

Spectroscopic analysis for feed quality and safety control at site and in lab

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***« An active and innovative Unit
involved in the development of
sustainable methods to reinforce and
assess the quality and authentication of
agricultural and agro-food products »***

2020 - ...



Funded by the
European Union



4 MAIN RESEARCH FIELDS

PRECISION AGRICULTURE

PRECISION LIVESTOCK FARMING

RISK MANAGEMENT

UNDERSTANDING PRODUCTS

Field & orchard analysis

PhenWheat II (2022-2024)

NIR imaging solutions for phenotyping of wheat



Farm & industry analysis

MobiLAB (2022-2024)

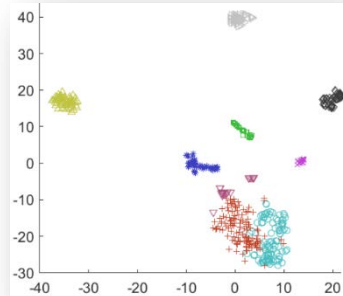
Mobile laboratory dedicated for the demonstration and dissemination of photonics and digital solutions



Laboratory analysis

DepiPEST (2022-2024)

MIR & Raman (+ chroma., U10) for the detection of fraud in pesticides products



Laboratory analysis

ValCerWal (2022-2024)

NIR & NIR imaging (+ optical sorting /chemistry U11) for cereal batch allotment



PHENET
PHENOTYPING & ENVIROTYPING SOLUTIONS FOR AGROECOLOGY



The waves at our services



We are using light to understand what we observe

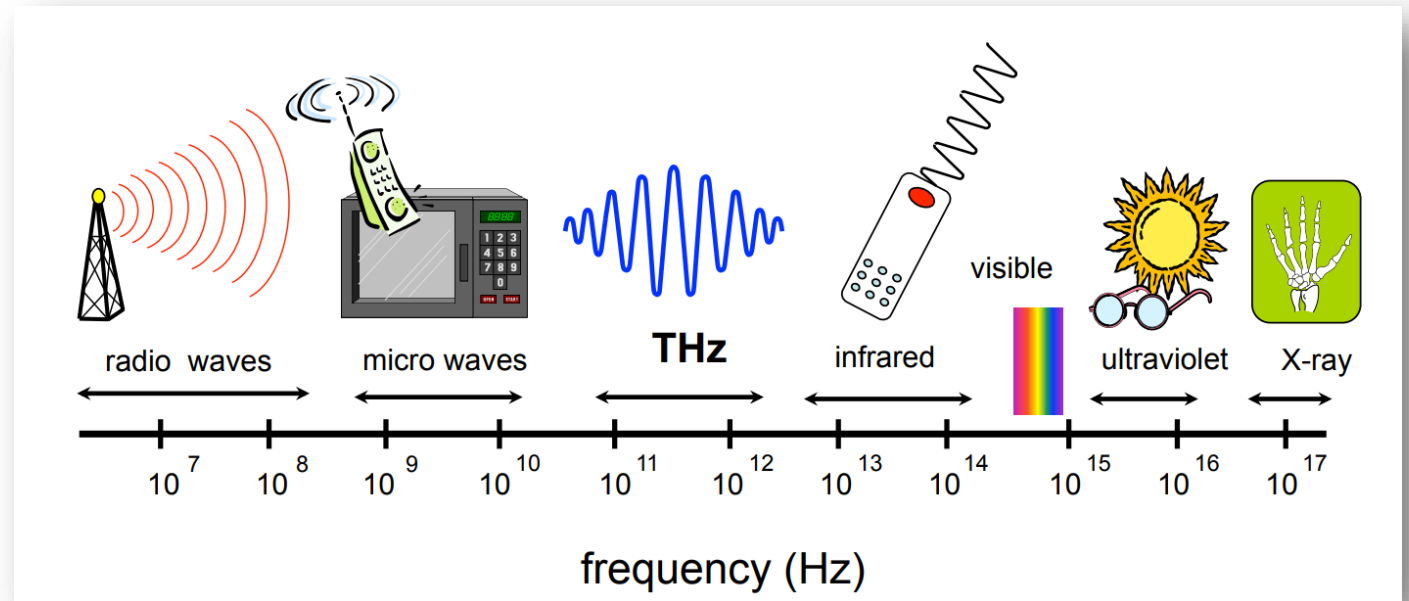
Colors = changes in the composition or texture of the object

THE CHEMISTRY OF AUTUMN LEAF COLOURS

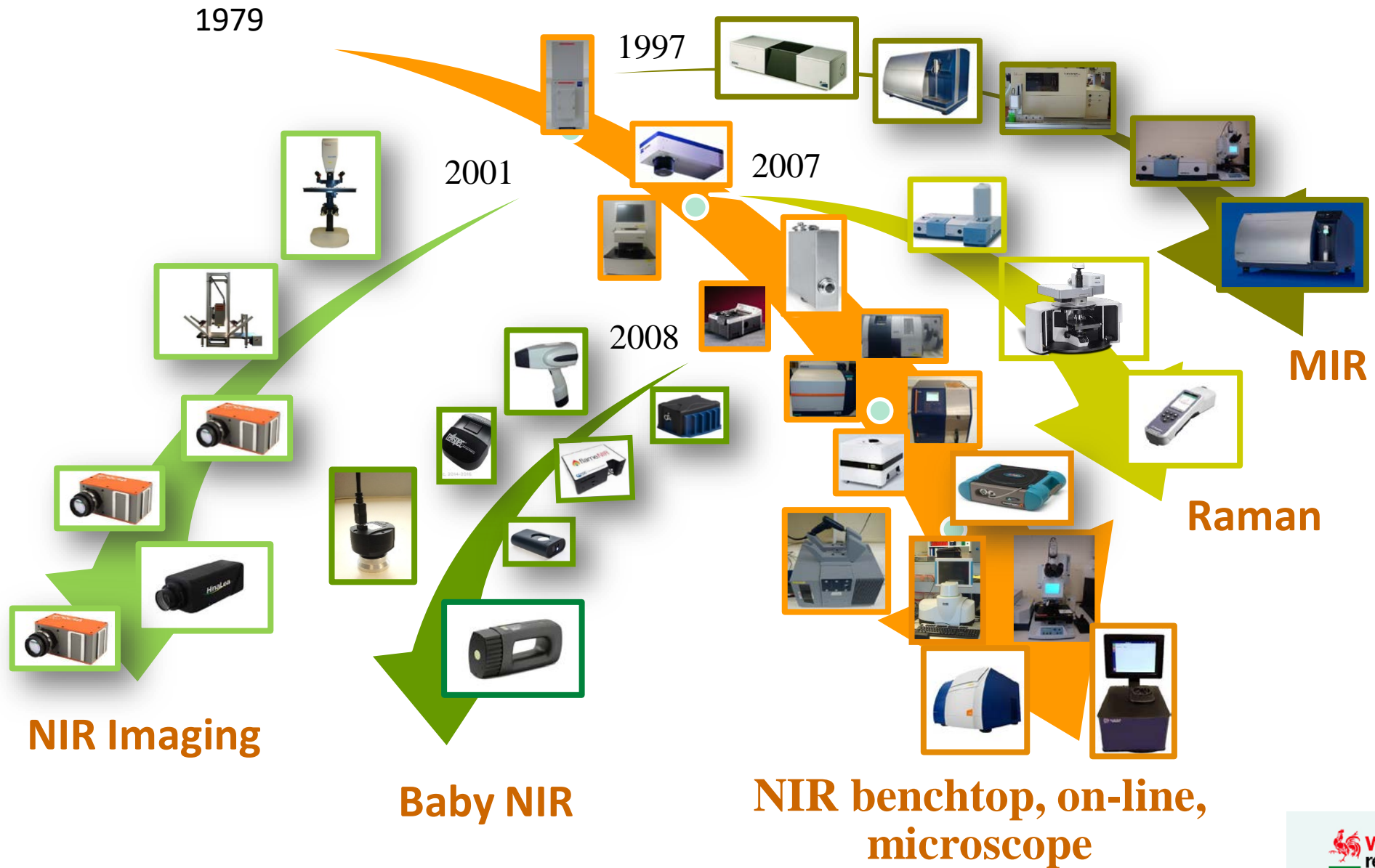
CHLOROPHYLL	CAROTENOIDS & FLAVONOIDS	CAROTENOIDS	ANTHOCYANINS & CAROTENOIDS
<chem>C55H72O5</chem> A type of chlorophyll	<chem>C40H56O</chem> LUTEIN A type of carotenoid	<chem>C40H56O</chem> B-CAROTENE A type of carotenoid	<chem>C15H11O7</chem> ANTHOCYANIN general structure
Chlorophyll (green plant leaves) turns their green colour. Plants require warm temperatures and sunlight to produce chlorophyll. In autumn, the amount produced begins to decrease, and existing chlorophyll is slowly broken down, diminishing the green colour of the leaves.	Carotenoids and flavonoid pigments are always present in leaves, but as chlorophyll is broken down in the autumn their colour comes to the fore. Xanthophylls, a subclass of carotenoids, are responsible for the yellows of autumn leaves. One of the major xanthophylls, lutein, is also the compound that contributes towards the yellow colour of egg yolks.	Carotenoids also contribute orange colours. Beta-carotene is one of the most common carotenoids in plants, and absorbs green and blue light strongly, reflecting red and yellow light and causing its orange appearance. It is also responsible for the orange colouration of carrots. Carotenoids in leaves start degrading at the same time as chlorophyll, but they do so at a much slower rate: some fallen leaves can still contain measurable amounts.	Anthocyanin synthesis is kick started by the onset of autumn. As sugar concentrations in the leaves increase, sunlight induces anthocyanin production. The purpose they serve isn't clear: it is suggested that they may play a light protective role. It was previously thought they might delay leaf fall, but this has been discounted.
<chem>C15H11O7</chem> FLAVONOL general structure	<chem>C15H11O7</chem> FLAVONE general structure	<chem>C40H56O</chem> XANTHOPHYLL A type of carotenoid	<chem>C40H56O</chem> LUTEIN A type of carotenoid

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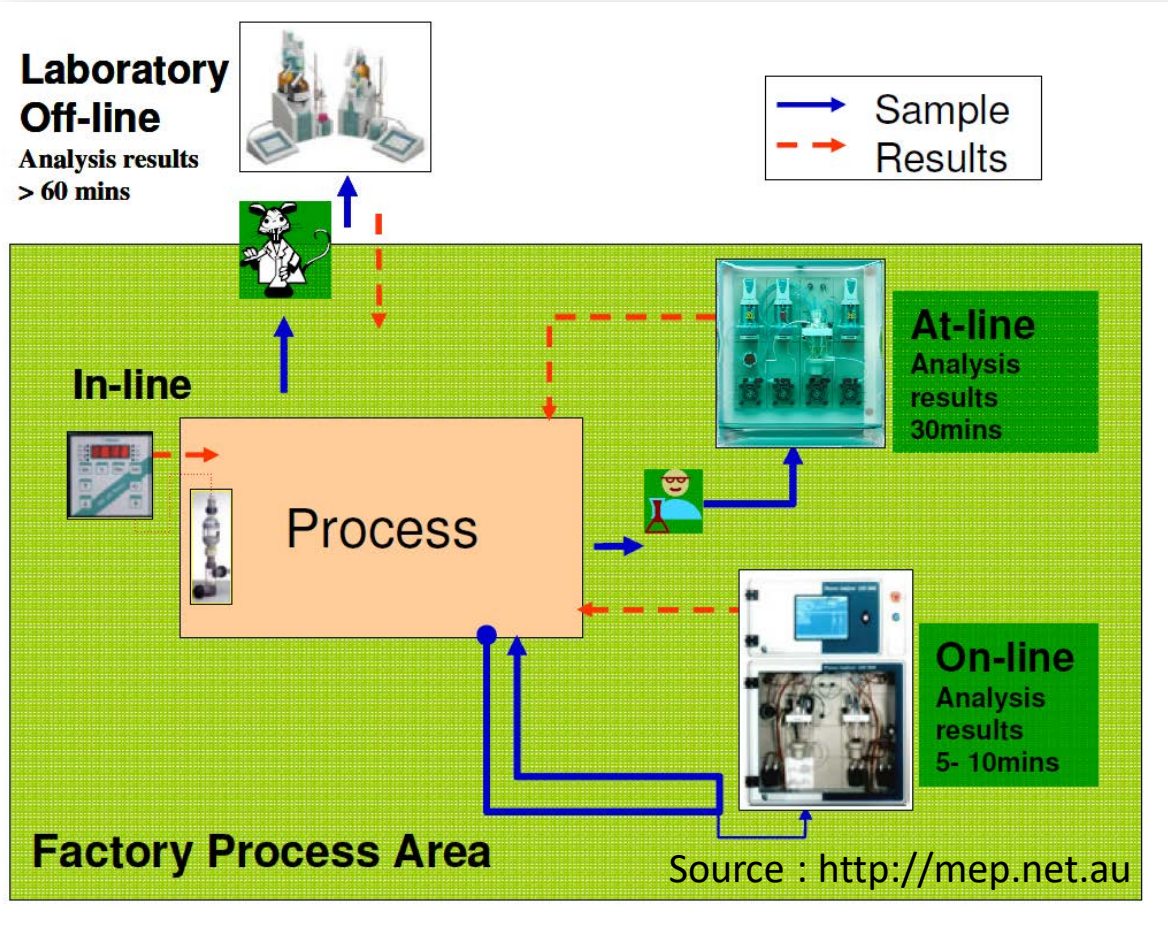
Source : <https://www.encyclopedie-environnement.org>



Source : R. Gente, N. Born, A. Rehn, M. Koch
CROP.SENSE.net Symposium, Bonn, 29.9.2014.



TREND → « lab to the sample approach » = the data travel instead of the samples !



Off-line – spot & laboratory analysis
feedback in hours to days

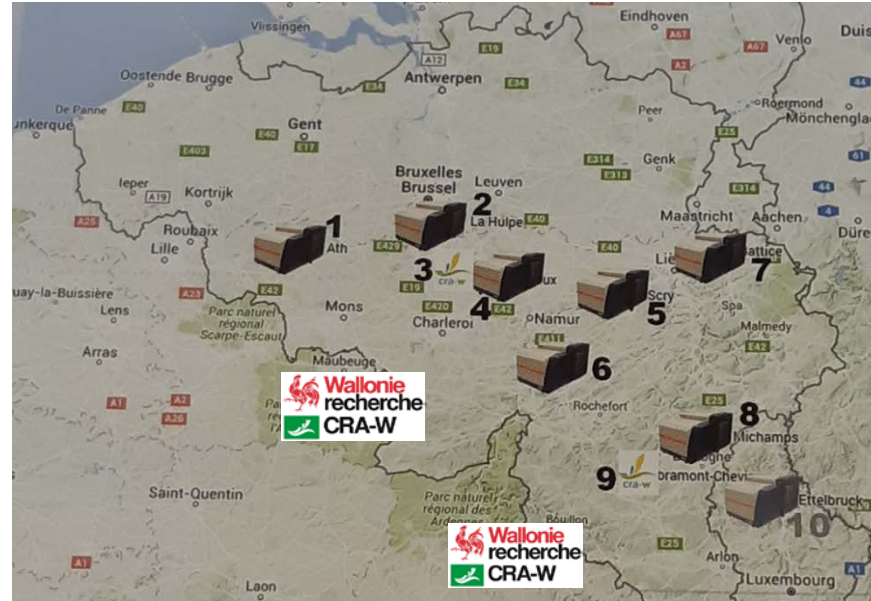
At-line – spot & on-site analysis
feedback in minutes

On-line – regular interval & automatic analysis
feedback in minutes to seconds

In-line – continuous & automatic analysis
instantaneous feedback

A network analysis and advices for the Walloon agriculture sector

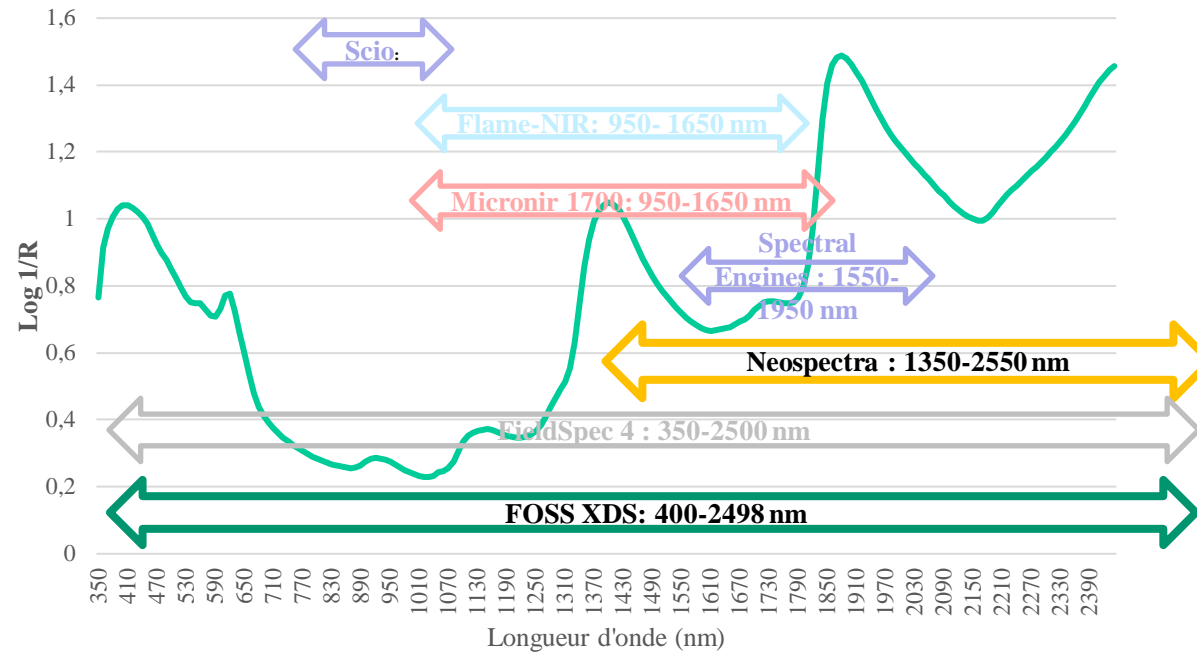
- ❖ Created in 1989
- ❖ 9 laboratories in Wallonia + 1 in Luxembourg
- ❖ 11 spectrometers connected to CRA-W (= master)
- ❖ Each spectrometer is standardized every year on the master
- ❖ Several parameters/criteria for different matrices
- ❖ Interlaboratory studies



**ISO 17025 &
ISO 17043**

Reagent/chemical	Reference values	NIR value
Reagent	☹	☺ (95 % reduction)
Time / sample / technician	4 hours	5 minutes
Samples / day/ technician	5-10	100

Network of spectrometers : other strategies !



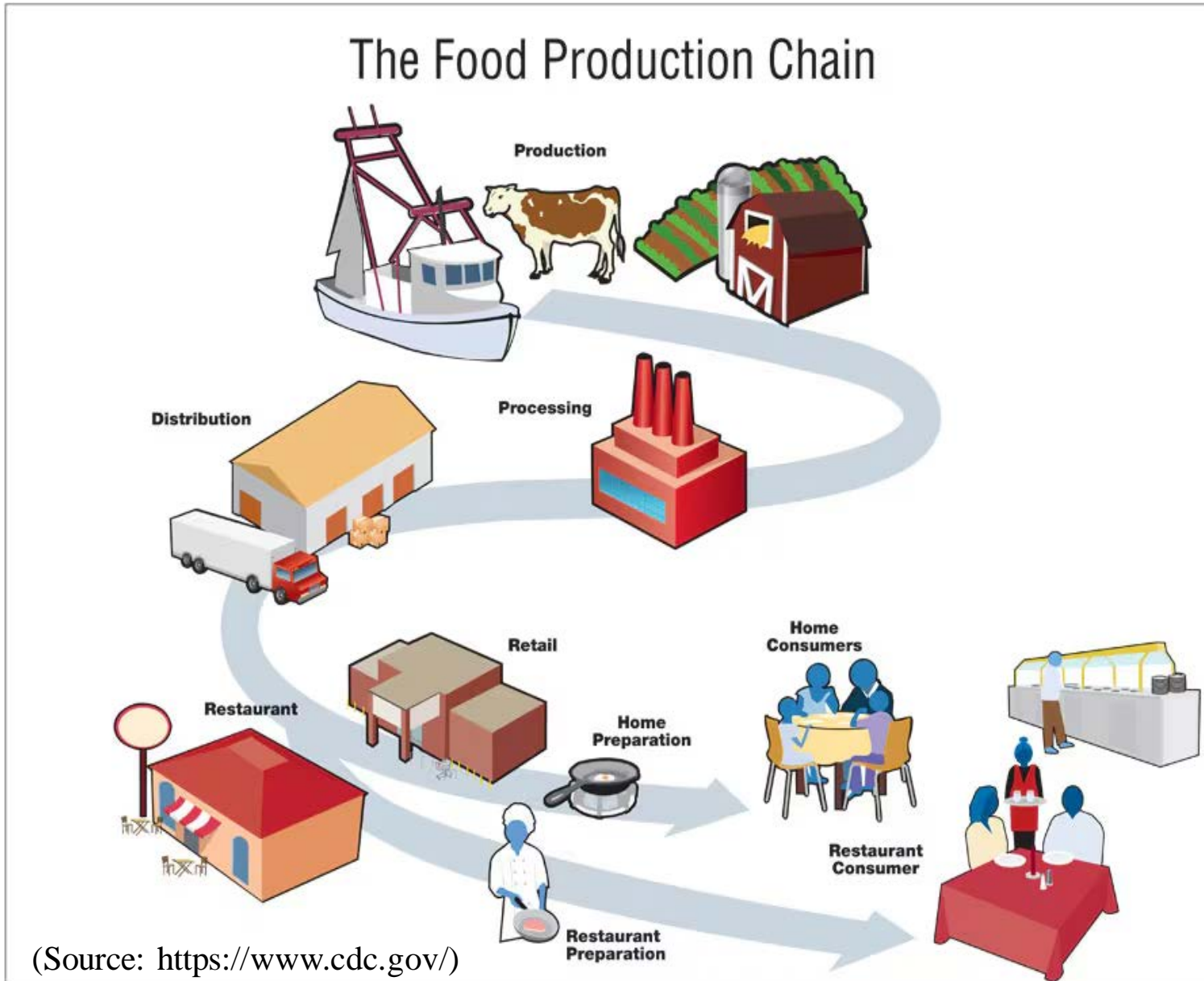
Neospectra (Siware)

1350-2500 nm



WALOPEA project

We need a global approach to enhance the quality and safety of our food production chain

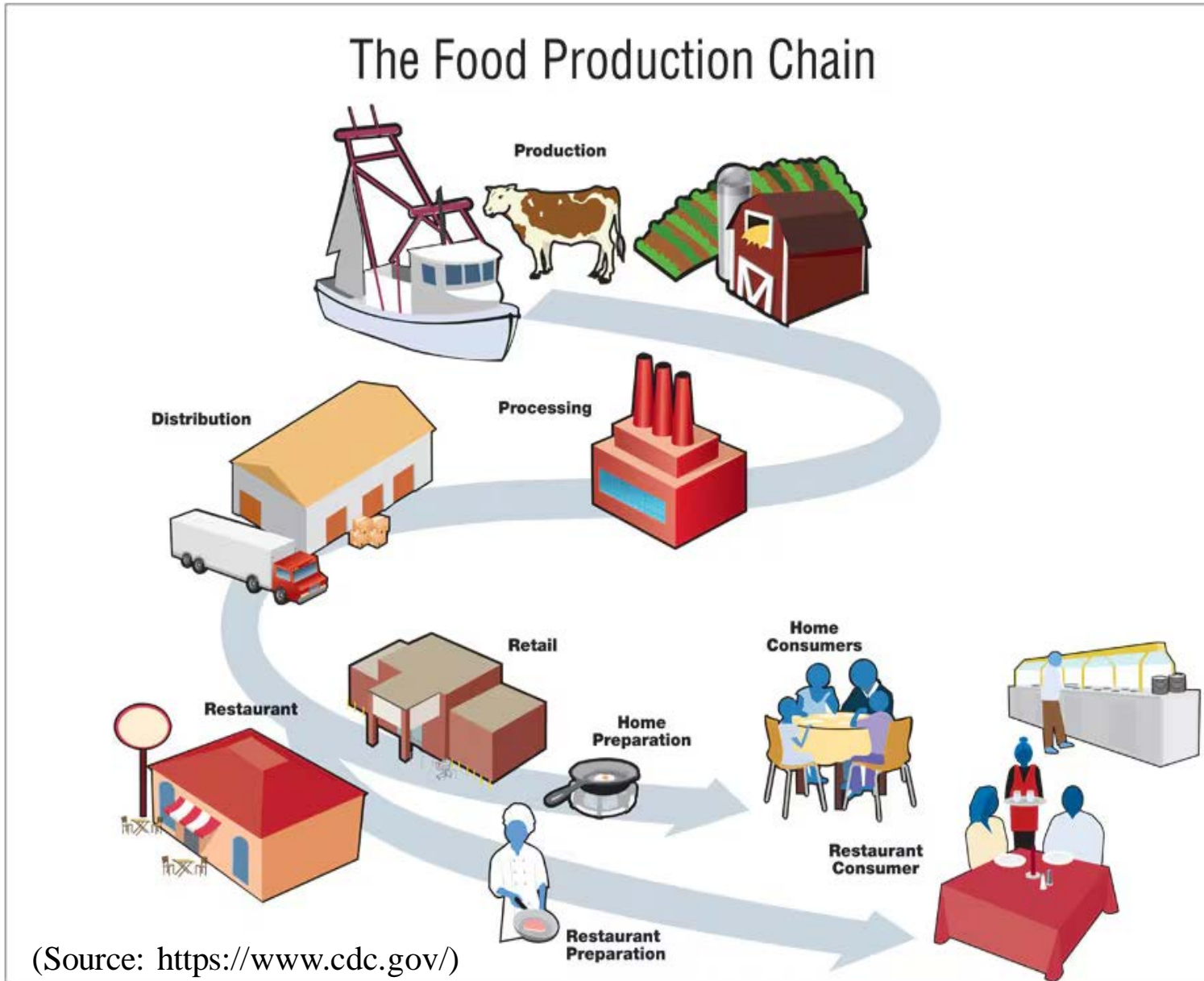


(Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/>)

- ❑ *At fields, meadows, farms, orchards & greenhouses level*
- ❑ *At processing and transforming plants level*
- ❑ *At distribution and retail facilities level*
- ❑ *At consumer level*

In addition to the official control

We need a global approach to enhance the quality and safety of our food production chain



(Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/>)

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In addition to the official control

At fields, meadows, farms, orchard & greenhouses level : evaluation of fusarium blight infection



inoculation
Blank reference
inoculation

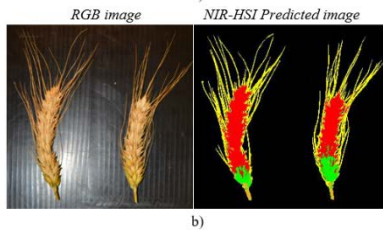
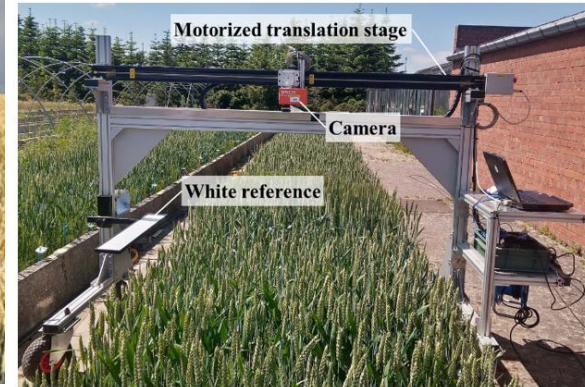


Figure 5-5: Pictures and predictions of NIR hyperspectral images of (a) healthy ears and (b) FHB-infected ears. Pixels predicted as FHB-infected ears are in red, pixels predicted as healthy ears are in green, pixels predicted as stems are in orange, pixels predicted as awns are in yellow and pixels predicted as background are in black.

Vincke et al. (2023). Near infrared hyperspectral imaging method to assess *Fusarium Head Blight* infection on winter wheat ears (2023) *Microchemical Journal*, 191, art. no. 108812.

At fields, meadows, farms, orchard & greenhouses level : evaluation of fusarium blight infection

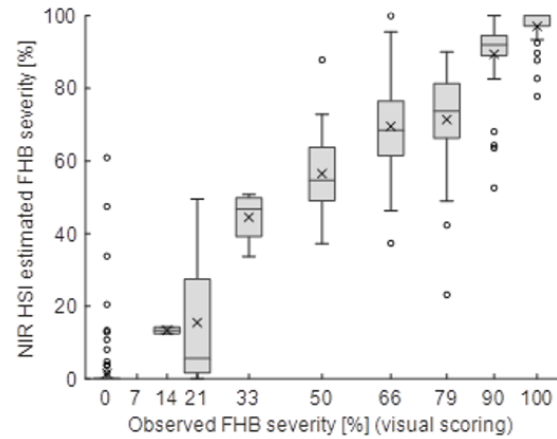


Figure 5-6: Boxplot of the PLS-DA estimated FHB severity of each ear against its corresponding value for the visual scoring of FHB severity.

In the lab

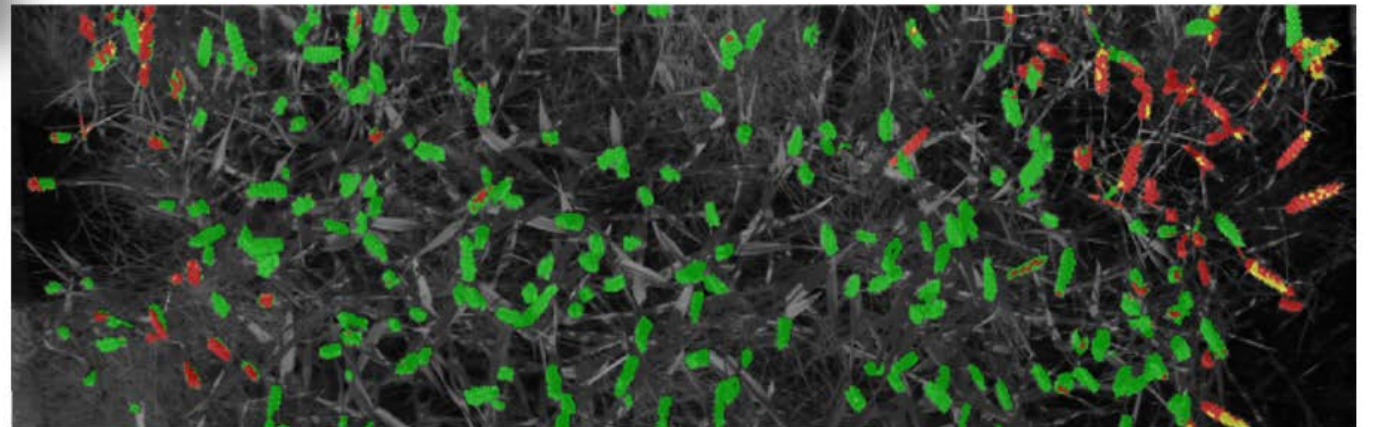


Figure 6-9: Prediction result for the image of plot 14 acquired on June 28th.

In the field

At fields, meadows, farms, orchard & greenhouses level : evaluation of forage at farm level



Transition of dairy farming toward a better efficient use of fodder resources



In the farm

Sampling of corn silage



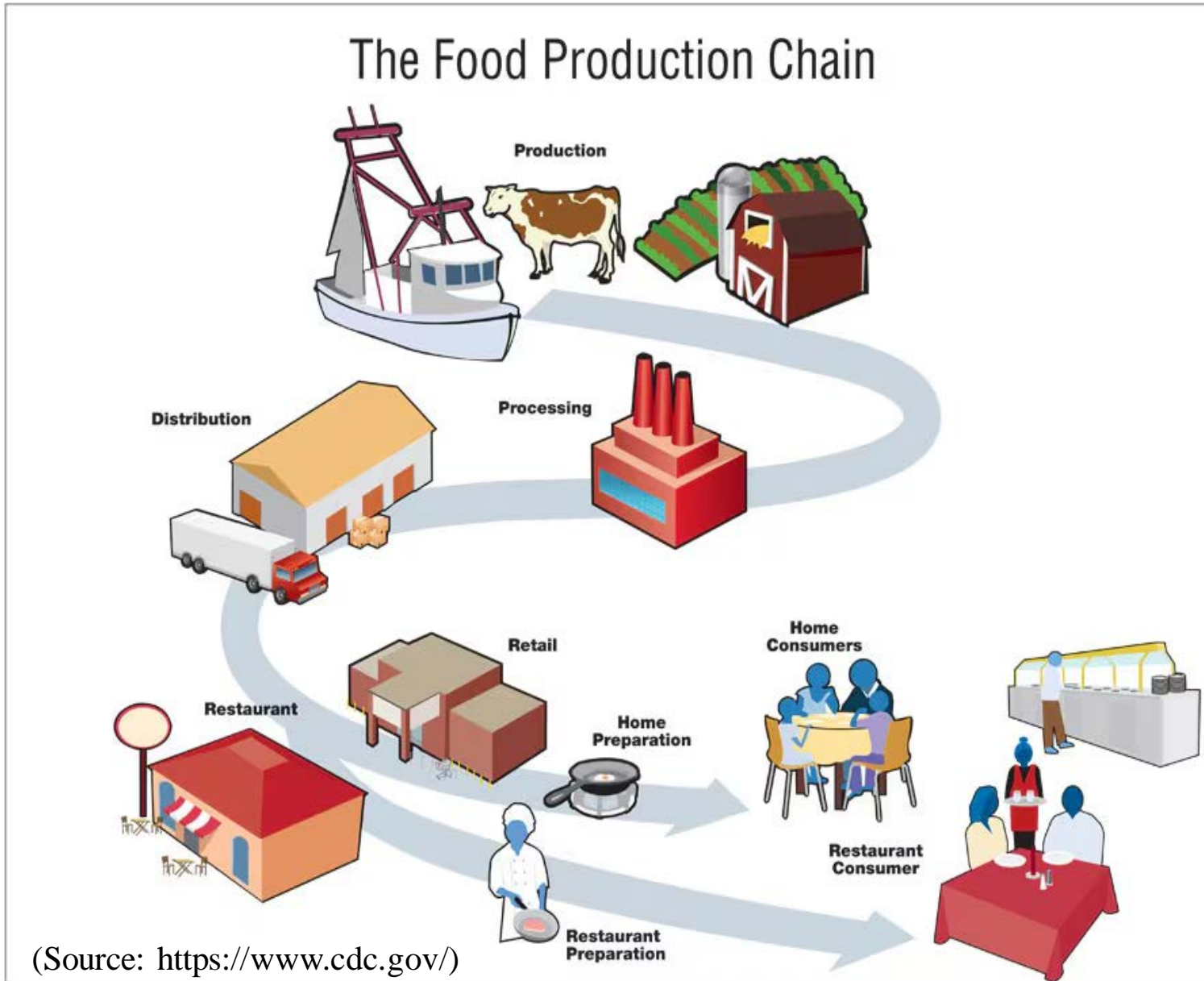
Sampling of haylage bale



t° and humidity influences Sampling issues !!!

Fernández et al. (2022). Performance of three handheld NIR spectrometers for predicting grass silage quality. *Biotechnology, Agronomy, Society and Environment*, 26 (Special Issue), pp. 1-10.

We need a global approach to enhance the quality and safety of our food production chain



(Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/>)

- *At fields, meadows, farms, orchards & greenhouses level*
- **At processing and transforming plants level**
- *At distribution and retail facilities level*
- *At consumer level*

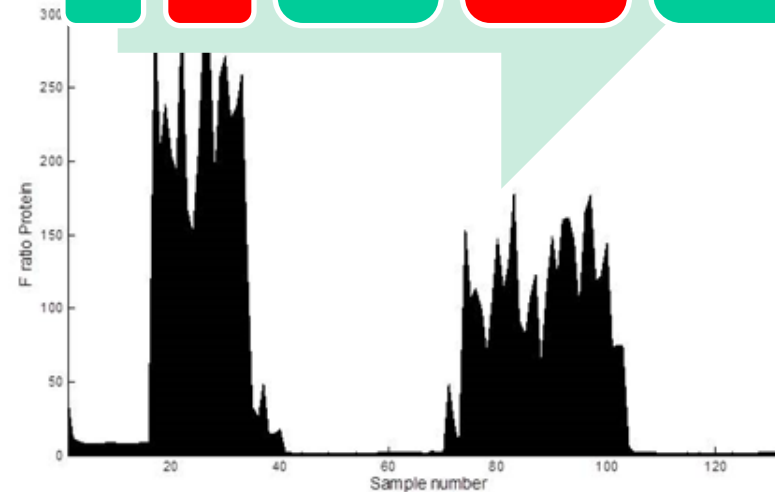
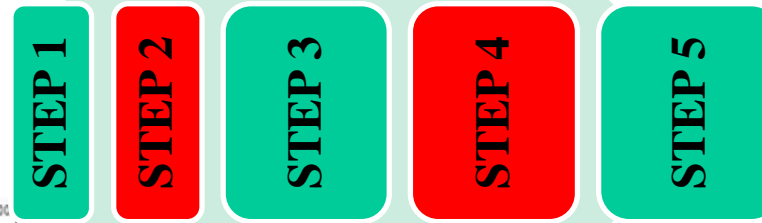
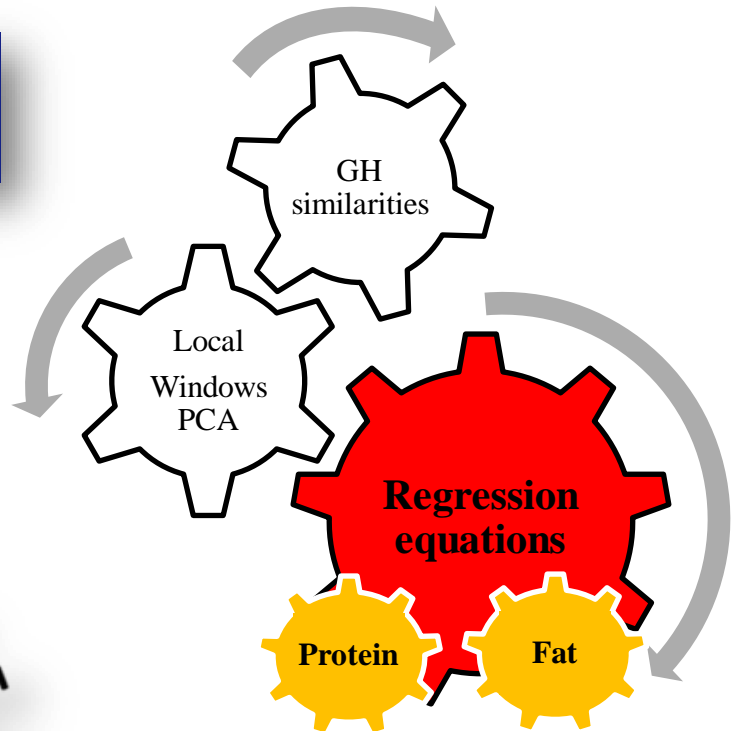
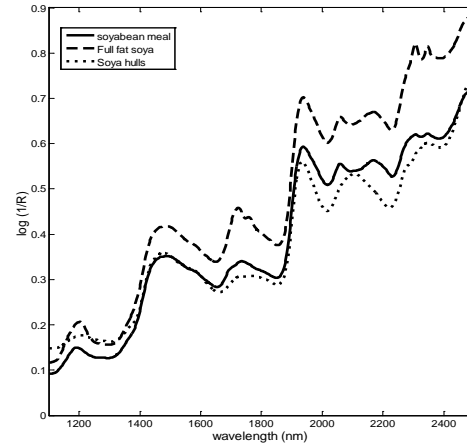
In addition to the official control

Detection of adulteration at industrial level



Fernández et al. (2015). NIR fingerprint screening for early control of non-conformity at feed mills. Food Chemistry, 189, art. no. 16461, pp. 2-12.

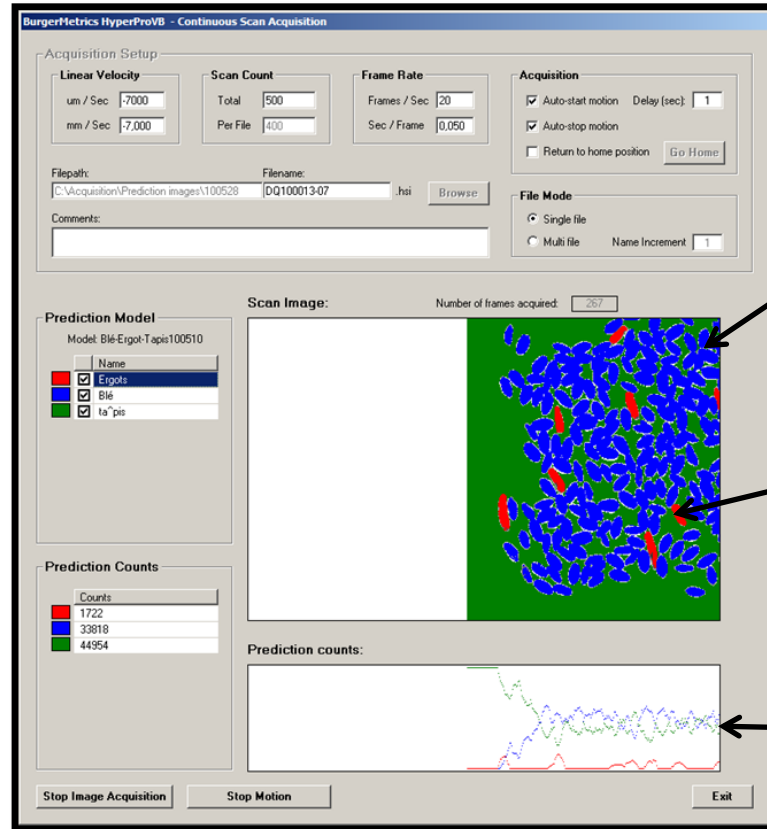
At processing and transforming plants level : analysis a the ports of entry



Protein determination



At processing and transforming plants level : analysis a the ports of entry



Wheat kernels

Ergot Bodies

The number of pixels counted for each class of the model is also provided.

- LOD <<< 500 ppm
- Several analysis by kernel or by ergot body
- Fast → 30-40 kg / hour = LOD 1 ppm (Ref method = several days)

Analytical parameters used and on-line prediction results of the PLSDA (Partial Least Squares Discriminant Analysis) model

Ergot detection in wheat by NIR imaging

At processing and transforming plants level : analysis a the ports of entry

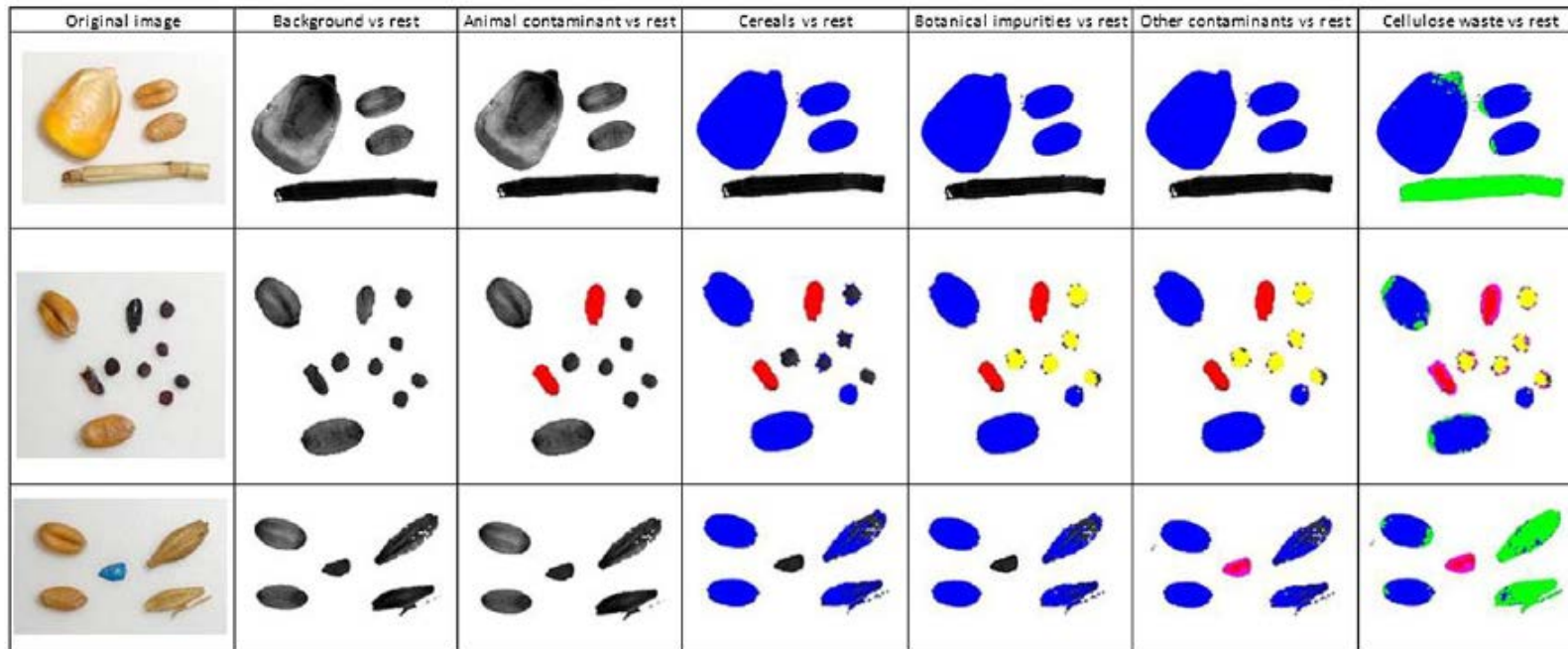
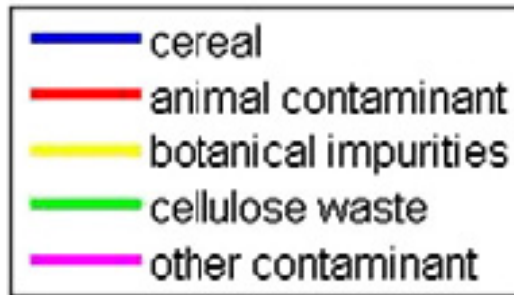
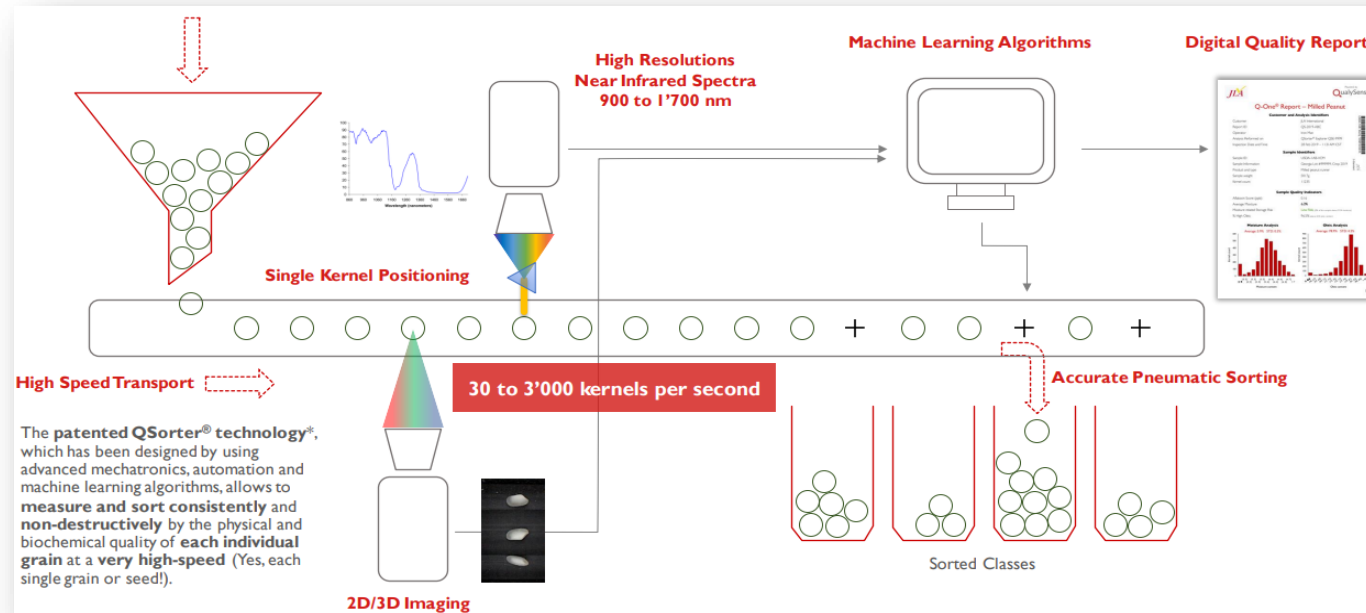


Fig. 2. Three examples of the application of each of the equations of the classification tree nodes. Each example includes the original image and the prediction images. Pixels are coloured as follows: detected as cereal are indicated in blue, detected as animal contaminant in red, detected as botanical impurities in yellow, detected as cellulose waste in green and detected as other contaminant in pink. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

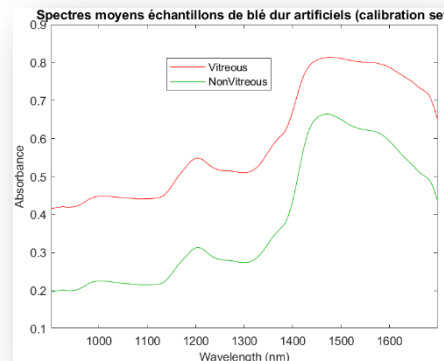
At processing and transforming plants level : analysis a the ports of entry

Qsorter – kernel sorting (installed at CRA-W in 2022 – VALCERWAL project)



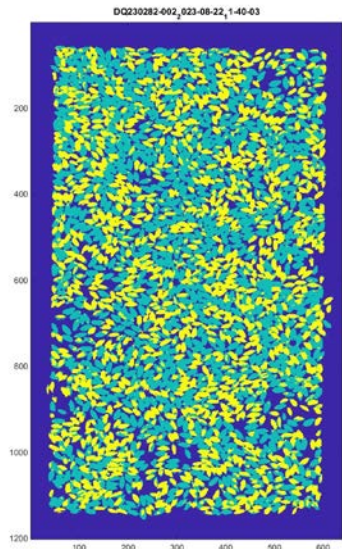
Batch segmentation

Individual kernel sorting



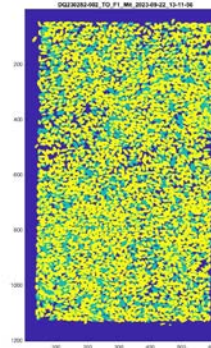
(Contact : Bruno Godin,
b.godin@cra.wallonie.be & Pierre-Yves
Werrie, p.werrie@cra.wallonie.be)

At processing and transforming plants level : analysis a the ports of entry

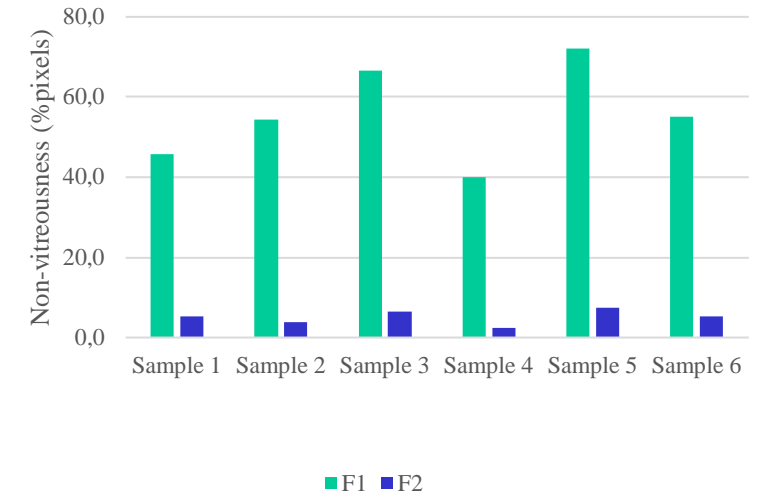
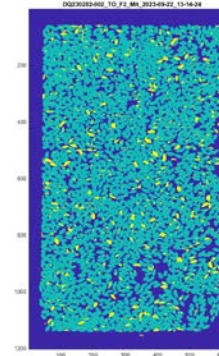


NIR spectra 800 – 1800 nm
& RGB image

F
1

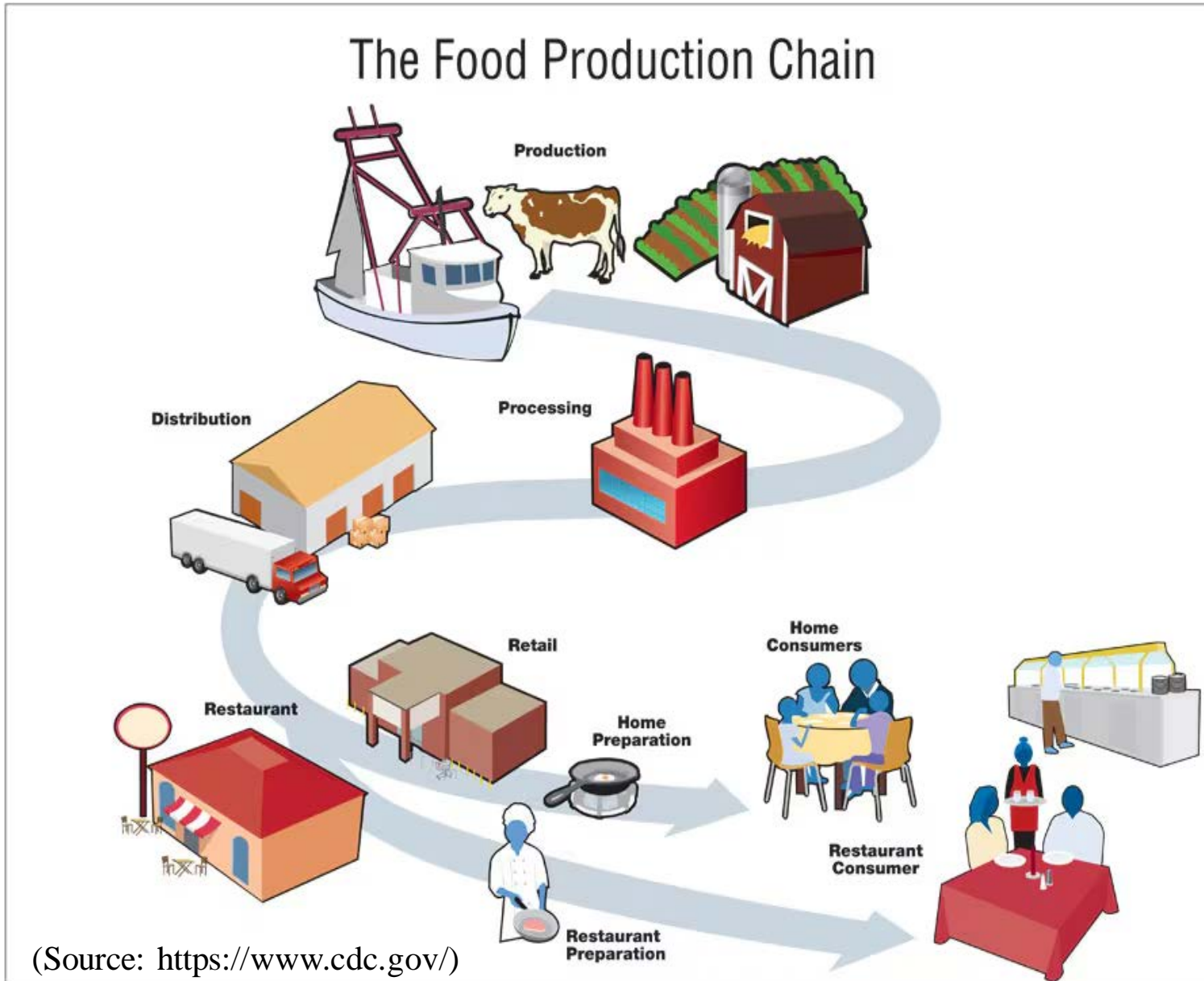


F
2



➤ Sorting of raw material – maximization of the valorization of the production

We need a global approach to enhance the quality and safety of our food production chain

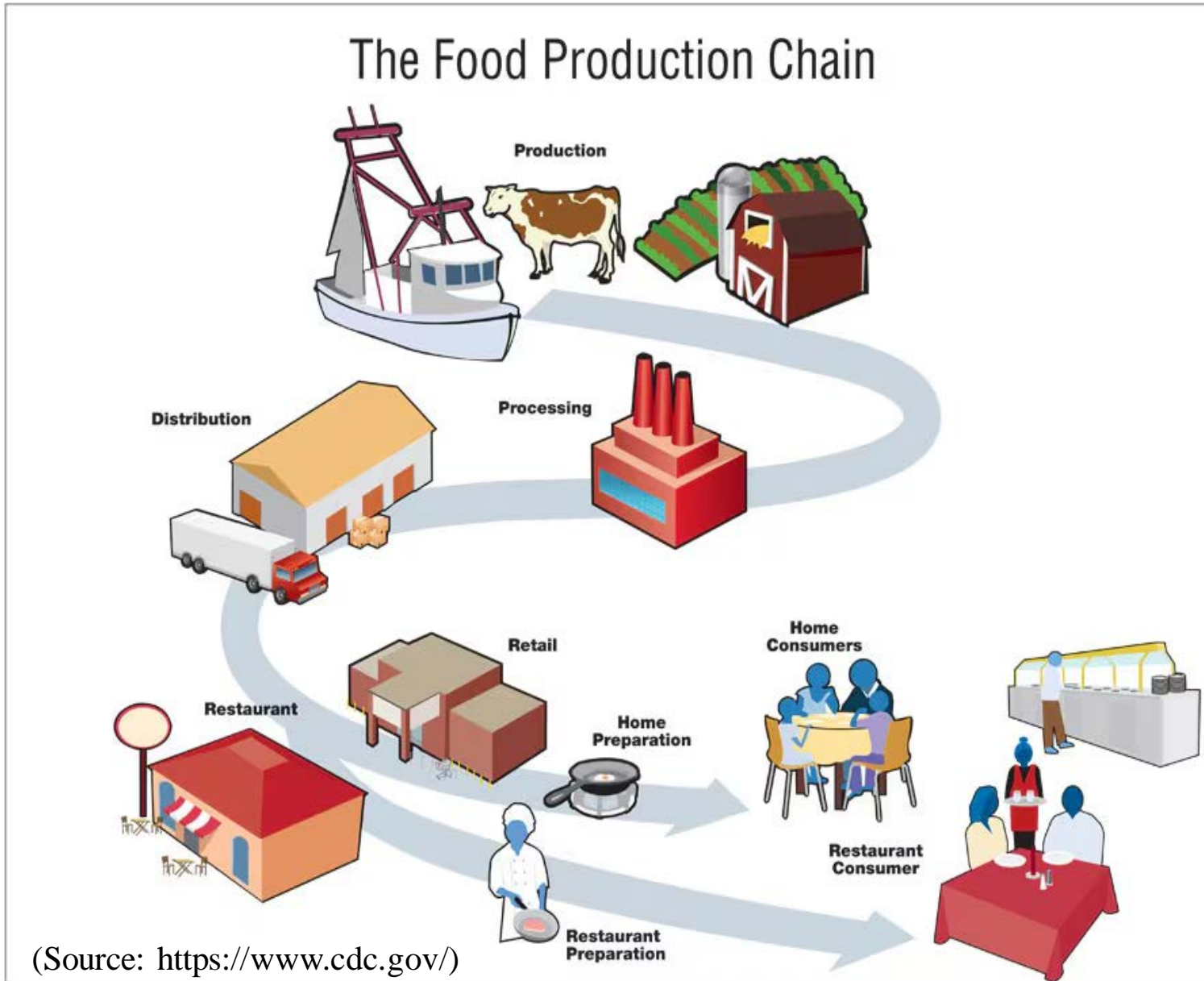


(Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/>)

- At fields, meadows, farms, orchards & greenhouses level*
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We need a global approach to enhance the quality and safety of our food production chain



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- ❑ *At fields, meadows, farms, orchards & greenhouses level*
- ❑ *At processing and transforming plants level*
- ❑ *At distribution and retail facilities level*

❑ ***At consumer level***

In addition to the official control

Special Issue

Comparison of Spectroscopic Techniques Combined with Chemometrics for Cocaine Powder Analysis

Joy Eliaerts^{1,*}, Natalie Meert¹, Pierre Dardenne², Vincent Baeten², Juan-Antonio Fernandez Pierna², Filip Van Durme¹, Karolien De Wael³ and Nele Samyn¹

¹National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology (NICC), Department drugs and toxicology, Brussels, Belgium, ²Walloon Agricultural Research Centre, Department of Product Valorization, Gembloux, Belgium and ³University of Antwerp, Department of Bioengineering, Antwerp, Belgium

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Abstract

Spectroscopic techniques combined with chemometrics are a promising tool for analysis of seized drug powders. In this study, the performance of three spectroscopic techniques [Mid-InfraRed (MIR), Raman and Near-InfraRed (NIR)] was compared. In total, 364 seized powders were analyzed and consisted of 276 cocaine powders (with concentrations ranging from 4 to 99 w%) and 88 powders without cocaine. A classification model (using Support Vector Machines [SVM] discriminant analysis) and a quantification model (using SVM regression) were constructed with each spectral dataset in order to discriminate cocaine powders from other powders and quantify cocaine in powders classified as cocaine positive. The performances of the models were compared with gas chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry (GC–MS) and gas chromatography with flame-ionization detection (GC–FID). Different evaluation criteria were used: number of false negatives (FNs), number of false positives (FPs), accuracy, root mean square error of cross-validation (RMSECV) and determination coefficients (R^2). Ten colored powders were excluded from the classification data set due to fluorescence background observed in Raman spectra. For the classification, the best accuracy (99.7%) was obtained with MIR spectra. With Raman and NIR spectra, the accuracy was 99.5% and 98.9%, respectively. For the quantification, the best results were obtained with NIR spectra. The cocaine content was determined with a RMSECV of 3.79% and a R^2 of 0.97. The performance of MIR and Raman to predict cocaine concentrations was lower than NIR, with RMSECV of 6.76% and 6.79%, respectively and both with a R^2 of 0.90. The three spectroscopic techniques can be applied for both classification and quantification of cocaine, but some differences in performance were detected. The best classification was obtained with MIR spectra. For quantification, however, the RMSECV of MIR and Raman was twice as high in comparison with NIR. Spectroscopic techniques combined with chemometrics can reduce the workload for confirmation analysis (e.g., chromatography based) and therefore save time and resources.

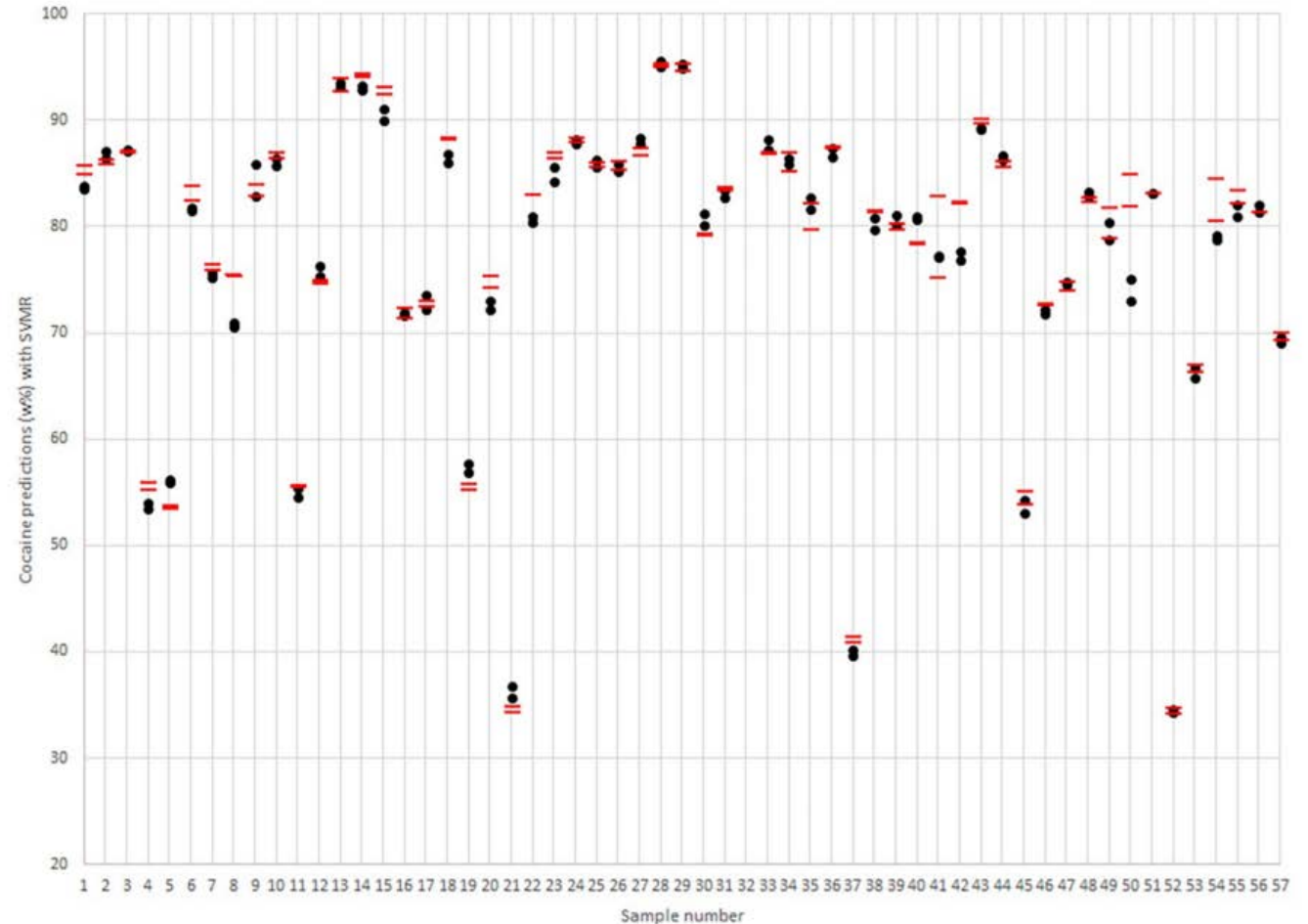
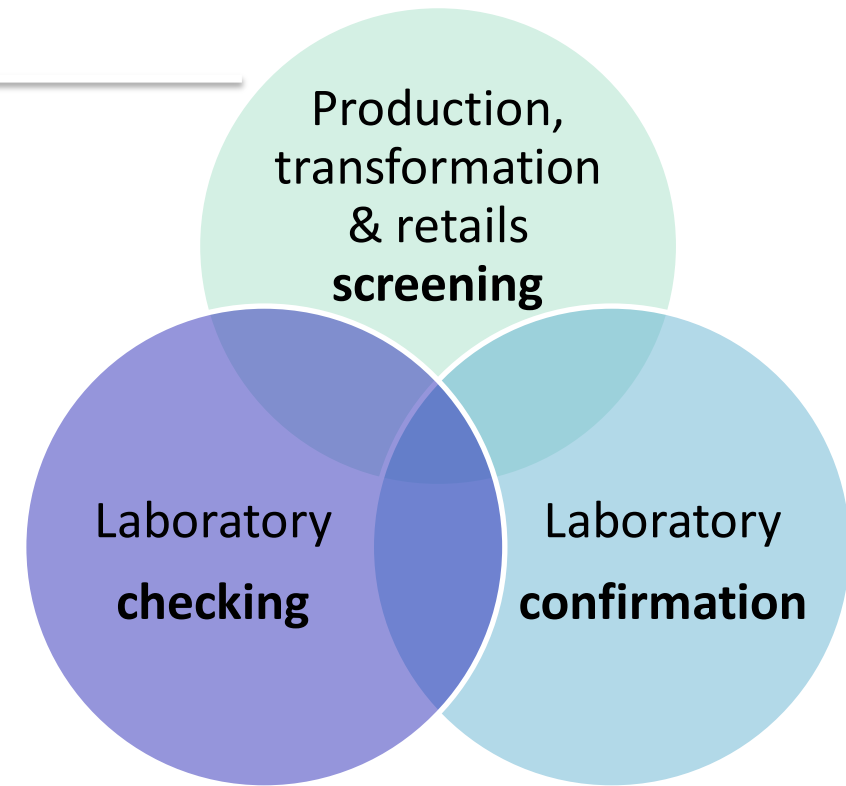


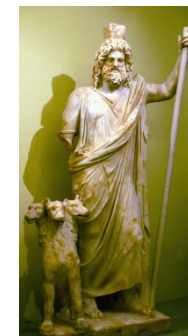
Figure 9. Replicate MIR analyses of 57 cocaine street samples (4 measurements/day per sample). LEGEND: Red stripes: two consecutive measurements of the same powder on the ATR crystal, black points: measurements after placing new powder of the same sample on the ATR crystal.

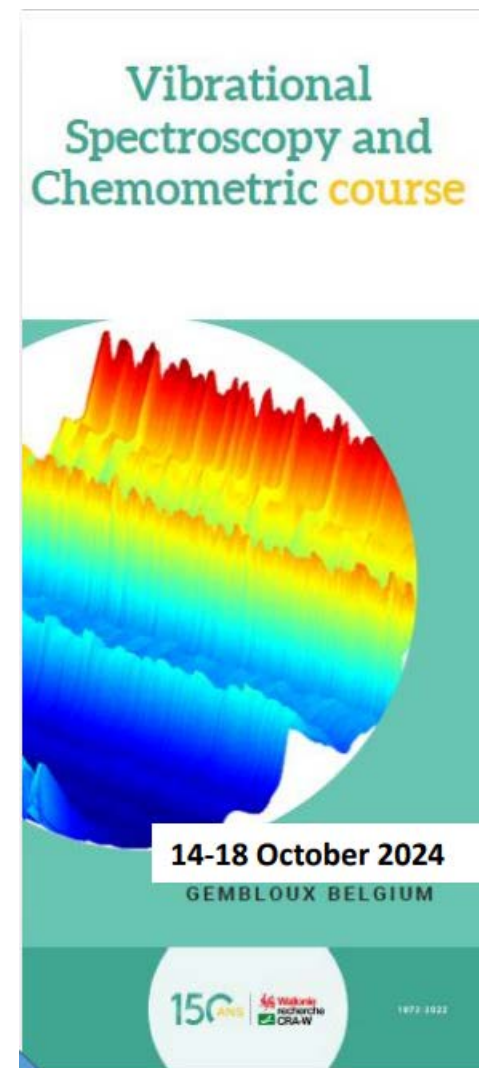
Take home message !

- ❑ **Three-tiers spectroscopic approach for the integrity of the food chain**
 - **Step 1 : Screening at production (plant/field/industry), transformation and retails levels**
(NIRS on-line & handheld; Raman)
 - **Step 2 : Checking at the laboratory level**
(NIRS laboratory; NIR HSI)
 - **Step 3 : Confirmation at the laboratory level**
(MIR & Raman laboratory; NIR HSI)



The Cerberus approach for the protection of the food chain !





Merci !