EFSA is the risk assessor, evaluating risks associated with the food chain. EFSA doesn't have scientific laboratories, nor does it generate new scientific research. It collects and analyses existing research and data and provides scientific advice to support decision-making by risk managers.

Risk Assessment vs Risk Management

**Risk Assessor**
- EFSA is the risk assessor, evaluating risks associated with the food chain. EFSA doesn't have scientific laboratories, nor does it generate new scientific research. It collects and analyses existing research and data and provides scientific advice to support decision-making by risk managers.

**Risk Manager**
- Risk managers are the European Commission, Member State authorities and the European Parliament. They are responsible for making decisions or setting legislation about food safety.

In practice
The re-evaluation of food additives

EFSA carries out a thorough risk assessment of each food additive. This includes an assessment of consumer exposure to additives through the diet. Based on EFSA's advice, risk managers may grant market authorisation, remove substances from the EU list of approved additives or revise maximum levels authorised in foods.

For example, risk managers have removed one food colour from the market and reduced maximum levels for a further three additives.

Other examples

**Risk Assessment**
- EFSA carries out risk assessment on safety of certain neonicotinoids for bees.
- EFSA evaluates safety of every GMO on a case-by-case basis.
- EFSA collects and analyses data from Member States on prevalence of Salmonella in poultry holdings and assesses risk for human health.

**Risk Management**
- Risk managers suspend use of certain neonicotinoids in EU.
- Risk managers decide whether or not to authorise each GMO.
- Risk managers set reduction targets for Salmonella in laying hens in the EU.

**Risk assessment is**
- Providing scientific advice on food-related risks to support decision-making.

**Risk assessment is NOT about**
- Policy making on food safety
- Setting or enforcing legislation
- Product approvals and authorisations, recalls and withdrawals
- Food labelling
- Food quality
- Trade issues, import/export controls, traceability
- Investigation of food fraud

EFSA is the keystone of EU risk assessment regarding food and feed safety. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks.

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