Uruguay

IAEA Member State since January 1963

Selected achievements

2022: Public mammography services are upgraded with state-of-the-art technology to strengthen the screening and early detection of breast cancer.

National priorities

- Radiation protection and safety
- Human health
- Energy planning
- Agriculture and food security

Main areas of IAEA support

- Human health
- Isotopic hydrology
- Regulatory infrastructure and radiation protection

Project successes

Eradication of the New World Screwworm

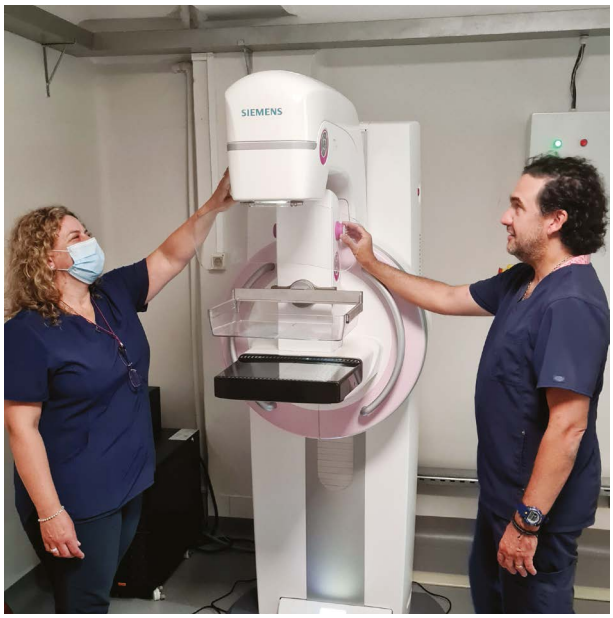
With IAEA assistance, Uruguay has strengthened its national capabilities to diagnose, control, and eradicate the New World Screwworm (NWS), a significant parasitic insect pest.

This fly's larvae infest warm-blooded animals, posing a threat to both humans and livestock and resulting in an annual loss of more than US$40 million for the national livestock sector.

High-level decision-makers participated in scientific visits and local staff were trained in integrated pest management, including the sterile insect technique.

By procuring diagnostic equipment and carrying out capacity-building events, the IAEA and its partners supported Uruguay's national programme and eradication plan for the NWS which was officially approved by national authorities in 2022.

The IAEA continues to provide support to Uruguay and other countries in the region to control and eradicate this pest.



New mammography unit donated by the IAEA to the Department of Imaging of the Pereira Rossell Hospital Centre. (Photo: N. Schloegl/IAEA)

Human health

The IAEA has been supporting the Department of Imaging of the Pereira Rossell Hospital Centre to improve its diagnostic capabilities for the rapid detection of small tumours. This has helped to position the healthcare centre as a leading facility in breast cancer diagnosis and treatment. It was achieved by donating a state-of-the-art digital mammography unit with tomosynthesis.

In addition, the IAEA provided expert support during acceptance testing and comprehensive training through national courses, fellowships and scientific visits.

Local staff was trained to use the equipment optimally and in a secure manner for the benefit of patients.

Nutrition

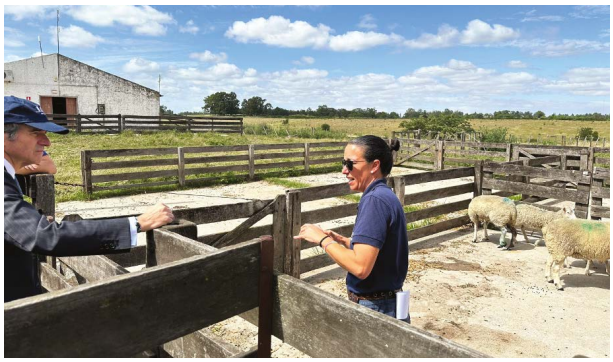
The School of Nutrition and the Technological Pole of Pando at the University of the Republic (UdelaR) have partnered with the IAEA to enhance national capacities in addressing the burden of malnutrition.

This involved generating data on body composition and determining inorganic nutrients and contaminants in food. Analytical techniques were employed to assess body composition

and identify metabolic bone disorders such as osteoporosis. These techniques included microwave plasma atomic emission spectroscopy (MP-AES) for minerals and micronutrients analysis and dual-energy X ray absorptiometry (DXA).

The IAEA contributed DXA and MP-AES equipment and provided training through fellowships and national training courses.

The acquired data will be used to promote healthy diets and guide the production of goods and services whose goal is to improve the population's quality of life.



IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi visited the National Institute of Agricultural Research's Experimental Station in Uruguay in December 2023, which is applying the sterile insect technique against screwworm. (Photo: D. Candano Laris/IAEA)

Participation in the major initiatives

- NUTEC Plastics
- Rays of Hope
- ZODIAC

Date of imPACT Review(s)

2021

IAEA support received in the 21st century

46
national TC projects implemented

240 (104 women)
fellows and scientific visits

784 (390 women)
training participants

1106 (499 women)
meeting participants

153 (33 women)
expert missions received

Contributions to South-South and triangular cooperation

193 (84 women)
fellows and scientific visits hosted

855 (370 women)
meeting participants hosted

386 (116 women)
expert missions supported

ARCAL