



Wetenschappelijk Comité  
Comité scientifique

Improving the safety of the food chain through risk prevention in plant and animal production

**Conclusions of the symposium:  
“risk assessment and prevention in  
plant and animal production : towards  
convergence”**



# Converting parallel approaches to convergent models/methodology

- **Hazards**

- Invasive species/emerging infectious diseases
- Resistance against phytopharma and antimicrobials
  - Interface between plant/animal pathogens and human pathogens

- **Assessment of introduction risk**

- Description of drivers
  - Trade routes / non conventional trade routes
  - Globalisation
  - Wildlife expansion
  - Climate changes
  - Concentration of production (pigs in Denmark ... Bananas in Costa Rica)
- Early warning
  - broad-based, globalisation and fast exchange on info

- **Assessment of uncertainty**

- **« Social epidemiology »**



# Converting parallel approaches to convergent models/methodology

- **Risk management**

- Contingency planning
- Risk mitigation (endemic pathogens, managing resistance)
- Risk prevention and attitude of stakeholders
- International agreements/regulations

- **Limits of convergent methods: not the sky**

- Plant and animal products are different
- The trade/economic network is different
- The threshold: at the level of RISK MANAGEMENT

- **The convergence**

- Methods of scientific risk assessment and the scientific part of risk management (risk mitigation by applying management options)



# Convergence of diverse (scientific) education and (professional) experience

- **Variation in values, belief, attitude, behaviour**
- **One health is a difficult experience**
  - Vets, doctors, bioengineers, biologists, etc.
  - Human science (sociology): perception of stakeholders
- **Globalisation increases the diversity**
  - EFSA assessments: EU vs member states
  - Change the attitude: to follow the same objective with different « cultures »
    - National – EFSA – FAO - UN
    - Europe, Africa, Asia, America(s)
- **At two points**
  - Creation of knowledge: collaborative scientific programs
  - Use of knowledge: expert panels

