Dear Reader,

We are pleased to bring you the first edition of the EFIP Newsletter. It will be part of our activities to inform you on the latest developments and activities of the EFIP platform and the three sector specific feed safety assurance schemes under its umbrella.

The European Feed Ingredients Platform (EFIP) is a voluntary platform of the major European feed ingredients’ associations where the different sectors and their companies share their experience and offer concerted guidance to their members and other stakeholders on the common, non-competitive issue of feed safety. EFIP sees recognition and further harmonisation between schemes with a comparable scope, design and objectives as essential for the functioning of the EU market and for enhancing the cost efficiency of operators and customers.

EFIP strives for a harmonized approach as a way forward to strengthen the feed safety situation of the EU livestock industry, the feed chain and ultimately to increase the confidence and trust of consumers in the EU 27. The shared ownership of the sector safety schemes and the commitment by feed ingredient manufacturers ensure a strong awareness of the importance of feed safety on the daily working floor.

Over 850 manufacturers have chosen so far for EFIP feed safety assurance schemes expressing their commitment to total feed safety every day. We would like to thank you all for the support given.

The EFIP team wishes you a merry Christmas and a good start for the New Year.

Didier Jans, Chairman of EFIP, Brussels

Coceral signed agreement on mutual recognition with AIC, Ovocom and GMP+

COCERAL (GTP) has worked closely with AIC (FEMAS, UFAS and TASCC), Ovocom (GMP) and GMP+ International (GMP+-) on a comparative analysis between their respective schemes. This resulted in a mutual acceptance of their schemes which cover the collection, storage, trading and transport of feed materials of vegetable origin. It represents a significant step towards a more efficient, transparent and free agricultural market and will allow operators to save costs and time thanks to combined audits. The precise modalities and conditions for application of these agreements are detailed in the joint AIC-GTP-OVOCOM and GMP+-GTP press releases.
FAMI-QS auditors training sessions running internationally
With the aim to guarantee an optimum level of knowledge and skills of its auditors and to maintain the quality and excellence of the system, FAMI-QS organises periodical technical training sessions for its approved partners and Certification Bodies worldwide. In 2011, FAMI-QS organised training for auditors in the following regions: Brazil, India, USA and China. In the last few years, the interest in FAMI-QS certification has considerably increased at global level. The feed additives and premixtures industry has especially welcomed the FAMI-QS system, considered as a very useful tool to comply with European Regulations when putting products on the EU market but also to facilitate the world trade of specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures.

EFISC European feed ingredients safety certification on full speed
The EFISC feed material assurance scheme is operational since November 2010. During this year over 60 of the major European feed material producers in 12 countries have applied for EFISC certification of which more than 35 are certified by now. Volume wise this represents about 12 million metric tons or 27 % of the production of processed feed materials in the European Union. EFISC certified feed material manufacturers can be found in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain with more countries to follow soon.

In order to further facilitate market access within the European internal market EFISC has agreed with GMP+, OVOCOM, AIC and FEMAS to perform a benchmarking exercise with the aim to reach mutual recognition within 2012.

FAMI-QS scope now adapted to changed regulatory landscape
In response to the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 on the placing on the market and use of feed and the end of the feed additive authorisation process under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 (the so-called Feed Additive Regulation), FAMI-QS has adopted some reforms. These shall reinforce the role of the organisation in support to its Members and the international application of its system. The scope of the FAMI-QS association has been adapted to Specialty Feed Ingredients and their Mixtures in line with the regulatory developments and the needs of its Members. FAMI-QS will now cover the placing on the market of specialty feed ingredients as feed additives as well as functional feed ingredients with their mixtures as premixtures, specialty complementary feed and specialty complementary dietetic feed.

Publication of the new version of the GTP scheme
COCERAL has formally published version 1.2 of the GTP Code for the collection, storage, trading and transport of cereals, oilseeds, protein crops and other plant products and by-products together with the accompanying Certification Rules. This new version of the food and feed safety assurance scheme is the result of extensive discussions within the GTP Harmonisation Committee to update and strengthen, where appropriate, the current set of requirements laying down Good Trading Practices. It also reflects the outcome of mutual recognition negotiations with other scheme owners, namely AIC, GMP+ International, Ovocom and Qualität und Sicherheit (QS), aiming at achieving a more harmonised approach on safety assurance in the food and feed chain. The new version of the GTP will be applicable as from 1st January 2012 by which the companies will start to be certified according to the new Code and Certification Rules. All GTP certificates issued in 2011 will remain valid until the date of the next surveillance audit in 2012.

Apply now! Would you like to know more about EFIP and its different sector schemes? Please contact us for more information. Our team will be pleased to help you.