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Please have also a look at our homepage www.e-cert.net .

For further questions and comments I am always available for you. Don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards

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1. e-Cert software: final acceptance of the software

Final acceptance through project-managers of Naturland, bio.inspecta and Austria Biogarantie took place at the final project meeting of the e-Cert development project at Lebring (Austria) end of November. The three project leader inspected the latest version of e-Cert Software. They were well prepared. Every party had spent several days to check the functionality in their offices with their specific project team. Every button had to be clicked on to make sure that the programme runs well.

2. e-Cert software/web portal: start of programming

After the final acceptance has been done the web programming team started immediately with programming the web tool. This tool makes it possible to use most of the software via Internet. No installation is necessary. It is especially made for inspectors and consultants who are working far away of the offices. Finalisation of the web tool is end of March 2005.

3.. e-Cert software: additional language “Swedish”

On request of a client an additional language is available now in e-Cert. Swedish is the 9th language of e-Cert.

4. bio.inspecta migration of data finished

bio.inspecta is the first of the three stakeholders of e-Cert who is running e-Cert in real-time. Migration of data was still a challenge because data of several different databases had to be migrated. Frank Rumpe (general manager): “From the technical point of view the whole migration was well prepared and organized. The most difficult part of migration were the internal discussions. Lots of information had to be integrated in the new system. For our daily inspection work it is necessary to have old data available because e.g. sanctions are nearly always related to the sanctions of the year before. The first allocations of the inspectors are already done in e-Cert. We are strongly looking forward to receive the first inspection reports which are coming electronically. In 2005 all processors will be inspected electronically. 20 tablet PCs are ordered. This investment will be returned in the third year by saving paper, printing costs and postal fees for the yearly data picking forms and inspection checklists.”

5. COOP Switzerland had decided to use e-Cert

COOP is one of two big food chains in Switzerland. The COOP management decided to work on the e-Cert platform to run the internal audits in the outlets. Every year hundreds of audits are taking place to guarantee the compliance with the COOP internal quality standards. Beside the internal shop audits the quality programme CNp “pig”, “calf”, “chicken” and “eggs” will be realized in e-Cert. About 4.000 producers are contracted. The workshop for defining the terms of references already took place. The programmers started to work and it is expected that the programme will be finished at May 2005. Further parts are planed.

6. VOG made first experiences with offline inspection

The VOG Service Gen.m.b.H. who is the market leader in Europe within the conventional fruit-market is running the small sister of e-Cert which is called "ControlNet.Eurepgap". The internal audits according option 2 of Eurepgap are partly made electronically since autumn 2004. That means that the inspectors checked out data, did the inspection with notebooks or tablet PCs and checked the data into the server via internet. One of the certification officers now is working mainly electronically. The system is running very well. There were no significant errors produced by the system. After a short training the certification officer is very pleased about the system and told us that he never wants to work on paper any more. It is that more easy because every thing is in the right order. You don't have to handle the mass of paper as before.

7. Road show at Biofach at Friday morning

At Biofach e-Cert will present a so called "Road Show" at Friday morning. The inspection and certification process will be shown in a kind of theatre piece. We hope the complex issue can be easy transported with this show. Please take a note in your agenda - we are really looking forward to seeing you there!

Please regard a note on behalf of myself: *soll heißen: "in eigener Sache ??"*

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