

In this edition:

A special message from our Director:

Taking on the role of Director of the Centre for Agro-Environmental and Biological Research and Technologies (CITAB) is, for me, a tremendous **honour** and a **responsibility** that I embrace with a deep sense of **commitment**. This first editorial is, first and foremost, a word of **thanks to all** the researchers at CITAB for the trust they have placed in me to **lead** our Centre into this **new phase**.



Berta Gonçalves

The recognition that CITAB has earned over recent years is the result of the collective work of an exceptional scientific community, built on dedication, rigour, collaboration and ambition. To all our staff, integrated members, students, technical staff and institutional partners, I offer my sincere thanks. It is with you that we will continue to build a research centre that is ever stronger, more international and more closely connected to society.

We live in a time when the future of food, agriculture, forests and the environment depends increasingly on our ability to understand ecosystems, protect natural resources and develop innovative solutions to address major global challenges. Climate change, sustainable water management, biodiversity conservation, soil health and food security require sound, interdisciplinary scientific knowledge that has a real impact.

It is precisely at this intersection between the biological sciences, agri-food systems, natural



resources and technological innovation that CITAB defines its identity. With over a hundred full members, the Centre carries out research of the highest calibre in the agricultural, agri-food, forestry and environmental sectors, addressing different stages of the value chains and promoting solutions for more resilient, competitive and sustainable production systems.



Our scientific activity is organised around two major research groups. R&D1 – Natural Resources, Biodiversity and Climate Challenges deepens our understanding of ecosystems, natural resources and the impacts of climate change. R&D2 – Resilience and Enhancement of Agricultural Value Chains is dedicated to developing more efficient and sustainable agricultural and agri-food systems. Complementing these areas is the Technology and Innovation (T&I) strand, which links research to new digital tools, precision agriculture, environmental monitoring and other technologies capable of transforming knowledge into concrete solutions.

The quality of this research is reflected in the diversity and relevance of the projects that CITAB coordinates and participates in. The quality of this research is reflected in the



diversity and relevance of the projects that CITAB coordinates and participates in. Initiatives such as LivingSoiLL, which focuses on soil health and the active participation of farmers and communities, WATERKNOW, dedicated to the sustainable management of water resources; ReFOOD4North, which promotes sustainable food systems through the promotion of local produce; and AQUAHUB, focused on adapting agriculture to the challenges of water availability, clearly illustrate CITAB's ability to address specific problems through scientific excellence.

The recognition from the Foundation for Science and Technology, which awarded CITAB an 'Excellent' rating, represents a very important milestone in our Centre's history. More than just an accolade, this assessment confirms the scientific quality of the research produced, the impact of our publications, our ability to secure competitive funding, to train highly qualified staff, and to establish highly prestigious national and international networks.



But excellence is not a destination; it is an ongoing commitment. We want to strengthen our internationalisation, consolidate partnerships with companies and institutions, promote open and collaborative science, and create even more opportunities for our young researchers. We also want to bring scientific knowledge closer to society, contributing to public policy, business innovation and the sustainable development of our regions.



This newsletter was created precisely in this spirit: to highlight the work carried out by our researchers, to publicise projects, publications, awards, events and opportunities, and to strengthen the sense of belonging amongst the entire CITAB community. It's intended



to be a space for sharing, inspiration and bringing together all those who are part of the Centre's life.

I therefore invite you to embrace this new phase with enthusiasm and active participation. The future of CITAB will continue to be shaped by all of us, through science, innovation, collaboration and a shared vision: to produce knowledge that makes a difference to people, to ecosystems and to a more sustainable future.



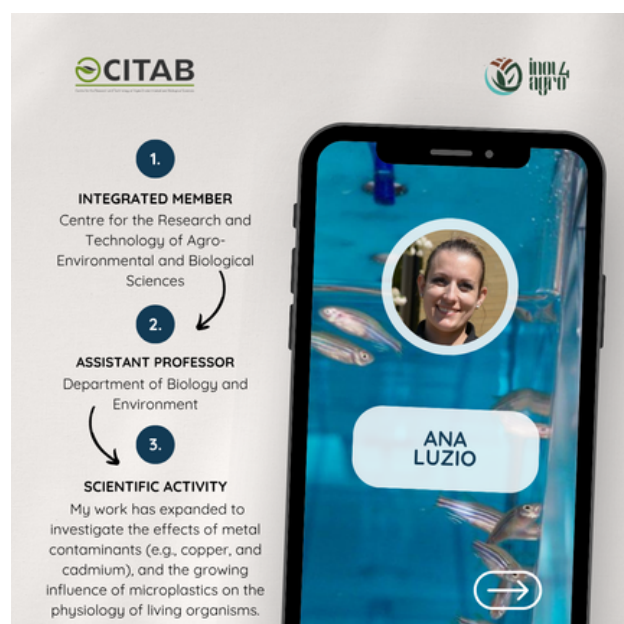
Get to know...

ANA LUZIO

“The evaluation of combined exposures rather than isolated compounds is of upmost interest because organisms are rarely exposed to single pollutants. In this sense, I’ve focused on mix toxicity, exploring how EDCs, metals, and microplastics interact to produce additive, synergistic, or antagonistic effects. This approach provides a more accurate representation of real-world exposure scenarios.

My work has expanded to investigate the effects of metal contaminants (e.g., copper, and cadmium), and the growing influence of microplastics on the physiology of living organisms.”

Keep reading [here!](#)



Learn about the work of our Integrated Members.



CRISTINA CARLOS

“I currently coordinate the LivingSoiLL project — Healthy Soil to Permanent Crops Living Labs, a Horizon Europe initiative under the EU Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe.” The project establishes five Living Labs across Portugal, France, Spain, Italy, and Poland, targeting soil health in key permanent crops such as vineyards, olive groves, chestnut and hazelnut orchards, and apple orchards. With over 60 experimental sites, the project fosters collaboration between science, practice, and local knowledge to develop innovative soil management solutions.

I’m also involved in disseminating research outcomes to both the wine sector and the academic community.”

Learn more [here!](#)

Press/Media/Clipping:



XI Iberian Congress of Ichthyology

XI IBERIAN CONGRESS OF ICHTHYOLOGY

CITAB co-organised this leading international scientific event, held for the first time at UTAD. The Congress brought together dozens of researchers, academics and renowned experts on our campus.

👉 Read it [here](#).



WORKSHOP | ALIMENTAR PORTUGAL

The event will provide a forum for reflection and collective development of national research and innovation priorities in the agricultural, agri-food and agroforestry sectors, bringing together researchers, students and representatives from the private sector.

👉 We are counting on you - know more [here](#).



HEARTCHEST FEATURED IN AGROTEC MAGAZINE

"HEARTchest stands as an example of a new approach to agri-food innovation: collaborative, participatory, and deeply rooted in the region", reinforcing the project's contribution to promoting agri-food excellence.

👉 Know more about it [here](#).



REGADOURO featured on Porto Canal

REGADOURO PROJECT FEATURED ON PORTO CANAL

CITAB researcher [Ana Novo Barros](#) appeared on Porto Canal, where she presented the [REGADOURO](#) project and highlighted its contribution to promoting more sustainable water resource management in viticulture.

👉 Take a look [here](#).



WORKSHOP | 4TH EDITION ON NUMERICAL WEATHER PREDICTION IN PORTUGAL

The event aims to promote the exchange of knowledge and foster discussion on recent advances and emerging challenges in numerical weather prediction and its applications to the renewable energy sector.

👉 Further information ([here](#)).



6TH IBERIAN BEEKEEPING CONGRESS

We are delighted to announce that our Centre is collaborating with the organisers of the 6th Iberian Beekeeping Congress (CIA'27)! 🐝

Mark the date in your calendar! 📅

👉 More details [here](#).



CITAB

Centre for the Research and Technology of
Agro-Environmental and Biological Sciences

In order to continue sharing information about projects, events, research, awards and other topics, we would like to ask **all CITAB members to share relevant information** with the Communications Office.