

Editorial

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We are happy to announce the continuation of an existing – and in some ways new-partnership between ICC and MoniQA. MoniQA, currently funded by the European Commission as a Network of Excellence and coordinated by ICC, has confirmed its continuing support of QAS as part of the newly established MoniQA Association; the global food safety network to be launched at the end of June 2011 with its secretariat based in Vienna, Austria.

Before QAS was formally launched in early 2009, ICC was happy to involve a strategic scientific partner in starting its official journal. QAS - Quality Assurance and Safety of Crops & Foods, which was initially established as an international journal publishing peer-reviewed scientific research and review papers in the areas of cereals, grain crops, their quality and issues relating to food safety. By teaming up with MoniQA, the scope of the journal was extended to safety and quality assessment in a larger range of foods and feeds. It was through this collaboration that the relatively-new journal has achieved such wide acknowledgement in providing peer-reviewed information and research results. Another milestone for QAS was reached earlier this year with Thomson Reuters announcement that QAS would be selected for coverage in their products and services; QAS indexes and abstracts will be included in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SciSearch), the Journal Citation Reports (Science Edition) and Current Contents®. Thus, QAS will receive an impact factor early in its lifetime. Although the value has yet to be determined, it will take into consideration all QAS issues published since Volume 1 in March 2009.

The MoniQA Association will be ICC's official partner to take forward responsibility for and active support of QAS in

the future. The MoniQA Association will be an autonomous organisation (Verein) registered in Austria and based in Vienna. It is a global food safety network formed by an international group of organisations dedicated to promoting safer food, which will be achieved by:

- Promoting harmonisation of analytical approaches in food safety and quality
- Improving the knowledge-based bio-economy through participation in relevant research programmes and facilitating bilateral/multinational research collaboration agreements
- Providing infrastructure for, and establishing, an international network for inter-laboratory validation trials for analytical methods and reference materials
- Disseminating and providing access to validated and robust data, and information, for food safety through, for example, online databases
- Sharing expertise and understanding through training and continuing professional education, scientific conferences and symposia, exchange and mobility of researchers, technologists, engineers etc., consultancy, publication.

Through the establishment of MoniQA as an international Association, the existing network is open to new organisations thus extending the impact of QAS and enlarging the reach of the journal. This in return will ensure that high quality papers describing cutting-edge research results will be attracted by QAS from around the world.

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