

'Happy animals make good food', says EU research^[fr]^[de]

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The first results from the EU's Sixth Research Framework programme (FP6) relate to healthier and better quality nutrition.

Brief News:

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The first results from the FP6 were presented in a [conference](#) that took place on 12 December 2006, just a few weeks before FP6 will be replaced by FP7 on 1 January 2007. "We need to communicate our findings so that the results of EU research don't just get archived but are made known for consumers, industry, regulators and citizens," said Christian Patermann, director of food research at the Commission's DG Research.

The results were yielded by projects funded under FP6's thematic priority [Food Quality and Safety](#), which had a budget of around €685 million for 2002-2006. The aim was to demonstrate how EU research is helping to make food healthier and of improved quality.

Some [examples](#) of the FP6 results include the findings that organically produced food has a higher nutritional value than food produced by conventional methods. One project [study](#) found, for example, that organic milk contains 60% more beneficial fatty acids, such as omega-3, and 20% more antioxidants and vitamins than conventional milk. Another [project](#) has discovered hitherto unknown health benefits of fish and seafood - particularly their role in preventing colon and intestinal cancers and increasing the anti-oxidant potential of the blood, which reinforces anti-cancer benefits.

The [researchers](#) also studied consumers' views and scientists' findings on animal welfare to try to integrate good husbandry into the food-quality chain. Animal health was also found to be a food-quality contributor - "happy animals mean good food", according to the research.

Links

EU official documents

- Commission press release: [Food is getting healthier and better, thanks to EU research](#) (12 December 2006) [\[FR\]](#) [\[DE\]](#)
- Commission MEMO: [Food research – showcasing a dozen European Research projects](#) (12 December 2006)
- Welfare Quality - [A five-year Integrated Project to integrate animal welfare in the food quality chain](#)
- Quality ‘low-input’ food - [An integrated Project to improve organic and "low input" cereal production systems; the importance of developing a whole systems approach](#)
- SEAFOODplus - [A five-year Integrated research project to improve safety, health and quality of seafood for the European consumer](#)
- Commission: [FP6: Food quality and safety](#)
- [European Food Safety Authority \(EFSA\)](#) [\[FR\]](#) [\[DE\]](#)
- CORDIS: [Food quality and safety](#)