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IMPLEMENTING NEW APPROACH METHODOLOGIES: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Food & Feed Regulatory Context

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Setting the EFSA scene









EFSA SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS FOCUS

- R for Replacement of animal tests with non-animal tests
- Support regulatory processes
- Building partnerships with other EU Agencies on working towards technical validation of studies

'The 3 Rs ALTERNATIVES'

Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement of animals used in research, teaching, and exhibition.



REPLACEMENT – THE USE OF NEW APPROACH METHODOLOGIES (NAMs)

Variety of In vitro, in vivo, in chemico, in silico - measure of Key Events (KE) applicable studies AOP-informed Integrate Approach Test Assessment (IATA) Evolve methods/models/tools To Increase knowledge and improve risk assessment Support paradigm shift Fast growth Scientific Quick advancement Development Increase of available toolbox





"[...] to reduce dependency on animal testing but also to improve the quality, efficiency and speed of chemical risk assessment."



ROADMAP FOR ACTION ON NAMS

TEST (multi-omics, *in silico, in vitro*, AOPs, organoids, grouping, PBPK, human models)

INTEGRATE

Conclusions on MoA/thresholds into an IATA system

NAMs Landscape EFSA collaborations

EFSA STRATEGY 2027 Strategic Objective 2 – Key Actions Develop and integrate new approach methodologies (NAMs) and omics for regulatory risk assessment

For areas not yet covered by legal bases on NAMs' use

EC Science Policy Interface – Set the ambition!

" The Commission will foster multidisciplinary research and digital innovations for advanced tools, methods and models, and data analysis capacities to also move away from animal testing."



EFSA's current use of NAMs in risk assessment

NAM is the assessment of comparative metabolism

NAM for the assessment of developmental neurotoxicity

Regulatory case studies NAM for the assessment of chronic neurotoxicity focus on Parkinson diseases

NAM for the assessment of the endocrine activity using in vitro studies for the evaluation of the ED properties of pesticides

Chemical mixtures



available

EFSA Guideline (OECD DNT IVB) NAM for the assessment of developmental neurotoxicity









THE PRESENT – NAMS Roadmap for action for development and implementation (Escher *et al.* 2022)



ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION - WHERE IS EFSA NOW WITH NAMS?

32 EFSA-launched projects

APCRA, PARC

INVESTMENTS Areas addressed: toxicokinetics, toxicodynamic, systems' toxicology, modelling, read-across, data management → Emphasis on case studies

Strong scientific collaboration with US EPA, OECD, JRC,

EFSAOECD DNT IVB: in vitro assays for developmentalGuidance Documentsneurotoxicity



THE FUTURE: EFSA projects on NAMS – Multi annual plan



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NAMs – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



EFSA's KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION COMMUNITY (KIC) ON NAMS



EU MS Food Safety Agencies







STRONGER TOGETHER EFSA EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT LANDSCAPE on NAMS



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