

EDITORIAL

“Serving Feed safety”

Pascal LE PAIH
Chairman of OQUALIM



The past year for the OQUALIM association was marked by significant progress and challenges met with determination, reflecting our commitment to quality and continuous improvement in the animal feed sector. At the start of my term as Chairman in June 2023, the roadmap for the years to come had been clearly set. I had participated in its drafting and I was pleased to present it to you during our public general meeting in April of the same year.

During this year, we continued to carry, structure and coordinate the collective approaches to the safety and quality of animal feed.

With regard to certification, we have broadened the association's scope of action by building on our know-how. Thus, a sustainable soy for animal nutrition module supplements the certifications that feed manufacturers can bring to market demands. At our unions' requests, we will supplement the offering with a “carbon” reference in order to guarantee the reliability and recognition of environmental impact data for feed communicated by animal nutrition operators to their customers. This reference will build on the methodological guidelines for the calculation of the environmental footprint of compound feed and pre-mixtures developed by the professional unions.

We have also reinforced our collaboration with other national and international organisations, which enables us to share best practices. We cannot underestimate the importance of these collaborations as they enrich our expertise and our ability to innovate. We have notably worked with QS in Germany on the certification approach for the sustainability of feed materials. We are contributing to laying the foundations for transparent items on the mutual recognition modalities between schemes.

OQUALIM has maintained its national commitment by actively participating in the collaborative work within the feed chain monitoring platform.

We have implemented new initiatives to support our participants in their adoption of feed safety standards. Our training programme has been particularly enriched, offering multiple support modules for each new proposal. This training effort shows our desire to ensure that each player is equipped to face the sector's current and future challenges.

In conclusion, while this year was demanding, the actions carried out confirm that our trajectory is not only robust but also focused on the future. Our mission remains clear: promote the quality and feed safety for all sector players, and in the end, the final consumer. We are approaching the coming year with optimism and the renewed commitment to continue on this path to excellence. 🌱

CERTIFICATIONS

Professional orientations

The certification steering and monitoring committees, specific profession working groups for STNO and STNE comprising **professionals met 11 times in 2023 to maintain and develop the certification programmes.**

Certification organisations

Third party audits

As at end 2023, 7 Certification organisations were approved.

37 auditors were qualified to carry out RCNA audits.

2 Certification monitoring committees with the certification organisations.

All RCNA approved certification organisations are accredited ISO 17065 for this programme.

References serving company feed safety management

The references developed by OQUALIM, RCNA, RCF, serve feed safety management. The Technical Platforms, STNO, STNE cover the specific features of the “GMO-free <0.9%” and Equine

Nutrition specifications. The equivalences with the GMP+ International, OVOCOM, QS and UFAS schemes have been renewed. A Sustainable Soy for Animal Nutrition module, SDNA, was published in October 2023. It is certifiable since 1 January 2024. It notably targets companies that wish to demonstrate the compliance of their actions with the sustainability requirements recognised at the European level, in line with the FEFAC’s “responsible soy” guidelines (2021 version). The certificate benefits from equivalences including a QS Soy Plus equivalence. The programmes are freely accessible on the OQUALIM website.

Use of data

Collaborative work

OQUALIM took part in the round table on certification schemes covering feed safety.

As a member of “Certifications Accreditation Commission”, OQUALIM participates in the work carried out by the COFRAC to monitor accreditation standards.

In October and November 2023, 4 webinar sessions were organised to inform participants about certification programme developments. 🎥



ANIMAL NUTRITION CERTIFICATION REFERENCE (RCNA)

- **340** certified sites
- **116** sites certified RCNA International
- **263** production sites for compound feed (CF)
- **96 %** of the production of complete compound feed manufactured in France
- **45** production sites for Mineral Feed -Premixture (MF-P)



SUPPLIER CERTIFICATION REFERENCE (RCF)

- **23** certified sites



“EQUINE NUTRITION” TECHNICAL PLATFORM (STNE)

- **54** certified sites
- **45** CF production sites
- **9** MF production sites



“GMO-FREE < 0.9%” TECHNICAL PLATFORM (STNO)

- **295** certified sites
- **242** CF production sites
- **53** MF production sites

POOLED SELF-MONITORING PLANS



Professional orientations

The steering committees for the feed plan and supplement plan, the laboratory working groups, feed, milk replacer feed, organic feed, STNO and STNE plans comprising **professionals met 15 times in 2023** to ensure the plan operations.

Launch of the STNE plan in January 2023, with a data transmission system by mail to OQUALIM, for compilation, communication and provision to all participants at least monthly.

The experience of this first year of operation of the STNE plan enabled us to determine and refine the elements required to host future plans on the quality portal.



Referenced laboratories Analytical monitoring

At end 2023, **44 laboratories** were referenced. The referencing concerns bacteriology, metallic trace elements, botanical impurities, mycotoxins, persistent organic pollutants, pesticide residues and genetically modified events.



Availability of results Serving company feed safety management

In 2023, across all plans, the results of over 14,850 samples were pooled, 23 alerts were relayed.

6 annual summaries were prepared for companies participating in the plans.



Use of data - Collaborative work

The results on cereals and oilseed crops, 2023 campaign feed plans integrated the cereal sector monitoring plan and the Oilseed Monitoring Plan (PSO).

OQUALIM participates in the PSO steering committees and cereal sector monitoring plan to actively contribute to the organisation of monitoring of undesirable substances.

OQUALIM participates in the Steering Committee of the Feed Chain Monitoring platform, in the "Salmonella Monitoring", "Data Quality", "Priority of chemical hazards" monitoring groups and the Cadmium and FUSÉ working groups.

The report by the Cadmium Working Group was published at the end of 2023 by the SCA platform. 🇫🇷

Representativeness of plans - Key figures

Feed
128 participating companies for
255 complete feed manufacturing sites:
95% of annual French production.

Supplements
51 participating companies for
67 manufacturing sites of supplementary feed and premixtures, representing almost all of annual French production.

New!

STNE
35 companies corresponding to
50 participating sites.

STNO
264 participating sites.

Organic
22 participating companies for
26 manufacturing sites of organic feed, representing
90% of annual French production.

Milk replacer
6 participating manufacturing companies of milk replacer feed, representing,
98% of annual French production.

ROADMAP, STAGES OF WORK ON THE GOVERNANCE FOUNDATION

DEPARTURE POINT

**Strategic discussions
initiated in 2022
and completed
in May 2023**

Definition of the proposal to create a new entity bringing together all of the profession's actions to promote the quality of feed materials and the feed safety of animal feed. This new entity will bring together all of the current missions of Oqualim, Qualimat, Qualimat SO and the feed safety and quality part hosted by Oqualim SE. A national structure with reinforced regional anchoring. A transition manager supports the project.

The Boards of Directors of AFCA-CIAL, The Coopération Agricole Nutrition Animale, Oqualim, Oqualim Sud-Est, Qualimat, Qualimat Sud-Ouest, the SDVF, the SNIA accept to work together on the proposal to create a single entity, federating the approaches, expertise, current and future tools for the management of the quality and feed safety of animal feed.



Stage 1
Summer 2023

Stage 2
Autumn 2023

- Preparation of the governance modalities of the new entity. Drafting of the bylaws.
- Structuring of the teams and activities.
- Definition of the business model.

Stage 3
Winter 2023

- Legal framework, organisation, preparation of the business plan
- Validation by the stakeholders.

Stage 4
Spring 2024

OQUALIM is an association whose aim is to provide solutions to help meet **health security and animal feed quality challenges**. The association coordinates the collective approach by the French animal nutrition sector in terms of quality and health safety of animal feed. It has two main objectives: health security and compliance with both public and private specifications. To achieve these objectives, it has constructed two tools: pooled self-monitoring plans and the certification of animal feed plants with the RCNA (Animal Nutrition Certification Reference). 🌱