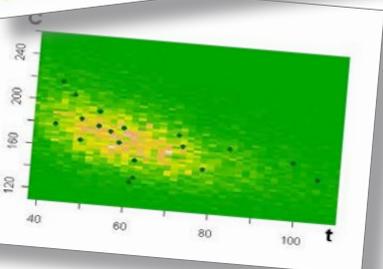
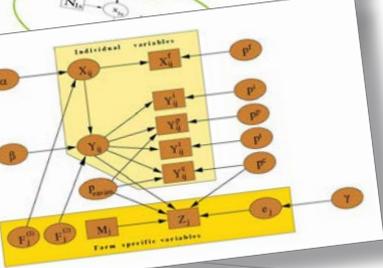
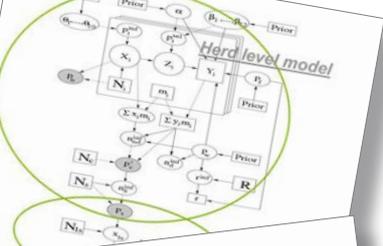


Risk assessment at Evira



Risk assessment is part of risk analysis and the objective of risk assessment is to produce new information for risk management purposes. A risk profile is developed prior to risk assessment to collect and describe existing information about the hazards and associated risks. Risk assessment is independent of the interests of the various parties and utilises methods that fulfil scientific criteria to produce objective information so as to facilitate risk management decision-making.

Risk assessment is a scientific process, which produces risk estimates related to the chemical and microbiological risks involved in food production as well as the disease risks involved in animal and plant production. Depending on the needs, risk assessments range from short clearly delineated summaries to extensive risk assessment processes carried out over several years, with methodology and models developed on the basis of the results.

R&D activities of Risk Assessment

The R&D activities of the Risk Assessment Research Unit focus particularly on the assessment methodology used and the application of the methods in the assessment of foods and primary production (animal diseases and plant health). The objective is to develop, alongside the assessment of health risks, also the assessment of the economic impact in cooperation with other operators in the field.

Risk assessment in primary production

Risk assessment related to animal and plant health can be carried out to assess the characteristics of the pathogen that causes the disease, the production forms vulnerable to it as well as the risk of the pathogen entering and spreading in Finland. The effectiveness and cost efficiency of the means available to prevent the risk, or once the risk has been realised, to reduce its consequences can also be assessed.

Risk assessment of foods

Foods and food production chains can involve chemical, biological and physical hazards, which cause health risks that must be identified. Information about the hazards that cause the risk must be acquired to make an assessment of the severity of the risk. Information is gathered about exposure to these hazards, short-term and long-term effects, dose-response relationships and the potential of the hazards to gain access into the production chain, and the effects of various actions on the incidence and concentration of the hazards.





Photo: Philippe Prigent

National and international cooperation

A multidisciplinary team conducts risk assessments in collaboration with the different Units of Evira as well as other domestic and foreign research institutes and universities.

The researchers who work in the Research Unit represent many different scientific fields, such as food and veterinary science, statistics and nutrition, as well as chemistry, microbiology, biology and mathematics. We are actively involved in the international scene. We follow and develop new risk assessment processes and make presentations in international forums. We organise training events and seminars in the field of risk assessment. The Risk Assessment Research Unit coordinates, together with Focal Point, the exchange of scientific data and cooperative activities between Finland and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Risk assessment is always transparent

In order to secure the openness and transparency of risk assessment, all reports and other documented evidence of risk assessment processes are public. Wide circulation of documentation for comments ensures, for its part, that the problem area is considered as comprehensively and diversely as possible. Objectivity and openness are the key values of risk assessment.



Personnel of Risk Assessment Research Unit in August 2011.

The Website of Risk Assessment Research Unit:
www.evira.fi/portal/fi/evira/esittely/toiminta/riskinarviointi/

The website of Focal Point:
www.evira.fi/portal/fi/evira/esittely/toiminta/efsan_focal_point-toiminta/