





Una manera de Bacer Europa



Scientific/technical equipment for improving the R&D capability of the agri-food industry in the Meat,
Horticulture and Mushroom sectors
Directorate-General for Agriculture and Livestock Farming

Programa Operativo de La Rioja

Año 2018

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

Best Practice Report for ACTIONS CO-FUNDED by ERDF

<u>Public Authority</u>: Directorate-General for Agriculture and Livestock Farming. Government of La Rioja

Name of the Best Practice: Scientific/technical equipment for improving the R&D capability of the agri-food industry in the Meat, Horticulture and Mushroom sectors.

Description:

Currently, La Rioja has 2 agri-food technology centres (attached to the Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock farming and the Environment of the Government of La Rioja) which are administered by two non-profit associations engaged in R&D for the agri-food sector, namely ASOCHAMP (the Mushroom Technological Research Centre in Autol) and AIDISA (with facilities in Calahorra and Alesón) centred on the meat industry and the transformation and processing of vegetable product. These are centres of reference for innovation in the food industry at national level, acting as a driving force for the business sector of the Ebro Valley.

The Regional Department of Agriculture, aware of the great significance of these 3 sectors (meat, mushroom and horticulture), decided to invest in the upgrading of the equipment in the scientific facilities of these centres (Autol, Alesón and Calahorra), to situate these centres at the forefront of R&D and innovation in their respective areas. The operation consisted in purchasing state-of-the-art scientific equipment (by public procurement) so as to enable these two centres to improve the range of technological services they could offer and thereby better meet the needs of the agri-food business sector.

This equipment has served to improve the capacity of the centres' analytical services, the setting up of new pilot plants and the development of new R&D projects in three key sectors of the regional and national economy.

With this investment whose eligible cost amounts to 586,773 € of which 50%, 293,386 € is funded by the grant from the ERDF, the regional executive has increased the region's technological capital, by improving scientific infrastructures which are able to retain and attract research talent. The impact of the action was that 10 full-time researchers used the facilities in 2017.

It is an example of Best Practice because it meets the criteria established for this:

1.- The action has been appropriately disseminated among the beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general public.

The action has been disseminated in accordance with the communication requirements laid down by the regulations, as can be appreciated rom the following photographs in which you can see the plaque displayed in the centres bearing the emblem of the European Union and a reference to the European Regional Development Fund.





Furthermore, the equipment acquired has been labelled with the corresponding stickers indicating the cofunding arrangements.







In addition, there have been published press releases and mentions in the printed and digital media, whose dissemination has been aimed at the general public, specifically informing them that the action has been cofunded by the European Regional Development Fund within the framework of the ERDF Operational programme for La Rioja 2014-2020:

El Gobierno de La Rioja apovará con 752,600 euros la adquisición de equipamiento científico para mejorar la I+D de la industria agroalimentaria

El Gobierno de La Rioja, a través de la Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería y Medio Ambiente, ha abierto la convocatorias para la adquisición de equipamiento científico técnico que contribuya a mejorar la capacidad de I+D de la industria agroalimentaria, un sector clave para la generación de riqueza y empleo en la comunidad

14 de octubre de 2016

El Boletín Oficial de La Rioja (BOR) publica hoy los detalles de los tres procedimientos abiertos y los criterios de adjudicación del equipamiento específico que se requiere para los sectores cárnico, hortofrutícola y del champiñón, que suman una inversión total de 752.600 euros.

Esta iniciativa se enmarca en el objetivo temático uno del proc



Los interesados en presentar sus ofertas pueden informarse de la convocatoria en el Senvicio de Coordinación y Contratación de la Consejeria de Administración Pública y Hacienda o a través de la web del Gobierno de La Rioja www.larioja.org. Las ofertas podrán presentarse hasta el 31 de octubre en el Registro General de la Comunida Autiónoma, junto con la documentación exigida.

La estrategia de I+D agroalimentaria del Ejecutivo riojano, incluida en la Estrategia de Especialización Inteligente (RIS3), se sustenta en un modelo de producción sostenible, en el que se contempla la mejora de procesos y productos del sector agroalimentario y que busca adaptarse a las demandas del consumidor, fomentando el desarrollo del sector y la mejora de sus resultados.

https://www.larioja.org/comunicacion/en/portavoz/g obierno-rioja-apoyara-752-600-euros-adquisicionequipamien



https://www.larioja.com/larioja/201610/14/aportacion-euros-paraequipamiento-20161014135902.html



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14-10-2016





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omo instrumento estratégico para impulsar la competitividad de la economía o

http://www.lariojacapital.com/noticias/837-Gobierno Rioja apovara 752.600 euros adquisicio n equipamiento cientifico agroalimentario

Extract from the CTICH press release about the equipment (whole text attached:



Evidence of communication from the technological centres in the ERDF and R&D projects with companies:

CTIC-CITA web site



This dissemination has benefitted from the institutional visit by the President of the Government of La Rioja to the Centro Tecnológico de Investigación del Champiñón (CTICH) in July 2018 highlighting the importance for the centre's research activity of the acquisition of the new equipment, co-financed by ERDF funds.



http://www.larioja.com/comarcas/ceniceros-compromete-impulsar-20180706163320-nt.html

2.- The action introduces innovative elements.

The investments made have made it possible to develop new lines of R&D which were not previously possible in the region. We should also point out that these have occurred in sectors which have been regarded as technologically "mature" or of low technological intensity, such as the agri-food sector.

Within the mushroom and fungi industry, this ERDF operation has made it possible to open up new **lines of research into health and fungi,** allowing components to be identified in different types of mushrooms that may be used to combat diseases such as cancer. Or the search for other active ingredients in fungi which may be useful for developing more nutritious, functional foodstuffs and for application in the cosmetics industry.

In the area of processing vegetable products, projects have been able to be set up to improve the grain sector, which has a high importance in the region, through pilot bakery plants. In these different cereals grown in La Rioja, such as durum wheat, rye, spelt, etc., are being tested to ascertain their suitability for making bread. We must also highlight the introduction of equipment for the development of **new techniques for packing and conserving vegetable foodstuffs.** This new machinery is enabling CTIC-CITA (THE FOOD INDUSTRY TECHNOLOGY CENTRE) to develop new packaging formats, new to the market, which permit better conservation of the foodstuffs and increasing their shelf life and the preservation of their organoleptic characteristics.

Opening up new lines of research into food and health, food safety, the creation of **new products and food packaging,** are the innovative results which it is going to be possible to implement in the coming years thanks to this operation. It has to be said that the improvements achieved in these centres are enabling them to obtain tangible results in the market, with the companies in the sector taking advantage of them, so that ultimately the whole of society benefits.

3.- Matching the results obtained to the established goals.

This operation sought to make a direct impact on key sectors of the regional economy through support for innovation by companies. If we assess the first results it can be said that the goals set are being satisfactorily met.

The scientific activity of the technology centres has increased considerably. New doors have been opened to international consortia in the European Union's Research and Innovation Programme in order to fund initiatives and research projects, technological development, demonstration and innovation with clear added European value (HORIZON 2020) so that the projection of the sector is ever greater, taking for instance the recently approved SmartMushroom project, under the leadership of the Mushroom Technology Centre (Centro Tecnológico de Investigación del Champiñón, CTICH).

The collaboration mechanisms between the technology centre and agri-food companies from the Ebro Valley have been consolidated. This has enabled the technology centres to obtain new research contracts and to improve their competitiveness compared to other national and European centres.









4.- Contribution to solving a problem or weakness detected in the area of execution.

Among all the diagnostic studies conducted in La Rioja, the first-ranked weakness is the low investment in R&D (La Rioja has an R&D expenditure of 0.84% of GDP compared to 2% in the EU in the year 2016). And as a threat, that the industrial sectors of La Rioja are technologically very mature, due to the high influence of the agri-food sector.

These two premises, together with the low interaction between the companies and the R&D centres which exists in Spain, led the Regional Department of Agriculture, to identify a series risk of a deficit in competitiveness of a key sector for the region. Hence, the various mechanisms provided by the O.P. ERDF to the agri-food sector have become a very effective solution for funding an action plan aimed at tackling these weaknesses and threats.

As has already been mentioned, the ERDF funds are opening a new horizon of possibilities to take on other challenges, such as the improvement of the agri-food analytical services offered to companies, the transfer of the results of R&D to the business fabric and the connection between the different interest groups.

5.- High level of coverage of the population it is aimed at.

With respect to the business sector, the coverage is illustrated by two pieces of economic data: the regional agriculture sector represents, in percentage terms, double the weight it has in Spain as a whole and the agrifood industry is the industrial sector with the most weight within the GVA and industrial turnover in 2016.

The investments are aimed at the agri-food industrial sector, which in La Rioja has strong links with the agriculture sector. The effect of investing in agri-food R&D and innovation in La Rioja is almost directly transferred to the region's rural population. Only one item of data: 60.4% of the people of La Rioja live in Logroño (47.8% of the total) or in its metropolitan area.

Some sectors, such as the meat or mushroom industries, are highly concentrated in rural areas, where they are the local economic and social driving forces. For this reason, by investing in technology centres located in rural areas like Alesón and Autol, a catalysing effect is created for business activity in areas which are sensitive from the social and economic point of view.







6.- Consideration of the transversal criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

The investments are made through the procedures of public procurement, respecting the current rules regarding contacting with regard to publicity, transparency and equal opportunities for all the bidders.

Regarding the scope of the investments, these have been made available to two non-profit associations which provide services to all the companies and organisations which may wish to access them, with the doors remaining open to all interested regional, national and international players.

With regard to the environmental question, given the strong links between the agri-food sector and the environment, in all the possible actions and projects to be undertaken using the equipment purchased, it is expected that projects with a high degree of environmental commitment will be undertaken, such as waste management, the circular economy, efficient energy management or the sustainable use of phytosanitary treatments.

7.- Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention.

Synergies appear with other structural funds such as the EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development), since these infrastructures are enabling developments focussed on the region's agricultural problems to take place and interactions with other agents within the Riojan Innovation System.

But other synergies also appear on the international stage, since both AIDISA and ASOCHAMP are opening up a good path in the calls for proposals for HORIZON 2020. And finally, we should highlight the approval granted in March 2018 to an INTERREG EUROPE project (competitive call for proposals of European

innovation projects), entitled AgriRenaissance, in the field of agri-food scientific infrastructures in this project the Government of La Rioja is the leader and is involved as a partner in the AIDISA association.













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