THE PROJECT PARTNERS

The following university institutes, companies and associations are participants in this research project, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research:

Universität Hohenheim
www.uni-hohenheim.de

IBM Deutschland GmbH
www.ibm.de

Comundus GmbH
www.comundus.de

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
www.uni-goettingen.de

University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover
www.tiho-hannover.de

Association for Technology and Structures in Agriculture (KTBL e.V.)
www.ktbl.de

Consumer Association Baden-Württemberg
www.vz-bawue.de

www.itfoodtrace.de

On the website, you will find further details about this research project. You may also contact us directly at the address below. We look forward to your response.

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IT FoodTrace

Traceability of Foods of Animal Origin

An interdisciplinary research project in partnership

RESEARCH APPROACH AND AIM

The **production of** meat and meat product based **foods** is a **multistage process**. To achieve effective **traceability** and **quality assurance**, it is essential to have a **system for complete documentation** throughout the value chain. The **IT FoodTrace research project** aims to develop the first **sustainable, integrated IT system without structural breaks and barriers**. It will be designed to enable the **merging, internal exchange** and **utilization of relevant data and parameters** that have been [elaborated] in close cooperation with relevant companies and authorities at each stage.

TRANSPARENCY ON THE WAY FROM PRODUCER TO CONSUMER

Quality as a Factor in Competition

As in all business sectors, quality is a central factor in competition in the agricultural and food industry. However, quality can only be assured if products can be trace throughout the value chain. Traceability is rendered more difficult by breaks in structure and media, for instance between agricultural producers, the food industry and consumers (see Chart 1). Differing technical or organizational standards, or the absence of such standards, inhibit data exchange. These problems, which have yet to be solved satisfactorily, are a central focus of the research project.

Further questions to be explored by the project are:

- Can information technology and computer-assisted systems support companies throughout the value chain from primary producer to consumer with respect of food traceability and quality assurance?
- Can across-the-board integration of existing data be achieved in order to obtain uniform data format standards?
- Can data be communicated in compliance with data protection and security requirements?

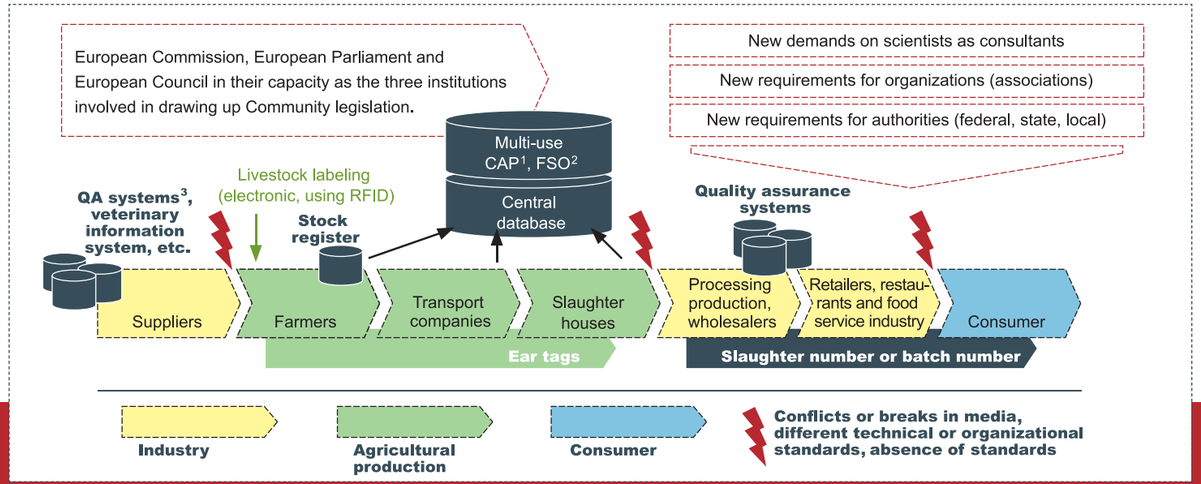
Of Interest to Everyone Involved

If operational and economic damage through manipulation is to be avoided or limited in the future, it is essential to have transparency at all stages of the value chain. It should be of interest to all market participants and politicians to have an effective traceability and quality assurance system.

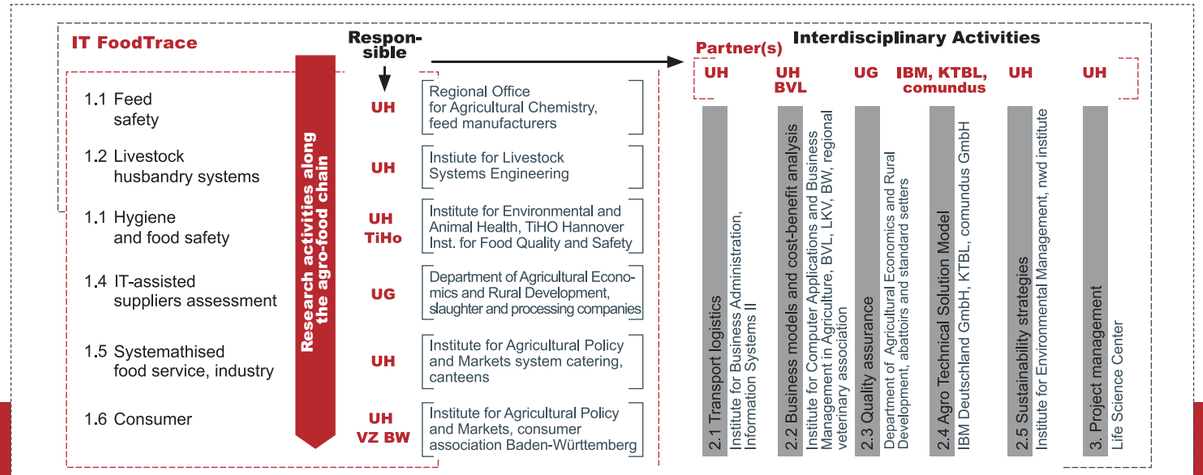
Utilizable Findings

The IT FoodTrace project is expected to produce a variety of utilizable outcomes:

- The economic benefits of using an integrated IT solution can be used to improve traceability, quality assurance and cost efficiency.
- The insights knowledge transfer resulting from interdisciplinary collaboration can be applied to other areas of food production.
- Progress in quality assurance, based on analysis of existing quality standards and their parameters.
- Sociopolitical added-value resulting from an integrated approach.



[1] Common Agricultural Policy (within the European Union) | [2] Federal Statistical Offices | [3] Quality assurance systems



UH University of Hohenheim | **IBM** IBM Deutschland GmbH | **TiHo** University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover | **UG** University of Göttingen | **VZ BW** Baden-Württemberg Consumer Advice Center | **KTBL** Association for Technology and Structures in Agriculture (KTBL e.V.) | **BVL** Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit | **LKV BW** Landeskontrollverband Baden-Württemberg | **nwd** Deutsches Kompetenzzentrum für nachhaltiges Wirtschaften