

Philippe Vermeulen¹, Ana Boix², Leo van Raamsdonk³, Gilbert Berben¹,
Christoph von Holst², Jacob de Jong³, Pierre Dardenne¹ and Vincent Baeten¹

¹ Quality Department of Agro-food Products, Walloon Agricultural Research Centre (CRA-W), Chaussée de Namur, 24, B-5030 Gembloux (Belgium)

² Joint Research Centre, Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (JRC-IRMM), Retieseweg, 111, B-2440 Geel (Belgium)

³ RIKILT - Institute of Food Safety, Bornsesteeg 45 PO Box 230, NL-6700 AE Wageningen (The Netherlands)

For 10 years, the Walloon Agricultural Research Centre (CRA-W), the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC-IRMM) and the Dutch RIKILT - Institute of Food Safety have acquired expertise in the development and validation of analytical methods for the detection, identification and quantification of animal proteins and contaminants in feedstuffs. In 2001, they worked together in the framework of two FP5 European Projects: **SIMBAG-FEED**, "Screening and identification methods for official control of banned antibiotics and growth promoters in feedstuffs", coordinated by RIKILT and **STRATFEED**, "Strategies and methods to detect and quantify mammalian tissues in feedstuffs", coordinated by CRA-W. At the end of this project, in 2004, the CRA-W organised a 1st international symposium entitled "Food and feed safety in the context of prion diseases" in collaboration with the JRC-IRMM, the Belgian Food Agency (AFSCA) and the Walloon Agrobiopole (Agrobiopole).

After this project, the CRA-W continued to work on those topics together with the JRC-IRMM and RIKILT through the organisation of several interlaboratory studies and training sessions. In May 2006, they decided to join their efforts to create the **Feed Safety Platform**. This platform aims to gather institutes and stakeholders working to the use, development and validation of analytical methods for the feed sector. In December 2006, the three institutes met again for a new FP6 European Project **SAFEED-PAP**, "Detection of presence of species-specific processed animal proteins in animal feed", coordinated by CRA-W.

In the framework of this project, several computer tools have been developed to provide the dissemination of the results and the communication inside and outside the Feed Safety Platform and the SAFEED-PAP project.

The **Website** (www.feedsafety.org) gives to its visitors an overview of the feed safety issues (animal by-products, feed additives, banned additives, GMOs, veterinary drugs, botanical impurities, mycotoxins, heavy metals, dioxins) including aspects on legislation, analytical methods, available tools and publication libraries. It offers links to European and national projects as well as to Community Reference Laboratories involved on those topics. In this website, the news and events are fed regularly by the web correspondents. An electronic newsletter, dedicated to people involved in the feed sector, is biannually published and dispatched.

To provide a space where the researchers can communicate, share documents and work together on a feed safety issue, an **Intranet** has been created. Different tools and functions are available as Feed safety mailing lists, alert system and discussion boards. Sub-intranets allow to the project coordinators to manage their projects.

The Feed safety staff is ready to collaborate with you, offering a complete platform with all the communication tools useful for the dissemination of your activities. We are open to receive your contribution to "feed" the feed safety platform.



References
Vermeulen, P., Baeten, V., Dardenne, P., van Raamsdonk, L., Oger, R., Monjoie, A.-S. & Martinez, M. (2003). Development of a website and an information system for a EU R&D project: the example of the STRATFEED project. *Biotechnology, Agronomy, Society and Environment*, 7 (3-4), 161-169.

Vermeulen, P., Oger, R., van Raamsdonk, L., Monjoie, A.-S., Martinez, M., Baeten, V. & Dardenne, P. (2005). Development of the STRATFEED Inter-laboratory computer system (WP6). In: *Strategies and methods to detect and quantify mammalian tissues in feedstuffs*. Dardenne, Pierre, Bruxelles, European Commission, 18p.