

# Greater public confidence through integrated risk analysis

## INTEGRATED PROJECT

### Background/description of problem

Scares about BSE and GM crops have reduced consumer confidence in the food supply chain, often out of all proportion to the real risk. European experts in risk analysis have, to some extent, restored that trust but consumers still need more access to all the important information about food they might eat. A more focused application of risk analysis to new processes in food production would help to avoid unnecessary food scares in the future.

### Project profile

In the major SAFE FOODS project, partners from 33 institutions are developing a new integrated approach to further improve the risk analysis of foods produced by conventional, biotechnological or organic production methods. They combine the skills of natural and social scientists with those of breeders, growers, food producers and regulatory bodies. They will develop new analytical procedures for assessing risk, apply them to new processes in food production, and test them with the help of consumer organisations and other stakeholders. This should boost consumer trust in food production.



### International aspects

Although consumer attitudes and regulatory frameworks differ in other parts of the world, risk analysis of food production plays an important part in public health and food safety. Partners from South Africa and China will help the risk analysis to be applied globally.

### Socio-economic significance

SAFE FOODS will have the following long-term socio-economic impacts:

- It will give proper weight to consumer concern about the safety of food
- It will increase transparency and consumer confidence in the food supply chain
- It will save the agro-food industry unnecessary cost by identifying potential risks in new production practices earlier
- It will strengthen the competitiveness of the European food industry.



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### Basic project information

**Full project title:** Promoting food safety through a new integrated risk analysis approach for foods

**Duration:** 48 months

**Starting year:** 2004

**EU funding:** €11.4 million

**FP6 instrument used:** Integrated Project

**Project coordinator:**

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**Third country partner(s) involved:**

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa), Institute of Crop Germplasm Resources (China), National Institute of Nutrition and Food Safety (China)

**Project website:** [www.safefoods.nl](http://www.safefoods.nl)

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### Scientific significance

The project will contribute to the following scientific areas:

- Risk assessment, risk management and risk communication in the area of food safety
- A quantitative assessment of combined risks from food contaminants and natural toxins
- Design of an integrated risk analysis approach for foods using new scientific assessment methods.

### Project outcomes

- A comparative safety evaluation of high- and low-input systems for stock breeding and food production
- Early detection of emerging risks associated with food and feed production
- Investigation of the potential role of regulatory organisations in managing the risks associated with the food chain
- Trial by consumer organisations and other stakeholders of the new integrated risk analysis approach.