

Long-standing partnership with Uruguay: Training on risk assessment of contaminants in foods

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From 21 to 24 March 2023, experts from the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), the Uruguayan Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) and other local institutions came together for a technical training with lectures and working groups. The primary goal was to learn and apply current methods for risk analysis and assessment.

The training was attended by 40 experts with different scientific backgrounds, such as veterinary medicine, food and agricultural technology and chemistry. The participants acquired in-depth knowledge about polychlorinated dioxins and furans as well as dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other contaminants in food. Further sessions dealt with effective risk communication, the results of the first German Total Diet Study (the BfR MEAL Study; "Meals for exposure assessment and analysis of food") and the transfer of substances along the food chain.

Uruguay and Germany have a long-standing close partnership in the field of agriculture and food. Uruguay is an important trading partner for the EU, supplying of agricultural products, in particular foodstuffs such as cereals and raw materials for feed such as soybeans. Therefore, food safety issues along the supply chain are of fundamental importance. The BfR and the MGAP signed a cooperation agreement in 2014 in which they planned to carry out such technical training to facilitate knowledge transfer and, among other things, to further strengthen competence in these areas.

Since the beginning of the cooperation between the BfR and the MGAP almost ten years ago, there have already been several joint activities. In addition to several reciprocal delegation visits at management and technical level, the Summer Academy organised by the BfR on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Uruguay in 2018 and the first "Latin American and Caribbean Risk Assessment Symposium" (LARAS) in 2019 have been particularly memorable. The latter was launched on the initiative of MGAP and BfR, when 152 food safety experts from seven countries gathered in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Further information on the BfR website on the subject of BfR co-operations

Overview page: https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/co_operation-10337.html

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, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

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