

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

# Food authenticity and traceability NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> 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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## In the spotlight

### Lost without TRACE: new approaches for tracing the origin of food

*Paul Brereton, CSL, UK, TRACE coordinator*



The organising committee team would like to inform you that the registration for the 4<sup>th</sup> TRACE annual meeting planned on 23<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in Torremolinos in Spain has already started. This event dedicated to the new approaches for tracing the origin of food, is aimed specifically at directors and managers working in technical, quality assurance, quality control, supply chain and branding roles within the food industry as well as at representatives of control authorities and consumer's organizations.

This conference will include the workshop "TraceFood Framework and TraceCore XML - International standard for electronic exchange of product information in the food supply chain". More information is available on <http://www.trace.eu.org/je/spain/index.php>



### Spatial provenance modelling for food and other natural products

*Jurian Hoogewerff, UEA, UK and the TRACE consortium*



At the 2<sup>nd</sup> International soil forensics conference held on 30 October – 1 November 2007 at Edinburgh in UK, Jurian Hoogewerff gave a lecture on Spatial provenance modelling for food and other natural products. At this meeting, the TRACE project concepts, the progress on spatial traceability knowledge systems for mineral water and honey, and the extension of the methodology to forensic non-food items were presented.

More information is available on <http://www.soilforensicsinternational.org/>



## How to verify the authenticity of food?

### Multi-element (H,C,N,S) stable isotope characteristics of lamb meat from different European regions

*F. Camin, L. Bontempo, K. Heinrich, M. Horacek, S. D. Kelly, C. Schlicht, F. Thomas, F. J. Monahan, J. Hoogewerff and A. Rossmann  
TRACE WPI partners*



Multi-element (H,C,N,S) stable isotope ratio analysis was tested for its suitability as a means for geographical provenance assignment of lamb meat from several European regions. The defatted dry matter (crude protein fraction) from lamb meat was found to be a suitable probe for “light” element stable isotope ratio analysis. Significant differences were observed between the multi-element isotope ratios of lamb samples from different regions. The mean hydrogen isotopic ratios of the defatted dry matter from lamb were found to be significantly correlated with the mean hydrogen isotopic ratios of precipitation and groundwater in the production regions. Carbon and nitrogen isotopic ratios were influenced by feeding practices and climate. Sulfur isotopic ratios were influenced by geographical location and surface geology of the production region. The results permitted differentiation of lamb meat, from most production regions, by inspection. However, more sophisticated evaluation of the data using multivariate methods, such as linear discriminant analysis, achieved 78% correct classification. In [Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry](#), 389 (1), 309-320.



## How does the food industry trace the foodstuffs ?

### Traceability and origin as key factors for the food quality and safety

*Joop van der Roest, TRACE WP5 partner, RIKILT, Wageningen*

The 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007, in Vienna, the Association of Austrian Food and Biotechnologists in collaboration with AGES, the Austrian agency for health and food safety organised a workshop entitled “Traceability and origin as key factors for the food quality and safety”. Joop van der Roest presented the work provided by the Traceability Systems Group of TRACE (TSG) in a lecture entitled “[Tracing chemical residues in foods](#)”. He emphasized on the originality of the TSG work, producing the basis for a working traceability infrastructure that will:



- address general traceability requirements
- be open, non-proprietary and based on existing standards
- encourage and enable electronic interchange of traceability information
- enable verification of relevant parameters by providing a link to method specifications and measurement thresholds

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## What information is available for the consumer?

### “Risk and cost benefit analysis of traceability in the agri-food chain”

*George Chryssochoidis, TRACE WP7 leader, AUA, Athens*

*Cristina Mora, TRACE WP7 partner, Parma University, Italy*

The 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007, in ISPRA, MARS PAC in collaboration with CO-Extra and TRACE consortia organised a workshop entitled “Risk and cost benefit analysis of traceability in the agri-food chain”. The aim of this workshop was to have open and constructive discussion about risk and cost benefit analysis applied to analytical and documentary traceability implemented in the food and feed chain, including internal traceability at farm level.

A session on Consumers’ behaviour chaired by Paul Brereton, coordinator of the TRACE project, was dedicated to evaluating benefits of consumers vs. Companies interactions, including cost reduction, environmental sensitivity and concerns, food crisis impact on trade distortion. Cristina Mora gave a lecture entitled “[Present and future benefits of traceability in food markets: consumers’ perception and action](#)”. George Chryssochoidis presented a lecture entitled “[Consumer behaviour towards traceability: results from a pan-European modelling exercise & choice experiments](#)”.

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## Other TRACE News

### FIGHTING FOOD FRAUD WITH SCIENCE

15 November 2007

The September issue of the Chemistry world magazine gives an overview of the scientific techniques to fight the food fraud, in particular the ones developed in the TRACE project.

*Information supplied by Philippe Vermeulen, TRACE web-correspondent (CRA-W)*

Source : Chemistry world magazine

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## News from other projects

### SPANISH CHEESES TO BENEFIT FROM MODERN LOGISTICS TECHNOLOGIES

05 November 2007

In the framework of the European project CABRFID entitled "The Cabrales cheese traceability based on RFID technologies", German researchers are helping cheese makers from the northern Spanish region of Asturias apply the latest in logistics to their small scale operations.

*Information supplied by Philippe Vermeulen, TRACE web-correspondent (CRA-W)*

Source : CORDIS

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### VALIDATION TOOLS FOR FISH SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

26 October 2007

AZTI-Tecnalia has launched a free DNA database as part of the work developed in the Traceability pillar of the SEAFOODplus Integrated project.

*Information supplied by Begona Perez Villarreal, TRACE subcontractor (AZTI Tecnalia)*

Source : SeaFoodPlus - AZTI Tecnalia

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## News in Europe

### EU PROTECTS 'BELGIAN Jenever'

20 December 2007

Belgian jenever (gin) received geographical recognition by the European Union.

*Information supplied by Vincent Baeten, TRACE web-correspondent (CRA-W)*

Source : VRT-Nieuws

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### RFID TEST ON REUSABLE CONTAINERS LAUNCHED

07 December 2007

One of the world's largest field tests to combine radio frequency identification technology (RFID) with returnable packaging has been launched by an industry group.

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

Source : foodproductiondaily.com

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## **MORE INFORMATION ON RFID IN FOOD SECTOR**

05 December 2007

The site, DiscoverRFID.org, provides an internet information centre on radio frequency identification (RFID) including examples of some of the uses of RFID in the food sector as well as some case studies of the kind of testing performed by EPCglobal's Electronic Product Code (EPC).

*Information supplied by Philippe Vermeulen, TRACE web-correspondent (CRA-W)*

Source : foodproductiondaily.com

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## **TRACEABILITY SYSTEM FOR MULTIPLE AGRO-FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS**

26 November 2007

An Italian SME has developed a Web-based traceability software system. Advantages of the system include its ability to be directly configured by food safety experts without the need of software code re-engineering; moreover the system allows for simultaneous management and monitoring of multiple supply chains by the same organisation. The company is looking for consultancy firms that implement food-safety-related standards and recommendations across agro-food supply chains.

*Information supplied by Philippe Vermeulen, TRACE Web-correspondent (CRA-W)*

Source : IRC Network

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## **NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR THE UK'S FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY**

22 November 2007

The new Chief Executive of the Food Standards Agency is announced. Tim Smith formerly of Arla Foods takes over from John Harwood in 2008.

*Information supplied by Caroline Garrod, TRACE Web correspondent (CSL)*

Source : Food Production Daily

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## **SURVEY ON THE MEAT CONTENT OF CERTAIN MEAT PRODUCTS**

07 November 2007

A recent survey carried out by the FSA has shown that most manufacturers are able to calculate meat contents by species, in response to changes in labelling legislation requirements. This survey also evaluated the methods used to calculating meat content.

*Information supplied by Vincent Baeten, TRACE web-correspondent (CRA-W)*

Source : Food Standards Agency

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## TRACEABILITY IN THE BOVINE CHANNEL

02 November 2007

The "Pôle Technologique Agro-Alimentaire" (PTAA) reports in its last Newsletter a summary on the traceability in the bovine sector including together the feedingstuffs, the animal and the meat.

*Information supplied by Philippe Vermeulen, TRACE web-correspondent (CRA-W)*

Source : PTAA

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## RECALL OF BATCHES OF MR KIPLING ALMOND SLICES MISLABELLING

08 October 2007

Manor bakeries recalls certain batches of Mr Kipling Almond slices due to a labelling error resulting in an undeclared allergen.

*Information supplied by Vincent Baeten, TRACE web-correspondent (CRA-W)*

Source : Food Standards Agency

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## REVISION OF FOOD LABELLING GUIDANCE ON COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

24 September 2007

The Food Standards Agency asks for feedback regarding the "Country of Origin Guidance" published in 2002 in order to improve the guidance.

*Information supplied by Vincent Baeten, TRACE web-correspondent (CRA-W)*

Source : Food Standards Agency

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## News outside Europe

### SPIRITS GROUP CALLS FOR CHINESE COUNTERFEIT CRACKDOWN

27 November 2007

A quarter of all spirits brands claiming to be of European origin now sold in China are counterfeit, according to an EU liquor association.

*Information supplied by Monika Tomaniová, TRACE Web-correspondent (ICT Prague)*

Source : Food & Drink Europe

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## ONTRACE, A CANADIAN INITIATIVE

23 October 2007

OnTrace Agri-food Traceability is a Canadian corporation aiming to build and implement a traceability framework for the agriculture and agri-food sectors in Ontario and to co-ordinate with other national, provincial and commodity initiatives.



*Information supplied by Vincent Baeten, TRACE web-correspondent (CRA-W)*

Source : OnTrace

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## Upcoming Events

**23 - 25 January 2008**

10TH EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON STATISTICAL  
METHODS FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY  
Louvain-La-Neuve - Belgium

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**11 February 2008**

COMBATING FOOD FRAUD SEMINAR  
London - UK

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**20 - 22 February 2008**

EUROFINS INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR 2008  
Paris - France

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**25 - 29 February 2008**

TRAINING ON INFRARED  
SPECTROSCOPY AND  
CHEMOMETRICS  
Gembloux - Belgium

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**TRACE: 4TH ANNUAL MEETING**

Torremolinos - Spain

**23 April 2008**

WORKSHOP "TRACEFOOD FRAMEWORK AND  
TRACECORE XML"

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**24 - 25 April 2008**

CONFERENCE

"LOST WITHOUT TRACE:  
NEW APPROACHES FOR TRACING THE ORIGIN  
OF FOOD"

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**28 - 30 May 2008**

8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
MANAGEMENT IN AGRIFOOD CHAINS AND  
NETWORKS

Ede - The Netherlands

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**12 - 16 May 2008**

6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON ISOTOPES

Seoul - Korea

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*TRACE* FP6 project : [www.trace.eu.org](http://www.trace.eu.org)

For further information contact: [trace.enquiries@trace.eu.org](mailto:trace.enquiries@trace.eu.org)

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