

6.1. Collaboration with Rural Development Groups (RDG) of the province of Cordoba in the agrifood sphere

The establishment of agreements for collaboration with the Rural Development Groups (RDG) of the province of Cordoba in the agrifood sphere will promote the interaction with the agrifood socioeconomic sphere. RDGs function as an extension of university campuses by receiving and disseminating knowledge and results and as a rapid and efficient channel for communicating to the university the demands and needs of employers and specific sectors, particularly small and medium enterprises.

These groups thus serve as a channel of communication for the ceiA3 at the regional level due to the close ties they maintain with firms, sectors and their involvement in regional development.

The following is a list of the actions that have been proposed.

RESEARCH ACTIONS aimed at companies in the primary sector, agriculture and forestry, as well as companies dedicated to the processing and marketing of products:

- Promote projects demanded by companies in the territory of the RDGs.
- Conduct projects aimed at opening new market niches in the local agrifood sector.
- Solve technological problems affecting the production systems (bottlenecks) of companies in rural areas.
- Create an open channel for collaboration with companies in the technical and technological development of machinery, processes and technologies susceptible of being registered and patented (R&D&i).
- Perform research and conduct studies on sectors or sub-sectors that can serve to boost marketing actions.
- Conduct market research and studies.
- Promote the added-value of new products or new product presentations, which may be suitable for commercialization.
- Search for marketing alternatives to large distribution channels.
- Deepen our understanding of the food chain and propose mechanisms to achieve a better balance in terms of its benefits.
- Conduct studies that scientifically validate the qualities of our products.

TRAINING ACTIONS

- Doctoral theses, master's theses, or other similar instruments proposed by the RDGs on topics or projects of interest to the region.
- Internships by students of the UCO in the RDGs and regional-scale companies which are related to the real demands and concrete needs of the sector.
- Seminars, conferences and other educational and training schemes. Development of a programme to organize this type of events in the territorial scope of the RDGs on issues related to the agrifood sector for business owners, farmers, consumers, students, jobseekers and the general public.
- Master's programmes: Collaboration in the design and development of curricula closely related to the needs of the sector.