

Capacity Building in the Field of Food Safety, Authenticity, and Origin

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Strengthening Member States' capabilities to assess the safety, authenticity, and origin of food:
The activities of the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre's Food Safety and Control Laboratory

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ABSTRACT:

Food safety is of paramount importance to safeguard public health, ensure food security, and facilitate market access and international trade. Apart from the occurrence of toxic contaminants and residues in food commodities, food fraud is another major challenge to the food supply, which not only is deceiving the consumer, but can also have serious safety implications.

The activities of the Food Safety and Control Laboratory (FSCL) will be presented. FSCL is located at the FAO/IAEA Agriculture and Biotechnology Laboratories of the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, in Seibersdorf, Austria. The laboratory assists Member States to improve laboratory and regulatory practices and methodologies in the areas of food safety, authenticity, and origin. This is achieved through applied research and method development, technology transfer and the provision of data and expertise to support the development of international standards and guidelines, as well as providing necessary tools for response to emerging and emergency food safety issues affecting Member States.

FSCL develops and transfers rapid screening and confirmatory analytical methods, based on nuclear and complementary techniques, to support Member States to produce analytical data, which are essential to provide feedback to regulators, farmers/producers, and post-production industry, on the effectiveness of the regulations and practices put in place to ensure food safety and authenticity.