

# NAFEI - Northern AgroFood-Environment Innovation: Promoting and enhancing the agri-food and agro-environmental sector

Leandro Oliveira & Eduardo Luís Cardoso\*

Universidade Católica Portuguesa, CBQF - Centro de Biotecnologia e Química Fina – Laboratório Associado, Escola Superior de Biotecnologia, Rua Diogo Botelho 1327, 4169-005 Porto, Portugal;

\*email: ecardoso@porto.ucp.pt

## Introduction

The valuation of knowledge produced in research centers has been a great challenge for universities in contemporary societies. This situation led the institutions to develop a new objective in their activities, the facilitation of technology transfer and the promotion of academic entrepreneurship [1]. Overcoming difficulties in promoting academic entrepreneurship and transferring knowledge produced in universities are included in the objectives to bridge the gap between research and innovation in Europe [2]. Contact with research during higher education is important because it promotes student involvement, disciplinary understanding, the development of critical thinking skills and the progression of learning. The **objective** of this work is to describe the Northern AgroFood-Environment Innovation (NAFEI) as a project to promote and enhance the agri-food and agro-environmental sector.

## Methods

Based on the diagnosis of the needs of agrifood and agri-environmental systems characterized as priorities in the Regional Strategy for Intelligent Specialization for the North Region - RIS3 [3] and the objectives in the field of economic transfer and valorization of scientific and technological knowledge was outlined, in articulation with the stakeholders of the sector, a Contest and Program Innovation Track.

## Results

The Northern AgroFood-Environment Innovation Project - NAFEI (NORTE-01-0246-FEDER-000032) is in the field of Scientific and Technological Knowledge Transfer and is especially oriented towards investment in the Development of New Products and Services, in the Agro-environmental and Agro-environmental Systems.

### 1 - Dynamization of Innovation in Agro-Food and Agro-Environmental Systems

- Promotional campaign
- Platform and website
- Package: Disclosure Material
- Roadshow
- Sounding Board Business

### 2 - Development of New Products and Services

- Innovation Track Contest and Program
- Monitoring and Evaluation

### 3 - Promotion of Knowledge Transfer and Innovation

- Product / Service Show
- National Events
- International Events
- Ecotrophelia

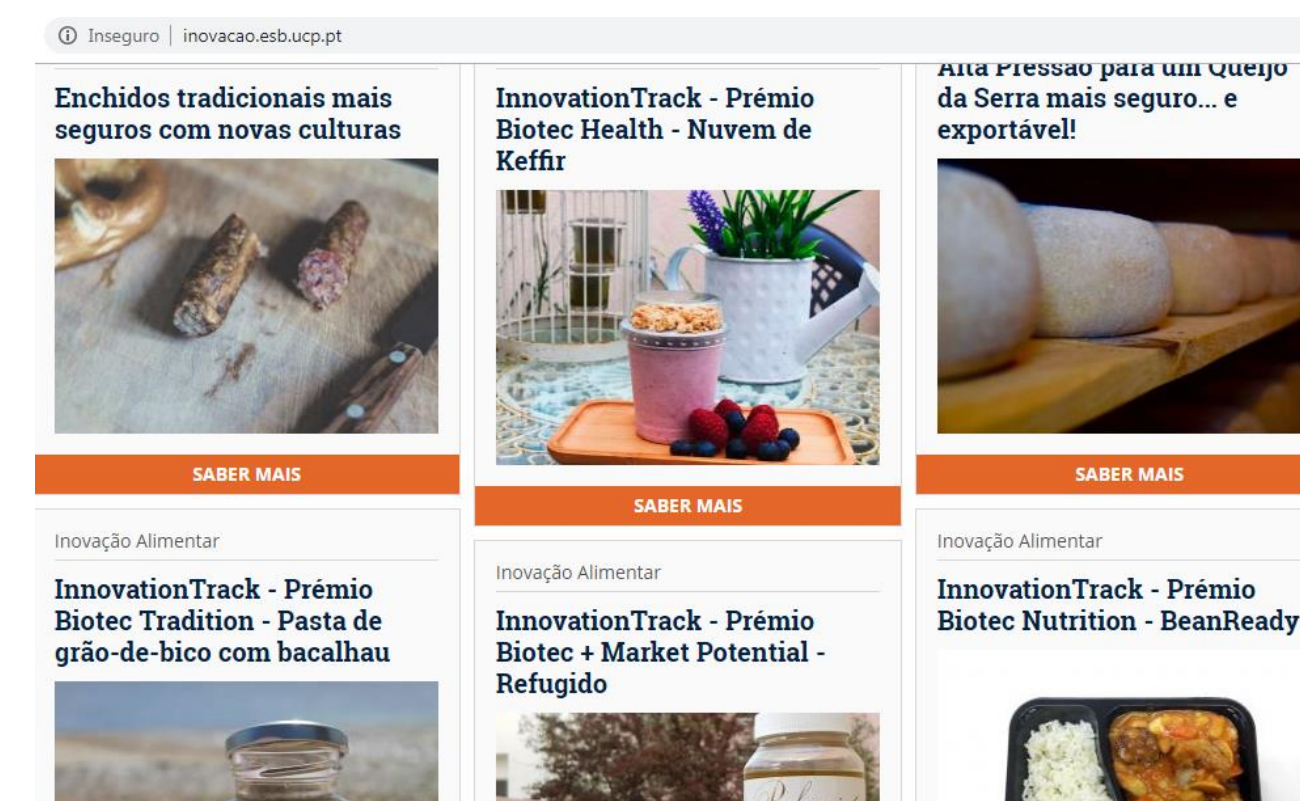
The Program was developed in two editions: first edition in 2017/18 and second edition in 2018/19. In these editions 40 applications were received in response to the Innovation Track Contest, involving 93 competitors, mostly female and under 30 years old. Of these, 27 teams submitted their projects to the competition. The teams were accompanied by 14 business mentors and 10 scientific mentors, with more than 600 hours of mentoring.



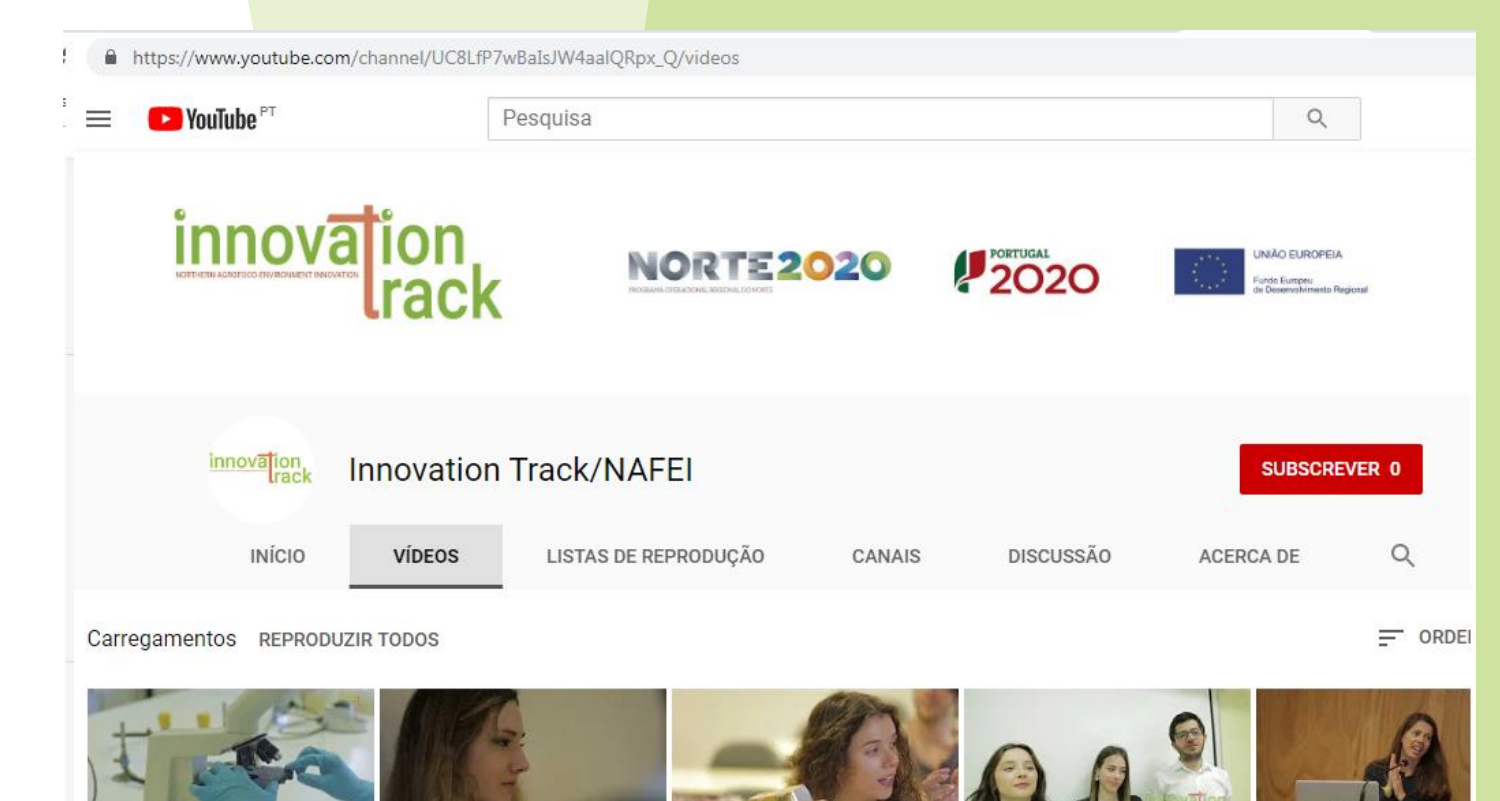
<http://www.esb.ucp.pt/pt/nafei>



<https://www.facebook.com/NAFEI.ESBUCP/>



<http://inovacao.esb.ucp.pt/>



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8LFP7wBalsJW4aaIQRpx\\_Q/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8LFP7wBalsJW4aaIQRpx_Q/videos)

## Conclusions

Thus, NAFEI has laid the foundations for a sustainable innovation culture and dynamics in which skills groups, specialized research centers, and proximity to key players in the market and the economic fabric can enable new products and services were evaluated in order to contribute to the creation of value in the chains associated with agri-food and agri-environmental systems in the Northern Region.

## References

[1] Rasmussen E, Moen Ø, Gulbrandsen M, *Technovation*, 2006, 26(4):518-533; [2] European Union, HORIZON 2020: Research and Innovation to boost growth and jobs in Europe - Issue 2, 2015, Publications Office of the European Union: Luxembourg; [3] Malachowski M., Osborn Jeffrey M., Karukstis Kerry K., & Ambos, E. L., *New Directions for Higher Education*, 2015, 2015(169):3-13; [3] CCDRN, NORTE2020 - Estratégia Regional de Especialização Inteligente, 2014, Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte: Porto