



MAY 2018

CEO Corner

New GFSP Governance Structure: Streamlining for Success

In the first quarter of 2018, the Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) adopted a new and simplified governance structure. The new structure will ensure greater transparency and accountability to donors, while still allowing the partnership to embrace its public and private persona in support of food safety capacity building in low and middle-income countries.

Under the new governance structure, the governing body of the GFSP has been renamed the Governing Committee. It is responsible for providing strategic guidance and direction on the implementation of GFSP programs, endorsing annual work plans and budgets presented by the Bank, and reviewing progress reports provided by the Bank. The Governing Committee is made up of representatives of the World Bank Group (which hosts and chairs the GFSP), a representative of each donor contributing to the GFSP Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), and non-donor representatives in observer roles on an as-interested or as-relevant basis.

The benefits of this new structure will include ease of administration and greater alignment with the World Bank's standardized guidelines for Trust Funds, more clarity and accountability to donors, and ease of entry to the partnership, thereby allowing the partnership base to expand.

The GFSP intends to re-engage its wider stakeholder community, ensuring that we are a more open and responsive GFSP. As outlined in the GFSP Strategic Framework 2015-2020, the partnership will continue to convene stakeholders, analyze food safety systems, and incubate food safety capacity building programs in client countries. But we will aim our spotlight on the enormous public health burden of food borne disease, which impedes the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in our client countries.

The GFSP plays an important role in the World Bank Group's response to addressing food safety capacity in LMICs and we look forward to working with other development partners and stakeholders on the same.

Best regards,
Lystra N. Antoine
 Chief Executive Officer

JOINING FORCES: GFSP AND GFSI

Two organizations, with similar missions, and certainly similar names.

It's almost inevitable then that we would eventually find ourselves on the same path. In early March 2018, the GFSP formalized a new partnership with the [Global Food Safety Initiative](#) (GFSI), creating a dynamic platform that brings together GFSP's experience working with governments in developing countries to improve food safety and the strength and depth of GFSI's work through its Global Markets Programme to improve food safety along value chains.

"This partnership embodies what we believe to be the catalyst to reduce the public health burden of food safety in low and middle income countries - more alignment between public and private sector efforts at the country level," said Lystra N. Antoine, CEO of the GFSP.

"Our new collaboration with the GFSP is instrumental to realizing our vision of safe food for consumers everywhere," said Mike Robach, Chair of the GFSI Board of Directors. "We are looking forward to inventive and meaningful opportunities to join forces," he added.

This new framework will allow for even closer cooperation between the two organizations in support of better food safety outcomes globally, including:

- Sharing knowledge, ideas and lessons learned;
- Planning joint activities in areas of common interest;



L to R: Mike Robach, Chair of the GFSI Board of Directors; Lystra N. Antoine, CEO of the GFSP; Peter Freedman, Managing Director, Consumer Goods Forum

- Pooling efforts and expertise;
- Using and leveraging existing resources and facilities to mutual advantage and benefit;
- Collaborating on workshops, conferences, training seminars and other forums relevant to the food safety community;
- Collaborating on the design and implementation of food safety improvement programs; and
- Jointly engaging in dialogues with stakeholders.

Our Impact in Africa

Progress Update



The GFSP is nearing completion of its Food Safety mapping project in Sub-Saharan Africa, compiling and analyzing over 500 donor-funded projects there.

The overarching goal of this mapping project is improvement in the quantity and quality of food safety capacity building in Sub-Saharan Africa. It will contribute to this goal by providing information and analysis that public and private institutions can use to better target, prioritize, coordinate and evaluate their capacity building efforts.

The project seeks to map and analyze the initiatives, projects and resources devoted to food safety capacity building by a wide range of public organizations, including multilateral development organizations such as the World Bank, FAO, and the European

Commission.

In addition to analyzing over 500 projects, the team conducted close to 200 interviews and conversations with experts and stakeholders. Stay tuned for the report.

GFSP/PACA Side Event at the 14 Annual CAADP Meeting in Libreville

GFSP joined the African Union's [Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa](#) (PACA) to convene a side event titled: Strengthening Food Safety Coordination and Tracking to boost the implementation of NAIP's towards Malabo Declaration Goals and Targets at the 14th Annual [Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform](#) (CAADP PP) Meeting on April 25th in Libreville, Gabon.

Chaired by GFSP CEO Lystra N. Antoine, the event included presentations by Dr. Amare Ayalew, Program manager, PACA, and Dr. Delia Grace, Program Leader of the Animal and Human Health, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). Discussion themes centered around the development of food safety indicators for inclusion in the 2nd Malabo Biennial Report in 2020 as well as the importance of focusing on the public health burden of food borne diseases.

Among the areas explored was the importance of raising food safety and quality standards in Africa so they are on par with the rest of the world, which is foundational to make African agriculture a competitive and vibrant sector that promotes trade and agribusiness. Food safety risks, it was noted, not only pose significant threats to the health of the population, but also to the competitiveness of African agriculture, undermining potential and actual gains to be made in improving public health, food security and nutrition, as well as thwarting efforts at boosting trade in agricultural commodities.

The side event also provided an opportunity to preview key findings from GFSP's upcoming food safety mapping report on Africa. These include:

- * The predominant focus of current donor investments on formal markets and exports;
- * Gaps in donor coordination and inadequate risk-based prioritization of capacity investments; and
- * Insufficient investments aimed at reducing the domestic public health burden of food borne disease.

The meeting received endorsement for the inclusion of food safety indications, and participants responded well to the message that food borne illness has a burden comparable to HIV/AIDS, Malaria or Tuberculosis, yet receives significantly less investments. In addition, there was endorsement for greater private sector involvement in food safety in the informal sector, and endorsement for the focus on the health of consumers in Africa.

GFSP COLLABORATORS: NEWS AND FEATURES

Egypt Launches Its National Food Safety Authority

In efforts to address its food safety challenges, the Government of Egypt has taken major steps in reforming its food safety system. One of the key achievements was the establishment of the [National Food Safety Authority](#) (NFSA) in 2017, which reports directly to the office of the Prime Minister.



Following this achievement, a Joint Declaration was signed between the Government of Egypt and the [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#) (UNIDO), a GFSP Collaborator, for a provision of technical assistance to Egypt on food safety under the "Country Support Program."

The objective of the Country Support Program for Egypt is to provide technical support to the NFSA under five key areas, as illustrated in the diagram:



1. Policy Advice
2. Institutional Capacity and Governance
3. Awareness Raising and Advocacy
4. Global Forum and Exposure to International Best Practices
5. Human Resource Development

The initiative will result in improved ability of the NFSA and its partners to contribute to regional efforts of enhanced coordination and harmonization of food safety interventions.

The Country Support Program is an initiative established under UNIDO's regional project the "Arab Food Safety Initiative for Trade Facilitation", known as SAFE, which is led by the League of Arab States (LAS) and its specialized agencies: the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO) and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD). It is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

For more information on the NFSA, please visit: <http://www.nfsa.gov.eg/>
 To read more about SAFE, please visit the [official SAFE website](#).
 You can also follow the initiative on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)



Study tour participants included nine delegates from India

RECENT AND UPCOMING GFSP ACTIVITIES

May 7 - 11, 2018: GFSP Food Safety Leadership Study Tour in Singapore

This 5-day study visit, which is part of the partnership between Singapore and GFSP, introduced nine senior officials from India to the food safety system in Singapore. The study tour included technical presentations by Singapore government officials and field visits to the Veterinary Public Health Laboratory of the [Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore \(AVA\)](#), local food factories, food retail

outlets, wholesale center and high technology food farms etc. Participants discussed pertinent local laws and regulation on food safety, food safety at food processing establishments, import/export control and inspection, accreditation of overseas food sources, retail food hygiene, food safety laboratory services and halal certification.

June 21, 2018: Myanmar Food Safety Workshop

In collaboration with [Myanmar Food and Drug Administration](#), GFSP will convene donors and government to get a better understanding of the government's priorities for food safety capacity building against the direction of donor aid. The dialogue will explore donor levels of support, gaps in support areas given the priorities of the government and scope for greater and more harmonization of food safety investments.

June 25-29, 2018: Aquaculture Training in Vietnam

GFSP will deliver a certificate level aquaculture food safety and supply chain management training program that will focus on HACCP and developing a preventative control strategy for aquaculture food safety and diseases in

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,

Vietnam. This will be the third in the series of GFSP aquaculture training in Vietnam. The June training module is designed for faculty from universities and research institutions to strengthen the curricula for aquaculture in local academic institutions.

expertise funding and convening power. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.



Saluting Paul Mayers

In Recognition

Paul Mayers recently retired from the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#), where he was Vice-President, Science Branch. He was previously Vice President of CFIA's Policy and Programs Branch (PPB). More importantly for the GFSP, he was a founding member of the Governing Council, the initial governing body of the GFSP. Paul believed in the GFSP's mandate of improving food safety capacity in low and middle income countries, and was instrumental in allowing the GFSP to share Canada's important food safety advances with our client countries.

"Paul's contributions to GFSP's growth have been numerous. His leadership and wisdom over the years has helped us steer a steady course and we will sorely miss him," said GFSP Chair Nathan Belete. "We wish him well as he embarks on a new chapter in his life, knowing that we will continue to pursue his vision of a world where there is safe food for all consumers," he added.

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

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