

FUTURE RESEARCH AREAS

- Development of more robust and efficient systems of incident management.

Food traceability legislation is only one side of the triangle of ensuring food safety through traceability. Implementation of traceability systems by actors in the food chain, and efficient systems for dealing with food safety incidents by the authorities, provide the other two sides.

There is a need to minimise response times, and to share best practice and transparent guidelines if consumers are to have confidence in the implementation of food traceability legislation for the benefit of improved food safety.

The aim of this project would be to investigate national and international guidelines for dealing with food safety incidents with a view to drawing up a set of guidelines for best practice, based on evidence from recent food safety incidents. e.g. Sudan 1. The project should involve experts in the field of incident management, as well as reinforcement authorities and stakeholders from the food industry.

Expected Impact: Provide clear guidelines on best practice in the event of different food safety incidents. Provide a forum for the identification of future research requirements in the field of food safety incident management and provide a knowledge base for authorities to call on in the event of food safety incidents.

- Cost benefit analysis of the Integration of quality assurance and origin of products into food traceability systems

Primary producers in the food industry collect a great deal of quality and origin information on their raw material which is not relayed through the food chain, resulting in a tremendous loss of information coupled with duplication of analysis. There is also a common perception amongst consumers that traceability in food production implies higher quality products and products derived through 'ethical' processes, by reinforcing quality or product origin labelling.

The aim would be to carry out an analysis of the problem of integrating quality and origin data into traceability systems in different sectors of the food industry. Activities will include an identification of important quality parameters in different food industry sectors, and a cost benefit analysis of integrating the raw material source and the different quality parameters into the traceability systems.

Expected Impact: Identification of the cost vs benefits of incorporating quality and origin information into a traceability system in order to reassure consumers of the intrinsic quality and origin of European food products.

- New solutions for minimizing the food safety risks associated with infinite batches.

The size of a batch has been solely a commercial/operational decision and until recently was not influenced by traceability requirements. Batch size varies considerably in different sectors with some food and feed processes having continuous production of product through very large processing plants e.g. animal feed production, or via storage in very large silos that can store more than one year's harvest of agricultural product. These processes have unique problems when food safety incidents occur and the costs of recall can be equally very large. There has been no risk analysis conducted on batch size with respect to possible recall.

The aim of this project would be to carry out research into ways of modelling the movement of material through large silos and processing plants in order to perform risk assessments of different batch sizes in relation to safety and contamination.

Expected Impact: Provide the tools to enable internal traceability for continuous food and feed processes and very large storage silos. Minimise the costs and associated environmental impact of risks to food safety involving large scale continuous food processes and very large food storage bins and silos.

- Development of systems to enable feedback of consumer issues along the food production chain.

The objective of this topic is to foster cooperation between the food producers and food consumers, particularly at an international level. The project should involve European consumer organisations and representatives of producer organisations working together to develop systems for the feedback of consumer issues to the producers.

Expected Impact: Web based system to facilitate increased interaction between food industry and consumer organisations. Increased product development to meet European consumer demands.



A EUROPEAN FORUM WITH A GLOBAL MESSAGE



Guaranteeing the security, safety and quality of food is a global challenge.

It has become all the more urgent following well-documented food-related health crises such as BSE, foot and mouth disease, Creutzfeld-Jacob disease, dioxin contamination, avian flu and others.

Traceability throughout the food supply chain is acknowledged as key to the prevention of further crises. As a result of a €100 million investment, the EC has an unsurpassed traceability knowledge database of immense value to:

- exporters & importers
- growers & breeders
- feed manufacturers
- food processors & manufacturers
- distributors, wholesalers and retailers
- in fact anyone operating within the food supply chain

It is essential that any country or business wishing to commence or increase food exporting to the EC understand the latest European developments in the area of traceability and the possible impact on their markets. As you can see the PETER project has a huge role to play in disseminating appropriate information to the widest possible international audience.

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OPENING GLOBAL MARKETS



Promoting European **Traceability** Excellence & Research

The PETER project is a critical EU Specific Support Action programme, providing an international forum for focusing and disseminating the results of the EUs €100 million investment in eight research programmes on food traceability, which the EU have supported in the new millennium. It will answer the urgent need for rapid consolidation and dissemination of European expertise to developing countries and SMEs so that they can have access to the global markets that now exist.

Comprising an inner network of the co-ordinators of these 8 key projects, PETER has extended its reach to include other key actors who have become involved in EU research on traceability.

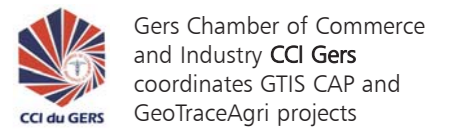
The first phase of this 2 year project has focussed on consolidation. The different strands of intra-European research were brought together via a 3-day workshop which addressed key issues, including: inter project communication and co-operation; International training programmes; European and international dissemination products; European and global standardisation activities; SME, Regulatory and Consumer stakeholder needs.

Following this initial exploratory programme, PETER has launched its international activities through:

- a series of international workshops and conferences,
- a web based communication vehicle and
- specific platforms for dialogue with industry, consumer and standardisation stakeholders.



The PETER project is composed of a consortium of eight members co-ordinating eight traceability research projects:



Gers Chamber of Commerce and Industry **CCI Gers** coordinates GTIS CAP and GeoTraceAgri projects



Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique **INRA** coordinates the CoExtra project



AIM UK coordinated the FoodTrace project



Central Science Laboratory **CSL** coordinates the Trace project



Centre Walloon de Recherches Agronomiques **CRA- W** co-ordinating Geo Trace Agriculture



DANISH Institute for Fisheries Research **DIFRES** coordinates the SeaFoodPlus project



Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement **CIRAD** is a leading participant in the Alcuefood consortium



Università degli Studi di Parma **U- PARMA** coordinated the DNA Track and OLIV- TRACK projects