

FP7 Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology Workshop

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has the pleasure to invite you a workshop presenting the "Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology" research priority of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), to be presented as part of the European South African Science and Technology Advancement Programme (ESASTAP). The workshop has been convened at short notice, for **Thursday 25 May 2006**, in order to leverage the presence in South Africa of Dr Antonio Di Giulio, the Head of Unit for Food Quality R&D in the European Commission's Directorate-General Research. Dr Di Giulio will be the keynote speaker at the workshop, which will also include the participation of Dr Geoff Meese, South Africa's Framework Programme National Contact Point for Food Safety and Quality R&D. The workshop will be held at the Pretoria Sheraton & Towers Hotel (643 Wessels Street, Arcadia), starting at 10:00, concluding at 14:00 (including a networking lunch.)

The FP7 Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology research priority will have as chief objective the bringing together of science, industry and other stakeholders, to exploit new and emerging research opportunities that address social and economic challenges, such as the growing demand for safer, healthier and higher quality food. Within this context the following factors will be an important part of the research agenda: animal welfare and rural contexts; the sustainable production and use of renewable bio-resources; the increasing risk of epizootic and zoonotic diseases and food related disorders; and threats to the sustainability and security of agricultural and fisheries production resulting in particular from climate change.

Dr Di Giulio's specific focus will be on the so-called "Fork to Farm: Food, health and well-being" R&D agenda. Important R&D focus areas here will include:

- Understanding consumer behaviour as a major factor in the competitiveness of the food industry and the impact of food on the health and well-being of the citizen.
- Understanding dietary factors and habits as a major controllable factor in the development and reduction of occurrence of diet-related diseases and disorders.
- Optimising innovation in the food industry through the integration of advanced technologies into traditional food production, key process technologies to enhance the functionality of food, the development and demonstration of high-tech, eco-efficient processing and packaging, smart control applications and more efficient management of by-products, wastes and energy.
- Assuring chemical and microbiological safety and improving quality in the food supply.
- Protecting both human health and the environment through a better understanding of the environmental impacts on and of food/feed chains.

We regret the short notification but would like to encourage all South African researchers with an interest in especially food R&D to attend the event, which will be a valuable opportunity for strategic learning and preparation with an eye to the first FP7 calls for proposals to be launched at the end of 2006. Participation in the workshop should kindly be confirmed at:

contact@esastap.org.za. Further information on the workshop will also be published at:

<http://www.esastap.org.za/Events/saEvents.html>

Please do not hesitate to contact the ESASTAP team at the DST should you require any further information.

Kind regards Daan du Toit
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