



International Symposium on Food Safety and Quality: Applications of Nuclear and Related Techniques

Vienna, Austria

IAEA Headquarters

10–13 November 2014

Announcement and Call for Papers

A. Introduction

Ensuring food supply integrity is of the utmost importance in relation to food security, safety and quality, consumer protection and international trade. Control measures throughout the entire food production and supply chain are essential to maintain and assure this integrity. The fundamental purpose of the controls is to support food safety and quality, because both are essential and set the foundation for food security and consumer protection as well as facilitating both domestic and international trade.

The need for methods to monitor and verify food safety and quality is evidenced by the ever growing list of food product recalls due to contamination with, for example, *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* and *Listeria*, and incidents such as melamine, antibiotic and dioxin contamination. Food fraud (e.g. the adulteration of beef products with horse meat), the introduction of new technologies with potential food safety implications (e.g. nanotechnology) and environmental factors (e.g. climate change) further highlight the importance of continued refinement, development and innovation to improve food control measures.

Effective techniques are necessary to help assess and manage risks and protect the consumer. These include food irradiation to treat food directly, as well as other nuclear and related technologies for tracing food products in order to verify their provenance, or to detect and control contaminants.

Continued research and innovation facilitate ongoing improvements in control strategies and the implementation of effective and efficient ‘farm-to-fork’ safety and quality assurance systems.

This symposium organized by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture will focus on food safety and quality, considering protection of the integrity of the food supply chain as a holistic process. In particular, it will:

- Bring together experts in the field to present contemporary and novel applications, identify gaps and discuss future perspectives and opportunities;
- Provide a forum for interdisciplinary networking between professionals from different backgrounds, including industry, national institutes, academia, and public and private bodies;
- Facilitate a broad understanding of the topics involved; and
- Promote peaceful applications of nuclear technologies.

B. List of Topics

Contributions are invited on the following topics:

1. Analytical technologies for food authentication, traceability and contaminant control, including:
 - Isotopic and elemental ‘fingerprinting’ for food traceability and authenticity
 - Analytical methods to detect adulterants and contaminants in food
 - Tests to detect and authenticate irradiated food
2. Food irradiation — new technological approaches and applications for reducing food waste and food losses, as well as improving food security and safety, including:
 - Shelf life extension
 - Microbiological decontamination
 - Insect disinfestation (quarantine treatment)
3. Climate change and other environmental and related factors that impact food safety and quality, with a focus on the following areas:
 - Integrated analytical techniques for food safety and environmental sustainability
 - Applications of food irradiation and analytical techniques to moderate damages associated with climate change
 - The use of radiotracers and stable isotopes for transfer studies and contaminant traceability
4. Chemometrics, statistical methods and predictive models in food analysis

5. Emerging threats to the integrity of the food supply chain and potential control techniques
6. International guidelines/standards/regulations for consumer protection and international trade

C. Target Audience

Participation is solicited from scientists, laboratory analysts, policymakers, regulators, food producers and others concerned with food safety and quality as well as with the integrity of the food supply chain.

D. Submission of Abstracts

Any participant wishing to present a paper or poster during this symposium must submit an abstract of not more than 500 words in electronic format (no paper copies) directly to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Instructions on how to upload the abstract to the symposium's web browser-based file submission system (IAEA-INDICO) will be available on the symposium web page (see Section P) as of 1 April 2014. The abstract must be submitted through this system **between 1 April and 12 May 2014**. No other form of submission will be accepted.

Authors must further submit the following two forms to their appropriate competent authority (see Section G) for official transmission to the IAEA. These forms must be received by the IAEA no later than **12 May 2014**.

- Participation Form (Form A)
- Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B)

If applicable, the Grant Application Form (Form C) must be submitted along with Forms A and B.

IMPORTANT: the electronically received abstract will be considered by the Programme Committee only if these two forms have been received by the IAEA through the established official channels (see Section G).

E. Papers and Symposium Proceedings

a) Acceptance of papers

Authors will be notified via email by **14 July 2014** as to whether, on the basis of the electronically received abstracts, their papers have been accepted for oral or poster presentation.

b) Submission of full papers

Full papers must be submitted through the IAEA-INDICO file submission system. Specifications for the layout and electronic format of the full papers and for the preparation of posters will be made

available on the symposium web page by July 2014. The IAEA-INDICO platform will be reopened for submission of manuscripts as of **17 November 2014**. The deadline for submission of full papers is **19 December 2014**. The IAEA will not accept papers submitted after the deadline, and any subsequent submission by email will also not be accepted.

c) Publication of proceedings

Papers will be peer-reviewed and those of acceptable quality and technical content will be accepted for publication in the proceedings. The proceedings of the symposium will be published by the IAEA as soon as possible after the symposium. Authors should note that material which was not presented at the symposium orally or as a poster will not be included in the proceedings.

F. Participation

All persons wishing to participate in the symposium are requested to register online in advance through the symposium web page (see Section P). In addition, they are required to send a completed Participation Form (Form A) and, if applicable, the Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) and the Grant Application Form (Form C) to their appropriate competent authority (see Section G) for subsequent official transmission to the IAEA.

A participant will be accepted only if the Participation Form is transmitted through the government of an IAEA or FAO Member State or by an organization invited to participate.

Participants whose official designations have been received by the IAEA will be sent further information on the symposium at least three months before the opening. This information will also be made available on the symposium web page (see Section P).

G. Channels of Communication

The Participation Form and, as applicable, the Form for Submission of a Paper, and the Grant Application Form, should be sent to one of the competent official authorities (in most cases these are: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, National Atomic Energy Authority, National FAO Contact Point or invited organization) for subsequent transmission to the IAEA.

H. Expenditures

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of designated participants in the symposium. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of selected specialists from its Member States eligible to receive technical assistance under the IAEA's technical cooperation programme. Such assistance may be offered, upon specific request,

to normally one participant per country provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant on whose behalf assistance is requested will make an important contribution to the symposium.

If governments wish to apply for a grant on behalf of one of their specialists, they should address specific requests to the IAEA to this effect. Governments should ensure that applications for grants are:

1. Submitted by **12 May 2014**;
2. Accompanied by a duly completed and signed Grant Application Form (Form C);
3. Accompanied by a completed Participation Form (Form A).

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually covers **only part of the cost of attendance**.

I. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary programme will be posted on the IAEA's web page for the symposium (see Section P) as soon as possible.

The final programme and the Book of Abstracts (in electronic format only) will be available free of charge upon registration at the symposium and will also be posted on the symposium web page.

Subject to availability and author consent, PDF files of the symposium presentations will be made available for downloading from the symposium web page.

J. Exhibitions

Limited space will be available for commercial vendors' displays/exhibits during the symposium. Interested parties should send an email to: FEP-Symposium-2014.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

K. Working Language

The working language of the symposium will be English. All communications, abstracts, presentations, posters and full papers must be in English.

L. Accommodation

Detailed information on accommodation and other administrative details will be made available on the symposium web page (see Section P) well in advance of the symposium.

M. Visas

Designated participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before entry into Austria. Please note that Austria is a Schengen State and therefore persons who require a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

N. Key Deadlines

Submission of Form B (Form for Submission of a Paper) and abstract:	12 May 2014
Submission of Form C (Grant Application Form):	12 May 2014
Notification of acceptance for presentation:	14 July 2014
Submission of full paper for publication:	19 December 2014

O. Symposium Secretariat

Scientific Secretary:

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to either of the Scientific Secretaries and correspondence on administrative matters to the IAEA Conference Services Section.

P. Symposium Web Page

Please visit the IAEA symposium web page regularly for new information regarding this symposium:

<http://www-pub.iaea.org/iaeameetings/46092/Food-Safety-and-Quality>