

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran cooperation on nano-safety research

Together with the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, the BfR is working on intelligent test strategies for the characterisation and health risk assessment of nanomaterials. In doing so, researchers from both institutions are intensifying scientific and technical cooperation between Iran and Germany. The project (“Nano-RiskSD”), funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research as a mobility measure, started in September. Guest scientist visits are planned in addition to workshops in Tehran and Berlin.

New EFSA framework partnership agreement

In a second framework agreement over four years, the BfR and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) have agreed on six areas of activity for closer cooperation to boost the exchange of methods, tools and databases in order to develop and efficiently use existing scientific findings. The agreement is the basis for specific projects, for example, in food tracing.

“One Health” European partnership

Several committees met at the BfR in October at the halfway point of the “One Health European Joint Programme (EJP)”, which is scheduled to run for five years. The aim was to exchange the results achieved so far and, notably, to consolidate the measures. European institutions from medicine, veterinary medicine and consumer health protection in the food sector cooperate to keep foodborne zoonoses, antibiotic resistances and novel infectious diseases in check.

More information: www.bfr.bund.de/en > Research > Third-party projects: One Health EJP



Cooperation agreement with Japan

The BfR and the Japan Food Research Laboratories (JFRL) concluded a cooperation agreement in spring to work together in the domain of marine biotoxins. The JFRL has been conducting research in this field for decades and is looking into the toxins responsible for ciguatera poisoning, among other things. In addition to exchanging information and guest visits, the work focuses on scientific collaboration for further developing methods and exchanging various samples and reference materials for analysing biotoxins. Studies for validating analytical methods or for comparing chemical and cell biological analytical methods are also planned (see BfR2GO 01/2020).

More information:

BfR press release 26/2019 of 18 July 2019

Better risk assessment of chemicals

The BfR is involved in the further development of regulatory consumer protection for the risk assessment of chemicals in Europe. The planned “Partnership for the Assessment of Risk from

PERSONNEL

The BfR’s Pesticides Safety Department under new management

Dr. Tewes Tralau has been the new Head of the Pesticides Safety Department since 10 August 2020. With a doctorate in biology, he has many years of international research experience in the domains of biochemistry and toxicology of xenobiotics (with stays in the UK, FR, CN) and extensive regulatory expertise in the risk assessment of chemicals. He is providing initial scientific ideas with an increased focus on the effects and assessment of mixtures as well as a junior research group for research into substance-induced toxicological interactions between humans and microbiomes.

INTERNAL

Chemicals – PARC”, part of the EU’s new framework programme “Horizon Europe”, aims to identify gaps in knowledge for risk assessment and identify new hazards. The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) is responsible for coordination and other European authorities from environmental, occupational and consumer protection are involved.

Consolidating consumer protection in Tunisia

The BfR and the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) are conducting a project to consolidate consumer health protection in Tunisia as part of the German government’s development cooperation. The applicable state structures will be sustainably developed as part of the five-year project, which will start at the beginning of 2021. Focus is on monitoring the implementation of the new Tunisian food safety law, which stipulates the consolidation of official responsibilities, the technical and organisational development of the Tunisian food safety authorities and the development of employees in the sector.

2019 Latin American Symposium: report online

The report from the first Latin American Risk Assessment Symposium (LARAS), which took place in August 2019, is now available online. The report was written by the BfR and the Uruguayan Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries. LARAS aimed to create a new approach to food safety in Latin America based on trust, cooperation, multidisciplinary and the latest scientific knowledge.

More information: www.bfr.bund.de/en > The Institute > Cooperations > International cooperation > Uruguay



The BfR universe comes to life

Packing complex science and dry politics into clear messages: this is the aim of the new visual communication line that is being created in the Risk Communication Department of the BfR. With the support of Claudio Canales Rios, administrative expert and illustrator for the Chilean Food Safety and Quality Agency (ACHIPIA), figures and mascots representing BfR topics have come to life in the BfR universe. Figures such as the Tuby Brothers, Riskina and Petra Petrischale were already used during Green Week.

BfR commissions 2022–2025: call

As voluntary and independent expert bodies in the domains of food and feed, chemical and product safety, a total of 14 BfR commissions advise the BfR. Interested experts can apply from January 2021 up to and including 31 March 2021 for what is now the fifth period of appointment (term: 1 January 2022–31 December 2025.)

Application platform from January 2021 at: www.bfr.bund.de/en



BfR app “Poisoning accidents among children”

Good to know: In the BfR’s free “Poisoning accidents among children” app, you will find information on preventing poisoning accidents with children and on first aid measures. You can call a poison information centre directly from the app in an emergency.

Download for Android and iOS: www.bfr.bund.de > Press > BfR apps (in German)