

A collage of images related to food and agriculture, including a wine glass, a bunch of grapes, a person holding a glass, and a spiral pattern.

Food authenticity and
traceability
NEWSLETTER

Here is the 11th edition of the newsletter. The newsletter provides a summary of latest information in the area of food authenticity and traceability and is funded through the *TRACE* project.

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Final TRACE conference in Brussels:

How to trace the origin of food?

TRACE organising committee, CRA-W – FERA - ICT

(trace2009BXL@trace.eu.org)

Final Trace Conference



The organising committee would like to inform you that the full agenda for the final TRACE Conference planned on 2nd and 3rd December 2009 at the “Autoworld Brussels” in Belgium is now on-line.

The event, dedicated to new approaches for tracing the origin of food, is aimed at persons working in the analytical and technical sector, quality assurance, quality control, supply chain and branding roles within the food industry, as well as at representatives of control authorities and consumer organisations.

The conference will be dedicated to the TRACE results and will feature the following topics: Consumers’ perception of food traceability in Europe, TRACE and international impact, traceability systems, analytical techniques to authenticate the origin of food, traceability and the future. Poster sessions, interactive demonstration activities and “a market place” showcasing projects/companies exploiting TRACE outputs will also take place.

More information is available on <http://www.trace.eu.org/je/belgium/>

How to trace the origin of food?

**Autoworld Brussels
Belgium
2 - 3 December 2009**



TRACE project workshop on
“Determining the geographical origin of food -
TRACE elements and isotopic patterns in food verification”
Organising committee, Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT-Prague)

The globalisation of food markets and the relative ease with which food commodities are transported through and between countries and continents, means that consumers are increasingly concerned about the origin of the foods they eat. A growing body of research articles have been published in the last five years detailing the use of natural abundance isotope variation and elemental concentrations as geographic ‘tracers’ to determine the provenance of food. These investigations exploit the systematic global variations of stable hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur isotope ratios in combination with elemental concentrations, including heavy isotope variations (e.g. strontium-87) and other biogeochemical indicators. This workshop presents developments from the EU FP6 TRACE project in the application of multi-isotopic and multi-element methods in the emerging field of “Food Forensics”. It will be held on 3rd November 2009 in Prague as satellite event of the RAFA Conference.

More information is available on <http://www.rafa2009.eu/SatelliteEvents.aspx>



Workshop on
“Organic food authentication: challenge or utopia?”
Organising committee, EC-JRC-IRMM

Organic agriculture is developing rapidly and its share of agricultural land and farms continues to grow in many countries. Policy makers have approved support for the development of organic farming as a sustainable agricultural system. In the European Union, such support includes the European Union’s rural development programs, the recently revised EU regulation on organic farming and the European Action Plan on Organic Food and Farming. The rapid development of the organic sector and the ever-increasing demand for organic products brings new challenges for the international organic food certification and guarantee systems. Organic produce remains amongst the most difficult to monitor and control. Indeed, currently all scientists can do is test for what should not be there (e.g. chemical pesticide residues). In this context, the development of a strategy to authenticate organic food products is highly desirable in support to the certification and inspection systems. By bringing together the main groups working in the field, this workshop will present a balanced overview of the state-of-the-art research in this topic. Participants will have the opportunity to brainstorm and identify the best approaches for meeting the challenges of organic food authentication. This workshop will be held on 30th November and 1st December in Geel in Belgium.

More information is available on <http://irmm.jrc.ec.europa.eu/html/events/events/organic.htm>

How to verify the authenticity of food?

TRACE workshop: Training on infrared spectroscopy and chemometrics

Juan Antonio Fernández Pierna, Vincent Baeten, CRA-W, BE, WP2 partner
(fernandez@cra.wallonie.be)

TRAINING
on

**Infrared spectroscopy
and Chemometrics**

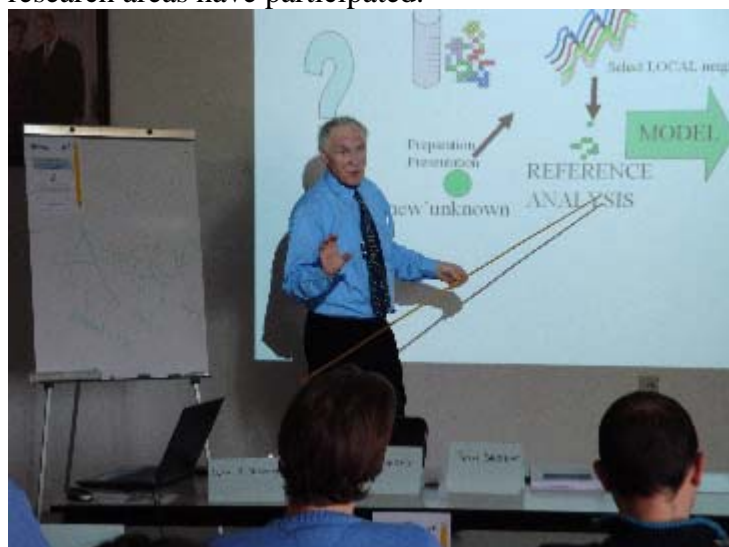
1st - 5th March 2010



Walloon Agricultural Research
Centre (CRA-W)
Quality of Agricultural Products
Department,
Gembloux – Belgium

<http://cra.wallonie.be>

In the framework of the TRACE project, the WP2 Partner, CRA-W, organised, in 2007 and for three consecutive years, a training week on vibrational spectroscopy and chemometrics. The aim of this annual training was to give a complete overview of the theoretical and practical issues of these techniques. During the three years training more than 30 participants coming from different countries and different working research areas have participated.



Invited teacher: Ian Murray (SAC – Scotland)

The evaluations, performed after each annual training, have shown that the information provided at the training course matches the participant needs. Moreover the participants confirm that most of the information received will be implemented into their experimental work and analytical practices. The positive evaluations concerning the organization, the competence of trainers to transfer the knowledge and the quality and relevance of provided materials and facilities of past trainings have driven to an increased yearly number of participants. This has led the CRA-W to continue with the organization of this annual training without the sponsoring of TRACE. Consequently a new training week will be organized in 2010.

More on [CRA-W website](http://cra.wallonie.be)



How does the food industry trace the foodstuffs?

TRACE workshop and research visit to Iowa State University

Kathryn A-M Donnelly NOFIMA WP5 and WP4

(kathryn.donnelly@nofima.no)

During June 2009 the researchers involved in WP4 and WP5 in the TRACE project gave a one day workshop as part of the “Agricultural and Food Traceability Conference” which was organised by Iowa State University. The workshop was held in Des Moines, the state capital of Iowa. The intention of the workshop was to give both researchers and industry members an insight into the practical implementation of traceability and the various European traceability initiatives. The presentations included the TraceFood Wiki, case studies and group work. There was much lively debate and the conference and workshop were very successful.

During May and June Iowa State University hosted a research visit by WP4/5 scientist Kathryn Donnelly. The visit facilitated knowledge exchange and the start of collaborative work on chain traceability in the soya bean sector which is an important oil seed throughout the world. Soya beans are often the object of import and export around the world and therefore a very interesting case for research on chain traceability.



Other *TRACE* News

TRACE at the first GoTrace symposium in New Zealand

Helen Darling, Manager Director, Oritain Global Ltd, NZ

(helen@forensicsolutions.co.nz)

2 July 2009

As a nation New Zealand exports around 80% of what it produces, with export markets reaching throughout the world. Similarly, Australia exports over 90% of wool and cotton it produces, nearly 80% of wheat and 50% of barley and rice, for example. As nations dependent upon robust supply chains to get produce to world markets safely and efficiently it is important that producers, exporters and regulators are informed and up-to-date regarding traceability and origin



technologies. The GoTrace Symposium was created with the intention of bringing together international and national experts with producers and regulators. The Symposium attracted over 100 delegates, many of whom had travelled considerable distance to participate in the day's activities. Delegates heard presentations from Paul Brereton and Jurian Hoogewerff about activities in the EU, and specifically, TRACE. Of interest to many delegates was the extent of work being conducted in the EU in terms of traceability system developments and there were many informal discussions

regarding possible future implications for those exporting to European markets. One of the more salient conversations regarding traceability systems was the need for consistency in approach to ensure systems developed in one country (or continent) were relevant and appropriate for target markets. In particular, there were concerns expressed regarding possible differences in motivations for the protection of the integrity of systems within different markets and this was identified as an area that needs further research and investigation. In addition to TRACE presentations, speakers included the Director of Fair Trading for the NZ Commerce Commission. The Commerce Commission are charged with ensuring the "truthfulness" of claims regarding food and other commodities, including claims regarding origin. This commercial perspective tied in well with the science from TRACE speakers in that it is regulatory bodies such as Commerce Commissions and Food Safety agencies that are most likely to query the robustness of any traceability or origin claim. Speakers covered scientifically advanced concepts such as origin authentication through the application of natural isotope ratio and trace element profiles (NITE, Jurian Hoogewerff) through to the use of photoluminescent quantum dots or semi-conductor nanoparticles to verify authenticity, to palynology to identify origin and differentiate batch products, specifically of counterfeit medications. The Symposium was sponsored by Oritain Global Limited, The University of Otago, GNS Science, GS1, the AgriBusiness Group and held in conjunction with TRACE-EU and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise. It is planned that the Symposium will occur on an annual basis and, after next year's meeting, will alternate between Australia and New Zealand.



More information about the conference:

<http://www.goTRACE.org>



News from other projects

NEW PROJECT BRIGHT ANIMAL

9 October 2009

BrightAnimal is an EU Framework 7 Co-ordination and Support Action project looking at Precision Livestock Farming (PLF). BrightAnimal will contribute to economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development by outlining a practical and acceptable methodology for precision livestock farming. To achieve this goal, BrightAnimal has the following mission:



To produce a framework for European and non-European small and medium enterprises on effective and acceptable precision livestock farming and to create an international, interdisciplinary network for further development and dissemination.

The main activity and achievement of BrightAnimal will be the elaboration of a book on effective Precision Livestock Farming in Europe and worldwide with special consideration of small and medium enterprises. The book aims at describing current and near-future techniques in PLF, especially taking into account both the practicality for SMEs as well as their acceptability (in the broader sense). The book will also try to set the scene for future developments.

As the second component of the framework, BrightAnimal will produce best precision livestock farming practices (BPLFP) in a series of “problematic” areas such as aquaculture, beef, sheep and chicken. These best practice guides will be released to the public domain in the form of booklets.

A third deliverable of the project will be a practical showcase activity showing the Good Practices in action in the European Centre of Excellence of Automatic Identification and Data Capture in the UK.

TRACE participants FoodReg and Nofima have key roles in the BrightAnimal project, and many of the activities that started in TRACE (like development of "good practice" guidelines and standards for electronic coding and transmission of food product properties) will be continued and expanded on in BrightAnimal.

Information supplied by Kathryn Donnelly, TRACE web-correspondent (Nofima)

Source : Bright animal

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FINAL CO-EXTRA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

20 August 2009

The Co-Extra international conference was organized to summarise the main achievements and results of the Project that is coming to an end in September 2009. The first session provided an overview on the results of related projects SIGMA and TransContainer, and introduced to the parallel sessions dealing with specific topics of Co-Extra. There were two parallel sessions A and B during which the main results in both areas of Co-existence and traceability were reviewed. The Conference also reported on important issues regarding liability and redress issues. Session 5 was dedicated to experiences from third countries. The stakeholder day was meant to present the main outcome of the project to various stakeholders. About 150 attended the event, which was moderated by a journalist. Representatives of the food industry, seed industry, consumers and environmentalism were present and contributed to the discussion. The main issues of discussion were liability and legal aspects in general related to coe-xistence and contaminations, labeling and thresholds, economic issues.

Information supplied by Hermann Broll, TRACE web-correspondent (BfR)

Source : CO-EXTRA

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News in Europe

ISOSCAPES: ISOTOPE MAPPING AND ITS APPLICATIONS

24 August 2009

This recent article by the TRACE scientists van der Veer et al., aims to continue the development of better spatial H and O isotope prediction models to assist provenancing of food and other more forensic applications like the identification of human remains.

Information supplied by Jurian Hoogewerff, TRACE web-correspondent (UEA)

Source : TRACE

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News outside Europe

CHINESE FISH TRACEABILITY TO BE IMPROVED

17 September 2009

China must further improve the traceability of its fisheries and fish processing industry if it wants to meet the forthcoming EU regulations aimed at combating illegal fishing, according to new a study by TRAFFIC, the WWF's wildlife trade-monitoring network.

Information supplied by Petter Olsen, TRACE web-correspondent (NOFIMA)

Source : TRAFFIC

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WORK NEEDED FOR CHINA FISH PROCESSING TO MEET NEW EU RULES, REPORT

27 August 2009

China's fish processing industry has made considerable progress in boosting its traceability procedures but must improve further if it wants to meet new EU regulations due to come into force next year.

Information supplied by Monika Tomaniová, ICT web-correspondent (ICT Prague)

Source : FoodQualityNews.com

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FLORIDA FIRST STATE TO GUARANTEE 'PURE' HONEY

15 July 2009

Florida has become the first state -- and possibly the first in the world -- to ban additives, chemicals or other substances from honey produced, sold or processed in Florida.

Information supplied by Freddy Thomas, TRACE web-correspondent (EUROFINS)

Source : Business Breaking News

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BOTTLED WATER

09 July 2009

Consumers know less about the water they pay dearly for in bottles than what they can drink almost for free from the tap because the two are regulated differently. Stricter labeling urged for bottled water.

Information supplied by Freddy Thomas, TRACE web-correspondent (EUROFINS)

Source : Associated Press

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Upcoming Events

3 November 2009
TRACE WORKSHOP ON DETERMINING
THE GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN OF FOOD
Prague – Czech Republic
[More...](#)



04 - 06 November 2009
4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON RECENT ADVANCES IN FOOD
ANALYSIS
Prague - Czech republic
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18 November 2009
EUROPEAN FOOD SCIENCE DAY
Brussels - Belgium
[More...](#)



30 November 2009 - 01 December 2009
ORGANIC FOOD AUTHENTICATION:
CHALLENGE OR UTOPIA?
Geel – Belgium
[More...](#)

02 - 03 December 2009
TRACE FINAL CONFERENCE
Bruxelles - Belgium
[More...](#)



TRACE FP6 project : www.trace.eu.org
For further information contact: trace.enquiries@trace.eu.org

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