

# COCERAL

## Presentation for EFSA StaDG-ER Meeting

*“Next edition (2025) of the COCERAL  
Mycotoxin management report”*

5 June 2025



# Main findings of COCERAL mycotoxins management report 2023

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1. Most of our members expect that the following mycotoxins might become more prevalent in the future (next 10 years) in the country/ies they collect/source grains and oilseeds, also in relationship with effect of climate change (*most frequently observed effect are increasingly common heat waves, especially in southeastern Europe*).
  - Aflatoxins and Ochratoxins in corn
  - Deoxynivalenol, sum of T-2 and H-T2 toxins in all cereals
  - Zearalenone and Alternaria toxins in oilseeds
  - A growing concern on the rise is regarding rust fungi
2. Possible expected future constraint is that a increasing % of grains (fit for human consumption) will have to be declassified as feed, as EU regulatory levels for mycotoxins in food\* will likely not be met (as the prevalence and co-occurrence of different mycotoxins will likely increase). **In the worst-case scenario, a certain % of grains (i.e., corn) will not even meet the maximum levels foreseen by the EU for feed material\*\***

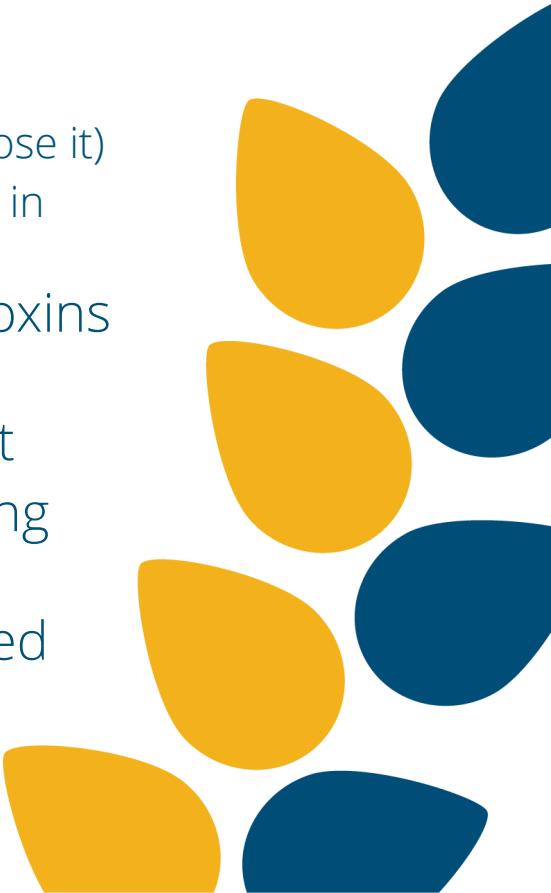


## Main findings of COCERAL mycotoxins management report 2023

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3. Our members will do the most to make sure that such constraints will be contained by:

- Recommending farmers to
  - Performing meteorological survey during critical stages of the crops (i.e., flowering)
  - Use only certified seed material
  - Use better crop rotation practices
  - Use of allowed fungicides at the right dose and right time (i.e. when the weather impose it)
  - Harvest the grains when they are ready and dry and cool the grains slowly and gently in storage
- Use good storage practices (cooling, ventilation) to avoid storage mycotoxins to occur
- Perform (*even more*) sampling and testing at collection and pre-shipment
- Use of contract specifications (purchase and sale) and internal monitoring programs
- Perform (*even more*) sampling and testing at all stages, always using skilled personnel (i.e., surveyors) and accredited laboratories\*



# Expected changes of COCERAL mycotoxins management report 2025 (since previous editions)

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1. More answers are expected to be received (possibly covering all 21 national associations which are members of COCERAL, and covering a higher volume of traded grains than previous editions)
2. The new edition will still
  - Explaining (for a general audience) what mycotoxins are and what are the risks for human and animal health **(This part will be streamlined by the Secretariat team)**
  - Providing detailed info on how EFSA works and how the EU regulatory framework (and how decision to introduce new regulatory levels are taken) works **(This part will be described even further by the Secretariat team)**
  - Listing sampling and testing practices (*when, where, on what commodities/mycotoxins, and how*) pursued by grain collectors and international traders **(This part will be described even further, if members are willing to do so)**
  - New item! Providing a risk classification for mycotoxins and products (to guide members to a streamlined and fine-tuned internal data collection) – This is an optional item
  - Listing the answers provided by our members to a series of qualitative open questions, meant to assess:
    - how our members perceive the risk of mycotoxins,
    - how they prevent it (we will ask our members how they select their suppliers and products), and
    - how they think that the effect of climate might impact mycotoxins occurrence in the next 10 years (actually we will ask about next 5 years)
    - New item: members will be asked to assess how they perceive the co-occurrence of mycotoxins (i.e., when DON level are high, sum of T2 and HT-2 Toxins are low and vice versa)
    - New item: members will be asked about which type of support they search from EU institutions
3. Moreover, it lists the constraints that (considering a possible increase in occurrence and co-occurrence of different mycotoxins in cereals and oilseeds) current or new EU regulatory levels for such mycotoxins will pose to our members.



## Expected date of release of COCERAL mycotoxins management report 2025

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- Internal survey will be launched during beginning of summer 2025, and will close by October 2025
- Tentative date of publication: end of Q1 2026





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