



Centro Tecnológico
Nacional de la Conserva
y Alimentación



CTNC Spain, a long trip with agrofood companies.

14th November 2023, Bucharest, Romania



Centro Tecnológico
Nacional de la Conserva
y Alimentación



National Technological Centre for Food and Canning Industry CTNC

Murcia, Spain



1962-1968



1968-1997



1997.....

Founded in 1962 by a group of companies in collaboration with researchers of the University of Murcia.

CTNC is a **private non profit research organization** with more than 120 associated companies and working for more than 500 companies every year.

CTNC is recognized by the Spanish Government as Innovation and Technological Centre, Office of Transfer of Research Results and it is declared of Public Use.

Key figures

Turnover: 1.9 M€

Employees: 45

Market: PRIVATE NON PROFIT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF COMPANIES

Products: INNOVATION, APPLIED RESEARCH, DISSEMINATION, ETC.

www.ctnc.es



- 1. Why in Murcia?**
- 2. Objectives**
- 3. Involvement of companies**
- 4. Expertise**
- 5. Agro2Circular project**
- 6. Agromatter project**
- 7. Conclusions**



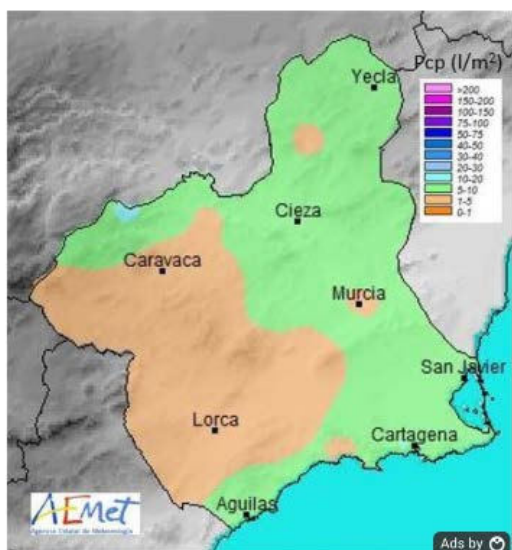
WHILE MURCIA REPRESENTS 2.2% OF SPAIN'S TERRITORY, WE ACCOUNT FOR 20% OF THE COUNTRY'S FRUIT AND VEGETABLE EXPORT REVENUE!



Region of Murcia's Share in National Exports

Product		Product	Percentage %
Lettuce	65.74	Lemon	55.76
Cabbage	69.56	Dessert Grapes	67.09
Pepper	13.4	Melon	54.78
Tomato	8.99	Peach	24.21
Celery	61.53	Watermelon	17.04
Other vegetables	9.25	Other fruits	5.27
Total vegetables	23%	Total Fruits	17%
Total fruits and vegetables		20%	

Source: Customs Records





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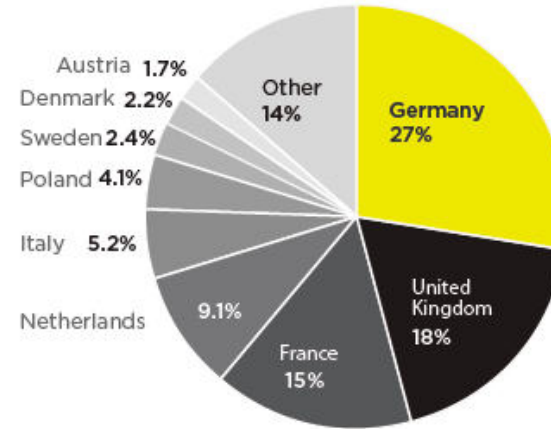
Why in Murcia?



AGROFOOD SECTOR

The agrofood sector is the main exporter to Europe, representing 32.5% of employment and 28.3% of production in the region. Murcia is the Spanish region with the highest percentage of land devoted to organic farming and leads the production of 4th- and 5th-range food products.

Distribution of Export within EU Countries



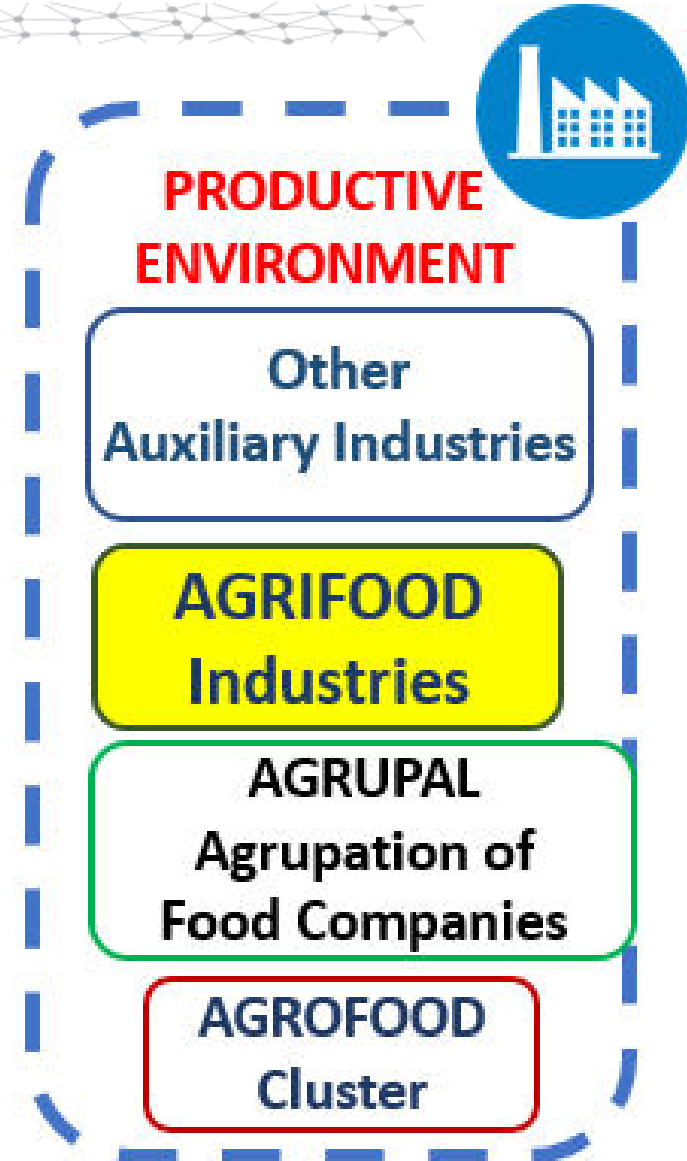


Why in Murcia?

STRONG PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT

- 150 years sector (food sector is in the DNA of regional workers).
- Many agrofood companies.
- Strong auxiliary industries: agriculture, raw materials, containers, equipments, ingredients, etc.
- SMEs and big companies (tractor effect).
- Well connected companies: Competence is not in our region.

The stronger a company in the region is, the stronger the regional agri-food sector is.





Why in Murcia?

STRONG TECHNOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

- Automation and Robotics.
- 3D printing.
- Mild treatments: HP, MW, US, etc.
- Environmental impact.
- New sustainable containers.
- Valorization of secondary streams.

The stronger the technological actors are, the stronger the regional agri-food sector is.





Why in Murcia?

STRONG SCIENTIFIC ENVIRONMENT

- Nutritional supplements, functional foods and beverages, gut microbiomes, etc.
- Plant based foods and beverages (meat and dairy substitutes).
- Ingredients that are natural, healthy and immunity boosters.
- New protein sources.
- Biodegradable materials, compostable packaging, and recyclable materials.

The stronger the scientific environment is, the stronger the regional agri-food sector is.




SCIENTIFIC ENVIRONMENT

 **UMU**
University of Murcia

UPCT
Polytechnic 
University of Cartagena

 **UCAM**
San Antonio
Catholic University

National Administration

CEBAS-CSIC
Applied Edaphology &
Biology Centre of Segura
River 



Some reasons why companies are discouraged from applying for finance:

- Lack of mutual trust and understanding between bankers and companies, and lack of transparency in bank loan policy,
- Negative previous experiences with banks,
- Unattractive loan conditions as well as complicated and long application procedures,
- Lack of financial literacy including capacity to develop quality business plans.



FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT

REGIONAL MINISTRIES

SENECA
Foundation
Centre for
Research
Coordination

CIFEA
Centre for Integrated
Agricultural Training
and Experiences

INFO
Regional
Development
Agency

Private
Funding

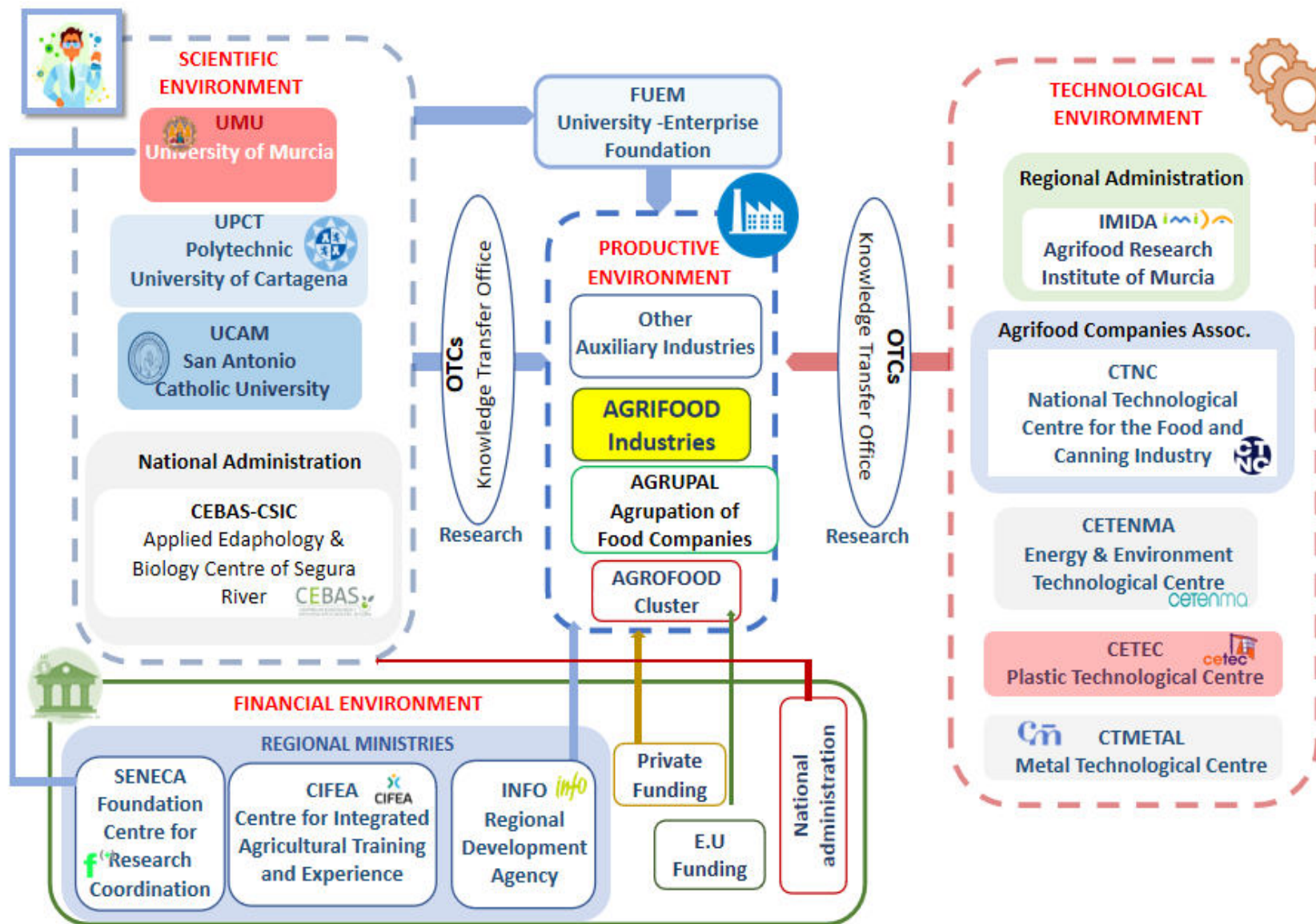
E.U
Funding

National
administration



REGION OF MURCIA AGRO FOOD NETWORK

All environments involved in training



Technological Centres

Private non profit companies research associations.

Budget:

- Regional Administration for general interest research
- European and national projects
- Private projects and other activities



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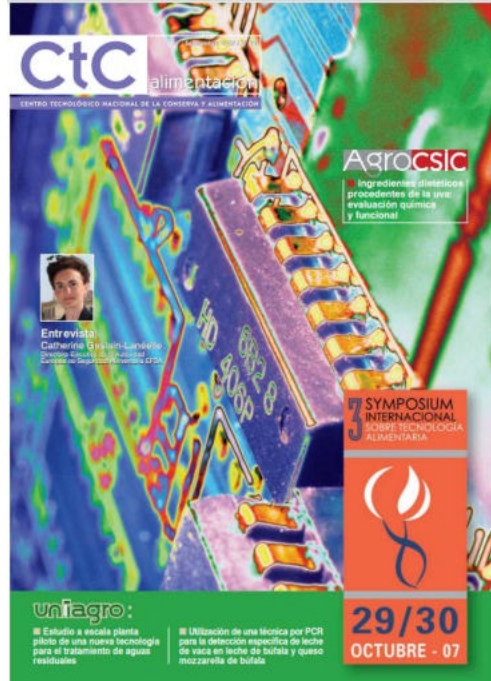
Objectives



CTNC's aim is to promote research, innovation and competitiveness in the agrofood sector.

- Internationalization of the Agrofood sector: International projects and activities.
- SME consultancy activities.
- Analytical and technological services.
- Training at all levels.
- To make our industry more competitive.
- To solve environmental problems, introduction of new products and technologies, valorisation of by products, water reuse, etc.
- Technology transfer and dissemination activities





- CTNC's General Assembly and Governing Council are integrated only by companies.
- Companies are members of the Editorial Board of the magazine CTCAlimentacion (since 2001, number 79 December 2023)
- Since 2003 Technical Committee of CTNC's bianual International Symposium on Food Technology decides modules and topics.
- International Symposium is designed for companies.
- Innovation vouchers, projects, training actions, etc.



XI Symposium Internacional and Brokerage Event, 2023



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Involvement of companies



2007

Possibilities of valorisation of food industry by-products. CEBAS CSIC
Biomolecules recovered from fruit/beverage industry by-products. UASVM, Romania
The citric industry as a source for the production of bioetanol. FMC
Valorisation of water treatment sludges as biomass for energy production. SIGMA OKADORA
Sustainable energetic development in the processing of agroindustrial residues. FoodTech & Engineering Consulting





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Expertise



One aim of S.T.E.P. is to help companies in the food processing industry to integrate sustainable processing technologies in giving them tools to help in their decision to change. These tools have to be adapted to little and medium sized companies, because they have less resources than big companies and have almost to face the same environmental focus. They have to ensure that the company knows the impact of a future investment in terms of

- technological criteria
- economic criteria
- environmental criteria
- social criteria

The investment in sustainable processing technologies has to be seen as a factor of increasing the company's competitiveness.



	• CCID - Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de la Drôme (Rhône-Alpes, Francia)
	• CCIMP - Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie Marseille Provence (Provenza-Alpes-Cote d'Azur, Francia)
	• Euro Info Centre IT 351 - Azienda Speciale della Camera di Commercio di Milano (Lombardia, Italia)
	• Euro Info Centre IT 361 Promofirenze - Azienda Speciale della Camera di Commercio Industria Artigianato di Firenze (Toscana, Italia)
	• Chamber of Drama (Drama, Grecia)
	• Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie et de Services de Casablanca (Casablanca, Marruecos)
	• CTC - Centro Tecnológico Nacional de la Conserva y Alimentación (Región de Murcia, España)



2007/2009



DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ACTIVE CONTAINERS WITH NATURAL ADDITIVES FROM AGROFOOD WASTES (NATAL) Spanish Ministry of Science

Natural additives from agroindustrial wastes that have been studied

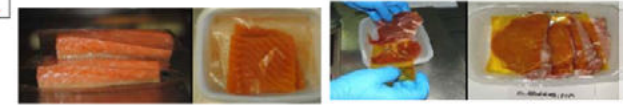
Additives (active principle)	Action
Onion extracts (quercitina and other flavonoides)	Antioxidant and antimicrobial
Pepper extractes	
Grape extractes (poliphenols)	
Alperujo extractes (poliphenols)	
Tomato skin extractes (lycopene)	Antioxidant
Alga extractes (ascorbic acid and tocoferol)	
Papaya extractes(papaina)	
Garlic extractes (organosulfurados)	Antimicrobial



2009/2011

Food and technology	Active container	Protection
Slices of cooked ham (soft pasteurisation)	Barrier and flexible packaging and separator film	
Smoked salmon (refrigeration)		
Swordfish (sterilization)	Barrier and flexible packaging	Antioxidant
Slices of aged cheeses (refrigeration)		
Sliced cured Iberian pork meat (refrigeration and modified atmosphere)	Barrier and flexible packaging and separator film	Antioxidant and antimicrobial
Fresh meat of Iberian pork (refrigeration and modified atmosphere)		
Sliced cheeses (refrigeration)		
Fresh salmon (refrigeration)	Barrier and flexible packaging	
Sliced fruits and vegetables (refrigeration)		

Studied foods and containers



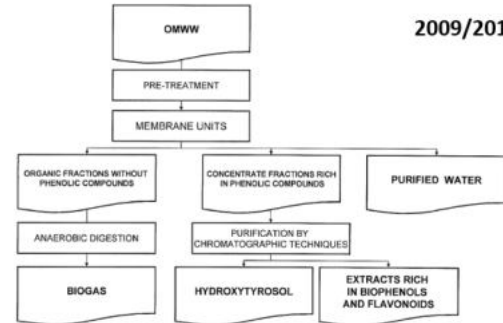
Biomasse et Emploi en milieu rural, BIOMEMPLOI, Leonardo



2011/2013



Valorization of olive mill effluents by recovering high added value bio-products



2009/201

OBJECTIVES

- To identify challenges in terms of employment in the rural sector related with biomass in agriculture and forestry
- To define the skills / qualifications required for new jobs in biomass valorization.
- To set up a guide of skills for careers in the biomass sector
- To identify the role that communities can play to promote development of the sustainable resources management .
- To determine the restraints and success elements in the development of the sector.

AGRICULTEUR → ENERGICULTEUR





Sustainable solutions in the agrofood sector

2010/2014

Sustainable strategies for integrated management of agroindustrial fruit and vegetable wastes (AGROWASTE) LIFE Programme of European Union

Reference: LIFE10 ENV/ES/000469. Coordinator: CEBAS-CSIC; Partners: CTNC and AGRUPAL



Artichoke, onion, garlic, tomato, lemon, orange, carrots, broccoli, peach, apricot, etc.

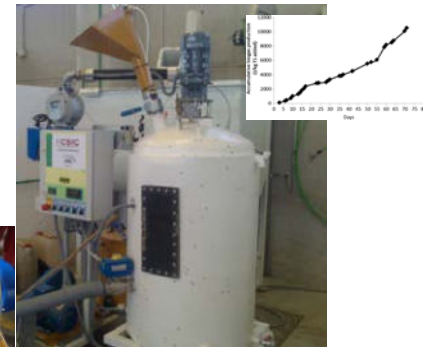
OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this project is to design an integrated management system for fruit and vegetable wastes (FVW) at the Region of Murcia (Spain), by using environmentally friendly technologies that will convert “residues” on “resource”. The proposed technologies will be adapted to the specific type of residues and it will be integral managed, depending on the intrinsic FVW characteristics.



Main ways of Valorisation :

- 1. Agriculture and Environment (composting)
- 2. Food (enriched extracts)
- 3. Energy (biomethanization)





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Expertise



Sustainable solutions in the agrofood sector



**VALIDATION OF ADSORBENT MATERIALS AND
ADVANCED OXIDATION TECHNIQUES TO REMOVE
EMERGING POLLUTANTS IN TREATED
WASTEWATER (LIFE CLEANUP)** LIFE Programme of
European Union

Reference: LIFE 16 ENV/ES/000169. 2017/2020

Coordinator: UCAM; Partners: Hidrogea, Regenera
Levante, Hidrotec, CTNC (Spain), CNR-IPCF and
Universidad de Bari (Italia).

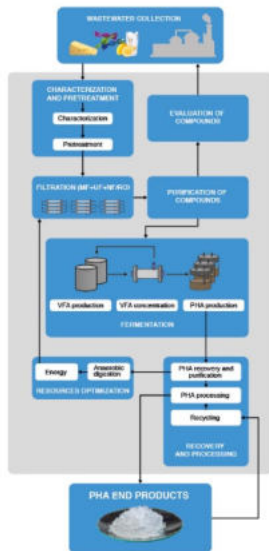


**WATER TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION
ROADMAPS.** Interreg Europe. 2018/2023

Index Number: PGI05062

Coordinator: Wetsus (NL); Partners: CREA
Hydro&Energy, z.s. (CZ); Region of Crete (EL);
Food and Agriculture Cluster Foundation of the
Murcia Region (ES); Riga Technical University
(RTU) (LV); Ministry of Education and Science of
Republic of Latvia (MoES) (LV); Province of
Fryslân (NL); University of Minho (Uminho) (PT);
North-East Regional Development Agency (RO).

THE PROCESS



**AN INTEGRATED SOLUTION FOR THE RECOVERY
AND CONVERSION OF RELEVANT FRACTIONS
FROM WASTEWATER (AFTERLIFE).** Bio Based
Industries (BBI-H2020). 2017/2021

Grant agreement No 745737

Coordinator: EggPlant; Partners: 14 partners from
7 European countries (Belgium, Germany, Finland,
Croatia, Italy, Spain (CTNC) and Portugal).





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Expertise



CTNC: main stakeholder in CE in the Regional agrofood sector

In 2018, within the Program of Aids of the **Regional Development Agency INFO** directed to Technological Centers of the Region of Murcia, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the project of "Technological Surveillance to Support the R & D of the Agri-Food Sector" was carried out.

Many surveys were carried out to detect the R & D needs of the sector and to guide the CTNC in its new research lines. Among the detected needs are:

- Research in the valorization of by-products or food waste: obtaining dehydrated extracts, antioxidants and natural antimicrobials.
- Water management and recovery of wastewater through new bioprocesses: bioplastics, microalgae, etc.



Una manera de hacer Europa
Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional



RESOLUCIÓN GENERAL DE CONCESIÓN DE SOLICITUDES DE AYUDAS INTEGRADAS EN EL PROGRAMA DE AYUDAS DIRIGIDAS A CENTROS TECNOLÓGICOS DE LA REGIÓN DE MURCIA DESTINADAS A LA REALIZACIÓN DE ACTIVIDADES I+D DE CARÁCTER NO ECONÓMICO. MODALIDAD 2: "PROGRAMA DE ACTUACIONES NO ECONÓMICAS DE APOYO A LA I+D"

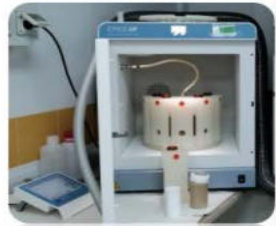
In 2019, in this approved INFO (VT- ECOCIMUR) project a SWOT Analysis was carried out by CTNC on the state of the Circular Economy in the agri-food sector and in related organizations, following a University of Ghent methodology, in order to define the strategic priorities of the sector. This methodology has already been used by the CTNC in the AGFORISE FP7 Project.



Expertise

1. OBTAINING COMPOUNDS OF INTEREST. THE CTNC HAS EQUIPMENT TO DEVELOP EXTRACTION TECHNIQUES CONSIDERED AS GREEN TECHNIQUES

- Enzymatic extraction
- Subcritical water extraction
- Microwave assisted extraction



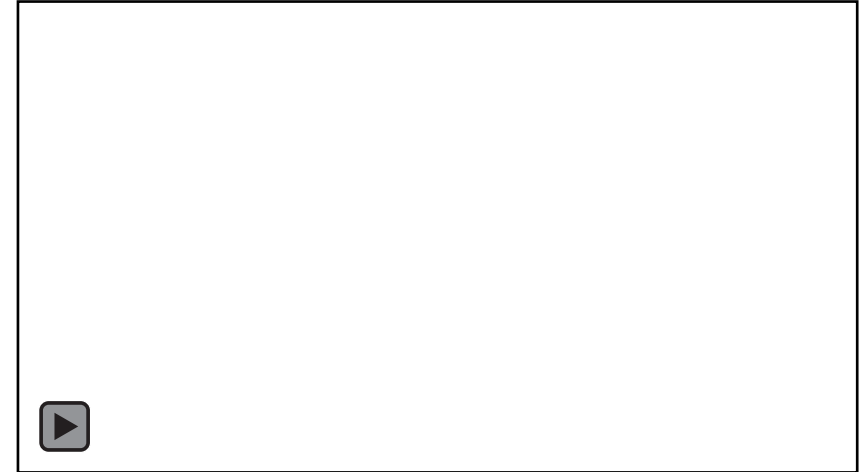
Microwave assisted extraction



Enzymatic extraction



Subcritical water extraction



- Ultrasound assisted extraction
- Extraction by adsorption-desorption methods
- Supercritical CO2 extraction



Supercritical CO2 plant



adsorption-desorption columns



Ultrasound pilot plant



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Agro2Circular project



Unión Europea



A2C solution: Territorial circular systemic solution for the upcycling of residues from the Agro-food Sector

Programme

H2020-EU.3.5 Societal Challenges-Climate action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw materials

Topic

LC-GD-3-2-2020-Demonstration of systemic solutions for territorial deployment of circular economy

Project Information

Agro2Circular

Grant agreement ID: 101036838

DOI

[10.3030/101036838](https://doi.org/10.3030/101036838)

Start date

1 October 2021

End date

30 September 2024

Funded under

SOCIETAL CHALLENGES - Climate action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials

Total cost

€ 16 757 026,91

EU contribution

€ 14 074 828,28



Coordinated by

ASOCIACION EMPRESARIAL DE INVESTIGACION
CENTRO TECNOLÓGICO DEL CALZADO Y DEL
PLÁSTICO DE LA REGIÓN DE MURCIA

Spain



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036838.



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A2C Consortium: 41 partners from 11 European countries
Germany, Spain, Austria, United Kingdom, Italy, The Netherlands, Finland, Belgium,
Switzerland, Greece and Lithuania



Unión Europea

6 RTOs



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SSICA



13 SMEs



6 Large Companies



everything
about packaging

5 Associations



Hortalizas y Frutas de Murcia, España



Normalización Española



ICONS



4 NGOs



Lithuanian
Confederation
of Industrialists

5 UNIs



DNBT
Department of
Nanobiotechnology



Universitat d'Alacant
Universidad de Alicante

POLIBIENESTAR
UNIVERSITAT ID VALÈNCIA



Università
Bocconi
GREEN
Centre for Geography,
Resources, Environment,
Energy and Networks

2 Public administrations



Región de Murcia



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Action Programme under grant agreement N° 101036838



Agro2Circular Value Chain

Circular solution

Objective 1: Demonstrating the first value chain for the upcycling of most representative agrifood sector wastes: Fruits&Vegetables and multilayer plastics

Objective 2: Providing to the A2C technological solution the circular systemic approach by building a multidimensional model enabling the **solution territorial** deployment and its replication and scalability.

Objective 3: Maximizing project impacts and facilitating A2C systemic solution **replication& scalability**

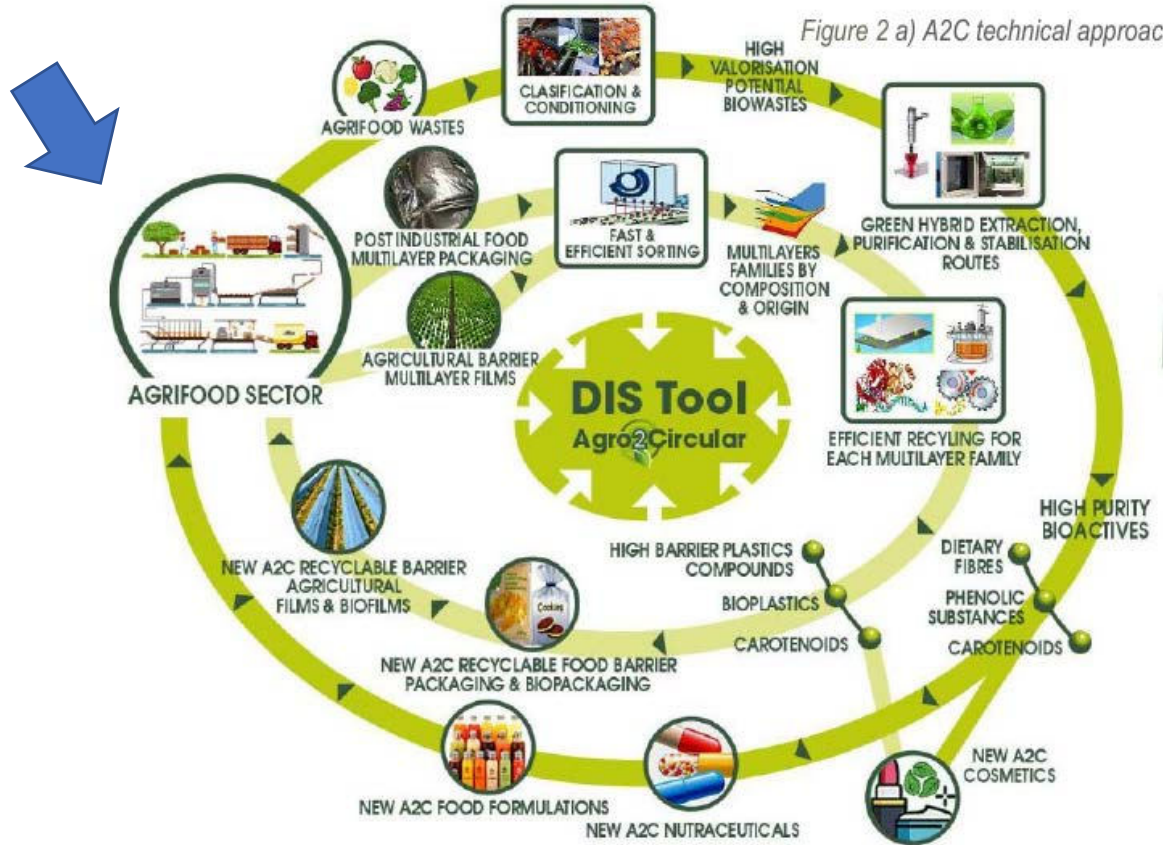


Figure 2 a) A2C technical approach

A2C will implement a demonstrator in the Region of Murcia that can be replicated in different regions of Europe for a territorial implementation of the circular economy.





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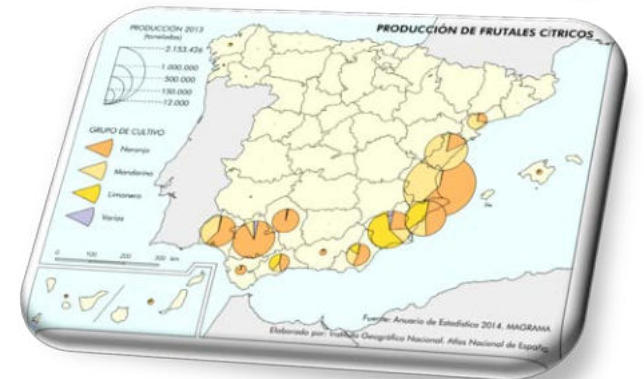
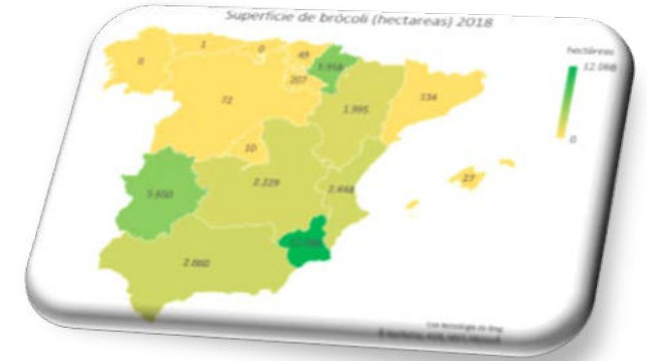
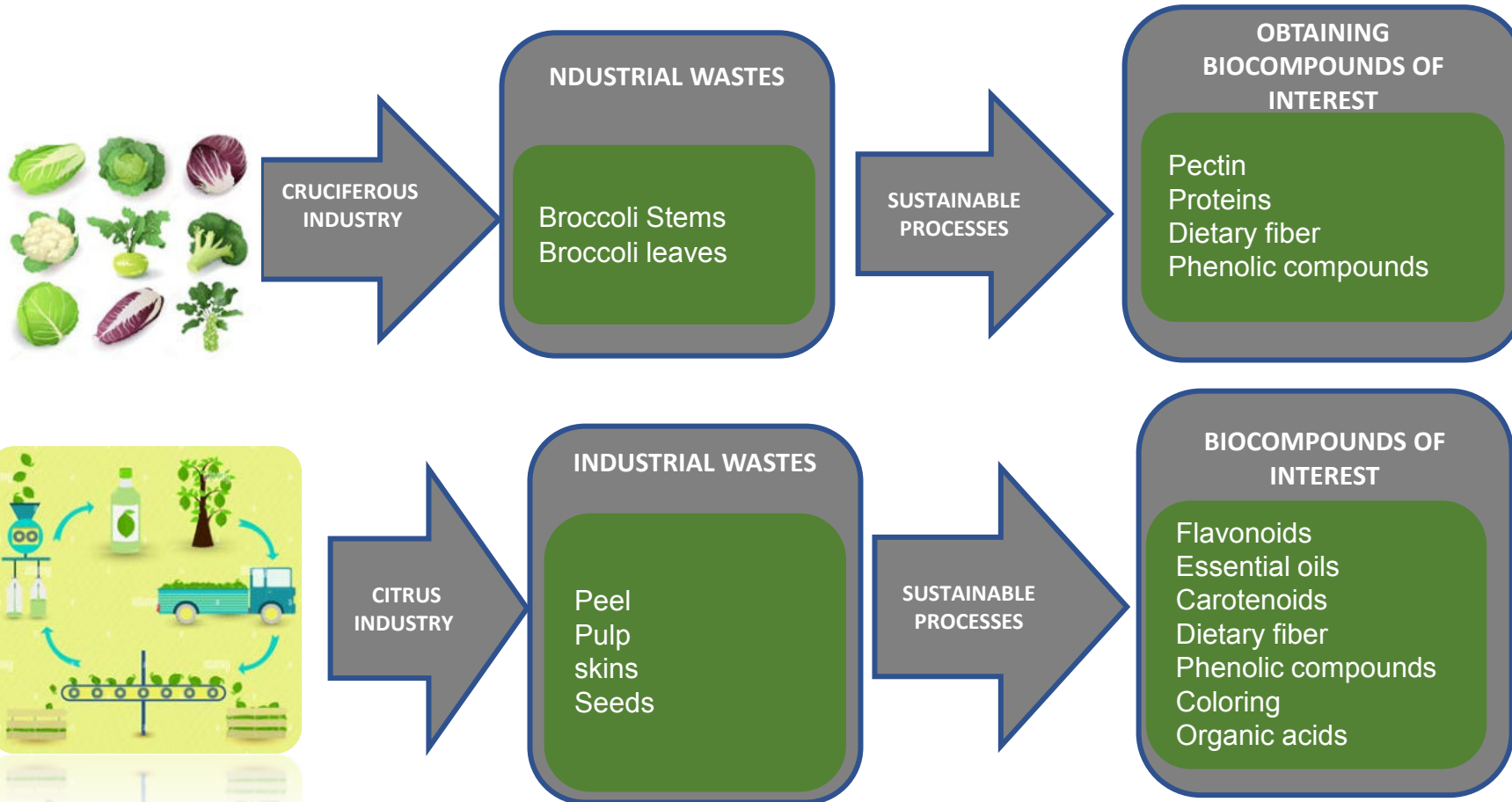


Unión Europea



Agro2Circular project

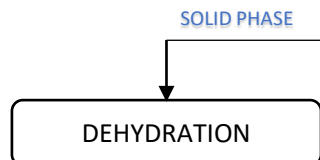
AGROFOOD WASTES AND SIDE STREAMS



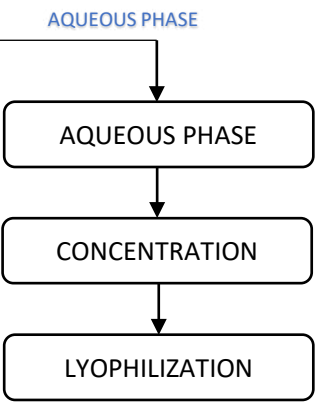
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Action Programme under grant agreement N° 101036838



OBTAINING ENRICHED BROCCOLI EXTRACTS



Example for aqueous extraction



Example for aqueous extraction



	BROCCOLI BY-PRODUCT	AQUEOUS EXTRACTION	ENZYMATIC EXTRACTION	ULTRASONIC EXTRACTION

Determination of Compounds Interest (mg/kg)				
CHLOROGENIC ACID	13	<10	<10	<10
CAFFEIC ACID	18	<10	<10	<10
VITAMIN C	99	<55	< 55	<55
Determination of nutritional analysis (g/100g)				
EDIBLE FIBER	4,0	67,5	68,8	50,0
PROTEIN	2,8	16,2	13,7	11,1
TOTAL SUGARS	1,1	1,8	< 0,01	<0,1
Yield (% by weight of initial raw material)				
YIELD	-	5,4	4,43	3,0

	BROCCOLI BY-PRODUCT	AQUEOUS EXTRACTION	ENZYMATIC EXTRACTION	ULTRASONIC EXTRACTION

Determination of Compounds Interest (mg/kg)				
CHLOROGENIC ACID	13	<10	<10	<10
CAFFEIC ACID	18	109	75	49
VITAMIN C	99	<55	<55	185
TOTAL POLYPHENOLS	-	5237,9 (0,52%)	4643,2 (0,46%)	4821,6 (0,48%)
Determination of nutritional analysis (g/100g)				
EDIBLE FIBER	4,0	2,0	6,8	19,3
PROTEIN	2,8	17,6	16,2	33,3
TOTAL SUGARS	1,1	42,9	38,1	1,4
Yield (% by weight of initial raw material)				
YIELD	-	0,7	0,49	1,72





Agro2Circular project



BROCCOLI
BY-PRODUCT

AQUEOUS EXTRACTION

SOLID PHASE

CUTTER

H₂O₂ TREATMENT

WATER WASHING

DEHYDRATION

EXTRACTION

DEHYDRATION

PURIFICATION OF ENRICHED BROCCOLI EXTRACTS

BROCCOLI BY-
PRODUCT

AQUEOUS EXTRACTION

PURIFIED FIBER



Determination of nutritional analysis (g/100g)

EDIBLE FIBER

4,0

67,5

→ 70,8



Example for aqueous extraction
Purified extract



Example for aqueous extraction
Non purified extract





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Agromatter project

ESTABLISHMENT OF A **CERVERA NETWORK** FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHLY SUSTAINABLE TECHNICAL MATERIALS DERIVED FROM BY-PRODUCTS OR WASTE FROM THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND FROM CONSERVATION OPERATIONS OF NATURAL SPACES .

The **CERVERA AGROMATTER** Network comprises five complementary Technological Centres in the fields of agriculture, biotechnology and materials science. Its aims are:

1. To establish a network of Technology Centres of scientific and technical excellence in the field of the Circular Economy applied to the development of bio-based materials applications
2. To gain a **recognition as R&D CENTRES OF REFERENCE** both at national and international levels
3. To grow in R&D projects and technology transfer to the industrial sector





Agromatter project



- AITEX:** Textile Industry Research Association – AITEX, is center for research, innovation and advanced technical services for the textile, habitat, clothing, technical textiles, cosmetics, beauty and other application sectors.
- ANDALTEC:** National Technological Centre focus in companies working with plastics as a product and related sectors.
- CTAEX:** National Agrifood Technological Centre Extremadura focus development methods of production, preservation and processing of agri-food products and rural development.
- CTNC:** National Technological Centre for Food and Canning Industry. Main Research lines: active packaging, new and traditional foods, agrifood wastes valorisation, natural ingredients and environment.
- ITENE:** Research Centre focus in four main areas: sustainable materials and technologies for the circular economy; design, safety and functionality in packaging; chemical exposure and air quality monitoring; and logistics and smart mobility.





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Agromatter project

MAY 2021- DECEMBER 2023

SIDE STREAMS AND WASTES



- Olive industry
- Citrus industry
- Grape and wine industry
- Cereals industry
- Cruciferous industry

River cane

APPLICATION SECTORS

- Textile → aitex
- Cosmetic → Centro Tecnológico Nacional de la Conserva y Alimentación
- Agrifood → ctaex
- Plastic → andaltec
- Packaging → ITENE



Project financed by the CDTI (Center for Industrial Technological Development), through the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain, within the framework of grants for "Cervera" Technological Centers of Excellence. CER-20211013

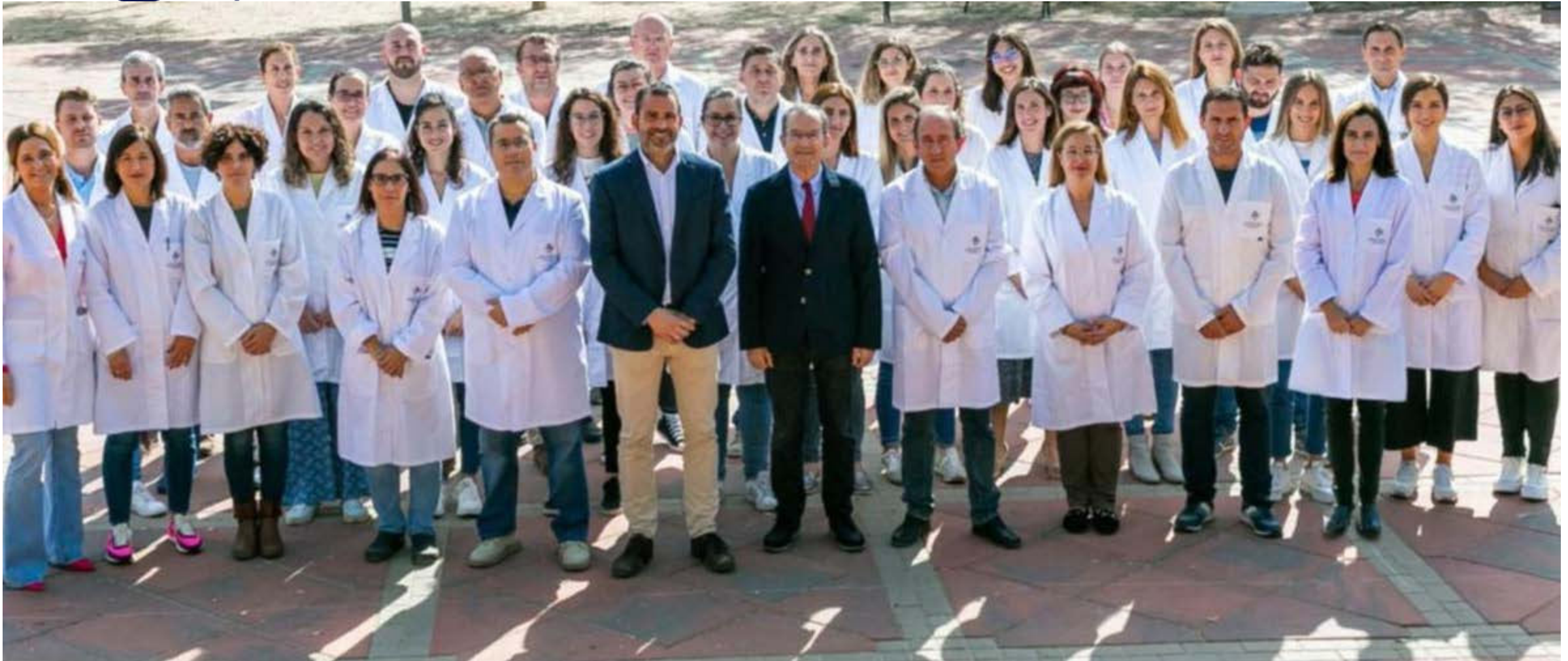
<https://www.redagromatter.com/en/>



1. Involvement of food companies is of vital importance for the successful implementation of any food strategy (food safety, food sustainability, water and energy optimization, circular economy, etc.)
2. The transition to a circular economy is an obligation imposed by consumers, by society and by **“common sense”**.
3. Industries alone can not meet this challenge. Other supporting actors are required: research centres, universities, policy makers, training organizations, technological centres, consumers associations, etc. They have to work together with companies.
4. European, national and regional administrations have to formulate public policies and collective actions to promote the new global agenda for sustainable development.
5. **Support from public administrations is essential to implement a successful CE strategy (green equipments, specialized staff, green jobs, etc.).**



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Mulțumesc foarte mult!!

Ángel Martínez Sanmartín, angel@ctnc.es