

From the 4th to 8th June 2024, the Food Technology Laboratory had the privilege to host a regional training programme. The objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of official laboratories in Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles in the implementation of methods of analysis for the detection of pesticide residues in foodstuff. Some 14 participants coming from different official laboratories of Mauritius, Madagascar and the Seychelles attended the hands-on training.



This training organised with the support of the TAIEX programme under the SANOI programme was delivered by Professor Michelangelo Anastassiades as a follow-up to the regional seminar on laboratory policies which took place in Port Louis in June last year. Prof. Michelangelo Anastassiades is the Director of the EU Reference Laboratory (EU RL) for Pesticides Single Residue Methods, the Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt (CVUA), in Stuttgart, Germany. The EU RLs are responsible to validate methods of analysis which are to be used by official laboratories and private sector laboratories, and to disseminate knowledge on these official methods. For this purpose, EU RLs organize training and proficiency tests with all members of the network of national reference laboratories in the 27 member states of the European Union. In his position as Director

of CVUA, Prof Anastassiades is a reference and scientific authority in the field of analysis of pesticides at EU level and worldwide and especially on single residue methods.



To note that Michelangelo Anastassiades was awarded the 2023 Harvey W. Wiley Award, the AOAC's highest honor for lifetime scientific achievement. He has been responsible for the European Union's Reference Laboratories for Residues for Pesticides Requiring Single Residue Methods (EURL-SRM) since its establishment in 2006. A series of innovations in the early 2000s that changed the way pesticide residue detection was being done and which are now globally used in laboratories, are attributed to him. The QuEChERS analytical approach (Quick, Easy, Cheap, Effective, Rugged, and Safe) is his most significant contribution to the development of analytical standards and methods.



The training organized at FTL was co-financed by two initiatives of the European Union, namely: the SANOI project which is providing a wide range of technical assistance to the Indian Ocean Commission and its member countries; and the TAIEX programme. TAIEX is a EU mechanism aimed at facilitating the mobilization of high level expertise from EU institutions and EU Member States to disseminate technical knowledge and serve as a basis for cooperation between authorities. The SANOI (Programme régional d'appui à la Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle) aims to reduce malnutrition and food insecurity in the Indian Ocean region (Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, and Seychelles), budgetd to the tune of 16 million Euros under the 11th FED and is being implemented in partnership with the Commission de l'Océan Indien., till March 2025.

Acknowledgements

Mr Franck Boccas

https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-technical-assistance/taix_en

<https://www.aoac.org/news/aoac-international-announces-michelangelo-anastassiades-as-the-2023-wiley-award-winner/>