|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **EUROPEAN COMMISSION****CONSUMERS HEALTH AND FOOD EXECUTIVE AGENCY****Contract 2013 96 10**Organisation and implementation of training activities on strengthening Member States' response to Union audits under the Better Training for Safer Food initiative |

Invitation to attend BTSF Workshop

THE ROLE OF FORMULATION ANALYSIS IN THE DETECTION OF COUNTERFEIT/ILLEGAL PESTICIDES

To be held at FVO, Grange, Ireland on 23 – 25 SEPTEMBER 2015

Dear invited speaker/participant

You are invited to attend the workshop: ‘The role of formulation analysis in the detection of counterfeit/illegal pesticides’ to be held at the European Commission Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), Grange, Dunsany, County Meath, Ireland from Wednesday 23 September – Friday 25 September 2015.

The workshop is being organised by Food Safety Training Solutions (FSTS) under the European Commission Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative.

Owing to the highly specialised nature of this training the European Commission Food and Veterinary Office has had prior contact with the relevant competent authorities in your country regarding the identification of suitable experts to attend as speakers and participants. As a result you have been invited to attend the workshop.

**Overall objective**

The overall objective of BTSF training under this contract is to strengthen Member States’ (MSs) response to FVO audits.

Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerns official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules. Article 45 of the Regulation requires that Commission experts carry out general and specific audits in MSs. The main purpose is to verify that official controls take place in MSs in accordance with multi-annual national control plans and in compliance with Community law.

Audits are carried out by the FVO of the European Commission Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE).

The **goals** of the workshop are that participants and their respective Member States:

1. take ownership of the findings and conclusions of audit overview reports and use them to improve their official control activities;
2. gain an understanding of good practices elsewhere in the EU and how they might be adopted in their own situation, possibly with modification to the specific structures and organisation of controls;
3. discuss weaknesses and recurring problems with a view to identifying possible root causes and solutions to remedy or alleviate the problems.

**Specific objectives of the workshop**

The FVO carried out an audit series on controls of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 in the period January 2012 – June 2014. The objective of the audits was to evaluate the control systems in place for PPPs in MSs. The main focus was on official controls on the marketing and use of PPPs. In addition, issues related to the authorisation of PPPs and the sustainable use of pesticides were covered. After the completion of the audit series, an Overview Report was drafted. In this report, the main weaknesses found were described, but also good practices identified in MSs.

Formulation analysis of pesticides and controls on illegal/counterfeit pesticides were among the common weaknesses identified and there is a close link between both of these issues. For this reason, further specific objectives of the BTSF session include the following: (i) to identify best practices for risk-based sampling for suspected illegal and counterfeit pesticides; (ii) to establish co-operation and communication between laboratories analysing suspect illegal or counterfeit pesticides and (iii) to identify suitable laboratory methods for the detection of illegal/counterfeit pesticides.

The legal basis for PPP controls is Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, Directive 2009/128/EC and Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

**Pre-conditions for high impact of the training**

1. The workshop is aimed primarily at participants from MSs. The workshop is not aimed at trainers or inspectors but rather at laboratory managers who are responsible for formulation analysis, or, alternatively, experts involved in drafting sampling and analysis programmes for PPPs.
2. The workshop will involve presentation of the findings of the FVO Overview Report on controls of PPPs and, in particular, issues related to quality controls of pesticides, strategies and policies with regard to illegal/counterfeit pesticides.
3. Pre-selected Member State experts will present specific examples of good practice.
4. Participants should guarantee to disseminate the findings from the workshop on return to their MSs. Dissemination methods will be addressed in group discussions and follow-up support will be provided, including the use of web tools.
5. Information packages will be forwarded to participants at least one week before the workshop.
6. The format of the workshop is designed to encourage participation, peer group discussions and sharing of ideas. Participants will have an opportunity to share their experiences in the workshop and plenary sessions.
7. Please note that the workshop will be conducted in English and interpretation will not be available.

The workshop is being organised by the Food Safety Training Solutions (FSTS) Consortium who will act as facilitators and provide pedagogical support. This will include specific web-based services before, during and after the event.

**Timing**

The workshop sessions will start on Wednesday afternoon, 23 September 2015 and end at lunchtime on Friday, 25 September 2015.

Depending on flight schedules to Dublin airport the aim is that most participants will travel to FVO, Grange, Ireland on the morning of Wednesday, 23 September 2015 and return home on Friday afternoon, 25 September 2015. Participants for whom it is not possible to arrange suitable flight connections will arrive on Tuesday, 22 September 2015 or return on Saturday 26 September 2015. .

**TRAINING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, 23 September 2015**

***Afternoon session (including coffee break)***

1. Welcome (FSTS and FVO)
2. Legal framework for PPP controls – Patrizia Pitton (DG SANCO)
3. Presentation of Overview Report – Tsvetana Georgieva (FVO)
4. Role of EU Reference Laboratories (RLs) – needs and potential for establishing an EU RL for formulation analyses – Amadeo Fernandez-Alba – (EU RL Almeria);
5. Experience and results from investigations regarding counterfeit pesticides – Marta Castillo Gonzalez (OLAF);
6. Examples of good practice – controls on illegal/counterfeit pesticides, including PPP import controls;

F.1. Presentation by Austria: Identification and further investigations with regard to distribution of illegal/counterfeit pesticides in 8 MSs, 2011 case [15 minutes]

F.2. Presentation by France: Investigations regarding illegal/counterfeit pesticides in co-operation with other MSs, including the case from 2011 presented by Austria – outcome of further investigations in France;

F.3. Presentation by Germany: Targeted PPP import controls at Hamburg Port [15 min]

F.4. Presentation by the Netherlands: Experience with regard to PPP import controls at Rotterdam Port [15 min]

**Thursday, 24 September 2015**

***Morning session (including coffee break)***

1. Summary of the outcome from FVO audits on PPP controls with the main focus on controls at pesticide manufacturers, importers, re-packers after having visited 4 MSs – Dara O'Shea (FVO) [15 min]
2. Examples of Good Practice – PPP formulation analyses / PPP sampling programmes

B.1. Presentation by Ireland: FTIR techniques and profiling; [15 min]

B.2. Presentation by Austria: Formulation analysis of parallel trade PPPs [15 min]

B.3. Presentation by the Czech Republic: targeted sampling of PPPs and analytical techniques used for the identification of non-authorised PPPs found to be applied;

B.4. Presentation by Hungary: Experience and difficulties faced with regard to formulation analyses and counterfeit pesticides [15 min],

1. Discussion groups – 5-6 people per group mentored by FVO staff/speakers.

***Afternoon session (including coffee break)***

1. Discussion groups - continued

**Friday, 25 September 2015**

***Morning session (including coffee break)***

1. Presentation on potential solutions provided to DG SANTE BXL – Tsvetana Georgieva (FVO) [10 min]
2. Presentation of group proposals for:

B.1. Identifying best practices with regard to formulation analysis, including planning of PPP sampling. Development of an approach for follow-up action;

B.2. Possible solutions for improvement of formulation analysis, including:

* best use of laboratory resources;
* equipment needed for effective and efficient laboratory analysis;
* exchange of information/practices between MSs;
* contribution by the EU and/or the pesticide industry;

B.3. Links between formulation analysis and controls on illegal/counterfeit pesticides;

B.4. Identification of training needs for Competent Authority inspectors;

B.5. Proposals for future ‘routine’ training organised in the framework of BTSF.

1. Final discussion and summarising on the following:
* Existing best/good practices in individual MSs and possibilities for these to be transferred/introduced in other MSs; efforts and resources involved;
* Possible solutions for improving the effectiveness of PPP quality controls and controls on illegal/counterfeit pesticides;
* Further actions to be undertaken at MS and EU level

**12.30 pm. End of workshop, lunch and depart**

Further information and course material will be made available to participants on a dedicated website before the start of the event.

**Social events**

A welcome cocktail party will be held at the hotel on the first evening. FVO staff and course tutors will be invited. This will be followed by dinner for participants.

A three course dinner will be held on the second evening followed by a show of Irish music.

**Logistical arrangements**

The Food Safety Training Solutions Consortium (FSTS) led by Agri-Livestock Consultants Ltd (ALC) has been appointed to organise the event and make logistical arrangements. The FSTS contact address is alc.btsf@gmail.com. Participant arrangements will be made by Anne Martin, who can be contacted at this address.

The following participant costs will be paid by the European Commission:

1. Economy class (or equivalent) flights from the nearest convenient airport to Dublin or first-class train or bus travel as appropriate; transfer from and to Dublin airport to the hotel; transfers from the hotel to FVO offices and any visit locations.
2. Travel costs from the participant’s home to the nearest airport/bus station/train station will be covered if requested together with an estimate of the costs. You are expected to travel by public transport wherever possible.
3. Full board accommodation including room, breakfast, lunch and dinner.
4. Refreshments during morning and afternoon coffee breaks.

**Travel**

It is anticipated that most participants will arrive at FVO, Grange on Wednesday morning, 23 September 2015. Some participants may need to arrive on Tuesday, 22 September 2015 if it is not possible to arrange flights on Wednesday morning. Most participants will depart on Friday 25 September unless it is not possible to arrange flight connections and it is necessary to stay an extra night.

**Hotel**

Accommodation will be provided at the Trim Castle Hotel, a short journey from the FVO offices at Grange:

Trim Castle Hotel, Castle Street, Trim, Co. Meath, Ireland
Telephone: +353 (0)46 948 3000

Fax: +353 (0)46 948 3077
Email: info@trimcastlehotel.com

Web: <http://www.trimcastlehotel.com/>

**Acceptance of invitation and logistical arrangements**

Please complete the attached form indicating whether you are able to attend and providing logistical details.

Please send the completed application form to your national contact point (NCP) for BTSF training. A list of NCPs is available from the website: <http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/participants/ms_contact_points_en.htm>

We apologise for the short response time but please make every effort to reply to your national contact point (NCP) with a copy to alc.btsf@gmail.com by **Friday 7 August 2015**

**Application to attend BTSF training**

**The role of formulation analysis in the detection of counterfeit/illegal pesticides**

**To be held at FVO, Grange, Ireland on 23 – 25 September 2015**

**Please complete the following application details:**

I wish to attend the above training course on 23 – 25 September 2015 Yes / No

I agree to participate in follow up activities to disseminate

the knowledge gained on return to my home country Yes / No

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms) |  |
|  | Academic title (Dr., Prof.) |  |
| i | **Full name as in passport:** |  |
|  | First name |  |
|  | Family name |  |
| ii | Position |  |
| iii | Organisation / department |  |
| iv | Address |  |
| v | City |  |
| vi | Country |  |
| vii | Email address |  |
| viii | Contact telephone |  |
| ix | Preferred airport of departure |  |
| x | Do you have adequate English language skills to attend the above course as no interpretation or translation facilities will be available? | Yes / No |
| xi | Please indicate any special physical or dietary needs that need to be considered? |  |
| xii | Have you already been contacted by the FVO concerning your participation at this event? | Yes / No |
| xiii | Will you require reimbursement of your travel costs between your home and the airport. Please indicate the type of transport and the expected cost to and from the airport. Provide additional information on a separate sheet of paper if necessary. | Yes / No |

Do you have any queries or comments concerning the training course?

If so, please explain in the box below:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Please complete the application and respond to your National Contact Point (NCP) with a copy to alc.btsf@gmail.com by **Friday 7 August 2015**. We looking forward to meeting you at the workshop

Anne Martin

Deputy Event Manager

FSTS Consortium

alc.btsf@gmail.com