2nd WPAEFM Symposium – Food Microbiology Education in Practice

CASE: WAGENINGEN ONLINE COURSES IN FOOD SAFETY

Marcel H. ZWIETERING, Heidy M.W. den Besten, Martine W. Reij

Wageningen University, Laboratory of Food Microbiology, Wageningen, Netherlands

In our modern society food safety is a growing concern for many consumers. People want their food to be safe and are worried by the numerous sometimes conflicting messages thrown at them. The Wageningen departments of Toxicology and Food Microbiology have teamed up in building an open course with the aim to make food safety education freely available worldwide. The course will run as a MOOC (massive online open course) on the edX platform from 1 June 2016 and will deal with:

- Overview of food hazards
- Elementary knowledge on microbiological and toxicological risk analysis
- How to better interpret the information overload about hazards in food
- Why zero hazard does not exist
- Ways to reduce hazards in food

Elements of this MOOC will also be used a refresher course for (prospective) students of Wageningen University as a SPOC (small private online course), enabling students to brush up their knowledge of food safety basics before entering MSc level education, especially if they do not have a background in food sciences. Apart from these open course materials, the Laboratory of Food Microbiology at Wageningen University has also built on-line course materials at BSc level that have been used successfully both in Singapore and in Wageningen during introductory courses in Food Microbiology.

Finally, a distance learning programme (www.dl-fsm.nl) has been developed on selected aspects of food safety management, targeting both at students and food professionals at BSc or MSc level around the world who are interested in strengthening their knowledge on e.g. sampling & monitoring, hygienic design or preservation. On-line course materials are useful tools both in curriculum education and for open access for small or large groups alike but the various target groups require their own approach.

Keywords: Open access, MOOC, Distance learning, SPOC, Refresher course.