

## INTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Targeted research**

In January 2022, the BfR established two new junior research groups to expand existing core research areas. In the area of risk communication, one team will in future be conducting research on the topic of reputation and confidence building, while the second group will focus on methods for the assessment of mixture toxicities in the area of pesticide safety. The Study Centre for Social Science Risk Communication Research was also newly established. Study centres at the BfR work cross-institutional and seek to refine risk assessment and communication and thus consumer protection

**Promoting science in Berlin**

The non-university institutes and centres bundled in the “Berlin Research 50” network have presented the Berlin Senate with a joint list of demands for future non-university research in Berlin. The network demands, for example, that joint appointments be simplified and that the infrastructure for excellent research be promoted. The initiative was launched in 2020 and aims to strengthen the capital as a science location. The more than 50 members represent research areas from all scientific fields – the BfR has also been a member since its founding.

More information: [www.br50.org](http://www.br50.org) > EN > Topics > Interest Groups > IG Program

**From the university laboratory to research**

What substances change human cells? This question was explored by Heidi Frank, a student at the Berlin University of Applied Sciences (HTW), during an internship for her final thesis at the BfR. In the Chemical and Product Safety Department, she was able to apply the knowledge from her Life Science Engineering degree programme to a concrete research project. The HTW and the BfR work closely together, especially on student research projects and theses, giving students regular opportunities to get a taste of practical experience. Exciting reports about the exchange can be found in the HTW’s online magazine “Campus Stories”.

More information: [www.htw-berlin.de](http://www.htw-berlin.de) > Search: Campus Stories (in German)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**The fridge is alive**

- only in our series on the topic of “Correct Refrigeration”, however. Here, our comic characters provide tips on how cooling food properly can prevent infections in the home: Keeping your fridge in order the right way? – Ms Cucumber, Mr Leek and the Berry Gang know the ropes. How long does minced meat keep? – Ms Lettuce and Mr Cress explain the use-by date and when minced meat has to be cooked on the same day it’s purchased. These likeable characters explain interesting facts about refrigeration, storage and the proper chilling of food. Video tutorials on YouTube bring the cartoon characters to life.



More information (in German):  
[youtube.de](https://www.youtube.de) > Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung  
[instagram.de](https://www.instagram.de) > BfRde

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Together for more chemical safety

In May 2022, the Partnership for the Assessment of Risk from Chemicals (PARC), established with around 200 European institutions and organisations, including the BfR, started work. PARC is part of the EU-wide research and innovation programme. The members will work together over the next seven years to identify knowledge gaps in the risk assessment of chemicals and to better manage hazards using new data, knowledge and methods. It is coordinated by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES).

### How safe are edible insects?

In Germany, the idea still takes some getting used to, but in other cultures they have been on the menu for a long time. To better identify health impairments that could result from consuming them, the BfR and Jomo Kenyatta University in Nairobi/Kenya have launched the ContamInsect project. The international team is researching whether and to what extent Kenya's most commonly consumed insect species are contaminated with undesirable substances and whether mould toxins (mycotoxins) are transferred from the feed into the insects. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

More information:  
BfR Communication No. 006/2022 of 2 February 2022

### Cooperation

Since March 2022, a framework collaborative agreement has strengthened cooperation and joint applied research between the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) in Leipzig and the BfR. Together, they are investigating the effects of substances and mixtures on human health and environmental organisms. The focus is on the areas of experimental toxicology and analytics with the aim of developing new risk assessment strategies for the safety of chemicals and strengthening consumer and environmental protection. In addition to events, the cooperation aims to apply for and carry out collaborative projects and to jointly supervise student research projects and theses.

### Flagship project on digitalisation

For institutes to work well together on a digital level, cross-agency data infrastructures are needed. Within the framework of the pilot project "Digitisation Laboratory for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection", the Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) in Quedlinburg and the BfR will in future pool their expertise in digitisation and tackle digitisation projects as a team. One example of this collaboration is the approval and evaluation of plant protection products, for which both institutions are working on partial aspects. They are thus interested in joint solutions for data transmission, storage and availability.

## EVENTS



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### Off to the Nectar Hectare!

What's an average work day for bees? How does the pollination of plants work? And how is honey actually produced? Visitors to the 5th interactive BfR Plant Labyrinth on the subject of bees – the BfR Nectar Hectare ("BfR Nektar Hektar") – will find answers to these questions. From 25 August to 30 September between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. on Tuesdays to Sundays – they can go on a discovery tour through a large field of maize, sunflowers and other plants in Berlin-Marienfelde and learn interesting facts about the insect. Admission is free of charge.

More information: [www.bfr-akademie.de/en](http://www.bfr-akademie.de/en)