

Latin and Central American Symposium on Strengthening Risk Analysis in Food Safety

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The 2nd Latin American and Caribbean Risk Assessment Symposium (LARAS) starts in mid-October. Organised jointly by the Chilean Agency for Food Safety and Quality (ACHIPIA) and the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and available digitally due to the pandemic.

Over four days – on October 14, 18, 19 and 25, 2021 – international scientists will come together online for a series of specialist lectures and discussions on the subject of food safety. The aim of the symposium is to work towards making risk analysis more robust. The events feature a regional perspective and focus on risk analysis and assessment in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The increasingly interconnected nature of production and supply chains worldwide, has led to the emergence of a growing need for collaboration on food safety and consumer health protection at a global level. The international structures in risk assessment, risk management and risk communication represent the important building blocks in this endeavour.

The Latin American Risk Assessment Symposium aims to promote knowledge sharing and strengthen risk analysis in Latin America and the Caribbean – based on trust, collaboration, a multidisciplinary approach and the latest scientific knowledge. A different main topic is discussed on each day: The first day focuses on food authenticity. Day two puts novel foods and new risks on the agenda. On the following day, experts will give lectures and discuss collaborative experiences in risk assessment, and on the fourth day they will talk about communication of food risks.

The partners for this year's LARAS are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The expert speakers come from over ten countries around the world.

The first LARAS took place in 2019 and was launched on the initiative of the Uruguayan Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) and the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR). 152 food safety experts from seven countries gathered in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The program and further information: <https://www.achipia.gob.cl/laras2021/>

The events are broadcast on two platforms at the same time. Prior **registration is required** for access:

YouTube: Only offered in Spanish. Registration via this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/nAHvijrk3R>

Zoom: With simultaneous translation in English, Spanish and Portuguese, but with limited space. Registration via this link: <https://www.achipia.gob.cl/laras-pre-inscripcion/>

About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. The BfR advises the Federal Government and the States ('Laender') on questions of food, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

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