Landesamt für Natur,
Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz
Nordrhein-Westfalen

ATAST: A regional management tool for collaboration in tracing investigations

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ATAST Advanced Trace And Solve Tool

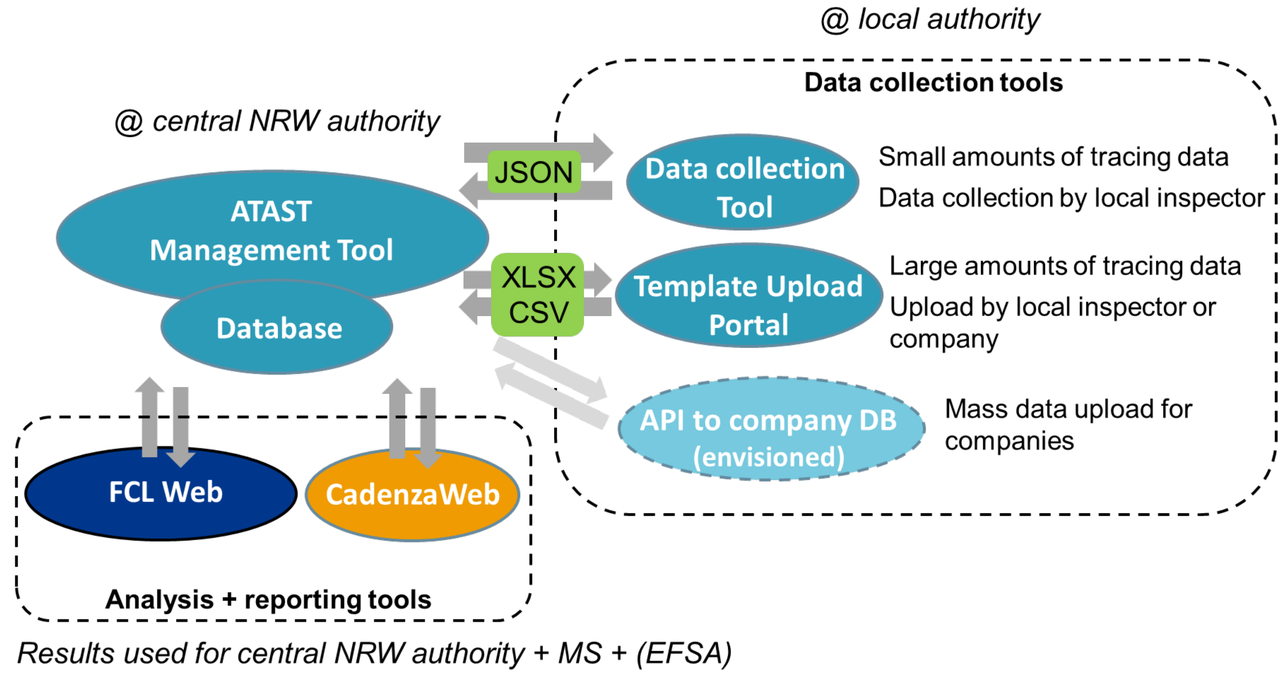

Figure 1: ATAST components

Background

North Rhine-Westphalia is one of the leading Federal States in Germany in terms of integrated data systems.

During audits of local food safety inspectors and company visits, the needs for efficient tracing became apparent. Software tools are needed to increase the data quality and speed of data collection in tracing investigations. Also, data collection needs to be easier for local inspectors and companies und finally advanced data analysis and automated reporting is important to facilitate efficient handling of foodborne incidents at regional level in times of ever increasing speed and volume of food and feed trade.

Those insights led to the development of the Advanced Trace And Solve Tool (ATAST) with several components tailored for the needs of incident investigation at regional and local level.

Data management at regional authority

The ATAST management tool is used by the regional authority to manage current foodborne incidents. It offers a dashboard to monitor active investigations and gives a list of current and archived incidents with the respective data (incident, company, product and sample data). It also offers a list of active and archived investigation orders on companies and products.

Via a JSON-based data exchange, ATAST can directly send investigation orders to the local authorities and receive the respective data when collected.

Data collection at local authority

Local food safety inspectors use a browser-based data collection form to collect traceability data at food business operators. The tool provides a guided and structured data assessment with on-site plausibility checks. It has interfaces to catalogues and registers providing curated master data. Interfaces to industry databases as well as to the RASFF system are planned. All those features improve data quality and the speed of data collection.

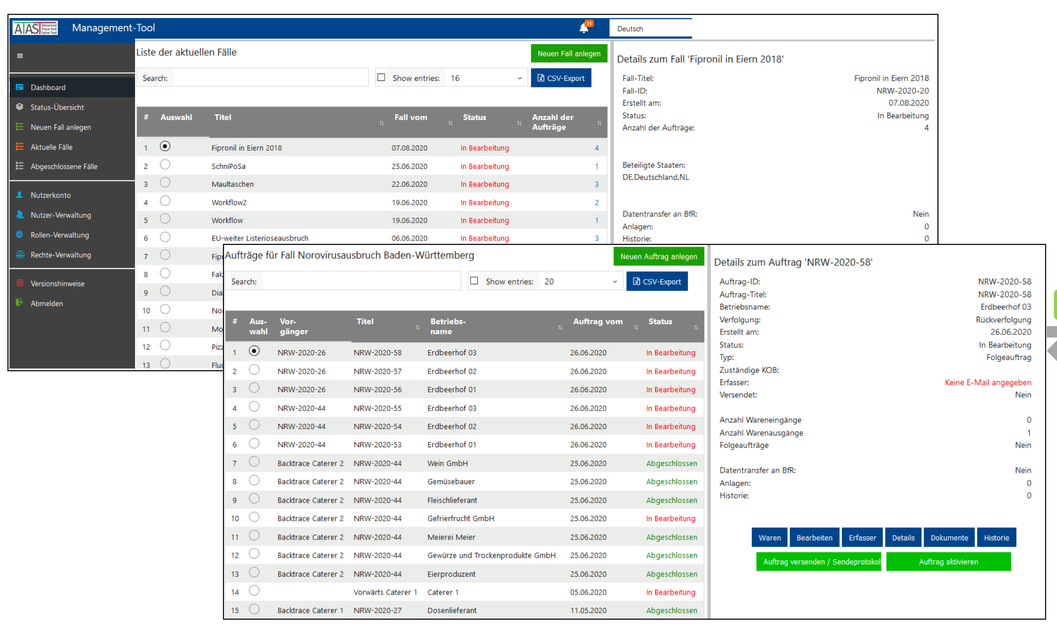

Figure 2: ATAST management tool

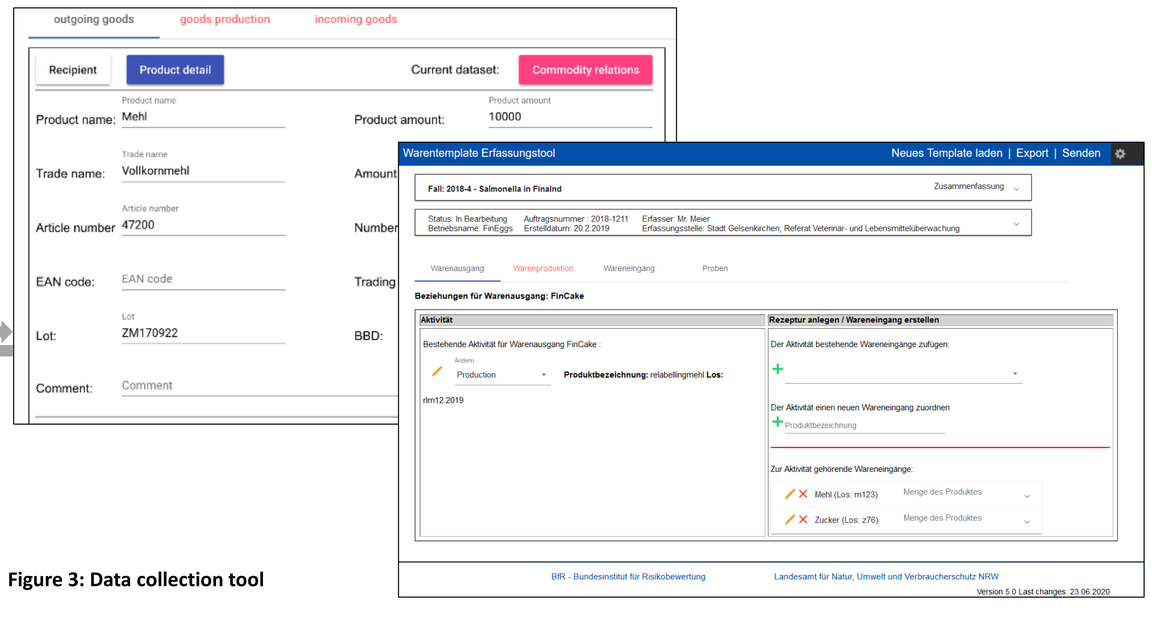

Figure 3: Data collection tool

Data analysis and automated reporting with external tools

The ATAST management tool has interfaces to external software tools for advanced analysis and automated reporting of traceability data which support the regional authorities in solving food incidents quickly and reliably.

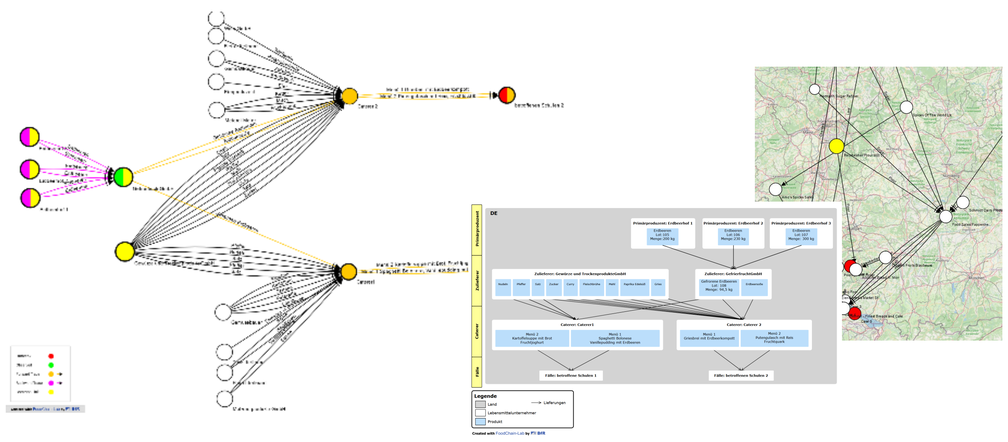

Figure 4: Data analysis with FoodChain-Lab

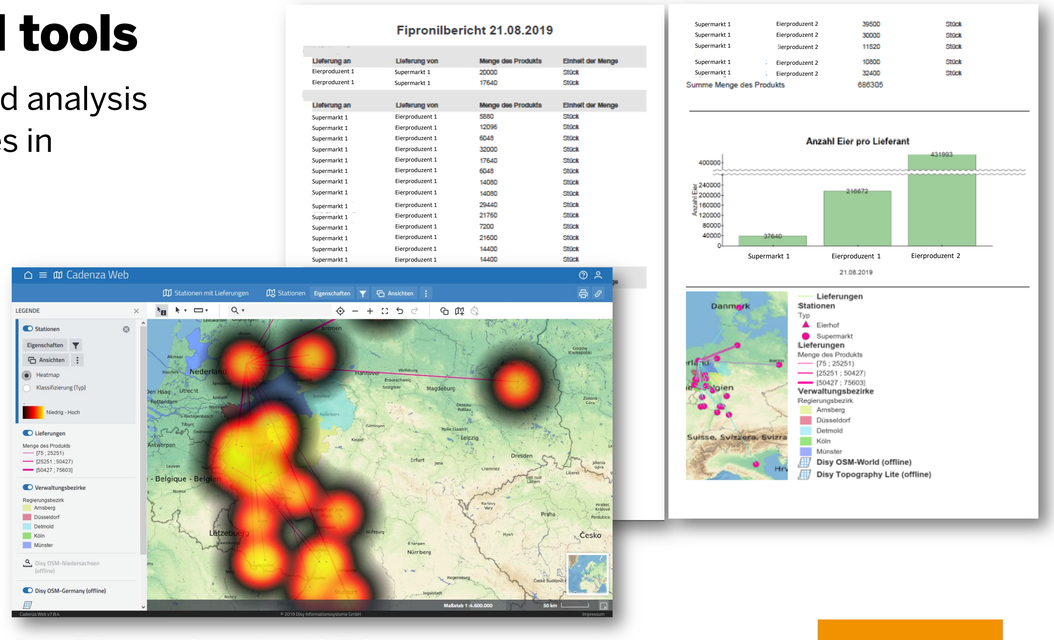

Figure 5: Automated reporting with Cadenza