

3rd Annual Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) Conference Highlights

Cape Town, South Africa, December 8-12, 2014

More than 130 participants from over 50 organizations convened at the 3rd Annual GFSP Conference in Cape Town from December 8-12, 2014. The conference showcased the achievements of the GFSP in its first two years of operation, and outlined continued collaborative action for 2015 between public, private and academic actors from around the globe, to scale up the world's response to food safety challenges.

The Conference was opened by Director Food Safety and Quality Assurance Boitshoko Ntshabele on behalf of Director General, South African Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Prof. Edith Vries, and World Bank Director of Operations and Strategy John Roome, who confirmed the World Bank Group's continuing strong support for the GFSP. Additional keynote addresses were provided by FAO Assistant Director General Ren Wang, US Food and Drug Administration Associate Commissioner for International Programs Mary Lou Valdez, and Grocery Manufacturers Association Chief Scientist Leon Bruner.

Conference participants reinforced the importance of promoting access to safe food around the world. The mission of the GFSP is to improve food safety through capacity building in low and medium income countries to improve public health, facilitate trade, accelerate economic growth, and alleviate rural poverty. It was reinforced that improving food safety is a shared priority that can only be achieved by public, private, civil society and academic sectors working together. With the convening power of the World Bank Group, the GFSP was strongly supported by participants as the world's first global platform that brings together the full suite of actors – from international organizations to governments to industry, to non-government organizations and academics. Since the launch of the GFSP in 2012, these diverse groups have pooled their resources and are working together to create a partnership which enables and catalyzes a strong and sustainable strategic program to strengthen food safety systems and supply chains globally in ways that can only be achieved collectively.

Participants commended the growing level of collaboration and leveraging of expertise from around the globe through the GFSP Advisory Groups. The Leadership Group, Donor Advisory Council, Communications Working Group, Knowledge & Learning Working Group, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, and the Food Safety Technical Working Group (FSTWG) are well established and providing regular advice to the GFSP Secretariat. The addition of Expert Groups to the FSTWG focused on needs assessment tools, laboratory training, primary production, regulatory issues, and processing & manufacturing have provided focused attention on specific subject areas to produce significant activity. Each Working Group identified how they would support implementation of GFSP activities in 2015.

An additional highlight of the 3rd Annual Conference was the *2nd Food Safety Regional Leadership Dinner Dialogue*. This event, hosted by Waters Corporation in partnership with the World Bank and UNIDO, built on the model for regionally-focused listening and learning that was applied in Singapore at the 2nd GFSP Annual Conference. With a panel of experts, key issues relating to the theme of "Improving Food Safety to Promote African Trade and Economic Growth" were discussed with the audience. An outcome paper "Securing Food Safety to Leverage Economic Growth Opportunities in the African Food Sector: Speeding Progress, Advancing Partnerships, Sustaining Momentum" will also be available on the GFSP website: www.gfsp.org.

The GFSP is supported by a dedicated Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) at the World Bank. Contributions from governments of the Netherlands (US\$1.3M), Denmark (US\$0.27M), the United States (US\$1.075M) and Canada (US\$0.6M) have been received or committed. In-kind contributions totaling more than US\$2.39M have also

been identified. Outreach to new donors continues; interested parties are invited to contact the GFSP Secretariat for information on joining the Partnership and becoming a financial or in-kind donor.

The 4th Annual GFSP Conference will be held in late 2015 in the Central/South American region.

Cape Town
12 December 2014