

Communication 024/2024

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From Germany via France to South Korea: Knowledge exchange for safe food along the supply chain

Since July 2010, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has been working together with the National Institute of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation (NIFDS), a research institution of the South Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS, formerly KFDA). The focus of this collaboration is on the scientific risk assessment of food and animal feed. This cooperation, which was renewed in 2015, aims to exchange knowledge on food safety standards and risk assessment between Germany and South Korea. Since 2010, the BfR and the South Korean partner institution have organised joint international symposia almost every two years, with each symposium focussing on a specific risk assessment topic. The symposium, which this time was hosted by the BfR on 27 May 2024 and in which the French food safety authority, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES), participated as a partner, dealt with the topic of global commodity chains, among others.

The delegations met under the leadership of BfR President Professor Andreas Hensel, ANSES Director General Professor Benoît Vallet and Director General of the NIFDS Food Safety Evaluation Department Dr Keum-soon Oh. They agreed that the challenges to food safety posed by global trade and the associated long transport routes can only be overcome with scientific expertise. In view of the long distances that products travel between Europe and South Korea, it is important for the institutions to remain in close dialogue about the current state of research.

Research and standardisation are the basis for quality-assured trade, not only in the food sector but also far beyond, for example in the safety of consumer products including cosmetics. The BfR and its partner institutions confirm their intention to continue to promote this joint exchange of knowledge and the initiation of joint scientific projects. The next areas to be targeted include new methodologies for the risk assessment of chemicals and Total Diet Studies (TDS).

The "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation" between the BfR and the NIFDS, which was signed in 2010 and renewed in 2015, created a basis for scientific exchange. This exchange is actively realised together with ANSES and other international partners via regular symposia and other scientific collaborations.

Communication in French:

<https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/de-l-allemande-a-la-coree-du-sud-en-passant-par-la-france-change-de-connaissances-pour-des-aliments-surs-tout-au-long-de-la-chaine-d-appvisionnement.pdf>

About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. The BfR advises the Federal Government and the States ('Laender') on questions of food, chemicals and product safety. The BfR conducts independent research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

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