostic and identification tools for pathogens in veterinary and human applications. Our novel kit allows the identification of more than 120 bacterial pathogen strains, virulence factors, and antibiotic resistance in a single analysis. It can be used with tissue, surface, and environmental DNA from farms, hospitals, or the food chain industry, as well as animal samples.

We also perform several genomic analyses as a service to characterize communities from soil, water, stool or biogas factories, for example.

We collaborate with public bodies and companies from across Europe and Madagascar. We are interested in applying our technology in more African countries, such as Côte d'Ivoire. Applications include One Health monitoring, pathogen and AMR detection in the food industry, or environmental assessment.

David Vieites

Chief technology officer

vieites@gmail.com



CTO at S&B and research scientist at the Spanish National Research Council. PhD in Biology with more than 25 years of experience, 150 publications, and PI in more than 30 R&I projects. He is cofounder of one spin-off from the CSIC and one startup dedicated to biotechnology, applying molecular biology and genomic tools for One Health.

He will present the work done by his startup and its potential applications in Côte d'Ivoire for companies, public bodies, and the government. The main objective is to interact with local stakeholders towards building long-term collaborations.

Fundacion TECNOVA

[http:// www.fundaciontecnova.com](http://www.fundaciontecnova.com)

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Avda. Innovacion, 23

04131, El Alquíán, Almeria



Tecnova is the Spanish agricultural research center that specializes in intensive agriculture for hot and dry climates. With more than 25 years of experience in developing R&D projects for the agro-industrial sector both nationally and internationally. Although it is not currently working in Ivory Coast, it is very present in North Africa and the Sahel, with numerous projects in both R&D and development cooperation.

Diego Teruel Giménez

Business Director

dteruel@fundaciontecnova.com



Agricultural engineer from the University of Almeria, responsible for business development at the center, with 14 years of experience in the business area and in the center itself. And specialist in developing R&D projects with companies and research centers around the world.

The purpose of the presentation is to share Tecnova's experience in CDTi bilateral programs and the lines of research in which the center is working with African countries.