



## EDITORIAL



### *HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan*

It is a great privilege for me to be given this opportunity to reach out to you, my colleagues and friends at WAITRO LAC, and to send to you my very best wishes. You also give me an opportunity to remember with fondness my time as WAITRO President, and to renew those bonds of friendship and purpose that unite us all across borders and oceans.

From my region to yours, we seek sustainable solutions for our most pressing challenges. We dedicate ourselves to communication and collaboration to help our communities, wherever they may be. But there is no doubt that today many in our WAITRO family inhabit the most challenging political and social environments as they struggle to fund research and to influence policy. This is the unfortunate reality that we must all share, and we must unite to amend and enhance the potential for innovative and sustainable solutions around the world. Our legacy as champions of STI for humanity will be in jeopardy unless we use all the tools that science and dialogue present to us in a caring and creative way.

As a family of innovative individuals and institutions, we must never allow ourselves to be deflected by politics or ideology from the mission that we undertake as custodians and creators of knowledge for peace and security. Indeed, the impact of conflict in my region and elsewhere further emphasizes the global nature of so many challenges facing humankind, and boldly underlines our collective responsibility to tackle them in every way we can. Within our organisation, we fully embrace our obligation to contribute through research, capacity-building and policy, for the benefit of all.

We must remember that although many challenges today bear a seemingly local or regional imprint, history teaches us that if they are left untended they may well become matters of urgent global concern in a very short space of time. WAITRO's vision of collaborative partnership provides an urgently needed response to this.

From my region I may say that in the face of ever-graver challenges, we must persevere. For the role of knowledge in building and fostering a culture of peace at all levels and for all parts of society has never been more vital, and the realization of science's potential to create mechanisms that may enable lives that promise peaceful opportunity has never been more urgent.

So, as we feel horrified by the current news cycle, and as tempers fray, and heartbreaking suffering increases, we must urgently find in science the language that is needed to connect people across borders, belief systems and social and cultural barriers. It is a language that must speak of hope, of understanding, and of equality for all. It announces objective standards over sometimes subjective values. WAITRO is at the very heart of this process.

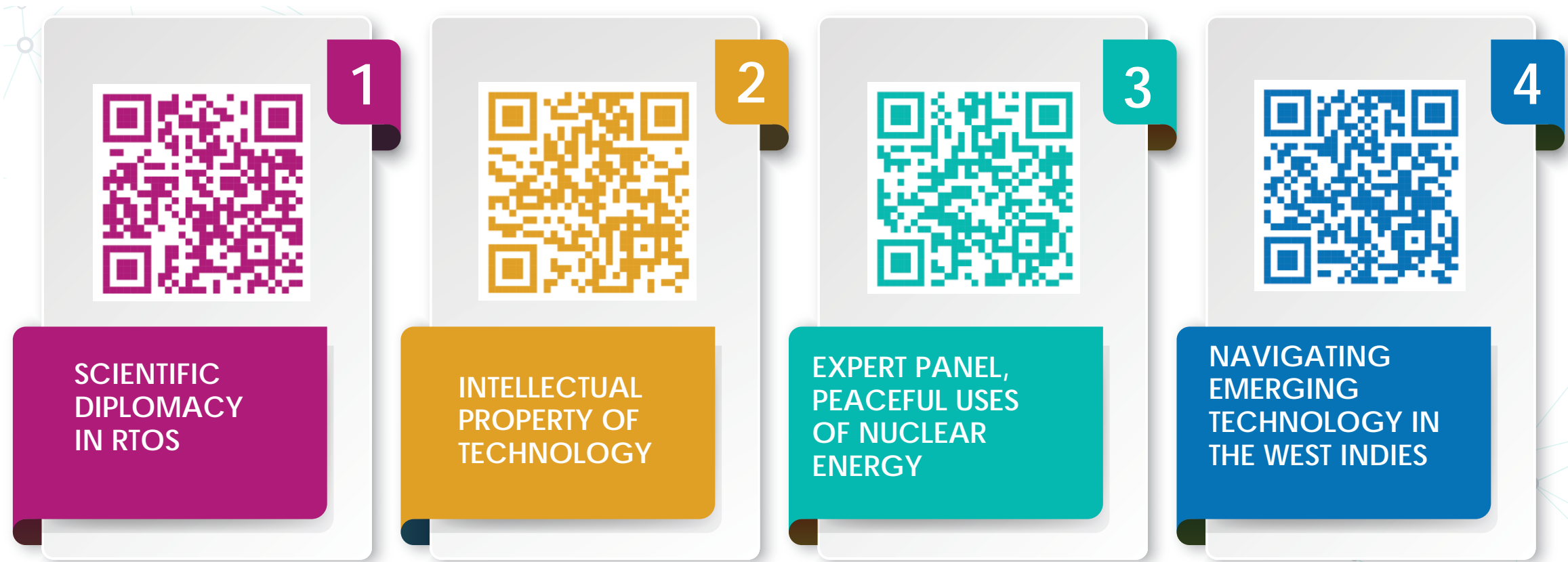
In our fracturing world, where achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 seems less certain by the day, innovation driven by determination has become critical to our future. Unforeseen and transformative challenges have indeed emerged to test the frameworks of resilience and multilateralism, and have highlighted the urgent need for deeper and more meaningful local, regional and global partnerships. Many flaws in our world's multilateral mechanisms have been laid bare and the vulnerability of truth and trusted communication across societies has been revealed. This is a time to trust our WAITRO network, and to increase our open and hopeful communication.

Today, as we grapple with the interlinked stresses on energy, food, and water, science commands the strongest and most universally respected voice, particularly where it is most needed. Our respective regions, with their youthful, eager, and engaged populations, are witnesses to the emergence of new partnerships built across generations and nations. Long may this continue and long may WAITRO provide the means and the impetus to talk over division and across borders.

# ABOUT US

Take advantage of the knowledge shared in the webinars

Scan the QR code to access the webinars we have conducted throughout this year.



## CONNECT ON SEPTEMBER 25

DISCUSSION:  
Strengthening innovation ecosystems through the analysis of their collaboration dynamics

09: 00 a. m.  
10: 00 a. m.  
11: 00 a. m.  
12: 00 a. m.

Costa Rica, Guatemala, México  
Colombia, Perú, Ecuador, Panamá  
República Dominicana, Bolivia  
Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Brasil

## MATCHMAKING session summary

On Tuesday, September 3rd, the **third Matchmaking session** took place, a collaborative workspace dedicated to addressing crucial topics for calls in areas such as **innovation for sustainability and health, agro-industry and food sovereignty, biorefineries and biofuels, as well as quality and inclusive education.**

During the session, pending matters from the second session were revisited, and important agreements were reached. Below are the main outcomes from the working groups:



### Health, Innovation for Sustainability and Health

A working group was formed, and one participant took responsibility for sharing a document with relevant information for the call.



### Agro-industry and Food Sovereignty

Participants highlighted the relevant institutional competencies for agro-industry and pest control, focusing on identifying internal capacities and seeking a European partner.

Emphasis was placed on strengthening proposals through strategic collaborations. At the end of the session, the closing date for the call was agreed upon for September. This space facilitated synergies aligned with institutional capacities, promoting interactions and collaborations for future calls.



### Biorefineries, Biofuels, Biochemicals, and Biomaterials

The session focused on explaining the objective of the call: to promote research and innovation projects addressing challenges in renewable energy, energy systems, storage networks, and carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS).

The discussion centered on responding to the call in a differentiated way, highlighting each participant's institutional capabilities. The conversation emphasized bio-refinery and biofuel competencies, and the need to find partners with renewable energy experience, especially in the UK, to meet the call's requirements.



### Quality and Inclusive Education

The session began by stressing the need to identify a strategic partner in the UK to strengthen the proposal and meet the call's requirements, considering this key to the success of the projects.

The goal of the call was explained: to support the creation of international networks promoting collaboration between researchers, with a focus on ensuring equitable access to sustainable development, including inclusive and quality education.

The importance of presenting innovative projects in pedagogy and inclusive strategies was emphasized, and the group discussed how to respond in a differentiated way, highlighting institutional capabilities and their alignment with the call's objectives to strengthen proposals.

## CONCLUSIONS



### SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AND ONGOING COLLABORATION

Despite the absence of some participants, the session allowed for key advances in each working group. The commitment to maintain collaborative efforts through alternate spaces and future planning for upcoming calls was reaffirmed.



### STRENGTHENING OF STRATEGIC SYNERGIES

Valuable opportunities were identified to enhance proposals through new collaborations between institutions, fostering joint work in future calls and increasing the chances of success in shared projects.



### SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE CALLS

Although some upcoming deadlines prevented immediate applications, strong foundations were established for future collaborations. The working groups generated new interactions and strategic alliances that will be key to leveraging future opportunities.

# NEWS IN THE NETWORK

## LAC REPRESENTATIVES AT THE SUMMIT

**CASE STUDIES: "Harnessing Biodiversity and Agro-Industrial Waste in Costa Rica: Local Solutions to Promote Sustainable Agriculture through Novel Biostimulants"**

*Emmanuel Araya Valverde – Project Coordinator CENAT-Cenibiot*

This product/service has the unique characteristic of reviving ancestral agricultural practices used by Costa Rican ancestors, which were replaced by the use of agrochemicals. Through its adoption, these techniques are being revived by producers, including those who, though generationally distant from their ancestors, seek to reconnect with that knowledge. Communities, including indigenous groups, are also adopting these practices through training programs. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, in collaboration with CENAT, offers training and technical assistance to support producers in implementing these practices nationwide.

**CASE STUDY: Jagua Blue: A Natural Food Coloring Additive Solution from Colombia to the World - Special Guest from JITRI**

*Laura Alzate Blandón – Technical Manager, Ecoflora*

The natural dye Jagua Blue, sustainably obtained from the fruit of *Genipa americana* (Jagua), is a 100% safe ingredient for the human food, pet food, and personal care industries. A stable natural blue dye has been developed that is acid-stable and heat-resistant, completing the natural color palette available for various applications. This discovery represents the "Holy Grail" of the food industry: a natural blue dye stable in acidic environments. The initial suppliers of the fruit for Ecoflora come from ethnic communities (Afro and Indigenous), who, along with rural communities, continue to supply it today.

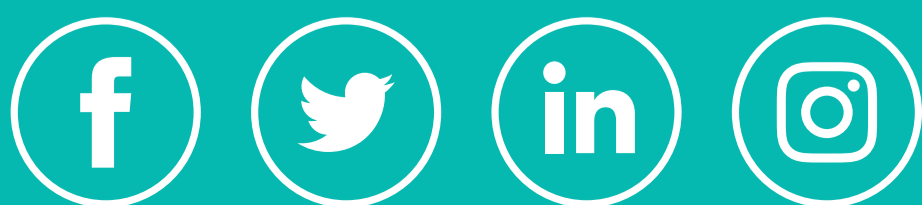
**SPEAKER: Eugenia J. Olguín Palacios - Emeritus Researcher, INECOL**  
**"Thirty Years of Developing and Implementing Nature-Based Solutions through Phytoremediation and Phycoremediation"**

Dr. Olguín has developed various technologies in the field of phycoremediation and phytoremediation. The phycoremediation technology for pig waste, tested at pilot scale for 3 years, has been widely cited internationally (Olguín et al., 2003) and is ready to be transferred via patent. Other technologies have been implemented at lab and pilot scale, including a patent for the remediation of vinasse from the ethanol industry through constructed wetlands. Over the past 11 years, floating wetlands developed by her team have cleaned two urban lakes in Xalapa, Veracruz, with financial support from the local government. Additionally, a phytoremediation lagoon to treat contaminated water has been tested and is ready to be transferred to local or state authorities.



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## Poster Competition on Impact and Entrepreneurship in the SDGs:

*Submit Your Proposal by September 30*

Researchers worldwide are developing innovative solutions to address local and global challenges. However, achieving real impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires connecting these solutions with the market, a challenge many researchers face due to a lack of business experience or contacts with clients who can fund their projects. Meanwhile, impact investors seek projects that can contribute to the SDGs but often struggle to find suitable options.

To bridge this gap, the Poster Competition on Impact and Entrepreneurship in the SDGs is launching, inviting researchers from universities and research organizations globally to participate and present their projects. In addition to advancing their proposals, participants will acquire key skills, and recognition, positioning them to create a greater impact in solving global challenges.

The competition will kick off with a webinar titled "Why Isn't My Project Attracting Investors?", which will provide tools for creating roadmaps to investor readiness. Participants must present their project's story through a poster, and the best will be selected for a quick presentation at the WAITRO Summit 2024. Winners will receive prizes and, more importantly, will be partnered with a WAITRO-affiliated incubator to guide them in executing their roadmap.

The deadline for submitting posters is September 30. Don't miss the opportunity to connect your research with the market and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

### Key Dates:

- Poster Submission Opens: August 1 – September 30, 2024
- Poster Submission Deadline: September 30, 2024 (send via email to [info@waitro.org](mailto:info@waitro.org) with the title "WAITRO SDG Impact Competition\_Institution Name")
- Presentation and Award Event: November 14, 2024 (Beijing Time, UTC+2)

Learn about the benefits and get more information:

<https://waitro.org/programs-services/waitro-summit-2024-sdg-impact-award/>

## What Happened at the WAITRO Online Development Cooperation Capacity Building?

The workshop on development cooperation, organized by LEITAT under the framework of WAITRO, held on September 18, focused on **the importance of international collaboration in a globalized world**. It was highlighted that development cooperation aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), seeking to generate positive social, economic, and environmental impacts.

During the event, interactive activities were held to assess participants' knowledge of cooperation opportunities within their organizations. The different types of cooperation—bilateral, multilateral, and triangular—were explained, as well as the key actors involved, including governments, NGOs, academia, and the private sector. It was emphasized that these actors must work in synergy to address global challenges.

Additionally, a map of the cooperation ecosystem was presented, highlighting key coordinators such as the OECD and the World Bank, whose work is fundamental in establishing guidelines and mobilizing resources. INTI participated, sharing its experience in triangular cooperation, and the CTA presented its work in collaboration with LEITAT for the IDB.

**The workshop concluded with a reflection on how organizations can integrate into this ecosystem and contribute to sustainable development projects.**

