



Picturing panel performance: New ways to visualise your panellists' data

Introduction

- In descriptive analysis, the sensory panel provides analytical data much as any other piece of 'equipment' found in any other laboratory
- Validation and monitoring of the output of a sensory panel is a vital part of every sensory science function
- Recording and monitoring the performance of individual panellists and the panel as a whole will highlight the need for appropriate action in a timely manner

The reality

- Many companies find the resources needed to assess the vast amounts of raw data and produce usable feedback unjustifiable
- The focus is often on the experimental results and not the panellists' data quality
- The lack of data visualisation and management systems inhibits the development of feedback loops

The future

- Developments in information management, graphics and data visualisation mean there are many current and emerging options available to the sensory scientist
- These developments can help to visualise, investigate and summarise complex sensory data and panel performance trends
- The challenge and opportunity for the future of Panel Quality Management is the creation of an effective yet easy-to-use system such as an interactive, automatically updating, dashboard of sensory panel data, that focuses on key measures of performance
- A mock-up using outputs of existing statistical packages is shown below. Each area shows an important performance aspect which is scrollable by panellist, attribute and/or product

