



The 'BTSF' programme: Towards global harmonisation of GMO analysis

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**International Workshop of GMO analysis networking
Ispra, Italy 8-9 April 2013**

What is BTSF?



A Commission training initiative for EU and third country officials who undertake controls on sanitary and phytosanitary issues

Why was BTSF launched?

Objectives of the recast

- *To complete and modernise EU legislation on Food safety*
- *To create a single framework for food and feed*
- *To improve effectiveness and efficiency of official controls*

⇒ Training as a key element in this effort

Areas covered

- Food law
- Feed law
- Animal health rules
- Animal welfare rules
- Plant health rules





Training organisation

- Training is organised by external contractors
- Training consists of workshops and missions (secondment of individual experts)
- Tuition by experts from the Commission, Member States, third countries and international organisations

General objectives

- High levels of competence and awareness of EU rules amongst official control staff
- Ensure more uniform, objective and efficient controls throughout the EU
- High levels of consumer protection, animal health and welfare and plant health
- Level playing field for food businesses
- Enhance trade of safe food



BTSF in figures from 2006 to 2012



Around 710 events

More than 35.000 participants

Budget of approx. € 83 million

***Approx. 30% of this global activity
covers third countries***

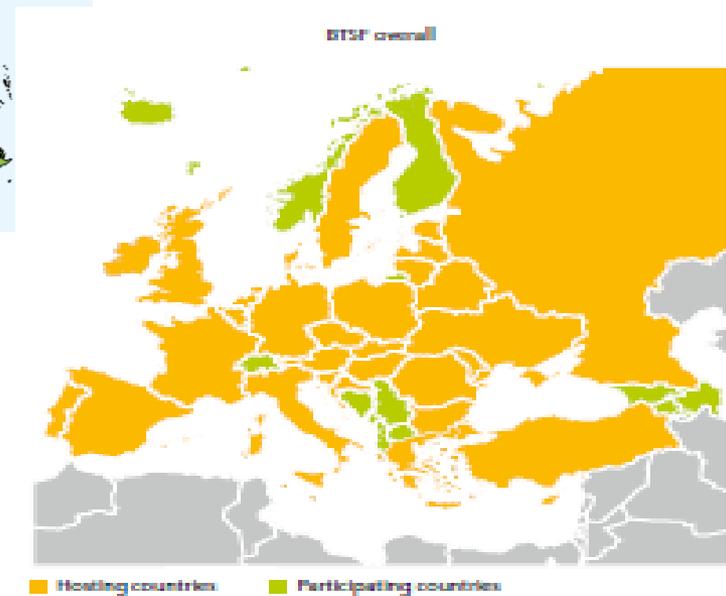
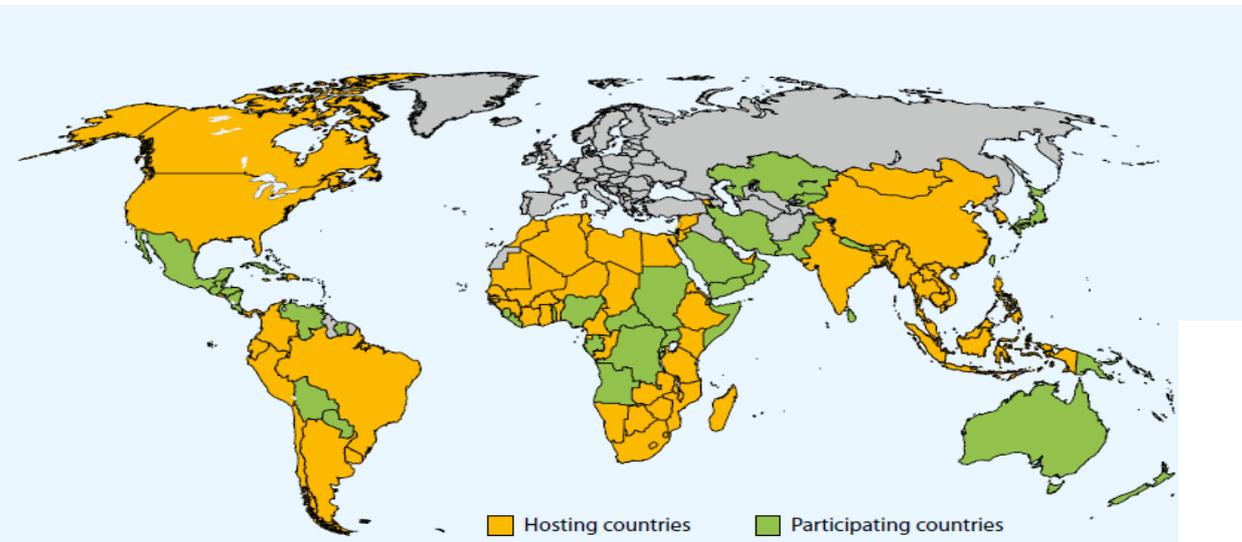
BTSF programmes up to 2012

1. HACCP
2. Animal by Products
3. Animal Welfare
4. BIPs Airport
5. BIPs seaport/roads/rail
6. Zoonoses/microbiological criteria
7. Food Hygiene and Control
8. Food Contact Materials
9. Plant Protection Products
10. Plant Health Control
11. TSE
12. Food/feed of non-animal origin
13. Feed law
14. Animal Health Controls (Aquaculture/bees/zoo)
15. Contingency planning/Emerging animal diseases
16. TRACES for EU Member States
17. Quality schemes
18. Audit systems
19. Support for EU controls
20. Food additives/Vet. Medicines
21. EU food standards
22. Avian Influenza
23. Food Testing
24. GMO analysis
25. RASFF and TRACES
26. Feed import rules



Hosting/participating countries 2006-present

BTSF overall



Training 2013

Around 175 events
Approx 30 activities
Almost 6500 participants
Budget of nearly €15 million

BTSF: Activities on GMO analysis

- Launched in 2009: Phase I (2009-11) and Phase II (2011-13)
 - Background:
 - GMO analysis is already an integral part in the development of new GM plants and in subsequent breeding, seed production and verification programmes
 - GMO analysis has become a key technology in trade to:
 - *Ensure regulatory compliance of GMOs (authorised events, labelling rules)*
 - *Ensure product authenticity and traceability*
- ⇒ ***Need for a harmonised application of methods and correct interpretation of results***

BTSF: Activities on GMO analysis

- Objectives:
 - To promote the concept of networking at regional level as regards GMO analysis
 - To support the creation of networks of excellence based on the EU experience (European Network of GMO Laboratories)
 - To strengthen collaboration between existing laboratories/networks at regional level
 - To facilitate acquisition of required expertise at regional level
- Managed by the Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (JRC Ispra) which operates the EU-RL for GM food and feed

BTSF: Activities on GMO analysis

- Around 10 events involving almost 400 participants organised since 2009
 - 9 regional workshops/training courses
 - 1st International Workshop of GMO analysis networking
- Main focus given up to: Benefits of analytical networks, EU GMO legislation, experiment planning, laboratory techniques and requirements, method validation
- Future activities (2013-14):
 - 3 regional/thematic workshops
 - 2nd International workshop of GMO analysis networking

BTSF main challenges in future



- *Better respond to demand*
- *Improve networking*
- *Better identify priorities*
- *Ensure greater participant homogeneity*
- *Improve training quality*
- *Increase dissemination*

⇒ **Commission Staff Working Document from November 2010**

Responses to challenges

Work in progress

- *Ex-post assessment of BTSF*
- *E-learning pilot project*
- *Reinforcing dissemination of BTSF*
- *Strengthening coordination with MS national training activities*

More information on BTSF?

http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.htm

Important legal notice
English

EUROPA > European Commission > DG Health and Consumers > Overview
A to Z Index | Site Map | Search | Contact

Food Safety - From the Farm to the Fork

Training Strategy - Home

Better Training for Safer Food is a Commission training initiative covering food and feed law, animal health and welfare and plant health rules. It trains Member State and candidate country national authority staff involved in official controls in these areas.

This aims to keep participants up-to-date with Community law in these areas and should help to ensure more harmonised and efficient controls. Efficient controls are an essential factor in maintaining high levels of consumer protection, animal health and plant health. Harmonisation of controls should help to create a level playing field for food businesses.

Training is also organised specifically for third, particularly developing country participants so as to familiarise them with EU requirements. This should help to ease access to the EU market for products from developing countries.

Recent News



Second import controls workshop takes place in Italy

The second in a series of three BTSF workshops on import controls on food and feed products of non-animal origin takes place in Pisa and Livorno, Italy on 23-26 March. Around 50 people are to attend from EU Member States, candidate and EFTA countries.

The training should provide participants with a solid knowledge of Community requirements for food and feed imports. This should improve implementation of EU legislation and contribute to developing best practices for controls on relevant products.

Upcoming workshops

23-26 March: Veterinary and food safety checks in seaport border inspection posts, Southampton, UK
23-26 March: Controls of food and feed of non-animal origin, Livorno, Italy
30 March-2 April: Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES), Madagascar
12-14 April: Prevention, control and eradication of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, Oldenburg/Wilhelmshaven, Germany
12-16 April: Food hygiene and controls of fishery products and live-bivalve molluscs, Santander, Spain
19-21 April: Prevention, control and eradication of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, Oldenburg/Wilhelmshaven, Germany
19-23 April: Food hygiene and controls of milk and dairy products, Brescia, Italy
19-23 April: Better Training for Safer Food in Africa - regional food hygiene workshop for East Africa, Uganda
20-23 April: Official controls on food and feed of non-animal origin, Genoa, Italy

Topics

- Home
- Overview
- Training programmes 2010
- Potential participants
- Potential tenderers
- News
- General information
- History
- Annual report 2008

Resources

- Speeches
- Press Releases
- Publications
- Consultations
- Committees
- Events

International Affairs

- Organisations
- Codex
- OIE
- WTO
- Import Conditions
- Pets and Animal Welfare
- Enlargement
- Agreements
- EU - Russia: SPS issues

- FOOD AND FEED SAFETY
- ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE
- PLANT HEALTH
- FVO INSPECTIONS



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your kind
attention**