



Activity Title and Number: EU governance to ensure animal origin food safety ; A293-C3

Beneficiary: General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ)

Location and Date: Belgium, Spain and Portugal; 19-27 January, 2014.

Stakeholders: Agri-food industry, Academic institutions

Brief Activity Report

Relevance and Impact

The EU has created a series of regulatory tools that provides the EU with a sophisticated, harmonised knowledge-base for technology transfer and technical assistance to ensure food safety. The objective of this harmonisation is to ensure that the same requirements are applied for trade between all the Member States, thereby ensuring the safe and free circulation of the animal origin products in the EU territory. Currently the Chinese authorities negotiate market access conditions for food products with each individual Member State rather than the EU as a single entity. Regular meetings between AQSIQ and DG SANCO are organised on this particular issue to negotiate the recognition of the EU as a single entity regarding its market mechanism and control system to ensure food safety. After the last dialogue between AQSIQ and DG SANCO in June 2013, it was agreed that a delegation of Chinese officials would participate in a study assignment in the EU in order to acquire first-hand experience in the functioning of the EU Single Market.

Activity Description

Six Chinese and three EU officials participated in a 10-days study assignment in Belgium, Spain and Portugal. The delegation visited a variety of facilities involved in the processing and sanitary control of animal origin supply chains, including production farms, insemination centres, cold chain plants and slaughter -houses.

The main topics covered during the assignment were:

- Structure and functions of the EU and MS official services
- Health status of the countries visited
- Animal Health Surveillance and control programs
- Traceability Systems
- Controls over slaughterhouses, meat industries and dairy producers
- Follow-up actions for the recognition of the EU as single market region



AQSIQ and EU experts exchanging knowledge on the "Farm to Fork" strategy.

Results and Dissemination

- Delegates gained understanding of the EU SPS control system, "from farm gate to fork", and the stringent safety requirements and implementation of traceability in every step of the production chain.
- Participants witnessed first-hand how the EU functions as a single harmonised entity across two EU Member States.