

ILSI



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INSTITUTE

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ILSI EUROPE NEWSLETTER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
International Life Sciences Institute Europe

01 | A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the second issue of the quarterly ILSI Europe Newsletter!



This year – 2011 – is a very special year for us, since it marks our 25th anniversary. When we were established, ILSI Europe offered a new concept, where scientists from government institutes, universities and food industries from all over Europe could meet, form task forces and expert groups and run projects on food safety and nutrition that led to peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals and scientific reports.

Right from the beginning, ILSI Europe made a major contribution to the science-based promotion of food safety and nutrition in Europe. 25 years later, we can be credited with more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, and the participation, on a yearly basis, of more than 300 European scientists in our task forces and expert groups plus an additional several hundred in our workshops and symposia.

In addition to hundreds of member-funded projects, since 1995 we have coordinated five EC-funded projects (FOSIE, FUFOSIE, PASSCLAIM, EURRECA and BRAFO), and have been involved as a partner or advisor in 10 others.

In this issue, we provide information on some of our most recent, and upcoming, publications and events, and on scheduled task force meetings. The section on global ILSI collaboration describes our work on water and sanitation perspectives, for which we have teamed up with no less than eight other ILSI branches, as well as leading international public health organisations.

ILSI Europe aims to serve all stakeholders - industry members, academic scientists, and government representatives. To find out more about our organisation, please click the following link: [ABOUT ILSI EUROPE](#)

I hope you enjoy the read!



Dr. Nico van Belzen
Executive Director
ILSI Europe

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ILSI EUROPE

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The ILSI Europe Newsletter is written with you in mind. We want to continuously make it relevant for you, and therefore value any feedback that you may have. To give feedback, please write to newsletter@ilsieurope.be

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To see issue 01 of the ILSI Europe Newsletter, [CLICK HERE](#)

02 | ILSI EUROPE AT A GLANCE

25

This year ILSI Europe celebrates 25 years of existence, and it also has 25 task forces currently in operation.

03 | SYMPOSIUM

In 2011, ILSI Europe celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Under the theme "Science for Health - Beyond the Silver Anniversary", the 25th General Assembly of Members and the 2011 ILSI Europe Annual Symposium will cover a wide selection of topics including health benefits from food, food safety and sustainability, risk assessment and toxicology, as well as outlooks for the future. Following the scientific presentations, on the occasion of ILSI Europe's 25th year anniversary, a poster exhibit and reception will be organised, as well as a series of breakfast meetings that present the activities of a selection of task forces to trigger member interest and possibly develop ideas for future new activities.

[Registration to the symposium is open.](#)

[MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION](#)



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04 | ILSI EUROPE'S FOUR CLUSTERS

The task forces at ILSI Europe are grouped in four specific clusters:



1. Assessment of Benefits and Risks: this includes 'classical' risk assessments, benefits of foods and benefit-risk comparisons.



2. Societal Aspects: an area that addresses the consumer perspective of food-related issues.



3. Food Chain: this addresses various stages of the route "from farm to fork" including food processing and environment.



4. Diet, Health and Disease: this covers task forces that focus on a certain aspect of the relationships between nutrition, diet and health, and examine its determinants or risk factors.

05 | NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM ILSI EUROPE

Here are short summaries of some of the latest published articles from ILSI Europe. To read the full papers, click on the link at the end of each summary:



Good agricultural and manufacturing practices help to control natural toxins – an evaluation of the current situation in Europe

Contamination by natural toxins and the risk to health of consuming spoilt food has been known for thousands of years, and has received a lot of attention in the last 30 years. Good Agricultural Practice is the primary line of defence against this risk, accompanied by implementation of Good Manufacturing Practice during the handling, storage, processing and distribution of food and feed.

This report commissioned by the Process-related Compounds and Natural Toxins Task Force focuses on two major food crops in Europe, cereals and potatoes. It considers the influence of several factors, such as nitrates, process-related toxins, mycotoxins (toxins produced by fungi), and plant toxins, that affect the health of the crop. The report also identifies data gaps.

Read the full publication: "[Evaluation of Agronomic Practices for Mitigation of Natural Toxins](#)"



Assessing the long-term effects of nutrition on the brain

A two-day workshop on the long-term effects of nutrition on brain function took place in Brussels on 12-13 November 2009, organised by the Nutrition and Mental Performance Task Force. The specific aim of the workshop was to contribute to a better understanding of the current methodological limitations and emerging opportunities in the assessment of long-term nutritional effects on brain function and cognitive performance, and to help guide future methodology in this area.

The workshop found that demonstrating cognitive improvement following nutritional intervention would benefit from better study design, better statistical modeling, and validated biomarker and cognitive outcome measures. The most important areas are increasing cognitive reserve and preventing cognitive decline.

The subsequent articles published in November 2010 provide a comprehensive overview of the topics and discussions related to this workshop.

Read the articles in the supplement: "[How to Assess Long-term Effects of Nutrition on Brain Function?](#)"





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Early nutrition is key to future health

Prenatal and early postnatal nutrition can lead to significant health impact later in life. This paper, commissioned by the Metabolic Imprinting Task Force, reviews the data available on the link between metabolic imprinting and future health risks, such as cardiovascular diseases, obesity, bone health, cognition, immune function and diabetes. The paper also investigates technologies and methodologies used to study this topic, such as biomarkers and the use of human and animal models such as rats and sheep.

The paper shows that considerable gaps in knowledge and challenges remain, including the development of suitable model systems to test hypotheses on the impact of early nutrition on health in later life. In addition, the paper underlined that it is essential to acknowledge the communication to consumers, industry, health care providers, policy-making bodies as well as to the scientific community. In this way, early nutrition could become an effective tool to improve health through dietary intervention at specific developmental points.

Read the full publication: "[Metabolic Imprinting, Programming and Epigenetics - A Review of Present Priorities and Future Opportunities](#)"



Building scientific agreement on the definition of dietary fiber

In June 2010 ILSI Europe's Task Force on Dietary Carbohydrates and ILSI North America's Carbohydrates Committee organised a joint session during the 9th Vahouny Fiber Symposium on the implementation of the Codex Dietary Fibre definition. This publication summarises the discussion and outcomes of this session.

The results of the session indicated that the scientific community agrees on maintaining a worldwide consensus regarding the inclusion of non-digestible carbohydrates with degrees of polymerisation greater than or equal to 3 as dietary fibre; and on a core, non-exhaustive list of beneficial physiological effects that dietary fibres have.

Read the full paper: "[The Definition of Dietary Fiber - Discussions at the Ninth Vahouny Fiber Symposium: Building Scientific Agreement](#)"



EUROpean micronutrient RECommendations Aligned

Harmonising micronutrient recommendations

Micronutrient recommendations refer to intakes of micronutrients sufficient to meet the requirements of the majority of healthy individuals of a specific population. Most countries in Europe have established their own national nutrient recommendations. Currently, however, there is no standard approach for deriving micronutrient recommendations, and large differences exist across Europe and also worldwide, causing confusion among consumers, food producers and nutrition policy makers.

The EURRECA (EUROpean micronutrient RECommendations Aligned, www.eurreca.org) Network of Excellence is developing generic tools for systematically establishing and updating micronutrient reference values or recommendations. Different types of instruments (including best practice guidelines, digital learning material, online databases and decision trees) have been identified. This paper describes those instruments. The use of these tools by the scientific community, the European Food Safety Authority, bodies responsible for setting national nutrient requirements and others, should ultimately help to align nutrient-based recommendations across Europe.

For more information, click the following link: "[EURRECA: Development of Tools to Improve the Alignment of Micronutrient Recommendations](#)"





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A search engine for micronutrient recommendations



One of EURRECA Network of Excellence's most important tools, Nutri-RecQuest, a web-based search engine on current micronutrient recommendations, is now freely available online (www.eurreca.org).

Collected from 37 European and 8 non-European regions, the database contains the latest micronutrient recommendations for 29 micronutrients for different population groups (infants, children and adolescents, adults, the elderly, pregnant and lactating women). In total, over 20,000 recommendations concerning micronutrients can be found. The database is based on recommended intake levels, average nutrient requirements and upper limits.

To find out more and obtain the tool, click here: "[Nutri-RecQuest, micronutrient recommendation search engine](#)"

06 | UPCOMING SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

- Nutrigenomics in Human Intervention Studies: Current Status, Lessons Learned and Future Perspectives (article)
- Uncertainty Analysis of the Use of a Retailer Fidelity Card Scheme in the Assessment of Food Additive Intake (article)
- Evaluation of the Risks Posed by Unintended Commingling of Food Crops and Food Crops Developed for Non-Food Uses (report)
- Series on Packaging Materials: Multilayer Packaging Materials (report)
- Water Use for Oil Crops (report)
- Benefits of Satiety to the Consumer: Scientific Considerations (article)
- Evaluation of Scientific Criteria for Identifying Allergenic Foods of Public Health Importance (article)
- Nutrition and Immunity in Man (concise monograph)

07 | PAST EVENTS

ILSI Europe organises a variety of scientific events. These include workshops, symposia and sessions held as part of the programme of larger scientific and professional meetings. Some recent past events include:



BRAFO Third Consensus Workshop
BARCELONA, SPAIN, 16-17 NOVEMBER 2010

The BRAFO European network was set up in September 2007 to combine expertise in risk assessment, nutrition, and benefit/risk analysis with representatives from academia, regulatory agencies and the food industry. During the first year of the project, the methodology group reviewed and assembled methodologies to develop a risk-benefit assessment framework applicable to a wide range of foods and food compounds.

Subsequently, case study groups applied the framework to fish and soy; folic acid and macronutrient replacers; and heat processed compounds. Literature was reviewed to undertake benefit risk assessment and to quantify the net health impact. The methodology was then adjusted according to the feedback received from the case study groups. The work package on consensus knit together the work performed by the previous work packages, identifying key messages that will be further communicated to stakeholders and risk managers.

The methodology, along with the application to the case studies, will be published in a special supplement in *Food and Chemical Toxicology* in the spring of 2011. The consensus paper will be published in the same journal.

For more info please consult www.brafo.org or send email to BRAFO@ilsieurope.be.
READ MORE





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ILSI Europe Session at the 6th Conference of the World Mycotoxins Forum

NOORDWIJKERHOUT, THE NETHERLANDS, 09-11 NOVEMBER 2010
Agronomic Practices in the Mitigation of Natural Toxins

The Process-related Compounds and Natural Toxins Task Force sponsored a session on agronomic practices in the mitigation of natural toxins, to present the work of its expert group on this topic.

The presentations included an overview of agronomic practices in the mitigation of natural toxins in food plants; challenges in masked mycotoxins research; recent advances in the ecology of mycotoxigenic moulds; prevention strategies; effect of agronomic factors on plant toxins; predictive models and mycotoxins control; and plant toxins – including cultivated mushrooms.

[READ MORE](#)



ILSI Europe Prebiotic Workshop

BARCELONA, SPAIN, 25/10/2010

The Prebiotic Concept - From Definition to Gastro-Intestinal Applications

The Prebiotics Task Force organised a satellite session to introduce the prebiotic concept during the Gastroenterology Week (UEGW) in October 2010.

Firstly, a presentation of the concept and the basic science around prebiotics was given as an introduction; then the different speakers focused on the application of this concept for the gastroenterology area, such as prebiotic concept with a focus on pediatric applications; prebiotics and the immune system; prebiotics in irritable bowel disease (IBD); and prebiotics in irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

This session was another great occasion to present ILSI Europe and the work of this Task Force, adapting the presentations to a gastroenterologist audience and getting to know their opinion on this topic.

[READ MORE](#)



Food Allergy Symposium

NICE, FRANCE, 20-22 OCTOBER 2010

Frontiers in Food Allergen Risk Assessment

The Food Allergy Task Force in collaboration with EuroPrevall (a multi-disciplinary research project looking at "The prevalence, cost and basis of food allergy in Europe"), the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA), the USA Food Allergy Research and Resource Program (FARRP) and ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (ILSI -HESI) organised a joint-symposium on food allergy.

The objectives were to:

- disseminate findings from the EuroPrevall project and related research and place them in the context of global food allergen risk assessment
- discuss the implications of those findings for assessing the risk from food allergens and managing it to minimise the incidence of reactions among food allergic consumers
- identify how this knowledge can be translated into practice and gaps to be addressed in future research.

The event was considered to be a great success with a unique combination of highly distinguished scientists from 25 countries from all over the world (including the USA, Canada, Japan, China, South Africa and Australia). Among the eminent speakers and participants there were representatives from the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

The output of the symposium will be a summary report, primarily of the discussion-generated output that will highlight the main conclusions and identify research gaps and how to progress with food allergen management using existing and emerging evidence. Papers published in peer-reviewed literature will follow this report.

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4th EURRECA Integrating Meeting

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK, 18-21 OCTOBER 2010

This meeting was organised jointly by ILSI Europe and Aarhus University on the behalf of the EURRECA Network of Excellence. EURRECA includes 35 institution partners comprising 200 individual scientists and a budget of €13.2 million spread over 5 years. During the course of the week, around 30 separate meetings were organised. EURRECA's researchers got the chance to share their results and experiences with the Network partners; address any issues faced; listen to recent developments outside their own activities; and agree future plans for 2011 and the final outcome of EURRECA.

Presentations covered all EURRECA's activities and showcased the most recent progress made. Non-EURRECA partners including the Advisory Groups members had a chance to get updated and comment on the highlights of the results. All plenary sessions had an external invited counterpart which helped to spark interesting discussions and exchanges. Personalised nutrition versus population recommendations was the subject of an at times amusing and informal debate. With the Network coming to an end in 2011, there is a need to develop a strategy preventing valuable outcomes from being lost or forgotten, once the financial support from the European Commission is no longer there. During the meeting, draft sustainability plans were presented and discussed with all partners.

[READ MORE](#)

08 | UPCOMING EVENTS



ILSI Europe 2011 Annual Symposium: "Science for Health - Beyond the Silver Anniversary"

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 24-25 MARCH 2011



In 2011, ILSI Europe celebrates its 25th anniversary. Under the theme "Science for Health - Beyond the Silver Anniversary", the 25th General Assembly of Members and the 2011 ILSI Europe Annual Symposium will cover a wide selection of topics with sessions from high-level speakers on health benefits from food, food safety and sustainability, risk assessment and toxicology, as well as outlooks for the future.

This multidisciplinary event will be of interest to scientists working in food safety, nutrition, toxicology and related areas, and to regulators from industry and government, and representatives of international organisations.

[READ MORE](#)



Workshop on "Practical Guidance for the Safety Assessment of Nanomaterials in Food"

CASCAIS, PORTUGAL, 13-15 APRIL 2011

The Novel Foods and Nanotechnology Task Force created in 2008 an expert group to address questions related to the safety assessment of nanomaterials in food. This expert group has the aim to provide a clear and practical guidance to industry on how to assess the safety of foods that may contain engineered nanomaterials (ENMs). The goal and purpose of the workshop is to critically discuss the expert group manuscript and to critically appraise the suggested approach to assess the safety of engineered nanomaterials.

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Workshop on Microbiological Risk Assessment – Application of Omics Technology

EDE, THE NETHERLANDS, 17 MAY 2011

The Risk Analysis in Food Microbiology Task Force is organising this workshop prior to IAFP's 7th European Food Safety symposium. The workshop aims to:

- broaden the knowledge of the basics and application of genomics techniques amongst the food microbiology community,
- bring experts in food microbiology, Microbiological Risk Assessment (MRA), quantitative microbiology, molecular biology and bioinformatics together,
- stimulate 'out of the box thinking' on genomics application areas and options to enhance response speed as well as specificity to the benefit of consumers,
- establish recommendations for research needs in the 'omics' field to the benefit of Microbiological Risk Assessment.

[Registration and hotel reservation are now open.](#)

[READ MORE](#)



Workshop on the Threshold of Toxicological Concern: Scientific Challenges and Approaches

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 8-10 JUNE 2011

The Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) approach is at present used - amongst others - to evaluate the safety of food contact materials, flavouring agents and genotoxic contaminants in pharmaceuticals.

The objective of the workshop will be to explore the scientific challenges to the application of TTC as a tool to aid decision-making in chemical safety assessment. The TTC workshop is co-sponsored by the European Chemical Industry Council Long-range research initiative (Cefic-LRI), the European Commission, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the European Partnership for Alternative Approaches for Animal Testing (EPAA), the International Society of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology (IS RTP) and ILSI Europe.

[READ MORE](#)



EUropean micronutrient RECommendations Aligned

EURRECA/ENA Scientific Workshop on "Critical Micronutrients in Pregnancy, Lactation and Infancy"

TUTZING, NEAR MUNICH, GERMANY, 14-16 JUNE 2011

Supplementation with iron, folate and vitamin D in the perinatal period is still a highly controversial issue in many countries. This workshop aims to bring together a number of outstanding experts and new investigators in this area to discuss new issues and open questions on the need for supplementation for pregnant and lactating women and infants.

The workshop is funded by the EURRECA Network of Excellence and co-sponsored by the Early Nutrition Academy (ENA). The organisation of this workshop will be carried out by the University of Munich and ILSI Europe.

[READ MORE](#)



ILSI Europe Symposium on "Health Benefits of Foods - From Emerging Science to Innovative Products"

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC, 5-7 OCTOBER 2011

The field of functional foods with specific health benefits continues to grow in importance in the food industry. However, how should "beneficial to health" be defined, and how can scientific proof of the beneficial health effects of foods or food components be provided?

This 3rd symposium on functional foods commissioned by the Functional Foods Task Force aims to bring together more than 300 key international experts from academia, industry and public bodies on a shared platform to review and debate recent methodological developments and advances in the scientific substantiation of the health benefits of foods. In addition, the symposium will discuss new approaches to investigate the biological functions of beneficial components in the diet - resulting in a better understanding of the relationship between food, nutrition and health.

[Abstract submission is open.](#)

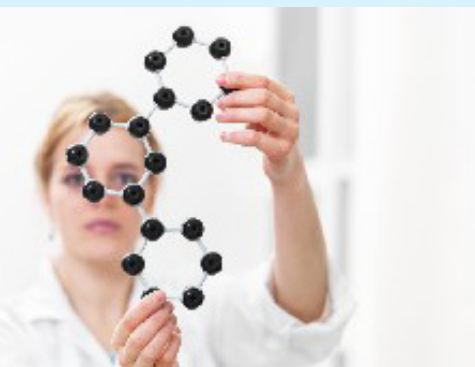
[Registration will open on 1 April 2011](#)

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09 | NEW TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

Task forces are the working groups that initiate, undertake, develop and manage all projects. They are grouped into ILSI Europe's four clusters. Task forces reach their goals and address their issues through activities such as expert groups, workshops, symposia, literature reviews and publications. They are composed of interested company representatives and non-industry experts as required.






Recently started or upcoming task force activities include:

| Task Forces | New Expert Groups |
|---|--|
|  Addition of Nutrients to Food | Separate Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) for Vitamin K1 and Vitamin K2 |
|  Emerging Microbiological Issues Task Force | Assessing The Safety Of Water Used in the Production of Fresh and Minimally Processed Produce |
|  Risk Assessment Of Chemicals In Food | Chemical Risk Assessment in Absence of Adequate Toxicological Information READ MORE |
|  Consumer Science | Consumer Relevant Risk Communication: Recommendations to Facilitate Informed Decision-Making by Consumers READ MORE |
|  Packaging Materials Task Force | Non-Intentionally Added Substances (NIAS) in Food Packaging READ MORE |
|  Process-related Compounds & Natural Toxins Task Force | Food Plant Metabolites of Mycotoxins (Masked Mycotoxins) READ MORE |
|  Nutrition and Mental Performance | Imaging Markers To Measure Brain Function In Human Nutrition Intervention Studies |
|  Nutrient Requirements | Health Effects of Sodium Intake in Vulnerable Groups |
|  Probiotics TF | Probiotics: Interplay with the intestine barrier function |
|  Weight Management Task Force | Dietary Intake Methodologies to Assess the Accuracy and Comparability of Portion Size Information |









If you are interested in joining one of these activities, please contact info@ilsieurope.be

10 | UPCOMING TASK FORCE MEETINGS





MARCH 2011

-  15 Risk Analysis in Food Microbiology Task Force
-  21 Packaging Materials Task Force
-  23 Environment and Health Task Force
-  29 Threshold of Toxicological Concern Task Force
-  31 Emerging Microbiological Issues Task Force

APRIL 2011

-  05 Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food Task Force
-  05 Weight Management in Public Health Task Force
-  06 Process-related Compounds and Natural Toxins Task Force
-  07 Appetite Regulation Task Force
-  14 Functional Foods Task Force
-  19 Risk Assessment of Genotoxic Carcinogens Task Force
-  20 Food Intake Methodology Task Force
-  21 Dietary Carbohydrates Task Force

MAY 2011

-  03 Food Allergy Task Force
-  10 Metabolic Syndrome & Diabetes Task Force
-  11 Novel Foods and Nanotechnology Task Force
-  19 Consumer Science Task Force

If your company is not yet a member of ILSI Europe or if, as a Member, you are considering joining a new task force, you may attend one of the above-mentioned meetings as an observer. If you are interested, please contact info@ilsieurope.be

For more information on ILSI Europe task forces, [CLICK HERE](#)



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11 | WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT ILSI EUROPE

Academia:

"I have had the pleasure of collaborating with ILSI Europe since the beginning 25 years ago. After acting as Board Member, I became President in 1993 until my retirement in 1999. Meeting, exchanging and collaborating with food industry scientists, in the full respect of each other's independence, has been a very stimulating experience that enriched both my teaching and research activities as a university professor."

Prof. Marcel Roberfroid, Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve

Industry:

"I have been privileged to work with ILSI for over 20 years and to serve as Board Member and Chairman of ILSI Europe and Trustee and President of ILSI respectively. My company believes that this time is well-invested since it passionately believes that a neutral forum such as ILSI, which brings together industry, academic and regulatory scientists, is essential if we are to reach a consensus on the issues of public health which impact us today and will impact us tomorrow if we don't act. To enhance the well-being of the general public through the pursuit of balanced science is a benefit to all sectors of society and hence a worthy goal for ILSI and one in which I'm proud to play a part."

Dr. Mike Knowles, Coca-Cola Europe

12 | GLOBAL ILSI COLLABORATION



ILSI Europe is part of the global ILSI network of more than a dozen offices all over the world. In this section we highlight key collaborations with other ILSI entities.

Water and Sanitation Perspectives

The ILSI Europe Emerging Microbiological Issues Task Force identified water as an emerging global issue. In 2010, they initiated a new activity on 'Water and Sanitation Perspectives'.

An advisory group was formed with representatives from ILSI Branches (India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, North Andean, South Africa, South Andean, South-East Asia Region) and stakeholders (World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Water Association and International Water Management Institute). The activity aims to focus on "The quality of water used in the production of fresh produce". It is also intended to address qualitative risk assessment, microbial guidelines and/or recommendations for irrigation waters and process waters used for fresh produces.

This is the first time that ILSI branches are collaborating on a topic related to the area of Water and Sanitation. The proposed study will try as far as possible to include all aspects of water that have an impact on food safety and/or public health. A kick-off meeting is planned on 29-30th March in Brussels, Belgium.

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13 | ABOUT ILSI EUROPE

The International Life Sciences Institute Europe (ILSI Europe) is part of a non-profit, worldwide foundation established in 1978 to advance the understanding of scientific issues relating to nutrition, food safety, toxicology, risk assessment, and the environment. ILSI Europe brings together scientists from industry, academia and government to jointly provide the best available fact-based, objective science on key public health issues.

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