



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

AUTHENT NET

Partnership – collaboration with impact

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Environment
Agency

Food fraud drivers

- **Deliberate criminal fraud for financial gain**
(adulteration/substitution – premium products, PDOs)
- **Rising commodity prices** – durum wheat
- **Shortage of supply** – speciality tea, olive oil
- **Raw material quality** – poor yields, variable composition
- **Avoidance of tariffs** – eg basmati rice
- **Sustainability factors** – e.g. IUU fishing

.....These issues affect all of us!

Policy drivers

- Following **horsemeat** a number of recommendations were made for UK government (Elliott review). These included **supporting opportunities for greater pan-European co-ordination and collaboration to tackle food fraud.**
- We have complex, changing **global food chains**
- **consumers preferences are changing**
- driving **new types of food fraud.**
- We need to stay ahead of the curve and work together.
- Need to **maximise use /impact of budgets**

.....against a **backdrop of decreasing resources and increased globalisation**



Elliott Review into the Integrity and Assurance of Food Supply Networks - Final Report

A National Food Crime Prevention Framework

July 2014

Research Challenges in detecting food misdescription

1. Issue is linked to a legal requirement, standard or guidance; **conclusion must be beyond reasonable doubt, but data interpretation is made against a background of analytical uncertainty, natural variation etc**
2. Finding a **marker** that characterises the food, one of its ingredients, the **adulterant(s)**, the **processing, production or geographic origin**
3. Availability of **authentic samples (databases)**

...We all need to solve these to enforce food labelling law

Current food authenticity challenges

CATEGORY	EXAMPLES
Origin of food from sustainable sources	Palm oil, fish, exotic meats
<u>Method of food production</u>	Organic, free-range or Halal food
<u>Substitution</u> - Quantification of ingredients	Meat species in processed foods
<u>Designation of geographical origin</u> (Food Information legislation)	Meat, fish , composite foods
Specialty foods	Vanilla, saffron, honey, balsamic vinegar, Basmati rice
<u>Adulteration</u> - Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages	Fruit juices, wine, spirits
Miscellaneous	High protein foods

Successful collaborations

- EU framework projects (TRACE and FOOD INTEGRITY) and individual projects.



Case study – gelatine in meat

- **EU problem**
- inter-laboratory trial to validate a new proteomics method to determine the species origin of gelatine injected into meat
- involved labs in six countries and EU Commission
- **Challenge - to find these other labs and secure support from the relevant government department/ministry**
- We need to make it easier to do collaborative research across countries

What do I need from Authent-net?

- I need to know:
 - which countries fund research on food authenticity,
 - how that funding works on a national level
 - what areas countries fund and why
 - what their future strategic priorities are
 - what their lab capabilities are
 - Where is the research expertise on....?
 - Any interest in working collaboratively....?
 - What knowledge exchange networks exist?
 - Who are the lead contacts in each country (other funding bodies?)
 - Ways of sharing intelligence?
 - how I can add value by working with others ?

What are the benefits to me from being involved in Authent-net ?

- Know who my counterparts are –
- link to the right people with the right knowledge
- A 'safe space' to share information, partner
- Be part of a network to collaborate on research
- co-ordinate with other funders with similar priorities
- maximise investment and impact
- Avoiding duplication
- Aligning research priorities to support food labelling law



Authent-net will provide a shared approach, knowledge and the tools to help deliver collaborative research to better tackle food fraud

- **Network hub**
- to understand what the **common priorities** are in other countries, who funds what, how they prioritise, where their **expertise** lies, what **commodities** they are interested in.
- Brings together people to **align strategic priorities** and development of a common understanding of the issues.
- Have the opportunity to **shape a strategic research agenda for Europe on food authenticity research.**

Prague & Dublin 2016

Funder priorities

- Start building links
- To identify funders in this area (Gov, institutes, other?)
- Funding mechanisms - and level of funding available?
- Building not duplicating – bring together Food Integrity outputs into one place
- **Safe space** to network, collaborate, partner
- Connectivity between funder priorities, researchers and gaps
- “Strategic Research Agenda” or a common set of research goals a priority to provide focus for collaboration

- **What next?**

Today's funder discussion (closed session)

2 areas

Collaborative research

Your views on

- how to use Authentnet to build our funder community – what works for you?
- Possibilities for collaboration e.g. joint calls (SCAR ERANET proposal, other funding instruments?)
- Commitment to collaborate in joint calls/other activities on food authenticity
- research topic priorities and funding levels by country

Authent-net tools and user needs (as funders) (*feedback to Philippe*)

- Your end user needs for the Food Authenticity Research Network Research Hub (FARNH) – issues, gaps?
- Your views on the proposed secure space for national funding bodies
- Your views on the national/commodity status Reports – do they meet your needs?

Thank you

FoodAuthenticity
A Virtual Network for Food Authenticity Analysis

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Welcome to the Food Authenticity Network

New Members



[View All](#)

Food Authenticity Network

The Food Authenticity Network is a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) initiative to help bring together those involved in food authenticity testing.

The network, recommended by the Elliot review "Integrity and Assurance of Food Supply Networks", aims to raise awareness of the tools available to check for mislabelling and food fraud and to ensure that the UK has access to a resilient network of laboratories providing fit for purpose testing to check for food authenticity so consumers can have confidence in the food they buy.

New to FoodAuthenticity?
Check out [who can join](#) and our [terms of use](#) and then [Sign Up Here](#)

Problems signing up?
Check out [this short guide](#)

Tweets by @FAuthority

Food Authent... @FAuthority
Michael Walker weighs in on latest #foodalery news and calls for an increase in actions taken
[foodqualitynews.com/industry-news/.../front-fulfillment](#)

Food Authenticity Library

A library for food authenticity related documents is being developed. In the mean time, go to [Research](#) to find links, where available, to research reports, authenticity surveys and standard operating procedures (SOPs). Further categories of documents

Forthcoming Events

 **Government Chemist conference**

Funders' discussion (closed session)

Agenda

16.45: welcome and introductions

16.55 AutnetNet tools and funder user needs feedback – 30 mins
(FARNH, secure space, status reports)

17.25 collaborative research

- How can we use AuthentNet to build a funder community?
- Who wants to collaborate on joint research?
- What type of collaboration do you want? (joint calls?, projects, knowledge exchange, data sharing?)
- What are your research priorities?
- Funding levels?

18.10 AOB and close meeting