

Transparency and ICT

'Working towards transparency'



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Status

In every chain several projects are defined, in collaboration with market parties. At present a concrete working plan is formulated for every chain and a programme organization is started up.

Facts and figures

- The Netherlands is a leader in terms of government efforts to promote collaboration within the chain, the current level of collaboration within the chain, use of ICT for traceability and to identify chain performance. The United Kingdom and Australia are leaders in several categories and followers in others. Sweden, Germany and the United States are followers on some fronts and in the rear on others. Spain is in the rear on all fronts.
- There is little difference between the ICT systems used by participating countries.

(Source: *Organiseren van traceren* (Organisation of tracing), Rijnconsult 2003)

Period

2006-2007

Parties involved

The Department of Food Quality and Animal Health is moderator of the programme Chains within the Ministry; Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Information Policy and General Services, Department of International Affairs; Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA), AID and agribusinesses

More information

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agriculture, nature
and food quality

As part of the programme Transparency and ICT, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality wants to arrange some policy related subjects in several agricultural chains better and more efficient, in collaboration with private parties. Starting points for the programme are mainly the European hygiene directives, supervision on inspection, reduction of the administrative burden and improvement of the competitive position of the Dutch business sector.

Context

One of the government's core tasks is to assure food safety, animal health and public health. But agribusinesses are responsible for the quality and safety of the products they produce. Early identification of risks in the food chain, prompt tracing and withdrawal of contaminated or faulty produce, and preventing the spread of livestock diseases are critical for the government, agribusinesses and the consumer alike. If something goes wrong, it could have a major social and economic impact. Efficient exchange of information between the government and the parties involved in the chain is essential for a clear and balanced division of tasks. Using ICT, the projects of this programme are endeavouring to make fragmented information systems and knowledge more cohesive. The overall aim is to assure transparency per food chain and – where possible – per product. This will enable the government to carry out the tasks related to food safety, traceability and supervision of monitoring efficiently and transparently. Due to efficiency this programme is integrated in the Ministry wide programme Chains. Because of feasibility and manageability reasons four chains are selected: the pig chain, the veal chain, the poultry chain and the dairy chain.

Effects

The chain approach is an efficient way of realising the goals of the programme.

Particular aspects

The active involvement of market parties is promising. The goals of the programme will be realised to its optimum.

Challenges

The efficient implementation of government tasks linked to food safety, animal health, supervision of monitoring, enforcement of the necessary procedures, reduction of the administrative burden and the implementation of preventive measures all require attention.

Compatibility with Ministry policy

The programme is part of the LNV *Vitaal en Samen* (Healthy and Together) policy programme, based on the main principles of the government agreement and various European and national policy frameworks. The Ministry wide vision *Kiezen voor landbouw* (The choice for agriculture) and the results of the strategic dialogue food quality are compatible.

Benefits

More efficient exchange of information between the business sector and the government has the following economic advantages for the business sector:

- reduction of the administrative burden
- rapid tracing and prompt withdrawal of contaminated or defective products
- increased consumer confidence
- fewer but more effective government controls
- promoting the strong international competitive position.