



Quality and SAfety of Feeds and Food in Europe



Background:

The rearing of healthy European livestock is highly dependent on the provision of high quality and safe feeds for these animals. This in turn has a major impact on the safety of the entire animal based food chain. The **concept of QSAFFE** is to deliver better, faster and more economically viable means of ensuring the quality and safety of animal feeds in Europe.

The Ultimate Goal:

To provide Europe with a framework for improving the quality and safety of animal feeds entering at ports from outside the EU as well as products produced within Europe.

Core scientific and technological objectives linked to training and dissemination activities within QSAFFE are:

Strategies for the early Quality and Safety Assurance in the Feed Chain:

QSAFFE will undertake an intensive investigation regarding combining existing testing methods and emerging technologies, including fingerprinting technologies, into a **comprehensive analytical strategy** to determine the best application for feed material quality and safety **monitoring at ports, feed mills and laboratories.**

Feed Materials Traceability and Authenticity:

QSAFFE will develop and improve systems of **traceability and authenticity** monitoring of the major feed materials used in Europe. This will be achieved by determining which analytical techniques (**conventional and fingerprinting**) could be useful tools in tracing origins of feed materials including those derived from **biofuel co-products.**

Emerging Risks:

QSAFFE will identify the emerging risks (**chemical and microbiological**) from new sources of animal feed materials that may arise from changes to the formulation/composition of animal feeds and due to economic factors. New sources of animal feed materials are being sought due to the increasing costs of many of the current materials. The new sources can apply to **novel materials** and/or **new geographical sources** of the existing materials. The risks and benefits of such practices are not clearly defined and research is required to devise strategies to ensure quality and safety of such new animal feed components and sources of materials.

Transfer of contaminants and micro-organisms from feed to food:

QSAFFE will undertake optimization and application of pharmacokinetic models focusing on a number of carefully selected transfer problems such as **dioxins and PCBs, melamine** and related compounds, **Salmonella spp. and Listeria monocytogenes** based on existing data and data generated in the studies performed within the project. QSAFFE will perform transfer studies on a number of highly important feed contaminants i.e. transfer of melamine and related compounds from feed to eggs and transfer of dioxins and PCBs to sheep livers and meat due to the presence of contaminated soil in fodder.

Making an Impact:

The outcomes of QSAFFE must be valued by Europe and extendable worldwide. To ensure this, we have a full and targeted dissemination plan. QSAFFE will consolidate and deliver its findings by building and maintaining a **project website**, establishing a **stakeholder database**, publishing an **e-Newsletter**, **training** and knowledge transfer, **peer reviewed publications**, **training workshops**, organising an **international conference** and the publication of **guidance documents on improving traceability and authenticity for the feed industry.**

If you wish to receive **information about news, progress and events related to the QSAFFE project**, please register to the **QSAFFE stakeholders database** at www.qsaffe.eu

The facts:

FP7 collaborative project

Start date: March 2011

Duration: 42 months (2011-2014)

Coordinator: Queen's University Belfast (UK)

Participants: 11 leading institutes from Europe and China, representing universities, research institutes, EC and SMEs

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