

L.11.- Stratfeed project overview

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To contribute to the implementation of the Commission decisions and to reduce the economic impact of a total ban on the use of MBM, it was clear that a research project at the European level had to be built to develop new tools and methods for the detection and the quantification of meat and bone meal in the feedingstuffs: STRATFEED answered to those European needs. The STRATFEED project was submitted by CRA-W in 1999 within the Measurement and Testing generic activity of the GROWTH programme FP5. It has been launched since the 1st January 2001 for a period of 42 months. The STRATFEED consortium was coordinated by the Walloon Agricultural Research Centre in Belgium and gathered 10 partners including official laboratories, research centres, universities and private companies (CRA-W, FUSAGx, AFSCA-FVLT, JRC-IRMM, NUTRECO, RIKILT, SAC, UCO, LAGC and ISS) from 5 EU countries involved in the control of compound feeds, the development of new methods, the validation of new methods and the application of the methods to the industry. During the project, it was decided to extend the consortium and three new institutes (ALP, LUFA and DPD) were invited to join the STRATFEED project to share the experience in classical microscopy of their country not yet represented in the consortium. Different collaborators have been involved too for carrying out specific tasks.

The STRATFEED project structure was centred around 7 workpackages. One workpackage (WP1) was devoted to the management of the project, one workpackage (WP2) to the constitution of a sample bank and to the preparation of the sample sets analysed in the project, 3 workpackages (WP3, WP4 and WP5) were devoted to the improvement of the existing official method (i.e. Classical microscopy) and to the development of new methods (i.e. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) and Near-infrared microscopy (NIRM)), one workpackage (WP6) was dedicated to constructing an Internet site and a European database. The project included a well-established validation plan as well (WP7). The tasks undertaken in workpackage 7 (following-up the method development, the method validation and the organisation of collaborative studies) have ensured the development of robust methods. During the progress of the project, the European legislation was modified a lot moving from a ruminant ban to a total ban and recently considering the species ban. The STRATFEED consortium has taken this evolution in consideration and has continuously adapted the development of the methods in order to fit the new analytical challenge.

In terms of management, during those three years, six internal project meetings were organised in the partners countries and several extraordinary meetings were planned by the workpackage leaders. Beside those project meetings, others were organized with the European commission or local authorities and the STRATFEED partners also attended some international scientific meetings to report about the work produced in the project. All the work was reported in 13 newsletters and 6 reports.

To disseminate the results of the project, an international symposium entitled "Food and feed safety in the frame of TSE" was planned in Namur (Belgium) on the 16th, 17th and 18th June 2004. The publication of the proceedings will be published in the Journal BASE, Biotechnology, Agronomy, Society and Environment Vol 8(4). The other main ways of spreading the results are the website (<http://stratfeed.cra.wallonie.be>), the publications and a lot of actions linked to each workpackage, described in the electronic technology implementation plan.

Key words

Project management, consortium, feed domain, FP5, website, symposium