

**GOOD PRACTICES****FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY: PRACTICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS BROUGHT BY THE CENTRE OF RESEARCH AND ALIMENTARY PRODUCT EXPERTISE**

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Abstract

The Romanian School of the Science of Commodities is bringing its contribution to the present activity concerning the transition from the classical approach of the commodity research to the promotion of modern conceptions, which also include the quality assurance, taking into account all the commodities implications, on their whole value chain.

The Centre for Research and Alimentary Product Expertise – ASE Bucharest, academic structure with a practical vocation, accredited C.N.C.S.I.S in 2001, represents the continuation of the tradition in a modern tackling of the researches, in order to provide specialized assistance to firms and agencies.

The scientific research activity is organized and developed through different financed or non-financed projects and themes within national or local programs.

Rezumat

Școala românească de educație și cercetare în Știința mărfurilor își aduce contribuția la demersurile actuale privind trecerea de la abordarea clasică a cercetării mărfurilor, la promovarea unor concepții moderne care includ și asigurarea calității, cu luarea în considerare a tuturor implicațiilor mărfurilor, pe întreaga lor traiectorie.

Structură academică cu vocație practică, Centrul de Cercetări și Expertize Mărfuri Alimentare – ASE București, acreditat instituțional și de către C.N.C.S.I.S (în anul 2001), reprezintă continuarea tradiției printr-o abordare modernă a cercetărilor spre a veni în întâmpinarea unor agenți economici și organizații interesate. Obiectivul Centrului vizează cercetarea complexă a calității și expertizarea merceologică a mărfurilor alimentare, în raport cu reglementările internaționale și naționale. Activitatea de cercetare științifică se organizează și se desfășoară prin proiecte și teme finanțate sau nefinanțate cuprinse în programe naționale sau ale catedrei.

1. Tradition and Value in Commodity Quality Research

The Science of Commodities, essentially provides, not only knowledge about commodities, but also establishes and settles complex relations between the human beings' world, with their countless needs, and the commodities world, in a comprehensive manner, having in view to bring these relations under the sign of rationality. The Romanian School of the Science of Commodities is bringing its contribution to the present activity concerning

the transition from the classical approach of the commodity research to the promotion of modern conceptions, which also include the quality assurance, taking into account all the commodities implications, on their whole trajectory. This approach corresponds to the present exigency regarding the economist's training specialized in commerce, which can be considered a virtual commercial engineer, whose professional mobility allows him to integrate himself with a great success into many kinds of activities, corresponding to this field.



In 2000, within Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, a research unit was established under the authority of the Science of Commodities and Quality Management Department, named *Centre of Research and Alimentary Product Expertise*, and managed by prof. dr. Rodica Pamfilie. The Centre of Research and Alimentary Product Expertise, academic structure with practical vocation, accredited in 2001 by CNCIS, represents the

continuation of the tradition in a modern tackling of the researches, in order to provide specialized assistance to firms and agencies. The scientific research activity is developed through different financed or non-financed projects and themes within national or local programs, such as "Horizon 2000 Program", "Quality and Standardization Program – CALIST", "CERES Program", or "Research and Excellence Program – CEEX".

Within this framework, the teaching staff of the department, in collaboration with researchers, trainers for a doctor's degree, specialists in economic practice and students, developed many research themes, programs, most of these on the basis of a contract, which offered efficacious keys, with an immediate practical applicability. Thus, earned resources contributed to the permanent improvement of the Science of Commodities and Quality Management courses and to the financing of the activities of the Academy of Economic Studies.

The teaching and research staff of the department has been developing an ample theoretical and application research activity, having a great acknowledgement and appreciation at local and national level, but also in other countries for their original contributions regarding issues as the following:

- Relation between the value of utilization and quality;
- Concept, methodology and utilization of the system of goods guaranty;
- Concept and methodology of establishing the nutritive value of the foods;
- Superior and efficient utilization of industrial sub-products, residues and industrial waste;
- Environmental implications of product manufacture and marketing;
- Products sanogenesis, etc.

Results of some researches have been materialized in over 15 patents.

2. Some Results and Perspectives of the Centre of Research and Alimentary Product Expertise

An important target of the scientific research of the Centre of Research and Alimentary Product Expertise was the elaboration of complex themes ordered by government bodies, economic agents, research institutes, most of these being obtained mostly on the basis of the contracts. We provide here some research topics we have been exploring starting with 2001:

- Studies regarding the prevention of the goods batches anomalies in the logistic value chain;
- Complex research of quality and commodity science expertise of food products, on the basis of national and international settlements;
- Punctual commodity science research of the raw materials and processed home and import-export food regarding:
 - determination of the quality food anomalies appeared in the logistic chain of their physical distribution;
 - designing of the validity term, preservation, transport and sale conditions of the food;
 - punctual definition, designing and assessment of the nutritive value of the food;
 - motivation of the food framing on quality classes corresponding to economic market and “metabolic market”.
- Commodity science extra-juridical expertise of food quality inside their technical-economic circuit, in conformity with the basis principles of the deontology code in the international trade with food and quality management;
- Comparative qualitative studies and feasibility studies of food from different sources;
- Analytical studies and projects regarding assortment structure policy at a firm level;
- Studies regarding possibilities of recovering and recycling of packages and packing materials.

Some selective research projects conducted and completed with the specific support and resources provided by the Centre of Research and Alimentary Products Expertise are mentioned below:

- Researches concerning the design, production and testing of nutritional supplements based on natural ingredients for specific use of performing sportsmen, CERES Program, 2003-2005;
- Typology and monitoring of the alimentary products anomalies during the commercialization process, under the European market exigencies, CNCSIS Project, 2003-2005.



- Quality requirements and qualitative level of some alimentary products drawn from the commercial units by the Romanian Association of Consumers' Protection, 2002

Presently, students, graduates, and Ph.D. students become more and more involved in the research activities of the Centre. The titles of some doctorate thesis in the field of Science of Commodities, presented in the last years, and completed with the specific support and resources provided by the Centre for Research and Alimentary Products Expertise are the following:

- Comparative Study of International Recommendation and Legislation on the Prevention and Measures of Anomalies Affecting Foodstuffs;
- The Impact of Nutritional and Food Policy Upon International Trade of Foodstuff;
- Commodity Science Approaches in the Nutritional Design of Foods;
- Quality Concept Area Evolutions and Reductions and Their Impact on Commodities;
- The Evolution and Development of the Consumer Protection Concept and Practice and its Implications on the Science of Commodities;
- Changes in the Structure of the Assortment of Goods Offered Through Rural Trade in the Market Economy;
- Tendencies and Strategies on European Level Regarding the Modernization of the Food Products Supply;
- Concepts and Tendencies Regarding the Quality Assurance of the Food Products in International Trade;
- Quality and Wines Hygiene Problems in International Trade;
- The Impact of Products Standardization and Certification upon Consumers' Protection.



The Center also provides professional assistance and consultancy in food quality management concerning:

- operational and strategic elements of quality assurance and control;
- designing and modulation of the assortment structure at a firm level;
- increasing efficiency of packing and labeling in impact with consumers and environment protection;
- managerial issues regarding food certification.

