

#innovacion
#ayudascdti
#asesoramiento
#internacionalizacion

A world map composed of blue dots, with several red dots placed on various continents to indicate international cooperation or funding locations.

Spain's National Innovation Agency: Role of CDTI promoting and funding science & technology cooperation and partnerships

Angeles VALBUENA
Head of Foreign Technological Action Department, CDTI
Bilbao, Mayo 2026

What is CDTI?

Center for Technological Development and Innovation

- ✓ Public Entity, under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, Spain
- ✓ **Spanish innovation Agency**
- ✓ High national and international prestige
- ✓ Pillars of activity: Financial support, Internationalization and expert guide

Enhance Spanish companies' competitiveness and internationalization through innovation

Bussiness Financing Programs

RTDI funding

- Evaluation and funding
- R&D projects: open call
- **CERVERA**: Strategic technologies with R&D centers
- **MISSIONS**: Big strategic initiatives, intensive in R&D&I
- Reports towards tax exemption

Public procurement purchase

- Identification of new technologies for the administration from CDTI projects.
- Agreement CDTI-Administration

Support to the creation and consolidation of new technology based companies

- **INNVIERTE**: Venture capital initiative
- **NEOTEC** grants: for small companies, less than 3 years old. Business strategy based on development of technology

Internationalization

- **European Framework Programme**: Representative in Comittes and NCPs for Pillar 2 and 3
- Industrial returns programmes: technological supplies for CERN/ESRF , Hispasat, Eumetsat, Spainsat
- **Technological cooperation programmes**

Technological cooperation programmes

RTDI internationalization

- Institutional agreements in 29 countries
- Bilateral Cooperation Programmes with 14 countries
- CDTI Cooperation Programme (Unilateral) in 42 countries
- Multilateral Cooperation Programmes:
 - ❑ EUREKA: 40 members and 5 associated
 - ❑ IBEROEKA: Spain Portugal and 19 iberoamerican countries
 - ❑ PRIMA: 19 countries of mediterranean area.
- International Technological Cooperation with more than 90 countries

Some results international programmes

- ❖ Supported projects in 2023: 61
- ❖ In collaboration with Asia Pacific Region: 10% (10M€ total budget)
- ❖ Traditional partners (2016): China, Korea, India, Japan
- ❖ Recent bilateral agreements: Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan
- ❖ Other collaborations: Indonesia, Singapore, Australia, Vietnam, Philippines, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia

Overseas CDTI Delegations:

Japan, South Korea, China, India, USA, Morocco, Chile, Brazil,
Mexico, Brussels

Public Policies Supporting Food Technologies in Spain

Why FoodTech?

Food sector in Spain has a market size of between 218-225 Billion euro, employing around 2.3 million people.

Within the National Strategic Framework, the PERTE Agroalimentario (Agrofood, approved by the Ministry's meeting on February 2022) with the objective to incorporate knowledge and Innovation throughout its entire value chain, focusing on three cross-cutting processes:

- Sustainability and competitiveness.
- Traceability and food safety.
- Development of new technologies, services, and products that will increase export capacity not only for agri-food products, but also for digital technologies and services.

CDTI – National Innovation Agency is key funding agency supporting R&D in FoodTech.

Key Food Technologies in Spain

1) Alternative proteins & biotech

- Fungi / fermentation-based proteins
- Plant-based meat & dairy
- Precision fermentation + AI

Examples:

Fungi-based meat alternatives

AI + fermentation ingredients

3D/bioprinting of plant-based meat

Big trend: replacing animal proteins with **sustainable biotech solutions**

Key Food Technologies in Spain

2) Artificial Intelligence (AI) in agriculture

AI is widely used in:

- Precision farming
- Crop prediction
- Pest/disease detection
- Smart irrigation

These technologies improve **productivity and sustainability**

3) Vertical farming & new production systems

- Indoor agriculture
- Hydroponics / controlled environments
- Robotics for agriculture

Solves land scarcity, climate challenges, and efficiency issues

Key Food Technologies in Spain

4) Circular economy & waste reduction

Food waste is a major issue → Spain produces ~**8.3 million tons/year**

- Converting waste → new ingredients
- Extending shelf life
- Recycling food by-products

Examples:

Transforms food waste into protein feed

Extracts proteins from algae waste

Natural coatings to extend food shelf life

Key Food Technologies in Spain

5) Smart packaging & food safety

- Biodegradable packaging
- Smart sensors (IoT)
- Shelf-life monitoring

The packaging tech market in Spain is growing strongly due to sustainability demand, regulatory pressure and food safety improvements

6) Food delivery & restaurant tech

Spain is strong in **digital food services**, such as delivery platforms, AI for restaurant cost control and Cloud kitchens

7) Functional & health foods

- Clean-label ingredients
- Nutritional enhancement
- Functional compounds

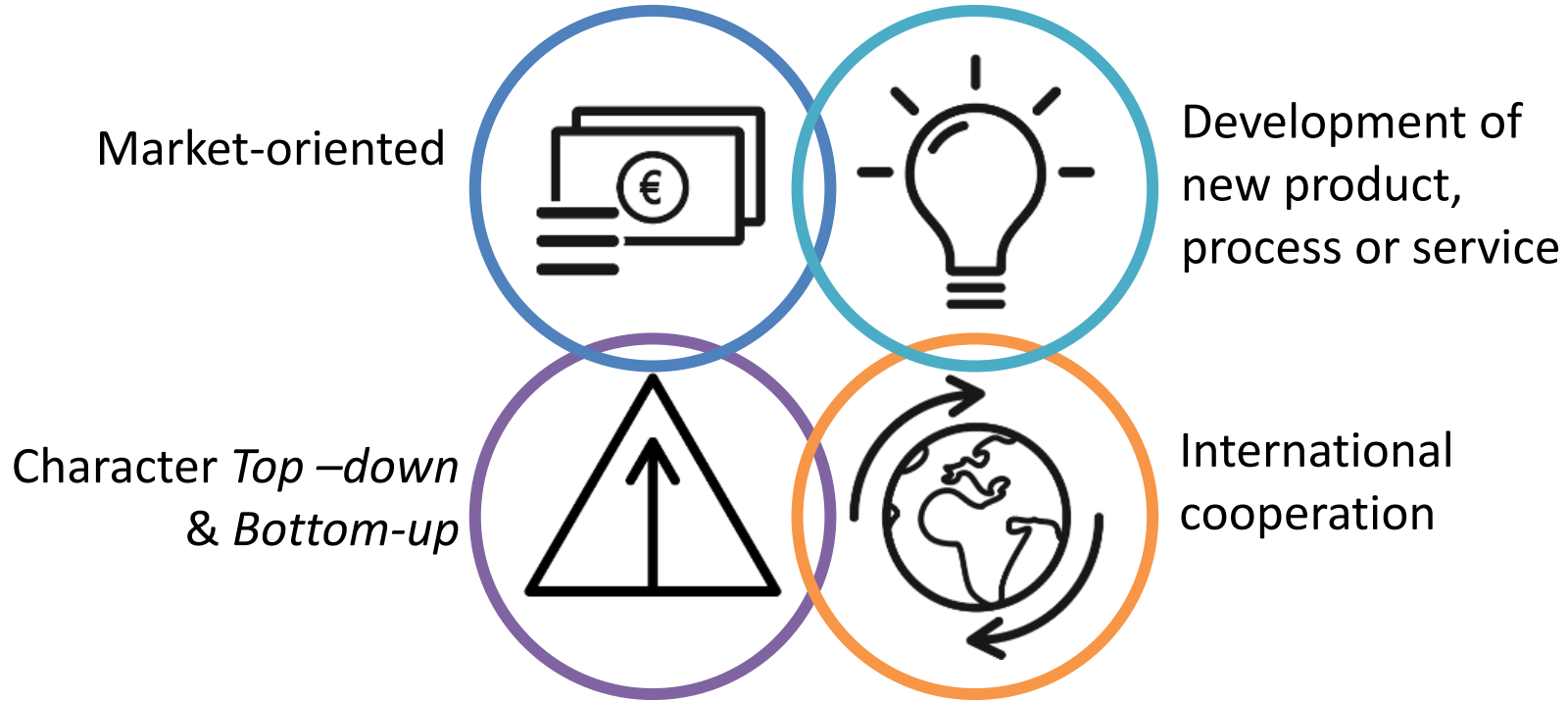
CDTI support in Food Technologies

CDTI has funded in the technologies of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries:

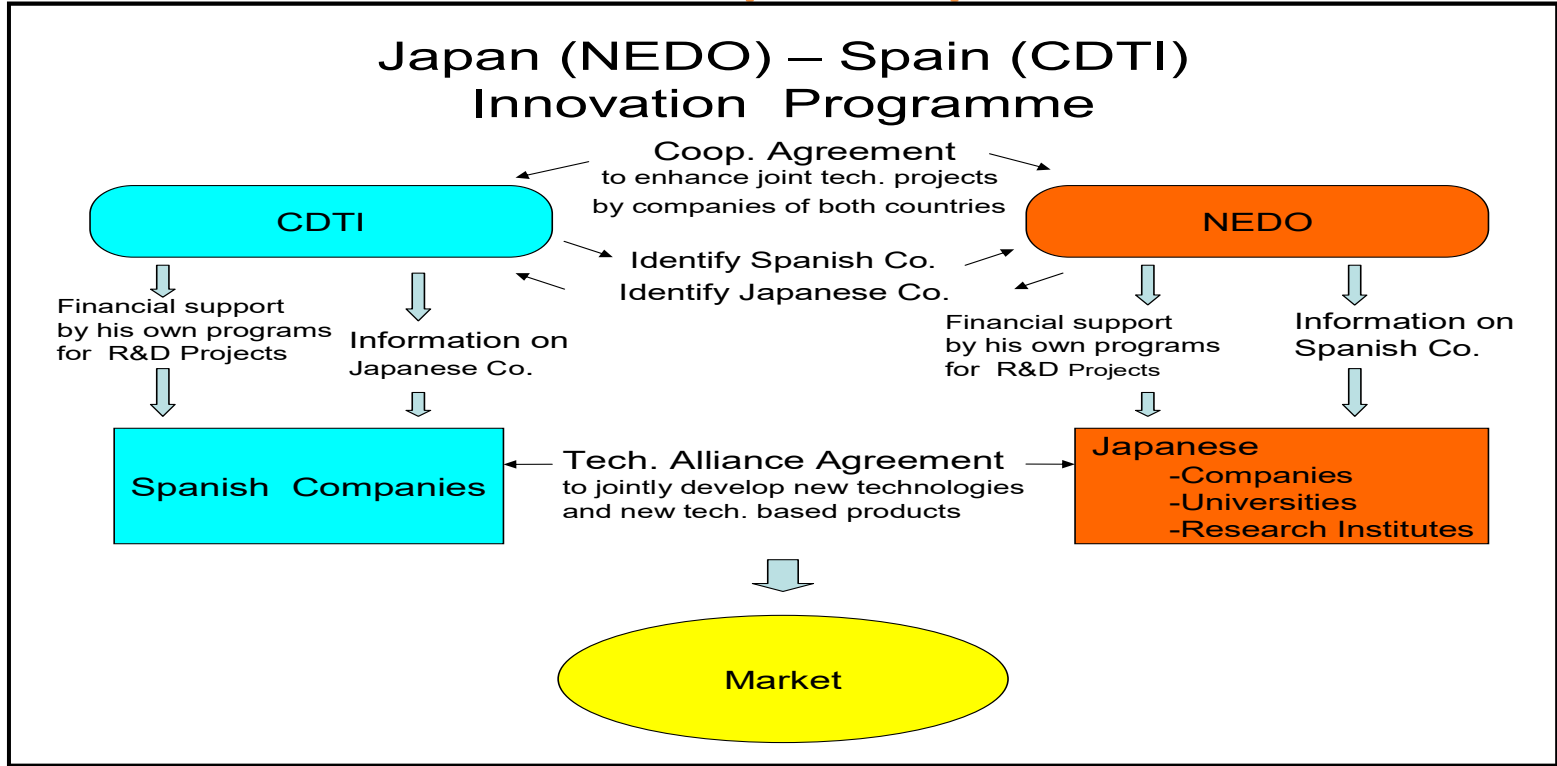
- **2025:**
81.7 million euro to 175 entities
- **2024:**
138.8 million euro to 196 entities
- **Historical data since 2014, the funding support of CDTI to entities doing research and innovation in this topic shows that the total funding support is of 1,541.4 million euros (out of 2,062.6 million euro) to 2,033 entities of which 75% are SMEs. It includes a 30% of European funds.**

Programs of Collaboration ES-JP

Characteristics of International Cooperation projects



R&D funding opportunities for collaboration between Japan & Spain



R&D funding opportunities for collaboration between Japan & Spain

FOUR DIFFERENT TRACKS YOU COULD LEVERAGE FUNDING SUPPORT:

- **Japan Spain Innovation Program JSIP:** Bilateral program managed by CDTI and NEDO
- **EUREKA Globalstars** collaborative R&D initiative that facilitates joint projects between Japanese companies and partners in other EUREKA member countries.
- **Unilateral Program of CDTI:** Japanese companies are either self funded or manage funding support from other agencies, such as NEDO.
- **Multilateral Schemes: Horizon EUROPE / Pillar II:**
 - **Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resource, Agriculture and Environment**

R&D funding opportunities for collaboration between Japan & Spain

Type	What	How	Key points
JSIP, Eureka Globalstar, Unilateral	International R&D Projects	Loan + non reimbursable Tranchee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flexibility - High success rate
		Innoglobal Grant 40-80% SMEs and small midcaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competitive - Only in some regions of Spain
Horizon Europe	International R&D Projects	Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competitive - Low success rate
Innowide	Market feasibility studies	Grant 60k€ SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competitive - Monobeneficiary

+info sobre programas y ayudas CDTI
para
proyectos de I+D empresarial e innovación



@CDTI_innovacion

accion-externo@cdti.es