Animal DNA genomic bank

The objective of the DNA genomic bank at INIA Las Brujas is to support research and development projects, and to maximize genetic improvement programs with the use of advanced molecular techniques associated to genealogical and phenotypic records. This bank keeps DNA of over 8.000 selected animals.

Soil Microbiology Laboratory

This laboratory was incorporated as part of the Bio-Inputs Platform. It enables the identification of microorganisms using molecular biology techniques, as well as the performance of studies to assess the response of different crops to the inoculation of certain strains, as well as their soil persistence.

The infrastructure required for conservation of strains of agriculturally-relevant microorganisms is also available.

Natural Park

Concerned about the conservation of biodiversity, INIA Las Brujas works with other institutions to maintain and preserve the native forest of the Santa Lucía river wetlands, offering a space for nature conservation and environmental education.

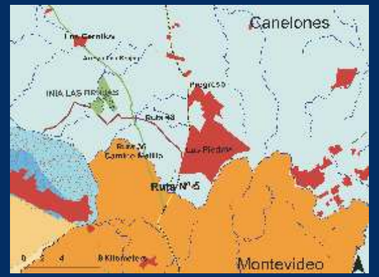
The proposal is designed to meet the needs of different segments of the population, combining INIA's scientific and educational activities in an environment where a wide variety of agricultural items converge, as well as the landscape, flora and fauna of diverse ecosystems.

Relationship with other institutions and media

INIA Las Brujas has the support of a Regional Advisory Council (CAR) made up of representatives of farmers' organizations, public institutions and prominent leaders linked to the farming sector, as well as Working Groups by product, which help to set priorities for research plans and technology transfer activities.

In addition, INIA Las Brujas faces the challenge of the search for technological solutions for the agricultural sector interacting with other public and private institutions in the country.

It also maintains a strong link with educational institutions and regional media with the aim of bringing INIA's technological proposal to all sectors of society.



The efforts of INIA Las Brujas, are aligned with the institutional mission of generating and adapting knowledge and technologies so as to contribute to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector and the country, in line with the state policies of natural resources conservation and social inclusion.

It focuses on farm growers of the Southern region of Uruguay, but also reaches other areas of the country.

INIA Las Brujas
Route 48 km. 10, Canelones
Phone: 598 2367 7641
inia_lb@inia.org.uy - www.inia.org.uy

INIA Las Brujas

INIA Las Brujas Experimental Station “Wilson Ferreira Aldunate”

INIA Las Brujas Experimental Station, named ”Wilson Ferreira Aldunate”, is located in the Department of Canelones (Route 48, Km. 10), close to Montevideo.

It was created in 1964 as the Research Center on Fruit, Vegetable, and Grapevine Production under the Agricultural Research and Extension Division of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries.

In 1972 it became part of the Albert Boerger Center for Agricultural Research (CIABB). In 1990, after the creation of the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIA) under Law 16.065, it became one of its regional centers, designed to solve technological problems in its area of influence, i.e., the rural area of the southern and eastern departments of Uruguay.

This regional approach expanded its scope of work to include an increasing number of fields in the areas of intensive animal production, as well as research on new promising production options.

Its main objective is to generate technologies to improve market penetration by intensive farm production, seeking a more competitive inclusion of family growers in this process. There is a double challenge for the station: to develop sustainable technologies which take into account environmental impact studies, so as to minimize that impact; and to attempt the regeneration of degraded natural resources due to continuous non-conservationist agriculture.

INIA Las Brujas is the venue for three National Research Programs: the National Research Program on Fruit Production, the National Research Program on Horticultural Production and the National Research Program on Family Farm Production. It also coordinates the following Technical Units: Biotechnology Unit, Agriculture and Weather and Information Systems Unit, and Communication and Technology Transfer Unit.

The heads of research projects in the areas of Bio-Inputs, Animal Genetic Improvement, Intensive Production of Bovine, Ovine and Porcine Meat, Irrigation Management, and Organic Agriculture are stationed at INIA Las Brujas. There is also an animal DNA Bank in agreement with the Uruguayan Rural Association and a Soil Microbiology Laboratory in agreement with the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries.

National Research Program on Fruit Production

The objective of this Research Program is to strengthen the development of the national fruit and grapevine production sector, increasing profits through the generation and adaptation of technologies that contribute to its economic and social sustainability while furthering environmental care.

The Program promotes:
- Varietal updating through the introduction and evaluation of new cultivars of deciduous fruit trees more adapted to local agro-ecological conditions.
- Production and use of native fruits with high nutritious quality and new exotic tastes.
- Identification of quality differentiated products, due to their specific characteristics as well as to the production processes, either integrated or organic production.
- Technology development for the management and conservation of fruits, taking into account food safety standards and consumer demands.

National Research Program on Horticultural Production

The objective of this Research Program is to generate sustainable technologies to ensure food safety and the quality of vegetables. The crops considered are those with major socio-economic significance for Uruguay.

The main activities carried out under this Program are:
- Genetic improvement for the development of local varieties better adapted to the country´s agro-climatic conditions.
- Crop management in relation to soil and water resources, as well as integrated pest control.

Laboratories for foliar analysis, soil analysis and plant protection are available for both of the above-mentioned Programs.

National Research Program on Family Farm Production

This is considered a strategic area. Its objective is to contribute to the improvement of sustainability of family farming systems in the country and the life quality of families in rural areas. Appropriate technologies are employed to fulfill this objective, focusing on rural and local development.

In addition, other Research Programs are conducted at INIA in areas such as: Rice, Meat and Wool, Citrus, Rainfed Crops, Forestry, Dairy, Pastures and Environmental Sustainability.

National Technical Units

The following National Technical Units are based at INIA Las Brujas:

Agriculture and Weather and Information Systems Unit (GRAS) - Its objective is to promote and coordinate research projects on climate, climate change and clean development mechanisms, and to develop information systems for decision-making.

Biotechnology Unit - It develops activities on several areas: farming, cereal crops, forage crops, forestry and animal production. Genetic improvement and production of fruit and vegetable propagation material are carried out to support the activities of the National Research Programs on Fruit Production and Horticultural Production. Healthy material for multiplication is obtained through micropropagation and in vitro culture.

Communication and Technology Transfer Unit - It designs communication strategies in accordance with INIA's different audiences, and helps to improve transfer of technology to farmers. It is responsible for the implementation of actions addressed to growers and society, such as field days, seminars, workshops, technical publications and institutional brochures, among others. It also generates, edits and manages scientific and technological information to make it available to scientists, students and the general public, in coordination with the library service.