

# NEWS letter

August 2024 • Issue 12

WAITRO



WORLD  
ASSOCIATION OF  
INDUSTRIAL &  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH  
ORGANIZATIONS

## EDITORIAL

Prof. Dr. Hasan MANDAL  
President of WAITRO



I am truly humbled to be serving WAITRO and working with all of you as a “**Global Innovation Family**” through the approach of co-creation based collaboration. Addressing global risks and challenges for sustainable development requires accelerated and widespread mobilization across research, development, and innovation actors for increasing our joint impact. The 160 members of WAITRO from about 70 countries spanning research and technology institutes to companies, universities, and more continue to increase. Our guiding vision of pursuing opportunities for sustainable development through a collaborative approach of co-creation and succeeding together is enabling more synergies to take place across our WAITRO members.

**There are multiple opportunities in the Latin America and Caribbean region where R&D and innovation can boost sustainable development and address urgent needs.** WAITRO currently has 32 members involving multiple institutions, universities, associations, accelerators, and companies from the Latin America and Caribbean region. The focus on building globally competitive businesses in the international conference and networking event of The Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) also brought many of us together from around the world. In the present times, finding solutions to shared needs and opportunities in the scope of climate change, energy, water, and food requires joint efforts. Our WAITRO networking and regional sessions, workshops, and meetings have all served this purpose with a view of the complex interconnections among environmental, technological, and societal risks.

The process of matching the experiences of members is also a key aspect in achieving many opportunities toward realizing the WAITRO vision. Similar to our efforts in the Latin America and Caribbean region, we are working to disseminate this vision in all regions and celebrating the achievements of our dedicated members. Most recently, we celebrated the Day of Scientific Renaissance of Africa that promotes the role of science and technology in development. From the environment to clean energy, sustainable industries, and technologies, we are dedicated to empowering member organizations worldwide and facilitating sustainable development.

WAITRO is determined to support the rise of sustainable systems, addressing needs, and making an impact on sustainable development. As a whole, the WAITRO community is contributing to the SDGs through a wide range of research, technology, and innovation activities, including those in industrial and agricultural research, environmental science, and innovative materials, among many others. Utilizing these areas is central for undertaking the responsibility of being an advocate and influencer of sustainable innovation through co-creation based collaboration. Our new fellowship programme that is launched for doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers also represents a new opportunity for our community. In collaboration with The Research Centers and Institutes of The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK), we are raising co-creation based human resources who will undertake research plans within the SDG framework and a green and digital transition.

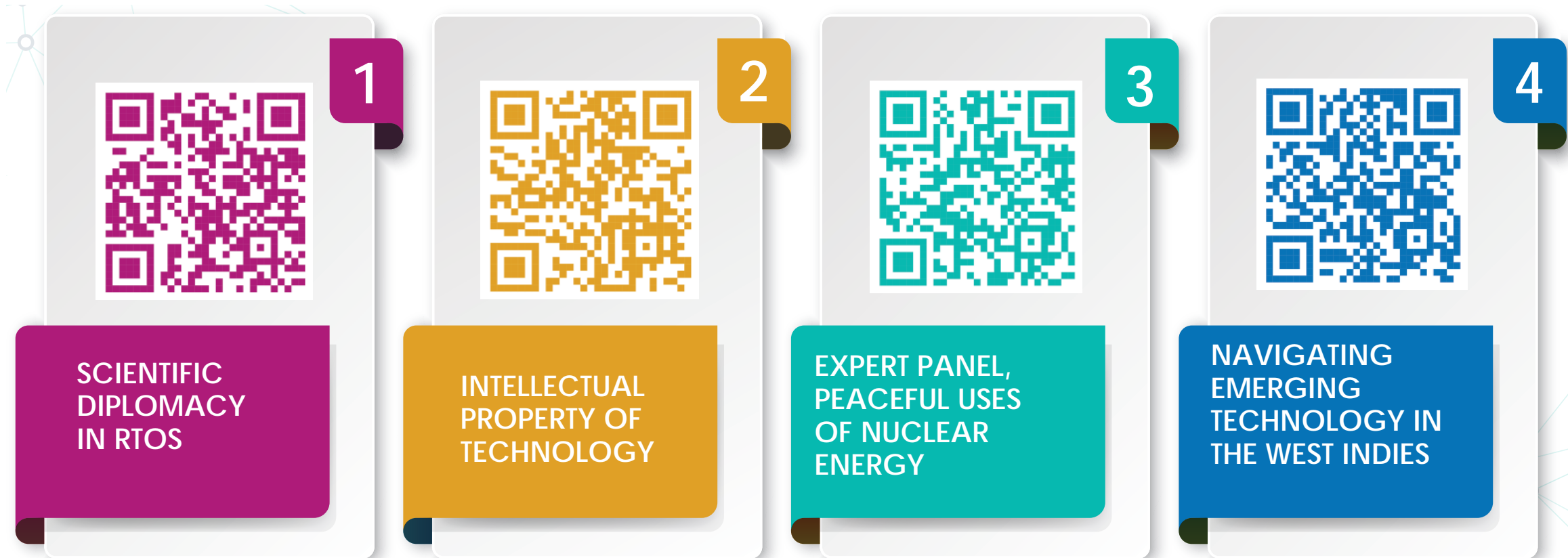
**We have and will continue to emphasize the importance of succeeding as the WAITRO Global Innovation Family** and focus our efforts on championing the approach of co-creation based collaboration. The “Pact of the Future” that will be discussed in the next months in the UN Summit of the Future also includes an emphasis on the need to “seize the opportunities presented by science, technology and innovation for the benefit of people and planet.” All of these calls are aligned with what we are working to achieve as a dedicated community. As we look ahead to the WAITRO Summit to be hosted by the Jiangsu Industrial Technology Research Institute during November 13-15, 2024, let us all focus “From Innovation to Impact” to address global challenges. Digital and green transformations, enabling local solutions and achieving global impact, incubators, accelerators and entrepreneurship are among the themes.

Let me once again emphasize the importance of **co-creating together, succeeding together, and collaborating together as WAITRO in the Latin America and Caribbean region and beyond as we continue our journey in this shared pursuit for a more sustainable future!**

# 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.



## Valuable Connections in LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN!

### FIRST MATCHMAKING SESSION

This space was highly integrative. Lilian Adriana Borges from the University Center for the Development of Alto Vale do Itajai (UNIDAVI) began with a presentation on best practices for proposal formulation, highlighting:

- Aligned objectives
- Suitable consortium
- Proposal innovation
- Current relevance
- Project impact
- Long-term sustainability of results
- Structured work plan
- Detailed and justified budget
- Risk identification and mitigation

Following this introduction, the matchmaking activity began. Attendees were divided into breakout rooms according to their areas of interest. Each room was equipped with a MIRO board containing relevant information and three guiding questions to facilitate the dynamics. The calls for proposals by table were:



Health, Innovation for Sustainability and Health



Agribusiness and Food Sovereignty



Biorefinery, Biofuels, Biochemicals, and Biomaterials



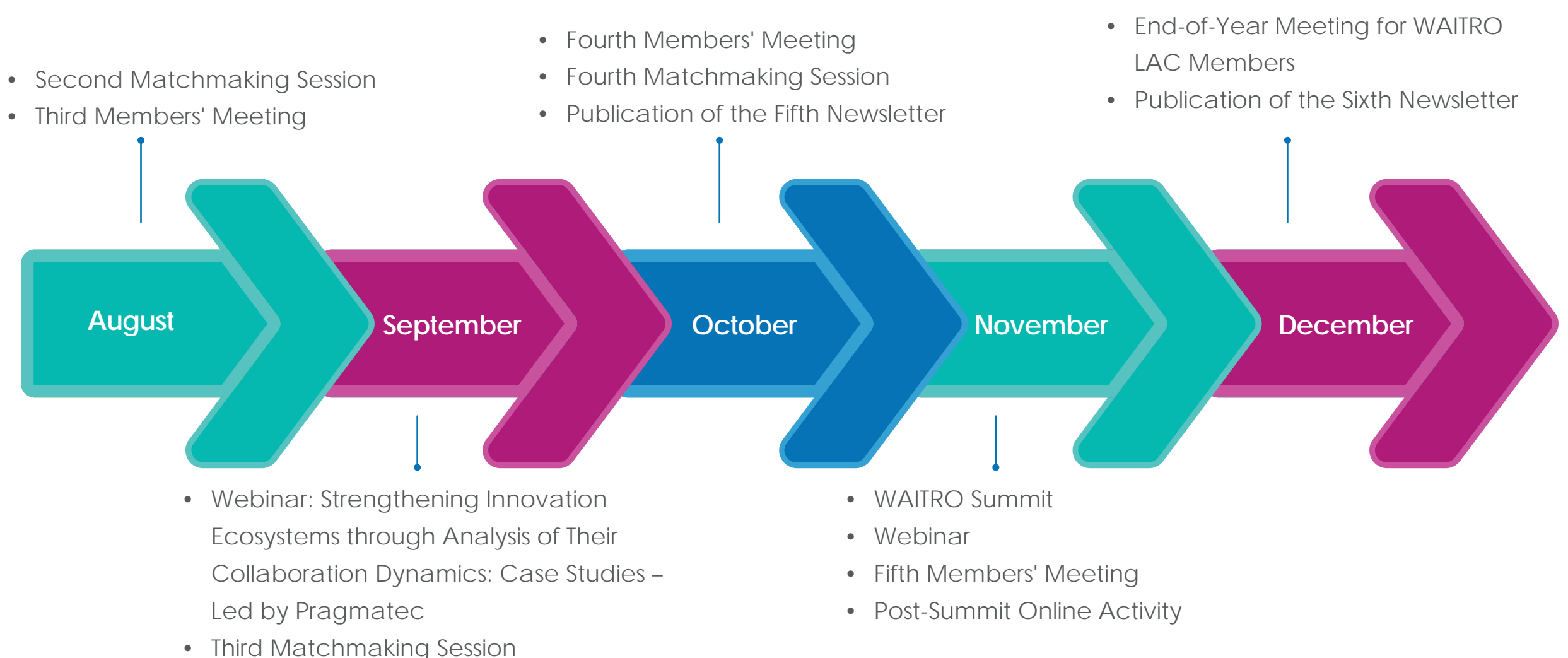
Quality and Inclusive Education

At the end, the session's conclusions were:

- Identification of competencies of Waitro network members.
- Potential for working on joint proposals, with each institution contributing from its experience and knowledge.
- Importance of creating co-construction spaces among Waitro network members.

These connection sessions will continue to strengthen our collaborative work.

## WAITRO LAC AGENDA



# NEWS IN THE NETWORK

## Triangular Cooperation Project: Sustainable Agriculture with Bio-inputs

Costa Rica and Colombia launch a project to promote sustainable agriculture among coffee and avocado producers, encouraging the use of high-quality bio-inputs and reducing the use of agrochemicals. This initiative, financed by the European Union's Adelante 2 Fund, will benefit producers in the Central-Western region of Costa Rica and Eastern Antioquia in Colombia.

The project, led by Cenibiot-CENAT, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, the Corporation for Biological Research of Colombia, and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), includes workshops and laboratory analysis to share and improve agricultural practices.

The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, Victor Carvajal, highlighted the commitment to promoting bio-inputs and biocontrol agents, essential for sustainable agriculture and soil health.

The project was launched with an initial workshop that brought together 70 producers, where experiences on the use and production of bio-inputs were shared. This approach not only benefits the soil and food quality but also human health and the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Learn more about this news here:



## We welcome the new members of the WAITRO LAC network

We welcome Pragmatec and Universidad Panamericana of Mexico, our new members who are committed to innovation and technological development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Together, we will continue working on collaborative projects that generate a positive impact on our communities. Your participation will strengthen our network and open new opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and experiences.



# JITRI-WAITRO SCHOLARSHIP

## WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE JITRI-WAITRO SCHOLARSHIP!



We are pleased to announce the JITRI-WAITRO Scholarship, a unique program designed to promote the exchange of technology and humanities, enhancing cooperation among researchers, management professionals, and Research and Technology Organizations (RTOs) worldwide.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Affiliation with WAITRO member institutions.
- Master's degree or higher in natural sciences/engineering for academic applicants.
- Bachelor's degree or higher for management applicants.
- Proficiency in English for communication.
- Commitment to local laws and customs during the exchange.

### Funding Details:

- Up to 20 individuals supported in the first phase.
- Assistance for airfare costs based on geographical distance.
- Incentive fund upon project completion (up to \$5000 for researchers, \$2000 for managers).

### Application Fields:

Opportunities aligned with the UN Sustainable (SDGs) framework.

**Don't miss this opportunity to collaborate, innovate, and make a global impact!**

For more details on how to apply, visit the website by scanning the QR code.



## WAITRO Secretariat

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## Open Call: Present Your Work at the WAITRO Summit 2024!

Do you have a case study or work that, using ancestral knowledge or nature-based solutions, is contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals? This is your chance to shine!

We are seeking experts and organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean to share their work at the prestigious WAITRO Summit 2024 in China, from November 13 to 15. Submit your proposal and highlight the innovative initiatives of our continent. Connect with global leaders and be part of the change our society needs.

**Where:** Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China

**When:** November 13 to 15, 2024

### Categories:

- **SPEAKER:** Present your work on ancestral knowledge applied in technologies or nature-based solutions and its impact on the SDGs.
- **CASE STUDY:** Showcase a product, service, or technology based on ancestral knowledge with positive impacts on the SDGs.

**Don't miss this unique opportunity to stand out on the international stage and share your vision with a global audience!**

## CALL FOR SPONSORS FOR THE WAITRO SUMMIT 2024: JOIN A GLOBAL NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT!

The Centro de Ciencia y Tecnología de Antioquia (CTA), as the focal point of the international WAITRO network for Latin America and the Caribbean, **invites institutions in the region to sponsor the upcoming WAITRO Summit 2024**. This event will be a crucial platform to promote innovation and sustainable development through global collaboration.



### Why Sponsor the WAITRO Summit 2024?

The Summit is designed for:

- **Researchers:** Learn best practices and build collaboration networks.
- **Research Managers:** Discover what your staff needs to maximize success.
- **Investors:** Get an early view of new ideas and develop partnerships for a sustainable future.



### What Sets This Event Apart

- 54 years of experience connecting local organizations with global networks for sustainability.
- Expert panels and speeches by global leaders.
- Opportunities to build strategic partnerships with global sustainability actors.
- Networking sessions with direct participation from speakers and attendees.
- Access to cutting-edge knowledge and trends in RTO management.
- Showcase leadership and impact in research relevant to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



### How Can You Support the WAITRO Summit 2024?

Become a sponsor to enhance your brand visibility and interact directly with industry leaders, research managers, and scientists. You will have personalized participation opportunities and access to our distinctive SDG impact award.

### Utilization of Your Sponsorship

As a non-profit association, WAITRO will use sponsorship funds to support the attendance of researchers at the Summit, enabling them to contribute innovative solutions to global challenges. Your support empowers WAITRO members from less-resourced countries to participate in crucial discussions and networking opportunities, fostering innovation and collaboration on a global scale.

**Join us and be part of the change! Sponsor the WAITRO Summit 2024 and contribute to a more sustainable future.**