

BETTER TRAINING FOR SAFER FOOD

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About this newsletter

This newsletter contains information on training activities organised within the Better Training for Safer Food initiative of the European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Consumers. It also gives details of all other issues related to the initiative.

Further information on Better Training for Safer Food can be found at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.htm

Programme 2010

A range of new areas for BTSF

Spring 2010 sees the beginning of several new programmes running this year and next within the Better Training for Safer Food initiative (BTSF). In line with the continuous expansion of the initiative since its launch in 2006, various subjects are set for inclusion in BTSF's training offer for the first time in 2010.

As concerns EU-based training, these subjects include controls on food and feed of non-animal origin and health of aquaculture animals and of bees and exotic zoo animals. A new subject for third countries is analysis of genetically modified organisms. At the same time, training on food testing, previously intended specifically for participants from the Association of South-East Asian Nations region expands to include developing countries in general as well as a broader selection of health and plant health-related subjects.

In addition, certain subjects which featured in previous years but which had not been included in 2009 make a comeback in 2010. These are the EU-based programmes on animal by-products, food contact materials and prevention, control and eradication of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

Nevertheless, BTSF does not concern itself only with expansion but also with consolidation. This being the case, the vast majority of the programmes which ran during 2009 again form part of the training offer for 2010.

For the EU, these include Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point, checks at border inspection posts, animal welfare, monitoring of zoonoses, food hygiene and controls, plant health controls, feed law and plant protection products. As regards third

countries, continuing programmes cover EU food standards, control of avian influenza and other animal diseases and the EU's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

Aside from the standard activity, the Better Training for Safer Food in Africa programme which was launched in 2009 will continue until the end of 2010. This aims to strengthen the capacity of African countries to produce and export safe food by providing training and technical assistance on sanitary and phytosanitary issues.

For a more extensive description of the 2010 programmes, please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/training/index_en.htm

Training programmes

Healthy animals in the air and the zoo and underwater

As seen above, two of the programmes featuring in BTSF for the first time in 2010 focus on the subject of animal health. One of these is concerned primarily with the health of aquaculture animals. The other looks at bees and exotic zoo animals.

The Commission has received feedback from Member State authorities and other stakeholders, demonstrating the need for EU-level training on emerging diseases affecting these kinds of animals. As a result, training has been launched on these subjects in order to convey a common and clear understanding of the current situation concerning relevant diseases and related EU legislation. This should better equip veterinary services to guard against diseases affecting the groups of animals in question.





For both programmes, six three-day workshops are planned during 2010-11, each catering for around 40 participants. They are mainly aimed at national authority animal health control staff from EU Member States, candidate and associated countries and selected third countries.

The contractor for the aquaculture-related training is the European Application of Technology and Services (AETS) consortium and courses are planned to take place in Weymouth (UK) and Vigo (Spain). Training on bees and zoo animals is organised by JVL Consulting and workshops are to be held in Prague and Berlin.

A variety of subjects

As concerns the training related to aquaculture animals, two workshops focus on molluscs and crustacean diseases, with the remaining four dealing mainly with fish diseases. For the programme on bees and exotic zoo animals, four workshops cover bee diseases and the others concentrate on those affecting animals destined for EU zoos, as well as approval procedures for zoos and similar establishments.

Main subjects for the aquaculture diseases workshops are likely to include EU legislation on aquaculture animal diseases, diseases of particular concern, inspection and sampling, control of outbreaks, bio-security and surveillance. Visits to fish farms are also planned, during which participants will be able to discuss and observe application of EU norms.

Training on bee diseases gives a general overview of bees and beekeeping. It also looks at regulations to control diseases and practical means of control. Extensive practical training is to be given and participants are to visit bee yards to view, discuss and reflect on practical handling of bees and inspection of bee colonies.

Workshops on zoo animals feature presentations on zoos and their societal context, exotic animal diseases relevant for EU zoos as well as relevant legislation and its implementation. Practical sessions focus on aspects such as quarantine procedures. In addition, field visits to zoos will allow participants to consider subjects such as animal behaviour as well as sampling, handling and anaesthesia of animals.



Upcoming events

8-12 March: Control and eradication of salmonella in poultry and pigs, Berlin

15-19 March: Controls on feed law, Brussels

15-19 March: Better Training for Safer Food in Africa - regional food hygiene workshop for North Africa, Morocco

23-26 March: Veterinary and food safety checks in seaport border inspection posts, Southampton, UK

23-26 March: Controls of food and feed of non-animal origin, Livorno, Italy

30 March-2 April: Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES), Madagascar

For further information on all issues related to BTSF please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/training/index_en.htm

