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Invitation to join a Delphi Study panel

QLIF Subproject 5 Processing Strategies

We are writing to ask if you would be prepared to join a panel to carry out a Delphi inquiry. The name of the project is "Quality low input food ("QLIF", [www.qlif.org](http://www qlif.org)) Within this project, one subproject is about organic food processing. The goal of this subproject is to develop a framework/code of practise for the design of "minimum" and "low input" processing strategies, which guarantee food quality and safety **for organic food**..

The survey will focus on identifying challenges and possible solutions with respect to:

- (i) maintaining food safety
- (ii) satisfying consumer demands with respect to sensory and nutritional quality characteristics and wider societal issues (e.g. energy use, transport distance "food miles")
- (iii) providing satisfactory shelf lives
- (iv) potential future organic standard changes and evaluating novel technologies (e.g. those used to produce "functional foods") against organic farming principles and other "minimum processing/low input" standards (e.g. with respect to "functional foods").

Your experiences in food processing/regulations and standards are for this sub-project very valuable for us. We will cooperate with about 200 experts in Europe. The project team is putted together as follow:

FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture); Otto Schmid, Dr. Alex Beck, Ursula Kretzschmar,

Chair for organic food quality and food culture; Prof. Dr. Angelika Meier-Ploeger, *University of Helsinki Mikkeli for Rural Research and Training;* Marita Leskinen, Marjo Särkkä-Tirkkonen,

DARCOF (Technical University of Denmark); Thorkild Nielsen, Niels Heine Kristensen

A Delphi enquiry is a procedure that allows a group of experts to participate, jointly but anonymously, in defining and analysing a complex problem or issue. In our study, we envisage two rounds, each requiring a minimum of about 30 minutes to complete a questionnaire. Many participants in this type of study find the process of feedback and benchmarking of their opinions particularly valuable. The opinions you provide should be personal, rather than reflecting the viewpoint of your organisation or affiliation. Please also note that no travel will be required, as members of the panel do not have to meet physically at any time during the process.

As noted, the information provided will support a larger study about of Organic Food Processing with the goal to develop framework/code of practise for the design of “minimum” and “low input” processing strategies.

In return for your cooperation, we will provide, free of charge, pre-publication copies of the major reports being produced by this project. We will telephone you in about a week’s time to discuss your potential collaboration in more detail. If you do not feel able to take part, perhaps you could suggest someone else with similar experience and perspectives on the organic food processing/regulations and standards.

Yours sincerely,

FIBL



Otto Schmid

FIBL



Ursula Kretzschmar

Insert:

- Delphi enquiry
- Description of the project