

Laboratory Capacity Building for Indonesia

Concerns exist about the testing capabilities for labs involved in food control in Indonesia. These concerns are related, in particular, to the ability of provincial labs to deliver fit-for-purpose testing for a sufficiently broad range of analytical challenges. This in turn raises questions about the ability to demonstrate the efficacy of food safety control programs.

In contrast, the central labs under BPOM (Indonesian Agency for Drug and Food Control) appear to be relatively well equipped and have good experience with up to date test methods and the use of effective quality systems covered under ISO 17025 accreditation. However, this organization has a desire to move from fixed scope accreditation to one based on flexible scope that will permit ready inclusion of a broader range of food matrices and tests within their accreditation based on a competence evaluation carried out by the laboratory and verified by the accreditation body *a posteriori*.

The following training proposal could offer the combined benefits of facilitating BPOM to adopt flexible scope accreditation and simultaneously pave the way towards creating a scalable and sustainable mechanism for offering hands-on laboratory training in fit-for-purpose analytical methods to scientists from provincial labs.

1. Identified BPOM scientists offered one week instruction on robust analytical method development, LC/MS care and use and managing flexible scope accreditation at a suitably equipped location.
2. Same BPOM scientists offered instruction in how to deliver training courses (Training-of-Trainers) on fit-for-purpose testing for a carefully selected analytical technique (initial suggestion is veterinary drug residues in product of animal origin using LC/MSMS). This training should be carried out in a controlled, off-site location, preferably using the same materials and instructors as supported the China lab pilot program. The off-site location is essential to ensure full attention from the trainees and networking opportunities with subject matter experts to create a long-term support system.
3. Newly trained trainers supported as they begin to deliver the training in Indonesia to scientists from national and provincial labs.
4. Follow up with proficiency testing samples to all trainee's labs.

This is broadly similar to previous lab programs conducted under the auspices of GFSP, with the exception of the additional initial element to address accreditation scope and some firm recommendations as a result of lessons learned from previous trainings.