EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE BASE ON ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGY AND DATABASES FOR FOOD AUTHENTICITY

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There is a wealth of information available on suitable analytical tools and associated reference data for the detection of food fraud or for assessing the authenticity of a food product. A substantial proportion of this information is already in the public domain or can be obtained through scientific publications, but it not always easily accessible for enforcement agencies, food operators or even research organisations. In the period 1989 to 2014, the European Commission funded 95 projects on food authenticity and traceability through its research programmes in the various Framework Programmes. The majority of these have involved the development of new analytical techniques. A suitable tool is required to make it easier to reach the results of these projects. A European Knowledge Base is being developed as part of the FoodIntegrity project to bring together the available information on, on the one hand, the methods used to ensure the integrity of food products and ingredients and, on the other, the data generated by those methods. It is designed as a Web-based tool for use by both industry and regulatory authorities and will provide intelligence on the type, frequency, and impact of various food fraud practices together with recommended analytical strategies to deal with the issues. A specially-designed search engine will enable the stakeholder to select a food category from a drop-down list, enter a CN code and/or specify a type of fraud (dilution, substitution, etc.) or food integrity issue (geographical origin, product composition, etc.). The results will feature existing analytical solutions, links to scientific publications and sets of analytical data when available. It will also be possible to link up with the FoodIntegrity Network for advice from the relevant expert.

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