

Exchange about flows of goods more necessary than ever

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The current edition of the BfR scientific publication provides an overview of the state of research on the safety of feed and food in global trade. The global demand for high-quality foods has led to raw materials and products for feed and food from all continents being traded and processed nowadays. The authors present examples of the current state of knowledge on the contamination of feed and food of animal (e.g. fish, seafood) and plant origin (e.g. herbs, spices) with toxins, mycotoxins and pathogens. The importance of global commodity chains towards daily consumption of potentially hazardous substances in food is illustrated. In addition, a team of authors explains new methods for tracking and identifying disease-causing germs more quickly and effectively.

The scientific publication serves primarily as an information source for the professional public and people who deal with this subject professionally.

Link to the publication: <https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/350/feed-and-food-safety-in-times-of-global-production-and-trade.pdf>

In times of complex global flows of goods, the safety of feed and food must be guaranteed. The BfR has taken this into account by focusing on commodity chains. In its scientific publication *“Feed and food safety in times of global production and trade”*, the chemical and microbiological hazards posed by food and feed as well as the exposure of consumers are examined in light of global trade and illustrated using concrete examples.

Results from national and international BfR research projects were incorporated into the scientific contributions. An extensive overview is given about the influence of international trade flows on the quality and safety of foods, while also taking into account regional consumption habits of the population. Further topics are food fraud and the analytical authentication of feed and food. Modern molecular biology methods are presented (whole genome analysis, metagenomic analysis) for investigating disease outbreaks and software tools for the assessment of chemical and microbiological hazards of food and feed along the entire commodity chain.

The greatest challenges for risk assessment and communication in this regard represent the availability of survey data and the exchange of knowledge about current flows of goods at an international level.

Further information on the subject ... from the BfR website

Food and globalisation, BfR stakeholder conference 2014 (in German)

<https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/350/5-bfr-stakeholderkonferenz-lebensmittelsicherheit-und-globalisierung-herausforderungen-und-chancen-tagungsband.pdf>

Food safety and globalisation - challenges and opportunities, Press Release, 13/2014, 02.06.2014

https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/press_information/2014/13/food_safety_and_globalisation_challenges_and_opportunities-190341.html

EFSA & BfR collaboration on global food safety, 2016

<https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/349/efsa-and-bfr-to-work-jointly-on-global-food-safety-tools.pdf>



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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 German federal government and federal states 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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