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## **Abstract**

### **IFIF Convergence Project: harmonizing the authorization process and risk assessment of novel feed ingredients across regulatory jurisdictions**

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In 2014 IFIF launched the global Convergence Project with the overall long term objective to enable the convergence of the technical requirements for the safety assessment of feed ingredients between jurisdictions globally.

In the interest of assuring global acceptance of novel ingredients and to ensure the uninterrupted supply of safe food, IFIF has an interest in harmonizing or converging the authorization process and risk assessment of novel feed ingredients across regulatory jurisdictions. IFIF is considering adopting the the Veterinary International Conference on Harmonization (VICH) approach to establish guidelines that cover the technical requirements of authorization processes for novel feed ingredients/ additives or new uses of existing ingredients/ additives.

To that end IFIF is working to set up an International Feed Harmonization Organization together with the American Feed Industry Associations (AFIA), the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada (ANAC) and EU Association of Specialty Feed Ingredients and their Mixtures (FEFANA). Initially focused on Canada, EU and the USA, the enabling capabilities should support the development of science-based technical guidance documents, and should facilitate in a lean but sustainable and transparent way the dialogue and the exchange of information between the authorities and the industry experts.

The collaboration should lead to the publication of an efficient and harmonized set of documents dealing with risk assessment of feed ingredients. This set of documents would serve as a foundation for the mutual recognition of the safety assessment outcome between the different jurisdictions.

The Convergence Project is the concrete next step from the 2013 [IFIF "Comparison of Regulatory Management of Authorized Ingredients, Approval Processes, and Risk-Assessment Procedures for Feed Ingredients"](#) report that covers Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, Japan, South Africa, and United States. This study was drafted based on expert input and support by government feed regulators and feed and feed ingredients associations in the 7 regions covered.