

## PETER PARTNERS REPORT SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR OF PROJECT TO CO-ORDINATE EU FOOD TRACEABILITY INITIATIVES

Partners in the EU PETER project on food and feed traceability have reported a successful first year having achieved major goals in the co-ordination and dissemination of information from no fewer than 16 separate traceability initiatives.

Established in 2006 as a Framework 6 Specific Support Action Programme, the PETER project (Promoting European Traceability Excellence and Research) co-ordinates the many strands of research into food traceability funded by the EU and consolidates their findings into an easily useable form for SMEs on a global basis.

In total, the EU has invested more than Eu100 million in traceability research to help guarantee the security, safety and quality of food. It now boasts an unsurpassed traceability knowledge database of immense value to exporters and importers, growers and breeders, feed manufacturers, food processors and manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers.

In their first annual report the PETER project's partners say they have reached key stage targets in :- providing an international forum for focussing, disseminating and exploiting EU research on food and feed traceability; improving collaboration between European projects; reducing duplication among on-going projects; maximising the effectiveness of projects through shared objectives and results; creating added-value for project work by identifying research gaps and areas of potentially complementary activity; achieving a high level of dissemination involving 422 project participants.

Project co-ordinator Michel Debord said: " PETER is essentially about communication, both between the EU-based stakeholders in the food and feed industries and between the EU and those who wish to trade with it.

"As the world's largest single market the EU offers a massive opportunity for those wishing to trade with it so long as they understand and comply with traceability standards and legislation."

A series of international conferences and workshops, a web-based communications vehicle and specific platforms for dialogue with industry, consumer and standardisation stakeholders have all played a major role in disseminating information on key traceability issues.

In addition, important research products available from PETER project partners are:

- TraceFood – a framework that makes it easier to know from where food products originate and what has happened to them (see [www.tracefood.org](http://www.tracefood.org))
- TraceCore XML – ensuring that relevant, comparable and searchable information can be gathered and shared in a standard way through a supply chain for all food products ([www.tracefood.org](http://www.tracefood.org))
- FoodTrace Generic Framework – ensuring smooth and efficient transfer of information along and across every stage of food chains with the ability to plan, model, validate and implement ([www.eufoodtrace.org](http://www.eufoodtrace.org))
- FoodTrace: Guidelines for Data Capture – the business, process and quality drivers for realising harmonious traceability systems and accommodating cross supply chain complexities ([www.eufoodtrace.org](http://www.eufoodtrace.org))

The PETER project will also produce a Compendium of Automatic Identification and Data Capture Technologies and Application Guidelines relevant to traceability. In addition, a database containing details of activities, stakeholders, communication and dissemination channels on traceability in the EU, INCO countries and in the Latin America and MERCOSUR region has also been established.

“Having achieved our initial objectives of consolidation and dissemination we shall in the second year of the project be investigating a whole range of additional research areas, and which we recommend should be included in EU Framework 7 calls,” added Mr Debord.

- **To read the PETER report in full go to [www.eu-peter.org](http://www.eu-peter.org) and click on the pdfs in the News section in the right-hand column**