

Successful Sino-German Summer School on Risk Assessment

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Globally, awareness of food safety issues is growing. This increased interest is embodied in requests to the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) to organise training events. In September 2019, a summer school entitled “*Sino-German Summer School on Risk Assessment on Agro-Products*” was held in Tianjin (China). The main focus lay in the harmonisation of methods for the health assessment of risks posed by chemical impurities (contaminants) in agricultural products. The event is part of a successful seven-year scientific collaboration between the BfR and the *Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)*. “The summer school represents a milestone on the road to harmonising methods for health-related risk assessment in the age of globalisation of the food and feed trade,” says Prof. Dr. Dr. Andreas Hensel, President of the BfR. The training event aimed to deepen mutual understanding in the assessment of health risks and to train and educate young scientists in the field of consumer health protection.

Since 2012, the BfR has organised a *Summer Academy on Risk Assessment and Risk Communication* every year in Berlin to familiarise scientists from all over the world with the methods of risk assessment and risk communication. In order to accommodate the high number of applications, the BfR, together with its international partner institutions, has recently begun to break new ground and organise further training courses locally. In particular, the focus will be on those regions which, due to the globalisation of the food and feed trade, are of significant importance for food and feed safety in Germany and Europe, such as South America (Uruguay), Africa and now also China. Around 280 participants from the *Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)*, the key institutions of CAAS and regional institutions from 27 provinces, as well as other scientific institutes and universities, attended the summer school in Tianjin (China).

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. It advises the Federal Government and Federal 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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