

**PROPOSED 2012 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION
REFERENCE LABORATORY “Detection of animal proteins in feedingstuffs”**

EURL-AP

Walloon Agricultural Research Centre – CRA-W (Belgium)

Activity 1 Scientific advice and support to the European Commission (492 days)

- 1.1 Provide scientific and technical assistance to the European Commission in relation to the development of EC feed legislation.

To update the technical annex giving guidance on analytical techniques to detect processed animal proteins and to identify their specific origin.

- 1.2 Upon the request of the European Commission or in order to fulfil his role as EURL, participate in international fora/committees relating to the detection of animal proteins in feedstuffs (EFSA, WHO/FAO, JRC, etc) with eventual presentations to prepare for it. As up to 2 European or international missions/year are foreseen in support to DG Sanco and/or EURL-AP activities.

- 1.3 Upon the request of the European Commission or in order to fulfil his role as EURL, participate in meetings for the standardisation of analytical methods relating to the detection of animal proteins in feedstuffs and their implementation (CEMA, ISO/CEN, OIE, IAG, etc). Up to 3 European missions/year are foreseen in support to DG Sanco and/or EURL-AP activities. (2 p/m)

Among the possible activities in 2012 there might be the starting of a CEN working group (within CEN TC327) defining guidelines for PCR in detection of PAP in feed.

- 1.4 To actively participate in technical and scientific support of the European Commission in the context of incidents or crises linked to incorrect use of

animal proteins.

- 1.5 To keep at EURL-AP the highest standard possible of technical skill, scientific awareness and quality management under accreditation (ISO17025) on analytical methods for detection, quantification and identification of animal proteins in feed ingredients and in feedingstuffs. To maintain and extend the accreditation scope of the EURL-AP lab.

1.5.1 To maintain scientific awareness in general about techniques that might be helpful in relation to topics of interest of the EURL-AP– In this context the use of digital PCR seems essential for the calibrants to be used in PCR.

1.5.2 To maintain the accreditation scope

1.5.3 Maintenance of the competences of the EURL-AP team and formation of the new recruits

1.5.4 Extend the accreditation scope of the EURL-AP by including additional animal targets DNA in the scope for PCR analyses

1.5.5 Submission of the dossier for the accreditation of the organisation of interlaboratory studies

- 1.6 On the request of DG SANCO or the NRLs, to perform analyses on samples with disputed results.

Activity 2 Coordination of activities of NRL network (283 days)

2.1 Maintenance and update of EURL website (internet/intranet) to disseminate and share information with NRLs and others stake holders.

2.1.1 Information collection and validation

2.1.2 Maintenance of the website

2.1.3 Update and test of the information system and validation

2.2 Prepare and send a six-months newsletter for NRLs.

2.3 Organisation of the annual EURL-AP meeting/workshop

2.3.1 Organisation of the 6th annual EURL-AP workshop

2.3.2 Preparation of the agenda

2.3.3 Invitation of the attendees

2.3.4 Realisation of the workshop

2.3.5 Minutes of the annual workshop

Note : For 2012 it is proposed, as for 2010 and 2011, to organise the annual workshop outside Belgium. Precise location is, at writing date, under discussion.

2.4 Supply information, scientific advices and protocols to NRLs, testing laboratories, detection, quantification and identification of animal proteins in feed ingredients and feedingstuffs.

This task has been merged with task 3.3

2.5 Participate in the annual EURL Directors co-ordination meeting.

2.6 Prepare the six months and annual reports of activities according to the report guidelines transmitted by DG SANCO.

Activity 3 Interlaboratory studies and quality assurance (558 days)

- 3.1 Coordinate the preparation, reception, storage, maintenance and distribution to national reference laboratories (NRL) of samples containing animal proteins derived from different species and in particular from fish, poultry, pigs and ruminants to be used as reference materials or to carry out comparative testing. Preparation, production, calibration and distribution of plasmids as calibrants for the PCR methods. This task includes the preparation of the samples for the interlaboratory studies
 - 3.1.1 *Definition of the needs*
 - 3.1.2 *Collection of the raw materials*
 - 3.1.3 *Control of the raw materials*
 - 3.1.4 *Production of the samples or plasmids*
 - 3.1.5 *Test of the homogeneity of the samples produced / quantification of the plasmid calibrants*
 - 3.1.6 *Report on the produced samples : plasmid calibrants*
 - 3.1.7 *Distribution of the samples : plasmid calibrants*

- 3.2 Organization of two interlaboratory studies for the determination of PAPs in feed using classical microscopy and PCR respectively.
 - 3.2.1 *Redaction of the report of the EURL-AP microscopy interlaboratory study of Autumn 2011*
 - 3.2.2 *Definition (with the collaboration of the DG-Sanco) of the objectives of the ring trials to perform in 2012*
 - 3.2.3 *Preparation of the interlaboratory studies 2012.*
 - 3.2.4 *Invitation of the NRLs to participate.*
 - 3.2.5 *Packaging and sending of the samples (cf. task 3.1)*
 - 3.2.6 *Collection of the results.*

- 3.3 Audit NRLs, coordinate training on methods of analysis and assist staff from NRLs if comparative testing reveals limited experience. Up to 3 European missions/year are foreseen in support to DG SANCO and/or

EURL-AP activities.

To help to develop, extend and keep in the NRLs the highest standard of technical skill and quality management under accreditation on analytical methods for detection, quantification and identification of animal proteins in feed ingredients and in feedingstuffs.

3.3.1 Definition of the needs of the NRLs

3.3.2 Provide the requested help to the NRLs

3.3.3 Preparation of syllabi including all the information needed for an appropriate detection of processed animal proteins in feedingstuffs

3.4 Proficiency study for GTH detection (with the collaboration of JRC-IRMM)

3.4.1 Redaction of the report of the EURL-AP Proficiency Test GTH of Autumn 2011

3.4.2 Definition (with the collaboration of the DG-Sanco) of the objectives of the GTH ring trial to perform at the end of 2012

3.4.3 Preparation of a proficiency test in 2012.

3.4.4 Invitation of the NRLs to participate.

3.4.5 Packaging and sending of the samples

3.4.6 Collection of the results.

Activity4 Development of analytical methods and tools (296 days)

- 4.1 Contribute to the development of new methods of analysis and improvement of existing methods of analysis.
 - 4.1.1 *Establishment/maintain of contact with the laboratory in charge of the development in order to be frequently informed about the progress of their development*
 - 4.1.2 *Definition of the potential support of the EURL-AP to these initiatives*
 - 4.1.3 *Establishment of the needs in the development of methods*
 - 4.1.4 *Reporting harmonisation of analytical methods for determining insoluble impurities in rendered animal fat ('tallow') (Methods ISO 663 and AOCS Ca 3a-46) (4 p/m)*
- 4.2 Contribute to the development of complementary analytical methods necessary to assure the correct implementation of official methods and explorative or alternative methods.
 - 4.2.1 *Test of methods for the detection of plasma vs dairy products*
- 4.3 Coordination of evaluation studies on alternative methods. As soon as they become available, methods specifically detecting ruminant, pig or poultry proteins should be evaluated.
 - 4.3.1 *Organisation of interlaboratory studies based on alternative tests (PCR, Immunology) developed by NRLs or by companies.*
 - 4.3.2 *On the basis of former interlaboratory studies regarding PCR methods, define the strategy for the optimum implementation in the NRL*
 - 4.3.3 *Preparation of EURL-AP protocol at the destination of the NRL for the implementation of the PCR methods*
 - 4.3.4 *Organisation of the transfer of validated PCR methods to the NRLs network – training courses*

- 4.4 Performing EURL-AP available methods or adapting them on outbreak material to make them available for the NRLs network.
- 4.5 Extension of the samples bank with a special focus on specific animal material. Test, packaging and storage of the new samples as well as production of microscopic image representative of the particles making up the samples collected and selected to be included in the EURL-AP samples bank.
 - 4.5.1 *Establishment of the specification for the EURL-AP samples bank*
 - 4.5.2 *List of the priority needs regarding the materials to include in the samples bank*
 - 4.5.3 *Maintenance of informatics tools for the appropriate management of the samples*
 - 4.5.4 *Collection/production of samples of animal origin*
 - 4.5.5 *Test of the samples collected*
 - 4.5.6 *Storing of the samples and maintenance of the samples bank*

Activity 5 Trainings (140 days)

5.1 Provide specific workshop for the benefit of NRLs for the correct application of the method described in the Annex VI of the 152/2009/EC Commission regulation to detect animal proteins in feed (Classical microscopy) and any new development or regulation related to the detection, identification and quantification of animal proteins in feed.

5.1.1 Light microscopy training

5.1.2 PCR training

5.2 Provide specific workshop of experts from candidate Member States for the correct application of the 152/2009/EC directive to detect animal proteins in feed (Classical microscopy) and any new directive linked to the detection, identification and quantification of animal proteins in feed.

Croatia could be selected in 2012.

5.3 Provide training through dissemination tools like CD's or DVD's. Development of analytical support and libraries for the training and the maintenance of the skill of laboratories performing classical microscopy or other validated method.

No specific activity is foreseen in 2012.

Annex : List of activities, tasks and deliverables for EURL-AP 2012 programme

Activity	Description	Deliverable
Activity 1	Scientific advice and support to the European Commission	
	1.1 Provide scientific and technical assistance to the EC	Update of technical annexes of directives
	1.2 Participate in international fora/committees relating to the detection of animal proteins in feedstuffs (EFSA, WHO/FAO, JRC, etc)	Participation to international fora/committees Report included in the semestrial and final reports
	1.3 Participate in meetings for the standardisation of analytical methods relating to the detection of animal proteins in feedstuffs	Participation to international fora/committee Report included in the semestrial and final reports
	1.4 Technical and scientific support of the European Commission	Participation to the meetings
	1.5 To keep at EURL-AP the highest standard possible of technical skill, scientific awareness and quality management under ISO17025	Maintenance of ISO17025 scope Training of the EURL-AP staff
	1.6 To perform analyses on samples with disputed results.	Confidential reports
Activity 2	Coordination of activities of NRL network	
	2.1 Maintenance and update of EURL website (internet/intranet)	EURL-AP website
	2.2 Prepare and send a six-months newsletter for NRLs.	2 EURL-AP newsletters
	2.3 Organisation of the annual EURL-AP meeting/workshop	EURL-AP workshop organised in Berlin Report included in the 1st newsletter
	2.4 Supply information, scientific advices and protocols to NRLs	Protocols
	2.5 Participate in the annual EURL Directors co-ordination meeting.	Participation to EURL Directors meetings
	2.6 Prepare the six months and annual reports of activities	Six months report Annual report

Annex : List of activities, tasks and deliverables for EURL-AP 2012 programme

Activity	Description	Deliverable
Activity 3	Interlaboratory studies and quality assurance	
	3.1 Coordinate the preparation, reception, storage, maintenance and distribution to national reference laboratories (NRL) of samples	Production of samples Homogeneity test Reports on the samples produced
	3.2 Organization of two interlaboratory studies for the determination of PAPs in feed using classical microscopy and PCR respectively.	EURL-AP ILS report Sending of samples
	3.3 Audit NRLs, coordinate training on methods of analysis and assist staff from NRLs if comparative testing reveals limited experience.	Audit/training report Syllabi
	3.4 Proficiency study for GTH detection	EURL-AP PT GTH 2011 report Sending of samples
Activity 4	Development of analytical methods and tools	
	4.1 Contribute to the development of new methods of analysis and improvement of existing methods of analysis.	Technical reports
	4.2 Contribute to the development of complementary analytical methods	Technical reports and SOP if relevant
	4.3 Coordination of evaluation studies on alternative methods.	Reports if relevant
	4.4 Extension of the samples bank with a special focus on specific animal material.	Sample bank
Activity 5	Trainings	
	5.1 Provide specific workshop for the benefit of NRLs	Training report Syllabi
	5.2 Provide specific workshop of experts from candidate Member States feed	If any, workshop report
	5.3 Provide training through dissemination tools like CD's or DVD's. /	