

# Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

IAEA Member State since August 1957

## Selected achievements

**2023:** More than 200 disused sources are recovered.

**2022:** Venezuela joins the Rays of Hope initiative.

**2021:** Women in Nuclear (WiN) is established in Venezuela.

## National priorities

- Radiation safety
- Food and agriculture
- Health and nutrition
- Water and the environment
- Energy and industry
- Human resources

## Main areas of IAEA support

- National radiation safety infrastructure
- Water resources management
- Contaminant control in stored cocoa beans
- Mutation breeding techniques for banana disease resistance
- Cancer diagnostics and treatment capacity and quality

## Project successes

### Radiation oncology

With IAEA support, the Ocular Oncology Unit at the Luis Razetti Hospital in Venezuela has become the first unit in Latin America that is fully dedicated to the treatment of ocular cancer patients, especially children suffering from retinoblastoma.

Brachytherapy techniques not only save patient lives but also protect eyes and, if the disease is detected early, safeguards vision.



With IAEA support, the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA) is applying nuclear techniques to detect diseases and breed more resistant bananas. (Photo: R. Scamilla Andreo Aledo/IAEA)

### Mutation breeding

The National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA) strengthened the production of the national banana Musaceae with improved techniques for monitoring, early disease detection and mutation breeding to produce disease resistant fruit.

The IAEA provided support through equipment and training, promoting long term resilience against diseases such as Foc TR4, ensuring sustained productivity and the supply of an important source of calories and vitamins for the poorest regions.

Venezuela has also been participating in a series of interregional TC projects designed to strengthen laboratory capacities, train human resources and exchange knowledge and experiences with other countries facing similar challenges.

### Radiation safety

Having a robust radiation safety infrastructure is a priority for Venezuela. In 2023, the country launched a significant initiative with IAEA support that resulted in the recovery of over 200 orphan sources.

This included the identification, recovery and safe management of disused sealed

radioactive sources. It also resulted in an inventory being established of disused sealed radioactive sources. This is ongoing.

Additionally, with the support of IAEA experts, Venezuela was able to refurbish, reorganize and upgrade the temporary storage facility for disused sources located at the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC). The storage is now well equipped to receive sources in a safe and secure way that is in line with international standards.

Participation in the major initiatives

- Rays of Hope
- ZODIAC

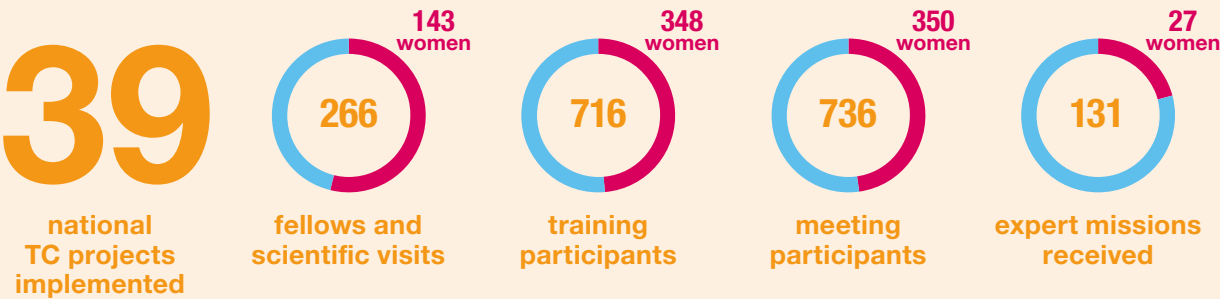
Date of imPACT Review(s)

2023



Temporary storage facility for disused sources located at the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC). (Photo: R. Scamilla Andreo Aledo/IAEA)

IAEA support received in the 21st century



Contributions to South-South and triangular cooperation

