

EDITORIAL

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Dear WAITRO Members in Latin America and the Caribbean,

As we approach the end of 2025, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you for the energy, commitment, and leadership you have shown throughout the year. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is a vital part of the WAITRO network, and 2025 has demonstrated once again how dynamic, innovative, and collaborative the region truly is.

This year marked an important turning point for WAITRO. With the reintroduction of membership contributions and the strengthening of the operational structures with WAITRO Operations e.V., we were able to expand the services and programs available to our members. These developments are already showing tangible results, also in the LAC region, where increased collaboration among members along with a rise in webinars has made the impact particularly visible.

A major milestone was the Regional Strategy Workshop held in Santiago de Chile, where members came together to exchange perspectives, identify shared priorities, and co-design ideas for future WAITRO initiatives. The active engagement during this workshop illustrated the strong momentum within the region: from research institutions advancing cutting-edge innovations to organizations seeking new avenues to scale their impact through international cooperation. The discussions and thematic clusters formed in Chile have already begun evolving into new initiatives that will continue shaping WAITRO's strategic direction in the years to come.

In 2025, WAITRO launched the new WAITRO Capacity Development Initiative (CDI). Colleagues from around the world contributed to and benefited from sessions on accessing global research funding, building strong international consortia, and preparing competitive proposals. A particular highlight were the Horizon Europe sessions delivered by Dr. Sean and Mary McCarthy, two of the most respected and in-demand trainers in this field. The CDI has already proven to be a powerful catalyst for professional development and international collaboration, and members have expressed strong appreciation for its value. However, my impression is that participation from the Latin America and Caribbean region was relatively low. There is room to strengthen regional engagement and ensure members from LAC are able to make the most of their WAITRO membership.

Looking ahead to 2026, opportunities for the region are promising. The WAITRO Summit 2026 in Istanbul will offer a global stage to showcase the scientific excellence and innovation potential of organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean. Active Members (those who have paid their membership fees) will be eligible for travel subsidies, helping ensure broad regional participation and enabling members from LAC to present their work, forge new partnerships, and expand their international reach.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank and congratulate our Regional Focal Point for LAC, CTA from Colombia, for their outstanding work this year. The region can be proud to count on one of the most active, supportive, and committed RFPs within the WAITRO community. Their dedication has had a clear and positive impact on member engagement and regional collaboration.

Thank you for your continuous engagement, your trust, and your commitment to strengthening your regional and global community. Together, we are building a more connected, visible, and impactful WAITRO and Latin America and the Caribbean is at the heart of that journey.

Warm regards

ABOUT US

2025 Overview: Strengthening Cooperation and Regional Impact



RTOs
meetings



Newsletter



Webinars



Round tables



Regional survey on
members' interests
and capacities

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Take Part in the
WAITRO Summit 2026!**

The WAITRO Secretariat has launched the co-creation process for the WAITRO Summit 2026, which will take place in Istanbul, Türkiye, under the theme "Leading the Path of Implementation: Strengthening Co-Creation for Our Common Future."

This Summit will serve as a global platform to foster collaboration, design practical solutions, and project the impact of the WAITRO community in the years ahead.

As the LAC region, we have a valuable opportunity to contribute to shaping the Summit agenda. We therefore invite you to support this process by completing the following form, where you can share proposals on key topics, session formats, partnerships, and expected outcomes:

LAC Contribution Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/3j72DKLrRL>

We appreciate your participation and support in strengthening the voice of Latin America and the Caribbean in this important international event.

WAITRO Strengthens Its Global Strategy at Board Meeting in Chile

On October 27–28, 2025, WAITRO’s Executive Board, Regional Focal Points (RFPs), and representatives of the Secretariat met in Santiago de Chile at the facilities of Fundación Fraunhofer Chile to align global and regional priorities looking ahead to 2026.

During the 97th Board Meeting and the 28th joint session with the RFPs, participants reviewed progress and discussed key steps to strengthen international collaboration across the network. One of the central topics was the preparation of the **WAITRO Summit 2026**, to be held in Istanbul under the theme “Leading the Path of Implementation: Strengthening Co-Creation for Our Common Future.”

Updates were also shared on the **Capacity Development Initiative (CDI)**, which has brought together more than 400 participants this year, as well as on the progress of WAITRO’s digital infrastructure renewal. This includes a new website, a members-only area, and digital tools designed to facilitate collaboration across the network.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to continue promoting joint initiatives and strengthening coordination among regions. On October 29, the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile hosted a regional workshop with WAITRO LAC members, further advancing the strategic work carried out in Chile.

WAITRO REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN CHILE: Building New Initiatives for the LAC Network

On October 29, 2025, representatives from WAITRO RTOs in Latin America and the Caribbean gathered at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile to take part in the WAITRO Regional Workshop 2025, a space dedicated to strengthening regional collaboration and co-creating new initiatives for the 2026–2028 period.

Moderated by Martha Liliana Marín (CTA, Regional Focal Point for LAC) and Dominik Reinertz (WAITRO Operations e.V.), the workshop brought participants together through dynamic activities aimed at:

- Presenting institutional capacities and collaboration proposals.
- Connecting members with complementary interests and expertise.
- Co-creating ideas for regional initiatives in areas such as capacity development, joint research projects, innovation, and science policy.

The contributions gathered during the workshop will serve as key inputs for the design of future regional initiatives and will also support the preparation of the WAITRO Summit 2026 in Istanbul.

“The commitment and voice of our region continue to grow stronger within the global network,” highlighted Martha Liliana Marín (CTA).



UPCOMING CDI SESSIONS

Capacity Development Program led by WAITRO Operations e.V.

The WAITRO Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) kicks off 2026 with a series of sessions designed to strengthen members’ capacities in research, project management, and international collaboration. Below are some of the upcoming events open to the LAC network:

Session: AI in Publicly Funded Research Projects

January 14, 2026

A practical introduction to the use of AI to identify funding opportunities, strengthen project proposal development, and enhance collaboration. The session also addresses ethical considerations and emerging trends.

Session: Project Implementation, Impact & Evaluation

February 4, 2026

Strategic guidance on project management, impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and ensuring long-term sustainability and exploitation of results.

From Research to Market: Commercialization & Technology Transfer

February 18, 2026

International experts will share tools and real-world cases on how to advance research results toward the market and generate sustainable impact.

Session on Digital Matchmaking Tools x Crowdhelix

March 4, 2026

Explore how open innovation platforms can strengthen collaboration and support the formation of competitive consortia for European funding opportunities.

Registration is open for WAITRO members: <https://forms.waitro.org/webinar-registration>

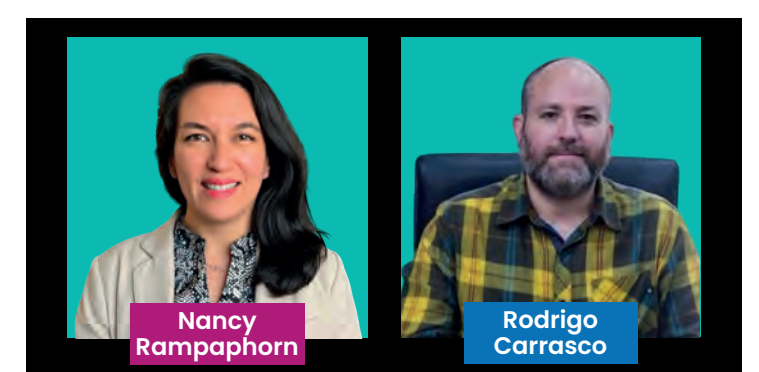
Transforming Technological and Digital Knowledge into Innovation for RTOs

WAITRO LAC held the webinar “Transforming Technological and Digital Knowledge into Innovation in RTOs”, a space aimed at reflecting on the strategic role of Research and Technology Organizations (RTOs) as a bridge between science and society.

During the session, the institutional model for research results transfer of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (UC) was presented, highlighting how the articulation between research, innovation, and engagement with the surrounding ecosystem enables academic knowledge to be transformed into solutions with economic and social impact. In addition, progress was shared on a UC initiative in data science and digital intelligence, focused on strengthening evidence-based decision-making, R&D&I management, and the development of innovations.

The webinar demonstrated how technology transfer and the strategic use of data are key tools for RTOs to enhance their impact, strengthen collaboration with industry, and actively contribute to sustainable development.

Revisit the webinar via the QR code:



NEWS IN THE NETWORK

Strengthening Global Partnerships: WAITRO Present at a Circular Economy Forum in Colombia



WAITRO continues to strengthen international partnerships and promote the active participation of its members in high-impact spaces.

Recently, **Christian Larsen, Head of Corporate Strategy at Fraunhofer Chile RTO and WAITRO Regional Representative (RR) for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**, took part in the forum “Sustainable Environments through the Circular Economy”, organized by CAR Cundinamarca and the CTA – WAITRO’s Regional Focal Point (RFP) for LAC – in Colombia.

Christian participated as a panelist in the session “Circularity without Borders”, which brought together experts and academic leaders to discuss productivity, competitiveness, international cooperation, water circularity, circular business models, and territorial development.

His contribution highlighted the importance of viewing the circular economy not only as a regulatory framework, but as an opportunity to create solutions with commercial potential and to advance more sustainable models through science and collaborative innovation.

AAPRESID INVITES YOU TO EXPERIENCE THE HEART OF ARGENTINE AGRICULTURE!

From **March 8 to 14, 2026**, the **International Agronomic Technical Tour** will take place, an exclusive journey designed for those who want to experience firsthand the most innovative and sustainable production systems in Argentina.

Over the course of one week, participants will have the opportunity to:

- Visit leading farms across different productive regions
- Learn about advanced soil management models and resource efficiency practices
- Exchange experiences with local producers, technicians, and experts
- Visit leading agribusiness companies
- Attend Expoagro, the largest open-air agribusiness exhibition in Latin America

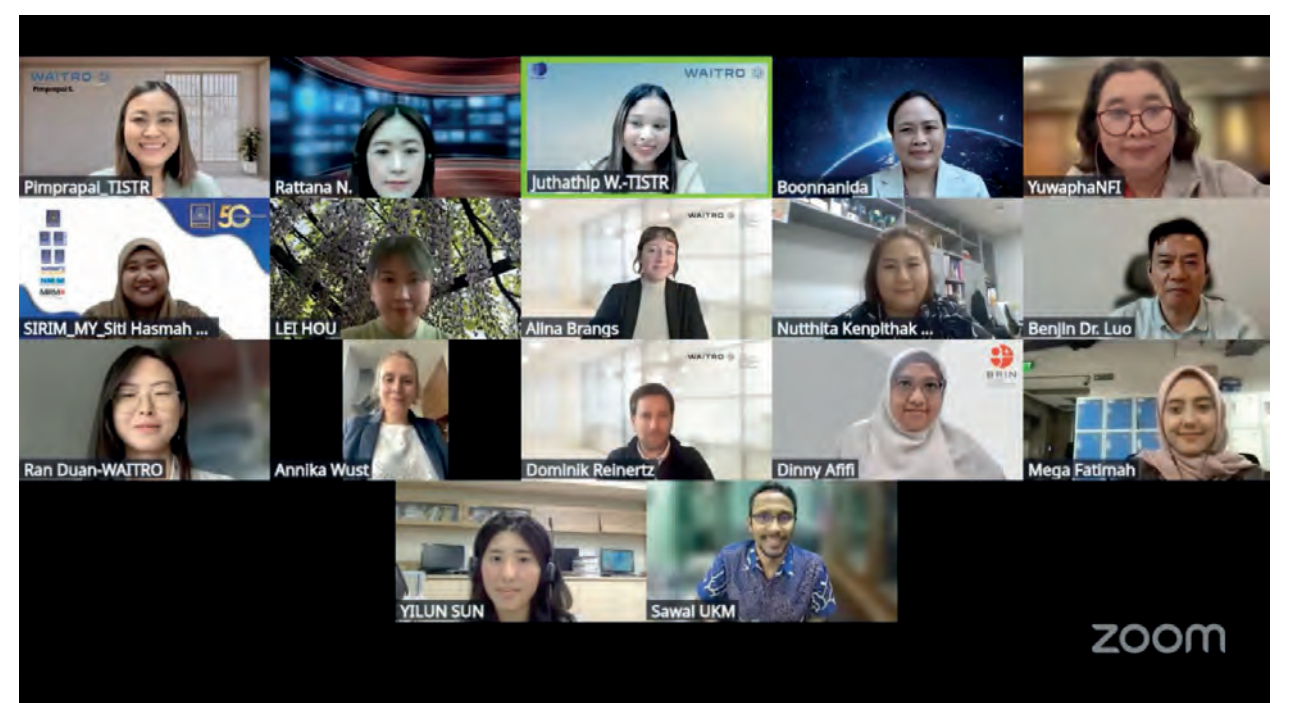
This tour is an ideal opportunity for producers, researchers, sector organizations, students, and technical teams seeking to broaden their perspective, strengthen alliances, and discover practices that are transforming agriculture in the region.

Download the full tour brochure to learn all the details by [clicking here](#).

We look forward to exploring the potential of Argentine agriculture together and connecting with a global network committed to innovation and sustainability!



TISTR Successfully Leads the WAITRO Info Session Asia & Pacific 1/2025



On September 25, 2025, TISTR, in its role as WAITRO Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific, successfully hosted the first WAITRO Info Session Asia & Pacific 2025. The virtual event brought together representatives from member organizations across the region.

The session strengthened connections among members, provided key updates, and opened a space for direct dialogue with the WAITRO team. Main highlights included:

- Updates from the WAITRO Secretary General, Dr. Benjin Luo
- Invitation to host regional events and promotion of the WAITRO Summit 2026 in Türkiye
- Presentation of the Capacity Development Program 2025–2026
- Information on membership fees, benefits, and new digital tools of the network
- Announcements of member-led events, including ICQI 2025 and the ASEAN Workshop hosted by SIRIM Malaysia

We extend our special thanks to TISTR, the WAITRO Secretariat Office, and the teams from WAITRO Operations e.V. and SIRIM Malaysia for making this regional exchange possible.

Last spots available for the From University to Industry Summer School 2026!

The From University to Industry Summer School is entering the final registration phase for its 2026 edition, a three-day, in-person experience (January 14, 15, and 16) that will allow participants to explore Santiago de Chile’s innovation ecosystem up close.

The program includes visits to the Innovation Center of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (UC), CENIA, Copec Wind Garage, Startuplab.01, and a strategic networking session with the Heidelberg Center for Latin America, as well as a special session at the Carey law firm focused on intellectual property.

A unique opportunity to learn how science is transformed into real-world solutions through technology transfer, open innovation, and collaboration among universities, companies, and global networks.

Discover the full program and register here:

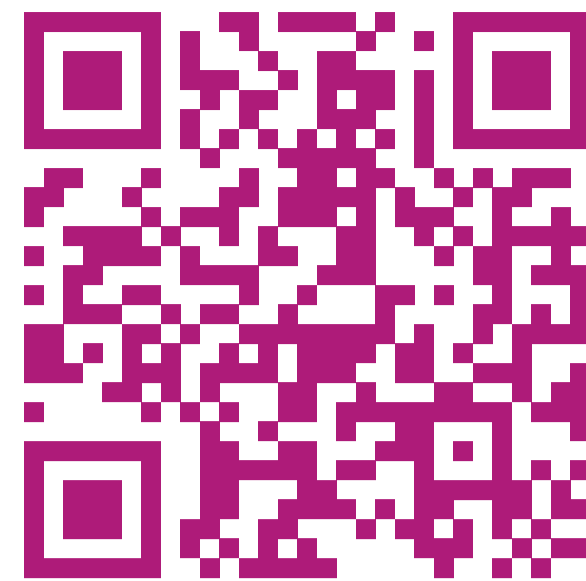


Share Your Success Stories with the WAITRO Network!

WAITRO continues to grow and thrive thanks to the commitment and dedication of its members. Every project, achievement, and milestone you accomplish is an opportunity to inspire others and showcase the impact of science, technology, and innovation across our regions.

We invite you to share your organization's success stories and help highlight the value we are building together.

Send your stories to: info@waitro.org



Scan the code to discover success stories

Happy Holidays,
WAITRO LAC family!

Thank you for a year of collaboration, learning, and meaningful connections that strengthen our network and amplify our impact in science, technology, and innovation.

May this Christmas bring joy to your homes, and 2026 find us working together, creating new opportunities, and building bridges that drive development in our region and around the world.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

iExplore
the new WAITRO
website!

WAITRO has launched its new and improved website — a more dynamic and user-friendly platform designed to keep members connected and informed. Discover the latest news, collaboration opportunities, events, and resources available for our global innovation community.

Visit waitro.org

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING
**TO SHARE WITH THE
WAITRO NETWORK?**

Send us your events, news, courses, certifications, or updates on joint projects with other members.

Be part of our upcoming newsletters — we'd love to hear from you!



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