

## **Advice 21-2015 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the application of trend observation and trend analysis on the results of the control plan of the FASFC**

The Scientific Committee has developed a protocol for performing trend observation and trend analysis and has applied this on the results of the annual control plans of the FASFC realized between 2007 and 2013. The protocol includes a methodology for the choice of relevant results from the annual control plan of the FASFC, the selection of suitable data, performing trend observation using graphic representations, performing trend analysis using statistical methods, analyzing critical considerations and finally the interpretation of the observed trends.

The Scientific Committee confirms that trend observation and trend analysis can offer an added value to evaluate the results of the annual control plan of the FASFC over a longer term. It is recommended to critically evaluate observed trends or statistically significant trends by their relevance given that many additional factors may play a role in observing a trend. A trend is considered real if it is not the result of artifacts but instead the result of factors (biological, epidemiological, climatological, economic, policy-related, etc.) which act systematically on the results of the control plan. When a trend is considered to be real, the risk manager can take the appropriate measures. Possibly certain sampling sizes in the control program can be adjusted in function of the objectives that are pursued by the risk manager.

Finally, the Scientific Committee formulates some specific recommendations for the AFSCA.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".