

GFSP

NEWSLETTER

Global
Food
Safety
Partnership



SAFER **FOOD**

STRONGER **ECONOMIES**

HEALTHIER **WORLD**

June 2019

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CEO Corner

2019: A pivotal year for food safety

On June 7, 2019, for the first time, we celebrated World Food Safety Day - a day designated by the United Nations to draw attention and direct efforts to reduce the estimated 600 million cases of foodborne illnesses occurring each year across the globe. This issue of the GFSP Newsletter will provide more information on how we, collectively, prepared for and celebrated World Food Safety day. We also take this opportunity to remind you of the GFSP's report [Food Safety in Africa: Past Endeavors and Future Directions](#) launched ahead of the first WHO/FAO/AU conference on Food Safety in Addis Ababa. The Report pointed to the need for African countries and their development partners to increase investments in domestic public health to mitigate the consequences of food borne illness. The report also stressed the importance of risk-based measures to address food safety and of empowering the private sector, including consumers to contribute to and demand improvements in food safety.

The GFSP continues to build on its successful capacity building programs in the APEC economies and to rapidly scale its support to China. We highlight the cooperative program between the GFSP and the Government of Singapore, through its Singapore Food Agency (SFA). Each year, the cooperation delivers laboratory training and food safety system study tours to at least 40 senior officials from developing countries. From July 1 - 5, 2019 senior management officials from China, Guyana and Bangladesh will form the 6th cohort to participate in the GFSP program in Singapore. Earlier graduates have included officials from India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Laos and Mexico.

The GFSP is also pleased to welcome Ana Cristina Canales Gomez to the Secretariat. Previously, Ana Cristina had her own consultancy in international food safety standards while completing a master's degree in Development Studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam in The Netherlands.



Prior to that she was an Advisor in the Regulatory Department of the General Directorate of International Economic Affairs (DIRECON) in Chile and before that, an Advisor in the Chilean Food Safety and Quality Agency (ACHIPIA). One of Ana's first contributions to the GFSP took her back to her home country Chile, where a GFSP team participated in the [APEC food safety related meetings](#) and met with representatives of several key Chilean food safety agencies. Among them, ACHIPIA and [FAVET](#) with whom we are pursuing cooperative programs to strengthen laboratory networks to improve risk-based food safety management, especially in APEC economies.



We thank all those who collaborated with us this fiscal year from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. We especially recognize and thank our Governing Committee members - USAID, New Zealand, the Netherlands, India and GFSI for their continued support and strategic guidance. Wherever you are, enjoy the summer/winter and if you have a nifty food safety anecdote, send it to us. We will feature two of your best submissions in our Fall Newsletter. For more information on the GFSP, visit www.GFSP.org.

Best regards,

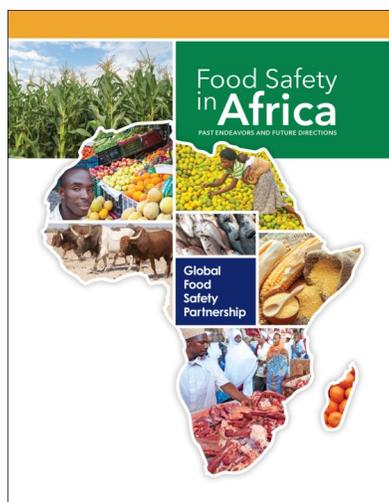
Lystra N. Antoine
Chief Executive Officer

Recent and upcoming GFSP Programs

"Food Safety in Africa: Past Endeavors and Future Directions"

If it's not safe, it's not food!

(Dave Crean, Vice President of Corporate Research and Development at Mars Inc.)



On February 11, 2019 in Addis Ababa, the GFSP, its host the World Bank, and its partners, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) launched its report "[Food Safety in Africa: Past Endeavors and Future Directions](#)." The report, made possible with financing from USAID and seed money from Mars, Cargill and Walmart, formed the backdrop for the [first FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference](#) in Addis Ababa from February 12-13, 2019, which was followed by the [WTO International Forum on Food Safety and Trade](#) in Geneva from April 23-24, 2019. Over 120 persons attended the launch of the GFSP report including government officials from Ethiopia, Kenya, The Gambia, Zambia, Burundi, Malawi and Rwanda; and representatives from USAID, The Netherlands, DFID, The EC, Global GAP, IFC and African private sector.

The report posits that food safety happens at the ground level, in the dynamic interplay among food producers, sellers and consumers, within an enabling physical and regulatory environment. Although harmonization of local to international standards and a capable public sector play important roles, food safety depends on what consumers and markets demand, know and are empowered to do. Hence, improvements in food safety will be catalyzed by investments that: (i) address the health of domestic

consumers dependent on informal markets; (ii) build capacity for well-governed, evidence and risk-based food safety systems; and (iii) harness marketplace drivers of progress on food safety, such as consumer demand and private sector accountability.

In his remarks, Martin Fregene, Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry, African Development Bank, stressed that "the abundance of a variety of safe and nutritious food is the foundation for good health and cognitive development of Africa's people...and the African Development Bank is committed to supporting key activities that will translate the Global Food Safety Report into reality and secure our food systems."

GFSP Continues its Laboratory Training Sponsored by the Government of Singapore





Standing: S.M. Maruf Kabir, S. M. Ayenul Islam, Mohammad Abu Monsur Kajal, Matiur Rahman, Thiphavanh Silipunyo, Md Zakir Hossain Mondal, Sysomsack Keobouangeun, Lim Poh Leong

Seated: Wu Yuan Sheng, Elvia Cristina Mendoza, Joanne Chan Sheot Ham, Shahnaz Rahman, Farida Yasmin

Under the cooperative program with the Singapore Food Safety Agency (SFA), the GFSP conducted a laboratory training session on pesticide residues from April 23-25, 2019. Ten delegates from Mexico, Laos and Bangladesh attended the course. Trainees learned how to test for pesticide residues and how to develop fit-for-purpose analytical methods that suit the available laboratory resources and the local regulatory needs of each country. The three-day agenda covered topics such as appropriate use of testing techniques and analytical equipment, sample preparation, quality control and laboratory hands-on sessions.

This exercise follows two earlier laboratory trainings delivered this fiscal year on Detection of Aflatoxin in nuts and cereals, held January 8-10, 2019, and on detection of total mercury in fish products held September 1-3, 2018. Read more about the upcoming training events [here](#).

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC), Viña del Mar, Chile



7th Meeting of the APEC Food Safety
Cooperation Forum

May 10, 2019. Viña del Mar, Chile



A GFSP delegation attended the [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum's \(APEC\)](#) 7th Convention of the [Food Safety Cooperation Forum \(FSCF\)](#) and its biannual [Partnership on Training Institute Network \(PTIN\)](#) Steering Group Convention. An independent consultant presented the "Update to the Mid-Term Review of the APEC Food Safety Capacity Building Initiative", highlighting that: (i) trainers from the joint FSCF/PTIN/GFSP training on Aquaculture "are now replicating the training for university faculty from around Viet Nam"; and (ii) "learning from the trainings directly contributed to improving the Viet Nam Veterinary Law (2015) and the new Fisheries Law (2017)."

Lystra N. Antoine, CEO of the GFSP, addressed both meetings, providing an update of the GFSP's work since the forum last met in Hanoi in 2017 and outlining opportunities for further collaboration between the GFSP and the FSCF and PTIN. She also shared the main findings of the recent World Bank's Report "[The Safe Food Imperative](#)". APEC economies can be providers and/or recipients of capacity building from the GFSP, which continues as a platform to generate knowledge, disseminate good practices and lessons learned and implement public-private cooperation on food safety. The FSCF and PTIN recognized the contribution of the GFSP and reaffirmed their commitment to work collaboratively. Read more in the [FSCF 2019 Statement](#).

GFSP Collaborators' News & Features

Welcome to the new Singapore Food Safety Agency (SFA)



On April 1, 2019, a new statutory board called the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) was formed under the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MEWR). It resulted from the merger of food-related functions that had been previously handled by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and the National Environment Agency (NEA).

SFA's mission is "to ensure and secure a supply of safe food" for all. The new SFA will facilitate collaboration and partnership with stakeholders and the management of foodborne disease outbreaks, to protect public health while establishing more business-friendly regulations.

With this restructuring, "SFA will take on a pivotal role in ensuring and securing a supply of safe food for Singapore. SFA will be well-placed to work with stakeholders to transform the agri-food industry, seize opportunities in the future food landscape and provide good jobs for Singaporeans." [Masagos Zulkifli, Minister, MEWR](#).

For more information, see the [SFA website](#).

World Food Safety Day

History of World Food Safety Day

"Thanks to the widespread efforts of Codex Members and Observers, the international community will speak with one voice on 7 June to promote awareness and inspire actions for safer food"

(Tom Heilandt, Codex Secretariat)

Establishing a World Food Safety Day was proposed by Costa Rica in the 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in July 2016. This proposal was later endorsed by the World Health Assembly (WHA) and the FAO Conference. At subsequent side-meetings of the UN, participants strongly supported Costa Rica's proposal and agreed that it would provide an opportunity to draw attention from politicians and the public to the importance of safe food.

In December 2018 the [United Nation's General Assembly designated June 7 as World Food Safety Day](#) inviting all food-related stakeholders to observe this day in accordance with national priorities. The Assembly called on the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and Codex Alimentarius to jointly facilitate the observance of World Food Safety Day.



The General Assembly affirmed the importance of food safety for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2: zero hunger; SDG 3: good health and wellbeing; SDG 12: responsible consumption and production; and SDG 17: partnerships for the goals. They acknowledged that in a world where the food supply chain has become

more complex, any adverse food safety incident could have global negative effects on public health, trade and the economy.

The GFSP and collaborators celebrate World Food Safety Day



The World Bank and GFSP commemorate WFSD

For the World Bank/GFSP celebration of World Food Safety Day, Simeon Ehui, Director of the Food and Agriculture Global Practice, World Bank, [called for food safety to be elevated in the development agenda](#). He underscored food safety's important contribution to human capital development and indicated that "*it's time to shine the spotlight on the debilitating costs of inaction on domestic food safety.*"

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

ILRI celebrated World Food Safety Day with [videos featuring Delia Grace](#), veterinary epidemiologist, explaining the importance of improving the safety of foods, particularly livestock-derived foods that are produced, sold and consumed in informal markets.



United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

"When it comes to food safety, we all win or lose together. In a global food system and with the increase in international travel, if foodborne disease exists somewhere in the world, it can exist anywhere in the world. No nation stands alone when faced with the challenge of protecting its citizens from foodborne illnesses." [Frank Yiannas](#), [FDA's](#) Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response.

The Faculty of Veterinary and Livestock Sciences of the Universidad de Chile: FAVET

FAVET joined the first World Food Safety Day celebrations by highlighting the role veterinarians play in food safety and quality control systems at the national level. FAVET has many partnerships with national, regional and global food safety networks for capacity building and technical exchange. According to Dr. Javiera Cornejo, Director of Outreach and Stakeholder Relations, FAVET, one of their goals is "to work in a strategic alliance with the GFSP to implement and develop, through the Universidad de Chile, a hub for regional food safety capacity building."

Read about [FAVET's World Food Safety Day activities](#) (available in Spanish only).

About the GFSP

The Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) is a public-private partnership dedicated to promoting global cooperation for food safety capacity building in developing countries. Hosted at the World



Bank, the GFSP promotes food safety systems based on prevention underpinned by science to reduce the public health burden of food borne disease and advocates that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are unattainable without the achievement of **safe**, adequate and nutritious food for all.



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

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