P.19.- Development of a website and an information system for an EU R&D project: the example of the STRATFEED project

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The multidisciplinary nature, the international partnership and the large amount of information to be managed in the European project STRATFEED, required the development of an information management system in three facets.

The first part concerns the data and information collection. On the one hand, the different labs produce a lot of data concerning the identification of the samples and regarding analyses by classical microscopy, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) or near infrared microscopy (NIRM). On the other hand, each participating team provides information that is useful for the management of the project. Such information includes, for instance, the project description, details of the partners, bibliographic references, newsletters, events, reports, lectures from meetings and EC documents. All of these types of information and data are available in different formats.

The second part of the computer system, and one of the project's objectives, is to build a database to gather and store all the relevant data and information in a dedicated structure. The MS *Access* platform has been selected to implement the database and to manage both numbers and text as well as figures and files.

From a well-defined and structured database, any application can be developed; this is the third part of the flowchart. In the frame of the project, two types of application have been developed: an information communication tool using the website to facilitate exchange between the partners and data exploitation tools including a manager specifically for the use of the database administrator, an explorer dedicated to the user to enable exploration of the available data, and two decision support systems designed for the classical microscopy. The STRATFEED Internet site is based on an environment for development (*Cold fusion web application server*) that enables the user to create dynamic web pages.

This attractive website with those different applications built and improved during 3 years is used at the end of the project, as the main tool for the dissemination and the valorisation of the results about the detection of MBM in feedingstuffs.The website will be maintained by CRA-W at least 3 years. It will also facilitate the follow-up on the project. The applications will be maintained and updated as often as necessary, depending on the development of the BSE problem and on the research. Other tools may also be developed around the database. The modular structure of the system, according to the different topics of the project, facilitates updating and favours the development of further tools. The concept developed for the STRATFEED project can be used for any other project and can easily be adapted to meet new requirements.The example of the STRATFEED project can be accessed at: http://stratfeed.cra.wallonie.be.

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Reference

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