

LRQA Business Assurance Food Podcast Series, Episode 3  
Transcript (Audio podcast available)

Welcome to the LRQA Business Assurance Podcast Series. Episode 3 features an interview from the European Food Manufacturing and Safety Forum in Holland with Cor Groenvelde, LRQA's Global Product Manager for food.

**MIKE CHAMBERS:** Cor began today's podcast by highlighting some of the day's best presentations.

**COR GROENVELD:** I must say that the second day of the conference was absolutely interesting, again. The conference just finished and people are going home again to all kinds of places in Europe. But we had very interesting companies on stage, we had Nestle doing a presentation, we had General Mills, and we had Tate & Lyle, we had Heinz, so these are big food manufacturers who showed the importance of this kind of event. I think a number of highlights that I saw today was I think, Nestle were talking about sustainability and quite interesting how they showed how they did an analysis on the packaging materials, as an example. And they did an analysis what, again the impact on greenhouse gases from the packaging materials and they made a five year study to reduce the impact by doing modifications on the packaging materials. So you can see that even these kinds of things are under the attention of food companies. General Mills had a very interesting presentation about food safety and packaging material, again that's interesting because at the moment when you look at FSSC it is covering food products and food ingredients but there is also now development of a PAS document, prerequisite requirement document for packaging materials. And when that's published, that can be used together with ISO22000 and it might be possible that under FSSC it's also possible then to do FSSC certifications for manufacturers of packaging materials. And I think, the presentation of General Mills only showed, also how important it is not only to have food safety within the food manufacturers themselves but also in the materials they use like packaging materials.

**MIKE CHAMBERS:** Heinz's Vendor Assurance Programme was one of the event's best presentations. Cor talked about the Heinz presentation.

**COR GROENVELD:** I think Heinz was also absolutely interesting. Heinz showed how they do their vendor assurance program. And I think I spoke in an earlier blog, one of the most critical issues in food safety is control of suppliers and Heinz was very open and shared a lot of information on how they do the vendor assurance program. And they showed clearly that they also use third party certification in that they do the audits themselves for new suppliers, but for

lower risk suppliers and also for existing suppliers they trust on third party certification by one of the GFSI recognised certification schemes. But that's interesting that those manufacturers are not using those standards for themselves only but also they are driving it into the supply chain and Heinz gave a very clear example of that.

**MIKE CHAMBERS:** Cor finished his live reporting from the event by looking at the increasing level of attention that food safety is getting in organisations across the food supply chain.

**COR GROENVELD:** I think there has been a big change Alex, in the food supply, I think that the food manufacturers show clearly they take responsibility, I think that's absolutely clear. They also invest in management systems for food safety but also for other issues like sustainability, corporate responsibility. And most important I think is that you see that top management is willing to make resources available, the question is always, CEO he wants to sleep well at night and he doesn't want to have any concerns about having any food scare or scandal. And its clearly for me that in the last say five or six years that there has been a very positive change that food manufacturers take responsibility, willing to invest and they are building robust management systems to cover those concerns. That was I think most important what I took out of this conference.

February is Food Month for LRQA. For more information, visit [www.food.lrqa.com](http://www.food.lrqa.com) .