



meCagrO₂: safe products, sustainable processes and employment increased attractiveness for companies from the 2 Seas agro-food area.

→ The project

meCagrO₂ focuses on a range of aspects including new processes for safety, sustainability and working conditions. It will study the problems arising in food processing companies and begin the development of new solutions for improved products and processes, improved sustainability and improved conditions of work.

→ Objectives

1. Innovative solutions in food safety and health

- Analysis of existing processes
- Development of improved processes that preserve the taste, feel and nutrition of the raw materials
- Thermal treatments and new conservation techniques
- Natural extraction of ingredients and additives
- Organic production and chemical and microbiological safety
- Natural alternatives to petrochemical based food additives

2. Sustainability in food manufacture and supply

Measurement and reduction of environmental footprint, especially energy use and water use; carbon accounting; accounting for energy use

- Reduction of waste streams – material, energy, water
- Non-food development of biomass energy
- Evaluation of potential improvements and technical barriers
- Development of co-products and use of by-products

3. Improvement of work conditions in the food industry

To address the problems of recruiting skilled staff for unpleasant work environments (cold, humidity etc)

- Analysis of existing work practices; analysis of food safety requirements; identification of necessary human intervention (e.g. skills of filleting)
- New processes and operations at work, improved ergonomic workstations



Food processing industry in Europe

- 280,000 companies
- 4 million employees
- 90% of SMEs.

→ Perspectives

Supported by numerous French and Flemish clusters (NSL, Aquimer, VLAV), this project constitutes a first step in the construction of a multinational research cluster based on the themes that will be honed and confirmed through this project:

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