

## PROSPECTUS

**Title:** **Regional Training Course on Development of Quality Assurance for Mycotoxin Analysis of Food and Feed**

**Place:** Instituto Adolfo Lutz, San Pablo, Brazil

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2000

**Deadline for nominations:** 6 April 2000

**Organizers:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency through their FAO/IAEA Training and Reference Centre for Food and Pesticide Control, in co-operation with the Government of the Federal Republic of Brazil through the Instituto Adolfo Lutz, Health Secretary of São Paulo State.

**Language:** The languages of instruction will be Spanish and English

**Participation:** The course is open to official delegates of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Two officials from each country are invited to participate. Up to 10 participants will be selected from the food industry, these participants will be self-supported.

**Background of the course:** Harmonisation of protocols on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, based on the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization is a requirement for international trade in food and agricultural commodities. Validation and accreditation of analytical methods to ensure reliable and internationally accepted results on various food contaminants are also fundamental to trade based on the SPS Agreement. Mycotoxins are among the food contaminants being regulated at present and often become non-tariff barriers. Laboratories in developing countries need assistance in implementing quality assurance systems according to ISO 17025 and GLP in order to objectively demonstrate their analytical capability.

**Participants' qualifications:** Participants must be scientists with ample experience in mycotoxin analyses, head analysts and/or quality assurance officers working in official laboratories responsible for control of import and export food.

**Purpose of the course:** To provide participants with general quality assurance principles and give theoretical

and practical training in implementation of ISO Guide 17025 and GLP. To enable mycotoxin control laboratories to comply with the requirements of international trade by establishing a quality system and to obtain reliable analytical results necessary for accreditation.

The following subjects will be covered:

- θ General principles of quality assurance;
- θ ISO Standards (9000, 17025 );
- θ Good Laboratory Practices (GLP);
- θ Document and manual preparation;
- θ Personnel qualification;
- θ Method validation: statistical tools and techniques;
- θ Proficiency studies;
- θ Traceability of standards and results;
- θ Reference materials;
- θ Equipment calibration and
- θ Accreditation procedure by certified bodies.

**Nature of the course:**

The training course will consist of theoretical lectures, practical group exercises, case studies and mock internal mycotoxin laboratory audits. Participants will receive handouts, documents, guidelines, exercise materials; they will make oral presentations, conduct practical audits and pass a final examination. The subjects covered will give participants the criteria and tools for fulfilling ISO17025 requirements necessary for seeking accreditation in mycotoxin analysis.

**Application procedure:**

Official nominations must be received by the FAO Headquarters in Rome, not later than **6<sup>th</sup> April 2000**. Nominations received after this date cannot be considered.

Advanced nominations by facsimile (fax no: 39 06 5705 4593), or e-mail (ezzeddine.boutrif@fao.org) are welcomed. The facsimile / e-mail should contain the following basic information about the candidate: name, age, academic qualifications, present position including exact nature of duties carried out, and full working address including telephone / facsimile numbers.

**Administrative and financial arrangements:**

Nominating Governments will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected and will at that time be given full details on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

During their attendance at the course, FAO-supported participants will receive a daily subsistence allowance (DSA) at the official UN rate. The FAO will also bear the full cost of their round-trip air ticket, economy class, from their home countries to San Pablo, Brazil and return. Shipment of accumulated course materials to the participants' home countries is not the responsibility of the FAO.

The organizers of the course do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in nominating participants, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.