

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION BY INSTITUTION

Institution Name (Acronym)	Walloon Agricultural Research Centre (CRA-W)
Country	Belgium
Researchers involved (please, indicate university department or research group affiliation where appropriate) (* contact person)	Vincent Baeten* and Juan Antonio Fernández Pierna Quality and authentication of products Unit (QAP Unit - CRA-W)
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Main Research topics	<p>The Quality and Authentication of Products Unit (QAP Unit) is part of the Knowledge and Valorisation of Agricultural Products Department of CRA-W and has a 30-person staff of researchers and technicians. The QAP Unit is involved in the development and implementation of sustainable practices to reinforce and assess the quality and authentication of agricultural and agro-food products.</p> <p>The QAP Unit is an active and innovative research unit involved in sustainable practices to reinforce and assess the quality and authentication of agricultural and agri-food products. The Unit has 4 thematic Clusters (TCs): Composition and process monitoring (TC1), Detection and identification of contaminants, impurities and fraud (TC2), Ingredient and product typology (TC3), Databases and Data sciences (TC4). Each thematic cluster brings together targeted research activities defined as a priority in order to fulfil the mission of the Unit.</p>

<p>Main Equipment and Facilities</p>	<p>The QAP Unit hosts 6 research laboratories: the Molecular Biology Laboratory, the Microbiology Laboratory, the Optical and Digital Microscopy Laboratory, the Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Laboratory, the On-field and process control laboratory, and the Imaging, MIR and Raman Spectroscopy Laboratory. In addition, there are two transversal entities, i.e. Data-Base, Chemometry and Bio-Informatics; and Proteomic (MS spectrometry) entities. The unit is fully equipped with standard and outstanding equipment: i.e. electronic and vibrational bench-top, portable and handheld spectrometers (Fluorescence, VIS, NIR, MIR, FT-Raman), optical and vibrational microscopes (Light Microscope, UV microscope, Digital Microscope, NIR microscope, MIR microscope, Raman Microscope), Hyperspectral Imaging devices (VIS & NIR), PCR devices (RT-PCR, Digital PCR), MS spectrometers (GC-MS and UPLC-MSMS), and chemometrics and bio-informatic software. The QAP Unit hosts the European Union Reference Laboratory for Animal Protein (EURL-AP), is part of the NRL-OGM (JRC-Ispra), NRL-Additive (JRC-Geel) and Milk Guidance of the Walloon Region, and runs part of its activities under ISO 17025 and ISO 17043 schemes.</p>
<p>Other relevant information</p>	<p>The QAP Unit has participated or participates in several European projects dealing with quality, safety, traceability and authentication of food and feed products (STRATFEED, TYPIC, MEDEO, CO-EXTRA, TRACE, SAFEED-PAP, FEEDforHEALTH, CONFIDENCE, QSAFE, FOODINTEGRITY, AUTHENT-NET, SENSORFINT). The Unit hosts also the European Union Reference Laboratory for Animal proteins (EURL-AP) since 2006.</p>