

Announcement

COST 99: Food Consumption and Composition Data (1994-99)

A New European Food and Nutrition Concerted Action

COST (European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research) is the oldest of all European collaborative research activities and is a framework for cooperation and promotion of scientific and technical research. It also provides European countries that are not members of the EU with an opportunity to participate in individual concerted actions.

The main objective of COST 99 is to promote and coordinate precompetitive research on food consumption and composition data in Europe. A major aim being to establish a network of comparable and compatible database systems for production and exchange of high quality data among European scientists. Such data could then be used in the formulation of food and nutrition policy, and for studying diet and health relationships in Europe.

The scientific programme of COST 99 is organised by the Management Committee, consisting of two nationally nominated delegates from each of the COST countries participating in the action, under the chairmanship of Prof. Clive West (Department of Human Nutrition, Wageningen Agricultural University, the Netherlands). **The Office of Science and Technology have elected Prof. Peter Aggett (Institute of Food Research) and Dr David Buss (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) as the UK delegates to serve on this committee.**

At the first meeting of the Management Committee in Brussels recently, it was agreed the following topics would be included for discussion at future workshops and meetings:

Food intake

- Food balance sheets
- Household budget surveys
- Individual dietary surveys

Food description and classification

- LANGUAL
- EUROCODE

Food composition

- Data quality
- EURONIMS
- Food analysis priorities
- Data interchange
- European Nutrient Data Base

Research findings will be exchanged between experts through meetings, seminars and workshops. The meetings will initially focus on developing check-lists, and/or formulating guidelines for improved methods of collection, analysis, compilation and use of food consumption and composition data. The first scientific workshop of the action will take place in Lahti, Finland from 27 to 31 August 1995. There may be some funds available to support invited keynote speakers and session chairpersons for forthcoming workshops and meetings.

As a further initiative under the COST Programme, funds will be available in COST 99 to support a limited number of short-term scientific missions. The aim of these missions should be to strengthen existing networks by allowing scientists to visit a laboratory in another COST country to learn a new technique, or to use equipment/instrumentation that are not available in their own laboratory. The duration of the visit can be from 3 days to 1 month and total funds available will not exceed 1500 ECU per mission. Requests for missions will be evaluated taking into account the scientific value of the proposed work as well as the costs requested.

UK scientists interested in applying for a short-term mission should contact **Prof. P. J. Aggett** at the Institute of Food Research for further information and an application form. Completed applications including letter of acceptance from host laboratory need to be returned as soon as possible for evaluation at the next Committee Meeting.

For further information on COST Action 99, please contact:

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