

# Data Base Development and Food Composition Tables of Argentine, Chile and Paraguay to strength the International Commerce and to Protect Consumers, 2008-2010 achievements

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## Background and improvement to the evidence base

Several groups of researchers in Latin American countries have contributed to generate information in food composition, especially from academia, with a lot of effort and in some cases without Government support. Academic researchers from Argentina, Chile and Paraguay with the support of FAO's Regional Officer for Latin America, Dr. Cecilio Morón, presented a project to FAO signed by their respective Governments, to strengthen and to support officially as a permanent task in the future, the updating of their respective National Food Composition Tables (FCT) and to establish in each country a robust Food Composition Data Base (FCDB). This project "*Data Base Development and Food Composition Tables of Argentine, Chile and Paraguay to strength the International Commerce and to Protect Consumers*" (Project FAO TCP/RLA/3107 2008-2010), was approved with FAO financial support.

## Program Implementation

Main achievements reached were

- i. Governments recognized their leading role in food composition, action plans in this field were elaborated for next years, mainly for priority foods considered by each Government,
- ii. The academic and professional groups participants of each country developed food sampling plans for 30 priority foods and also it was developed an standardized compilation Manual ;
- iii. About compilation activities, 250 food items were included per country;
- iv. 5 priority foods considered in the approved list by country were sampled according to the developed sampling plans, and analyzed;
- v. All the information generated is part of the respective databases and shared with LATINFOODS.

As a follow-up project an interdisciplinary group of academics and professionals from Argentine and Chile participating in FAO Project, experts in food science and informatics developed a software tool for designing and to develop a database system for these two countries. It has a hierarchic structure and a user-friendly system at data loading and exchange levels. It includes INFOODS tagnames for food

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components identification and Languag for food description. This software could be adopted by the LATINFOODS network for the regional FCDB and by other countries.

### **Success**

The achievement of this project is an effort of the academic and professional participants LATINFOODS National Branches belonging to the three countries. Their results allowed advances in the accomplishment of LATINFOODS objectives and to strengthen the regional technical cooperation network. This project has been an important impulse to institutionalize food composition activities in Argentina and Chile.

### **Source**

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LATINFOODS Food Composition Tables <http://www.inta.cl/latinfoods/>