

GFSP

NEWSLETTER

Global
Food
Safety
Partnership



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HEALTHIER **WORLD**

July 2017

CEO Corner

As I look ahead to my second year of leadership at the GFSP, connecting our work in food safety capacity building to the mission of improved global public health will be paramount.

Last year, I shared that addressing the overwhelming needs for food safety capacity development globally was among the biggest challenges to the food safety community. And at the GFSP, we took this on with vigor, helping to drive collective action and a shared responsibility among the public and private sectors for developing food safety solutions across countries and regions. Our inroads in China continue and, as you will read in this newsletter, we have helped grow and encourage a new consciousness around food safety capacity building in South Asia, particularly India. We are also reviewing existing capacity and investments in food safety in sub-Saharan Africa to help encourage more targeted support to food safety capacity building at the country level in that region.

I look forward to continued engagement with our partners as we develop and share food safety knowledge and resources to improve the global public health and economic development outcomes of our clients.

Best Regards,

Lystra N. Antoine
Chief Executive Officer

GFSP and FSSAI High-Level Dialogue Results In Actions For Investments For Food Safety In Asia

Leading decision makers and change agents from government, the private sector, and multilateral organizations across Asia came together in New Delhi, India on May 17, 2017 as part of a high-level dialogue convened by the Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) in collaboration with the [Food Safety and Standards Authority of India \(FSSAI\)](#).

Nearly 100 participants in the dialogue discussed emerging challenges and opportunities for improving food safety management in the region. Participants agreed that more concerted and coordinated actions are needed to effectively address these multifaceted issues. The dialogue has resulted in the [Delhi Declaration of Intent](#), a commitment among dialogue participants to work collaboratively to strengthen food safety systems in South Asia and act in specific areas including funding and investment, knowledge sharing, public/private collaboration, and capacity building to manage and support the region's food safety systems.

"The purpose of the Declaration is to provide a pathway for achieving safe and nutritious food for all through collaborative actions, including disseminating lessons learned and best practices to inform future food safety capacity building, which we believe can improve public health, facilitate market access, and contribute to enhanced food security across the globe," said Lystra N. Antoine, CEO of the GFSP.

Ashish Bahuguna, Chairperson of FSSAI, noted that "one of the key agenda for FSSAI is to enhance its global outreach with a view to learn from experiences of other countries in food safety and build global trust in India's food sector. We strongly believe in co-creating a sustainable architecture for building strong food safety systems across Asia. We believe that globally there is a need for more informed and cohesive arrangement on capacity building and knowledge sharing on food safety and nutrition. This calls for support from public and private organizations, partners and other international bodies."

Pawan Agarwal, CEO of FSSAI elaborated that FSSAI has made a good progress in terms of food safety capacity building efforts through launch of FosTaC portal that necessitates to have one trained and certified food safety supervisor in Indian food businesses. "We are making a big change with increased focus on building awareness around importance of safe and nutritious food and it's a collaborative approach in making India free from unsafe and adulterated food" he said.



Speakers at the high-level dialogue included:

Mr. Ashish Bahuguna, Chairperson, FSSAI; Mr. Pawan Agarwal CEO FSSAI; Mr. Junaid Ahmed, Country Director for India, The World Bank; Martien Van Nieuwkoop, Practice Manager, Agriculture South Asia, The World Bank; Mr. Nathan Belete, Practice Manager, Agriculture GP, EAP Region, The World Bank; Mr. Prashant Agrawal, Joint Secretary, (SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs, India; Mr. Karma Nidup, Chief Executive Officer of the Food Corporation Limited of Bhutan, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests; Dr. Lakshman Gamlath, Director, Environmental Health, Occupational Health & Food safety, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.; Mr. Pramod Korana, Regional chief, Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, Ministry of Agricultural Development, Nepal; Ms. Getup Vermal, Executive Director, HUL Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industries; Dr. Paul Chee King Tien, Food Safety Programmer Chief and Group Director, Laboratory Group, Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority, AVA Singapore; Dr. Mustapha El Hamzaoui, Director, Food Security Office, USAID-India; Mr. Nitin Verma Canadian High Commission in Delhi, CFIA; Mr. Le Minh Tuan, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, International Cooperation Development, Multilateral Cooperation Division, Vietnam; Mr. Rajeev Vigh, Director, UNIDO International Centre for Inclusive & Sustainable Industrial Development; Dr. Henk Bekedem, India Country Representative, World Health Organization; Mr. Sivaramakrishnan Nagarajan, Managing Director, Mother Dairy; Mr. Sanjay Khouri, Sr. VP, Nestle India Limited; Mr. Sanjay Sharma CEO, MTR Foods Pvt Ltd; Mr. Robert Baker, Global Head of Technical Food Safety Development, Mars Incorporated; Mr. Steven Jaffee, Lead Agriculture Economist, Agriculture Global Practice, The World Bank; Dr. Leticia Robinson, Incoming Director, India Office, U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Dr. Paul Young, Senior Director, Waters Corporation; and Mr. Piruz Khambatta, Chairman and Managing Director, Rasna International.



The Delhi Declaration of Intent summarizes the event deliberations and various statements of follow-up intent from among the stakeholders who participated in the GFSP and FSSAI High-Level Dialogue.

To read or download the Declaration, visit www.gfsp.org or <http://bit.ly/2t4RFPP>

GFSP Represented at APEC's Food Safety Cooperation Forum

Matt Kovac, Executive Director of [Food Industry Asia](http://www.foodindustryasia.com) (FIA) and a GFSP Governing Council Member, presented the GFSP at the [APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum](http://www.apecfoodsecurityforum.org) (FSCF) and the Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) in Hanoi, Vietnam, on May 12 and 13, 2017.

Kovac, with support provided by GFSP Governing Council Members Dr. Paul Young and Sonia Bradley, shared an update on the GFSP'S recent activities and its new strategic direction. "It is an honor to present at the FSCF in Hanoi and discuss the private sector's role in strengthening food supply chains, the importance of public-private partnerships like the GFSP, and the significant progress the Partnership has made over the last two years helping to strengthen food safety in Asia and increasingly in other parts of the world," said Kovac.



(L) Matt Kovac and Yifan Jiang at APEC FSCF in Hanoi. (R) Matt Kovac presents the GFSP's new strategic approach to APEC economies in Hanoi

FIA is a steering group member of the FSCF-PTIN, which is working with APEC economies to underpin collaborations to enhance food safety, facilitate trade, and protect consumers in the region. Yifan Jiang, FIA's Head of Regional Regulatory Affairs, also presented at a FSCF Export Certificate Workshop in Hanoi, representing the food industry as it works with APEC governments to streamline export certification in the region and enhance collaboration to facilitate trade.

Kovak noted that the key outcomes from the week-long FSCF meetings addressed streamlining export certification requirements; harmonizing import MRLs for pesticides; and collaborating to modernize food safety control systems. He added that in the APEC FSCF statement, APEC economies continue to recognize the ongoing collaboration with the GFSP and acknowledge the efforts of the GFSP to build on the FSCF-PTIN model for food safety capacity building.

In Brussels, GFSP CEO Addresses Food Safety Investments in Low and Middle-Income Countries

On May 24, 2017, GFSP CEO Lystra N. Antoine joined food safety colleagues in Brussels to discuss the vastly underestimated burden of foodborne disease in low and middle-income countries and its likely causes. The [discussion](#) was convened by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

According to Antoine, among the conclusions reached were:

- Achieving food safety in informal markets is critical to reducing food borne illnesses in low and middle-income countries.
- The nexus between food safety, water and nutrition needs to be acknowledged and emphasized, and these communities brought closer together since their agendas are complementary.
- Partnerships are critical to addressing food safety, which is a multifaceted problem.
- There are unintended consequences of certain actions targeted at improving food safety (removal of street vendors, closing wet markets), that impact vulnerable groups the most, particularly women and children.
- In the developing country context where risks are pervasive, cost of compliance is high and enforcement capacity is weak, there is need for better models on standards and approaches that can work at scale to assure food safety.
- Risk-based approaches are still the most effective in addressing food safety, since policies established to deal with hazards can lead to perverse results.

PARTNER NEWS AND FEATURES

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Hosts Indian Government Delegation for Knowledge Sharing Discussion Around National Food Safety Laboratory Network

A delegation of Indian government officials led by Dr. Narayan Bhaskar from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) with representation from the [Export Inspection Council](#) (EIC) and the [Central Institute of Fisheries Technology](#) (CIFT) were in Canada on April 18-19, 2017 at the invitation of the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#) (CFIA) to visit CFIA headquarters and CFIA laboratories to discuss and exchange information regarding laboratory management and operation of a national laboratory network.

Via presentations and tours of laboratory and operations facilities, the four-member delegation from India increased their knowledge of Canada's food safety system and how to adopt the system to their situation as per their needs and interest, which will assist their work in providing safe food in India.

The visit was a follow-up to a one-day workshop on laboratory management held at FSSAI offices in Delhi on February 18, 2017. Prior to coming to Ottawa, the delegation had visited the International Food Safety Training Laboratory at the University of

Maryland for training on veterinary drug residue testing. The laboratory diagnostic training is an initiative of the GFSP.

Thanks to Rolf Schoenert, Deputy Director, Trade Policy Division, Policy & Programs Branch, CFIA for this contribution. The CFIA is a member of the GFSP Governing Council.



About GFSP

GFSP works to improve developing country food safety capacity building and to improve public health and food market development outcomes in low-and middle-income countries. We bring together concerned actors and programs that are otherwise separate. GFSP is hosted by the World Bank Group with an opportunity to leverage its independence, expertise funding and convening power. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

Comments, contributions and stories for our next newsletter can be sent to gfsp@worldbank.org.

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