

Editorial

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Quality Assurance and Safety of Crops & Foods: ICC

Welcome to this first edition of the official journal of the International Association for Cereal Science and Technology (ICC) with support from MoniQA, a Network of Excellence (NoE) supported with finance from the European Commission under the sixth Framework Programme (FP6). The ICC has a long history of being associated with the analytical evaluation of crops and cereal-based foods, including their quality evaluation and for their safety of use. The background to the ICC and its activities are described elsewhere in this first issue.

Significant impetus for starting this journal came from the membership of the ICC who, ever conscious of the increasing need for ensuring food safety in the production chain, were anxious to have a means of communicating the development and application of the latest analytical techniques throughout the scientific, technical, manufacturing and associated communities. The safety of food is both a global and a local issue with increasing demands for assurance of the wholesomeness of foods from legislators, retailers and consumers alike and the development of appropriate analytical testing methods is seen as a high priority.

Analytical testing methods evolve with time, particularly as increased sensitivity reduces the limits of detection of many chemical species to ever lower levels. At the same time the speed at which analyses are being carried out has

increased and rapid methods offer new opportunities for identifying and isolating problems before they reach the consumer. The focus of this journal is set very much within the context of such important changes and has the objective of providing a medium of communication between all parties interested in the quality assurance and safety of food materials from grower to processor and manufacturer.

In this first issue we present a variety of articles including a series of reviews prepared by participants in the MoniQA NoE. The link between ICC and MoniQA is a strong one with my fellow co-editor-in-chief, Roland Poms, being currently both Secretary General of ICC and scientific coordinator for MoniQA. Both groups have common aims with respect to the sharing of knowledge and best practice for quality assurance and food safety and we are very pleased that the MoniQA consortium was willing to join us in this new venture.

I would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to read our first offering and hope that after having done so you will become both a regular reader and potential contributor.

Stanley P. Cauvain
Co-editor in Chief
Former President of ICC (2004–06)
Email: spc@baketran.demon.co.uk