



Background

Mycotoxins are compounds produced by filamentous fungi, some of which are known to be toxic to humans and animals. The toxicity of most of these so-called mycotoxin is unknown. Mycotoxins, can occur either pre-harvest when grain and forage crops are growing in the field or post-harvest during handling, transportation, storage and processing of raw materials. Mycotoxins are thermostable, have great chemical stability and withstand industrial processing, so that all products made from contaminated raw materials are likely to contain these compounds. Mycotoxin contamination impacts on farm businesses as well as human health: it is estimated that 3.2 million cases of illness and 50,000 hospitalisations per year are due to mycotoxins in the EU alone, and it is a growing issue, fostered by climate change and the increasing temperatures it brings with it.

Agritox is an Interreg project funded jointly under the European Research and Development fund and National funding to carry out research in the area of mycotoxins in food and feed (Contract EAPA 998/2018).

Project Coordinator:

Prof. Luis Botana
Faculty of Veterinary
University of Santiago de Compostela
Spain

luis.botana@usc.es

www.agritox.eu

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AGRITOX



Prevention and Mitigation of Mycotoxin Contamination of Food and Feed Caused by Climate Change





Project Overview

Agritox is a new collaborative project, which has been funded under Interreg Atlantic Area Priority 3: Strengthening the territory's resilience to risks of natural, climate and human origin.

Agritox will carry out research in the area of mycotoxins in food and feed. It aims to advance the development of a mycotoxin warning network that will increase consumer safety, as well as establish some possible indicator of risks related to climate change.

The consortium is led by Professor Luis Botana from the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC), Lugo Campus, Spain. The Agritox project has eight project partners from five countries (Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland and Northern Ireland) and five Atlantic Area Regions.

Project Objectives

The main objective of Agritox is to provide the Atlantic Area food and feed industries with information and technical solutions to avoid the contamination by mycotoxins, which is an increasingly relevant issue due to the influence of climate change.

Agritox partners will engage with stakeholders through dissemination and training to promote awareness on mycotoxins, to help identify existing mycotoxin detection methods and facilitate technology transfer.

The project will identify mycotoxin risks for food and feed and will develop a comprehensive reference database of mycotoxins that will provide Atlantic Area stakeholders with occurrence information and technical support.

Agritox will also establish a cost-efficient, easy-to-use Mycotoxin Alert System, which will be piloted for different food and feed sectors and different stages of the production life cycle.

Partners



Luis Botana
luis.botana@usc.es
Country: Spain
www.usc.es



Chris Elliott
chris.elliott@qub.ac.uk
Country: United Kingdom
www.qub.ac.uk/igfs



Professor Vitor Vasconcelos
vmvascon@fc.up.pt
Country: Portugal
www2.ciimar.up.pt



Martin Danaher
martin.danaher@teagasc.ie
Country: Ireland
www.teagasc.ie



Eva Cagide
eva.cagide@cifga.com
Country: Spain
www.cifga.com



Olga Aguin
olga.aguin@depo.es
Dr. Carmen Salinero
carmen.salinero@depo.es
Country: Spain
www.depo.gal
www.efa-dip.org



Valérie Fessard
valerie.fessard@anses.fr
Country: France
www.anses.fr



Ana Gomes
ana.gomes@cavc.pt
Isabel Ramos
isabel.ramos@cavc.pt
Country: Portugal
www.cavc.pt