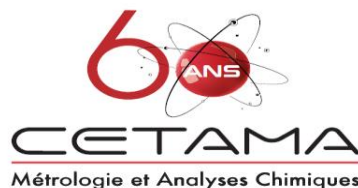


The logo for CEA (Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives) features the lowercase letters 'cea' in white on a red background, with a horizontal green line below.The logo for INSIDER consists of a small colorful icon followed by the word 'INSIDER' in a bold, sans-serif font.The logo for CETAMA's 60th anniversary features a large red '60' with 'ANS' inside the zero, a stylized atomic symbol, and the text 'CETAMA Métrologie et Analyses Chimiques' below.

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Proficiency testing in environmental and agri-food analysis

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Proficiency tests are a key exercise for laboratories that want to monitor their performance or get accredited, as it is one of the main tools mentioned in ISO 17025 standard to demonstrate the performance of a laboratory. Nevertheless, laboratories often make a basic use of their participations in proficiency tests, checking only quickly if they are assessed as satisfactory or not, whereas a much complete set of information can however be obtained and valued by the laboratory. This presentation aims firstly to describe the general organization of a proficiency test and the various possibilities for its design, especially for the assessment of the participants, and secondly to show the wide range of information that can be obtained from the participation in proficiency tests. Laboratories can actually get a more complete picture of their behavior if monitoring their results through a series of tests, allowing to detect tendencies or biases. Some data about uncertainty, stability, methods or matrices can also be reached. Some examples from the environment and agri-food areas are used to illustrate these elements.