

Application of trend watching in self-checking systems: Survey among food business operators in Belgium

**11th Symposium of the Scientific Committee
“Trend watching and food safety control”
11 March 2016**

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Staff direction for risk assessment



Self-checking

- Includes all measures taken by operators to ensure that the products in all stages of production, processing and distribution
 - meet the legal requirements (food safety, food quality, traceability)
 - and the supervision of effective compliance with these requirements.

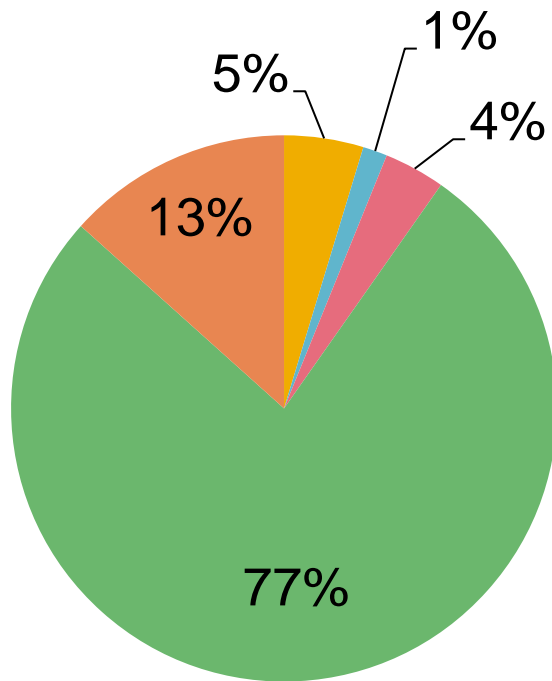


Survey

- Anonymous questionnaire (10 questions)
- 6 June 2015 – 15 September 2015
- Via sector organizations of Advisory Committee
→ food operators in Belgium
- 280 respondents



1. To which main sector belongs your company (main activity)?

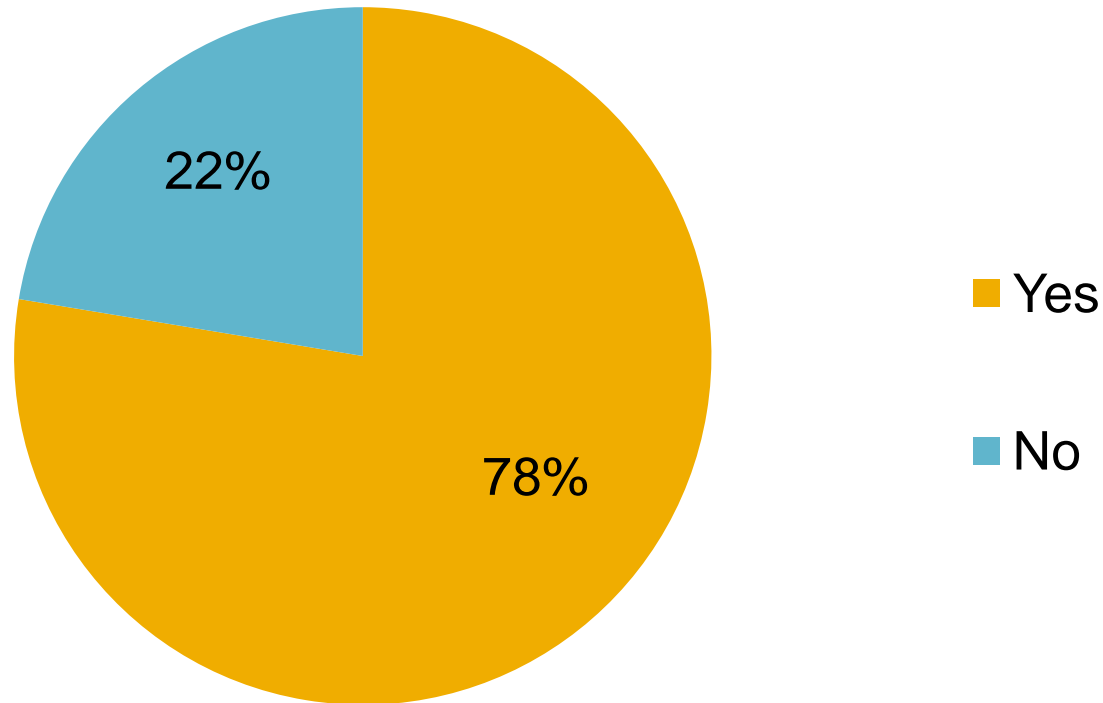


- Agricultural supplies
- Primary plant production
- Primary animal production
- Transformation
- Distribution

n = 277



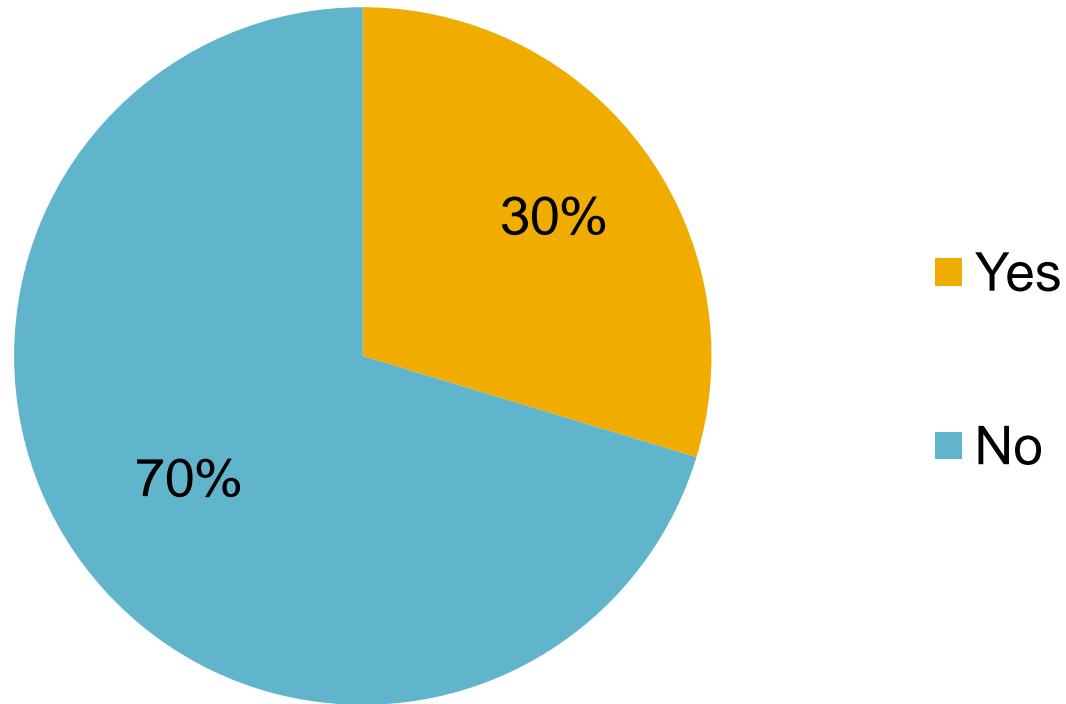
2. Do you have a validated self-checking system?



n = 268



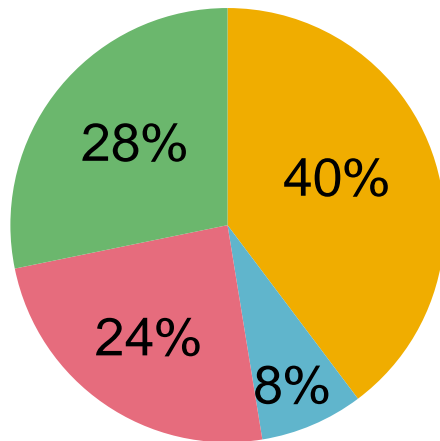
3. Do you participate in a sectoral sampling plan?



n = 256



4. Do you apply trend observation (visual observation) and/or trend analysis (statistical analysis) in the evaluation of the results in the context of your self-checking system in your company?

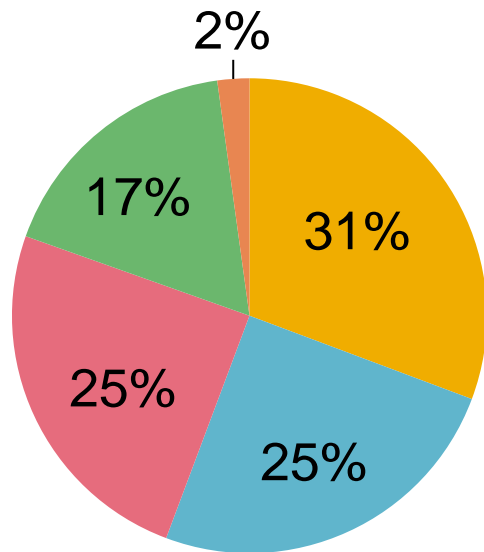


- Trend observation
- Trend analysis
- Trend observation and trend analysis
- None

n = 234



5. Why do you apply trend observation/trend analysis?

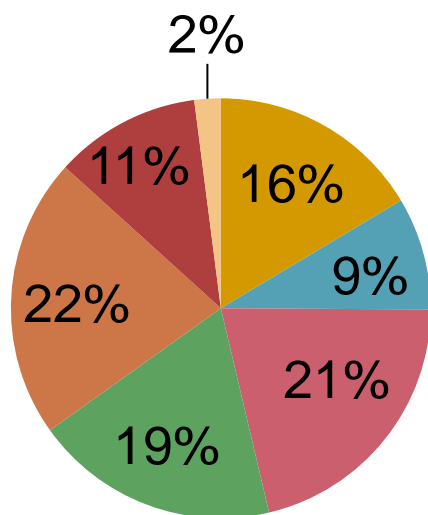


- To gain more insight into the evolution of my company
- To optimise the self-checking system
- To capture alarm signals
- Not applicable
- Other

n = 226



6. To which type of data do you apply trend observation/trend analysis?

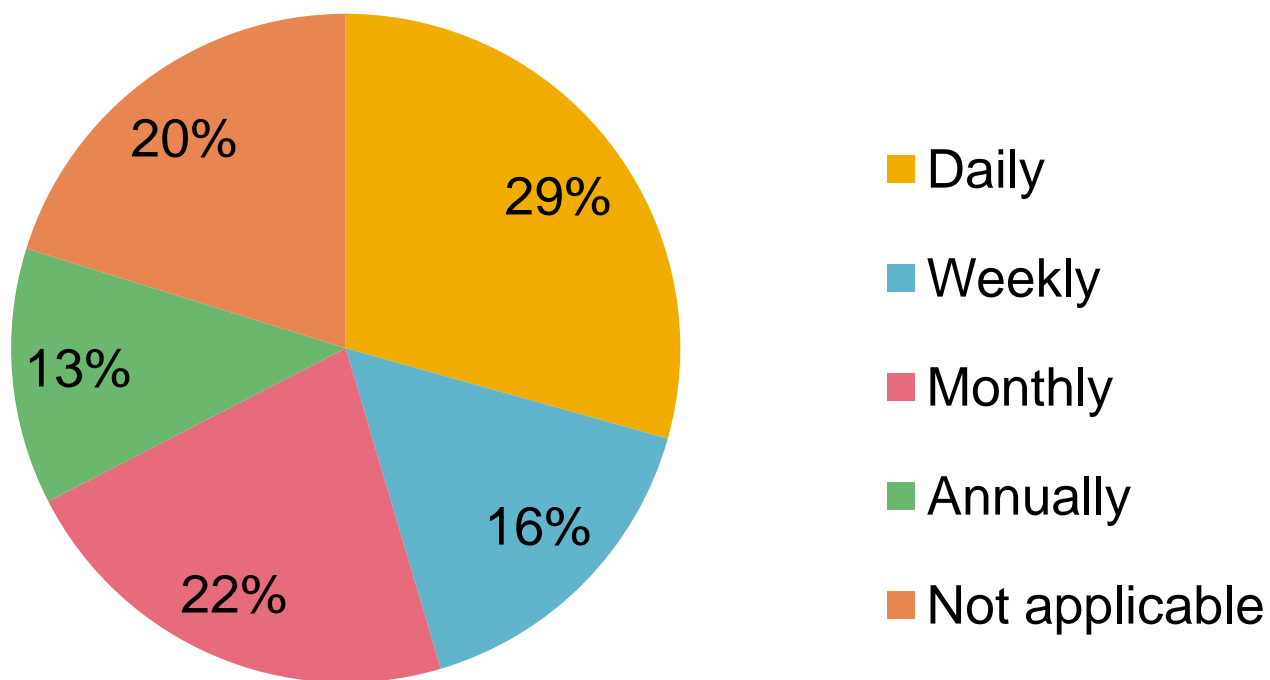


- Data about microbiological hazards
- Data about chemical hazards
- Data about hygiene parameters
- Data about product quality parameters
- Data about production efficiency
- Not applicable
- Other

n = 220



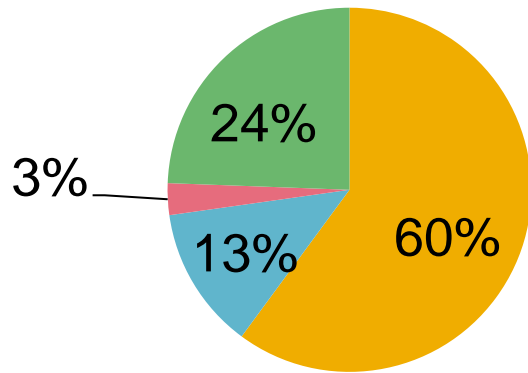
7. How often do you collect on average data within your self-checking system?



n = 218



8. Over what time period do you evaluate data via trend observation/trend analysis?

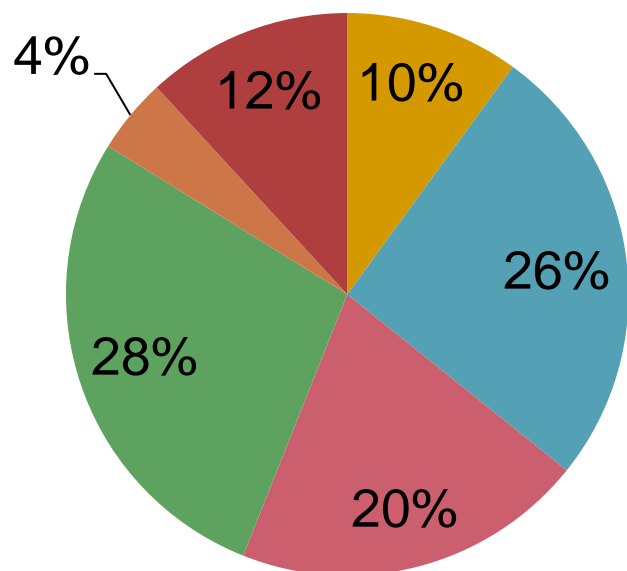


- Repeated observations on a short time period
- On a medium-long period
- On a long period
- Not applicable

n = 213



9. How do you do trend observation and/or trend analysis?

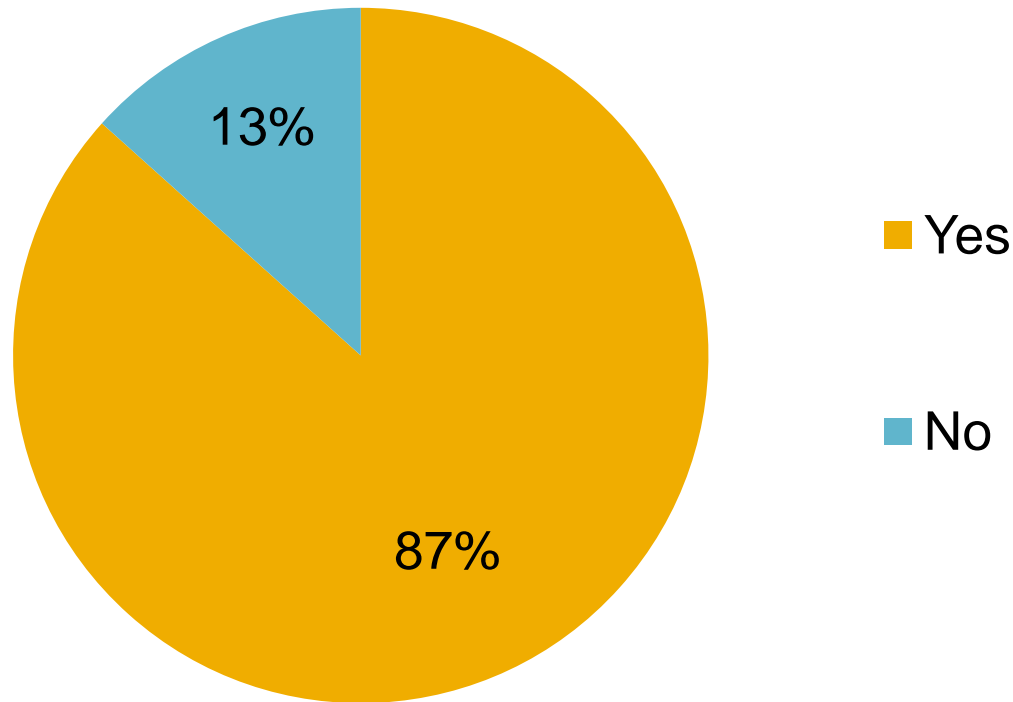


- Visual evaluation of raw data
- Visual evaluation of processed data
- Visual evaluation of a graphical representation of the data
- With the aid of Excel
- With the aid of other statistical programs
- Not applicable

n = 212



10. Are you of the opinion that the application of trend observation/trend analysis can offer an added value for the evaluation of the results of your self-checking system?



n = 202



Conclusions

- Good response: representative?
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of participants apply trend watching
- For multiple purposes within company
- On different kind of data
- Mostly on rather short to medium time period
- Mostly using simple techniques
- Added-value for self-checking systems





Thanks to...

Food business operators

Sector organizations

FEVIA

C. Verraes

