

## **FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL CHALLENGE**

### **University of California-IRTA: Twenty Plus Years of Joint Activities**

The collaboration between the University of California and IRTA (*Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries*) dates back to 1986.

Over the years, this collaboration has resulted in different types of activities including scientific visits, training programs, sabbaticals, joint seminars and business contacts. Between 1988 and 2005, a total of thirty-nine visits have been made in either direction, over thirty doctoral and postdoctoral students have received training, eight sabbaticals and eight joint seminars have been held, and business trips and other initiatives have been organized. Of the over one hundred activities that have taken place, sixty-one have been held in California and forty-three in Catalonia. Moreover, twenty-eight scientific articles have been published in collaboration between researchers from the University of California and IRTA, and various joint contributions have been presented in publications and at specialized conferences.

The most significant areas of collaboration have involved integrated pest management, irrigation, pathology and plant biotechnology, although other contacts and activities have also taken place in fields including veterinary sciences, animal production and food technology. The agreement has gone beyond a purely scientific and technical collaboration based on student exchanges or postdoctoral training to encompass technological and business partnerships. Over the years, a considerable number of business trips have been made in either direction, some of which have resulted in agreements between firms from California and Catalonia.

The collaboration has led to the creation of the IRTA antenna in California. This antenna consists of the presence at UC Davis of senior IRTA researcher Dr. Lluís Pérez Grau and the granting of different spaces at the Department of Plant Pathology thanks, in part, to the eminent plant virologist Dr. George Bruening. From his post, Dr. Pérez Grau conducts research projects and helps to foster academic collaborations between Catalonia and California.

<http://www.gencat.cat/diue/serveis/publicacions/ur/periodiques/temesri/index.html>  
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