

14th CDTI-NEDO Workshop 2026 Food Technologies

Date: May 27th, 2026

SPEAKERS PROFILES

Mr. Carlos DE LA CRUZ, Director of Technology and Internationalization, CDTI



Mr. DE LA CRUZ is an Industrial Engineer at the Polytechnic University of Madrid and holds an International MBA from a Business School.

Since 1990, he has worked at CDTI, where he has held various roles in project evaluation and business development. In 2010, he became Director of Technical Evaluation, and in 2018 he was appointed Director of Evaluation and Technological Cooperation (now Technology and Internationalization).

He also serves as Executive Coordinator for CDTI's bilateral technological cooperation programs and is a member of the Steering Committee of several international programs (since 2018). Additionally, he has been a Board Member of TAFTIE since 2018 and a member of the Executive Committee of ALINNE since 2011.

He previously served on the Board of INSA (2011–2012) until its merger with ISDEFE. He has also participated as a member of evaluation committees in several R&D programs managed by institutions such as the Spanish State Research Agency, ICEX, Spanish Patent and Trademark Office, and various Spanish ministries.

Mr. Takeshi YOSHIDA, Executive Director, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization, NEDO



Mr. YOSHIDA is an Executive Director at NEDO. He oversees the Startup Support Department, the Frontier Department, and the Technology and Innovation Strategy Center (TSC).

Mr. Yoshida has been with NEDO since 1991. In 2008, he was appointed Chief Representative of the NEDO office in New Delhi.

Since 2019, he has held two Director General positions, focused on startup support and general affairs.

He was a visiting scholar at Stanford University in 1995. He holds a Master of Technology degree from Waseda University and a Bachelor of Laws degree from Rikkyo University.

Mr. Eduardo COTILLAS, Food for Life-Spain Technological Platform. RDI SENIOR MANAGER DIRECTOR, SPANISH FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRIES FEDERATION (FIAB)



Mr. COTILLAS Agri-food Engineer and Msc in Food Science and Technology at Polytechnical University of Madrid. Besides, he has got Advanced Studies Doctorate Diploma in the field “Food Science, Technology and Engineering”.

His track record of more than 25 years in Research, Development and Innovation projects on the Agri Food/FMCG sectors, both in public bodies and private consulting companies. His experience at CDTI (Spanish Innovation Agency) for more than 15 years deserves to be highlighted.

Since April 2019, he’s developing his role as RDI Director at SPANISH FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRIES FEDERATION (FIAB) and as General Secretary of the Food for Life-Spain Technological Platform, the biggest one of the Agri Food sectors, promoting hundreds of RDI projects.

Since November 2021, he has been the current coordinator of the NFTP’s Network that involves the National Food Technological Platforms of Europe. He is the Chairman or Research and Innovation WG at FOOD DRINK EUROPE in Brussels as well.

Ms. Misuzu WATANABE, Head of the Agri-Food Tech Unit, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)



Ms. WATANABE is the Head of the Agri-Food Tech Unit at NEDO. She oversees a broad range of energy, environmental, and industrial technologies related to agriculture, forestry, and food sectors.

Ms. Watanabe joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan in 2004 and has worked on research coordination and risk management concerning genetically modified crops, pesticides, and food safety science within the Consumer Affairs and Food Safety Bureau. She holds a Master of Agriculture degree from Tohoku University.

Ms. Iria VARELA, CEO, ODS PROTEIN S.L.



Ms. VARELA is CEO and Founder of ODS Protein where she leads and coordinates a team of seven people. She is a biology graduate from University of Vigo and later specialized in business development.

Her background combines scientific training with high-performance sports: as a biologist and former basketball player, she has developed resilience, leadership and teamwork skills - qualities she now applies to the world of entrepreneurship.

She has participated in entrepreneurship, innovation and start-up acceleration programs, which are enabling her to develop a scalable project aligned with the Bioeconomy and the Sustainable Development Goals.

She has been recognized as one of Europe's top women transforming the agrifood sector. Her work was honored by the Empowering Women in Agrifood (EWA) program in 2022 and she received the 100 Young Talents of Gastronomy award from the Basque Culinary Center in 2022.

Additionally, her company was featured in the 2024 FoodTech 500.

Mr. Takuya FUKUTOMI, R&D Quality Control team, KAICO Ltd.



Mr. FUKUTOMI is a staff member at KAICO Ltd., where he is engaged in R&D and quality control.

Prior to joining KAICO, he worked at a pharmaceutical company as a CMC regulatory affairs specialist.

He holds a Master's degree in Agriculture, specializing in food chemistry.

Mr. Bosco EMPARANZA, CEO, MOA BIOTECH S.L.



Mr. EMPARANZA is CEO and founder of MOA BIOTECH, an AI-driven biotechnology company transforming agri-food side streams into sustainable, high-value ingredients through fermentation.

He is also a board member of ASEBIO, where he leads the Food Innovation Working Group.

He holds a degree in Biochemistry from University of Navarra and a master's in health biotechnology from CESIF.

Ms. Yuko AMIZAKI, Business Development Director, bitBiome Inc.



Ms. AMIZAKI is a synthetic biology veteran with over 15 years of experience driving growth at industry leaders such as Zymergen, Intrexon, Bota Biosciences and REG. Her background spans business development in pharmaceuticals at Regimmune and management consulting at Booz Allen Hamilton. A graduate of the University of Tokyo (B.S. and M.S. in Science), she also holds an MBA from MIT.

Mr. Álvaro ROURA, Technical Director, OCTOLARVAE S.L.



Mr. ROURA holds a PhD in Marine Ecology from the University of Vigo and has over 18 years of experience in marine research, with a particular focus on cephalopod larvae, zooplankton, and aquaculture. His research has addressed topics such as cephalopod diet genetics, larval dispersal, and the identification of new octopus' species. More recently, his work has focused on understanding the octopus life cycle in captivity, leading to the successful production of three consecutive generations under laboratory conditions. He is currently Technical Director in OCTOLARVAE, company in Profand Group, where he leads research on the larval stages of cephalopods and crustaceans of commercial interest, which are then used for marine restocking initiatives in national parks and marine reserves.

Mr. Junichi TANIGUCHI, Business Development Manager, UMITRON K.K.



Mr. TANIGUCHI leads international business development at UMITRON, covering European, Asian, and African markets. He is currently spearheading multiple collaboration projects with global partners, including the development of the "Aquaculture Potential Map System" to assist governments and enterprises in identifying optimal farming sites. Additionally, he orchestrates the deployment of AI-driven autonomous feeding systems for fish and shrimp, alongside innovative blue carbon initiatives from seaweed. His mission is to leverage technology within the blue economy to harmonize economic growth with social impact by accelerating cross-border innovation.

Prior to joining UMITRON, he was a management consultant at Accenture, where he led numerous public sector projects focused on digital transformation in international development and export strategies for the agri-food industry.

Mr. Miguel Ángel CUBERO, PhD. Technical CEO, INGREDALIA, S.L.



Dr. CUBERO is a foodtech executive and entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience in managing agri-food businesses and innovation-driven projects.

He is the CEO and co-founder of Ingredalia, a startup focused on the sustainable production of healthy ingredients from agri-food by-products, based on circular economy models.

He has led the creation, scaling and management of industrial and innovation projects in the fields of ingredients, juices and food solutions.

His career is focussed on turning sustainability into a competitive advantage and building viable business models within the food system.

Mr. Juan Pablo RODADO, Director Business Development Southern Europe, EF Polymer K.K.



Mr. Rodado leads business development and strategic market expansion at EF Polymer across Southern Europe, bringing drought adaptation technologies to agricultural markets with high water dependency. His work focuses on market activation and product positioning, translating agronomic value into viable adoption strategies for growers, distributors, and industry stakeholders.

His broader trajectory has been shaped by experience across land assessment, ecological restoration, nature-based project design, and agricultural innovation, working at the intersection of land, agriculture, and ecological systems. His academic background in

business and sustainability, together with applied training in ecological systems and land use strategy, has reinforced a focus on integrated and efficient resource use.

That focus extends into a long-standing interest in circular and regenerative production models as the practical foundation of more durable agricultural systems.

Across his work, he brings a systems view that links farm-level constraints with wider questions of sustainability, commercialization, and implementation. His perspective combines strategic development with practical relevance, with particular interest in how innovation can support water efficiency, stronger agricultural performance, and better use of underutilized biological resources within the food and agriculture sectors.

Ms. Ángeles VALBUENA, Chief of Foreign Technology Action Department, CDTI



Ms. Valbuena is an Industrial Engineer specialized in Construction, with further technical studies in Project Management for Renewable Energies. She has 27 years of professional experience in both the public and private sectors, always in international environments. She spent 8 years working for multinational companies in the automotive sector, Tier 1 suppliers in Germany and Spain, mainly focused on the development of new products and processes: Robert Bosch AG, ZF GmbH, and Grupo Antolín.

Since 2017, I have been working for CDTI, the Spanish Innovation Agency under the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.

During my time in public administration, I have been part of the Evaluation



Directorate, managing projects in the fields of mobility, energy, and construction. I have also managed bilateral programs in the Asia-Pacific region and currently serve as the Head of the Foreign Technology Action Team. In this role, I lead the design and management of international R&D&I collaboration programs aimed at supporting the internationalization of Spanish companies across various sectors and geographic regions. The team consists of a technical group based in Madrid and a network of delegates abroad.