



Welcome Message

July 2016



As global food safety concerns grow and the needed solutions require the expertise and engagement of multiple stakeholders, it is clear that the way forward will require us to marshal the full power of collaboration. This theme is central to the work of the Global Food Safety Partnership and was discussed extensively at the May meeting of the GFSP Governing Council.

Specifically, GFSP recognizes that the private sector plays an essential role in advancing the goals of our partnership and, moving forward, greater engagement will be crucial. To that end, in this issue of our newsletter, we're pleased to share news about the first science symposium held at the impressive Global Food Safety Center which opened near Beijing in Huairou, China by GFSP partner, Mars Inc. In the coming months, we'll share more about our plans for ongoing dialogues around public-private collaboration and other ways we hope to lead in this direction.

We also have exciting news and results to report about GFSP's pilot effort to build lab capacity in China, as well as updates and progress reports from several of our other projects.

I invite you to continue sharing your thoughts and contributions (at gfsp@worldbankgroup.org) and help make this newsletter a platform for sharing ideas and advancing actions to strengthen the GFSP and its impact.

Best Regards
Nathan Belete
Chair, GFSP Governing Council
World Bank Agriculture Practice Manager for East Asia and Pacific

About the GFSP

The [Global Food Safety Partnership](#) is a unique public private partnership, facilitated by the World Bank, that seeks to improve food safety globally through capacity building in low- and Medium-income countries. For more info and key documents, please visit our website at www.gfsp.org.

GFSP Up Close



Train-the-Trainer Pilot Program: GFSP Success In China

To date, laboratory capacity building initiatives have typically either involved 'point solutions' to address a specific commodity or issue for a given country, or ad-hoc training programs that lack the ability to address on-going problems in a sustainable manner. Also, despite the fact that the purpose of training is to bring about behavioral change, seldom is any consideration given to assessing

and monitoring for successful implementation of lessons learned.

Beginning in 2014 GFSP, supported by GFSP partners [the International Food Safety Training Laboratory \(IFSTL\) at the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Nutrition \(JIFSAN\)](#), University of Maryland, [Waters Corporation](#), [Nestle](#), [Mars Inc.](#) and [USDA](#), implemented a three-phase pilot laboratory training in China to address these needs. This included 1) development of Online Training Modules, followed by 2) Train-the-Trainer program for future instructors, and then 3) in-country reproductions of training and proficiency testing (PT).

Phase 2 began with selection of four China-based trainers chosen by their organizations to become future trainers and selected for their keen analytical skills and ability to communicate. The four trainees travelled to JIFSAN's IFSTL at the University of Maryland in January 2015 to participate in an 8-day intensive hands-on, train-the-trainer laboratory workshop. In phase 3, three reproductions of training took place, one in April and two in August 2015 at the Waters Corporation Solution Center in Shanghai.

During these workshops the four new instructors trained more than 40 analysts from 20 Chinese laboratories. This proved to be an effective way of scaling up training delivery, and helps to establish a knowledge network for effective sharing of best practices.

Recent proficiency testing results of Phase 3 trainees showed significant positive impacts, with outcomes revealing impressive effectiveness of the GFSP Train-the-Trainer model. The PT results demonstrated that 95% of trainee's labs achieved satisfactory z-scores (good results) compared with only 58% of labs that did not receive the training. This clearly demonstrates the key role training plays in changing behaviors.

Thanks to Janie Dubois, PhD, Co-Chair GFSP Laboratory Capacity Building Task Group, for this contribution.

Building a Network of Aquaculture Trainers Across the Asia Pacific Region *A Joint Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)/GFSP Project*

According to the [FAO](#), 20 of 21 APEC economies are aquaculture producers and nine APEC economies are in the top 20 global producers. Aquaculture development and commerce provide substantial benefits, but continued success depends on responsible controls to prevent threats from animal diseases, and allow producers to meet expectations for related food safety concerns that determine product acceptance and values.

Initial [APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum \(FSCF\)-Partnership Training Institute Network \(PTIN\)](#) aquaculture capacity building work began in 2010 and has resulted in various deliverables. In September of 2015, the FSCF-PTIN and GFSP put their partnership into action in Hanoi, Vietnam, where they held a jointly-funded aquaculture train-the-trainer workshop at the World Bank offices.

The four-day workshop was designed to build a network of certified trainers across the APEC region and included an orientation to practices and controls for food safety in aquaculture, including related issues for disease management. Participants were required to complete a prerequisite online course on [Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point \(HACCP\)](#) prior to the face-to-face training, and also agreed to conduct further follow up training in each of their home countries after completion of the workshop. Participants were awarded a certificate of completion recognized by the Association of Food and Drug Officials.

Additional APEC funding was identified and the FSCF PTIN and GFSP are currently working to establish a mentorship program for several newly trained trainers to deliver training in Peru, Chile, and potentially Vietnam. The hope is to achieve sustainability of such training programs and deliver long-lasting health impacts.

Thanks to Megan Crowe, FSCF PTIN Administrator, US Department of Commerce, for this contribution



Mars Hosts International Food Safety Science Symposium at Global Food Safety Center

GFSP partner Mars brought together over 60 scientists and food safety experts from around the globe including representatives from the food industry, academia, NGOs, IOs and government agencies to take part in dialogues around "Uncommon Collaborations and the Future of Food Safety Science."

The April symposium was held at [Mars Global Food Safety Center](#) (GFSC) in Huairou, Beijing China. Expert attendees shared current research, identified food safety challenges, and discussed opportunities for collaboration in driving safer food for the world. The delegates participated in plenary lectures, research reviews and discussions around the key themes of mycotoxin and pathogen management, regulation and collaboration.

The GFSC is a state-of-the-art facility and serves as an international platform for food safety research and training designed to capture, generate and share knowledge to help achieve food safety for all. Most of the work done at the center is of a pre-competitive nature, meaning that the center is dedicated to sharing knowledge to help make the world's food supply safer.

Thanks to Jean Reidemeister, Mars Corporate Affairs and member of the GFSP Governing Council, for this contribution.

GFSI and UNIDO Sign MoU to Solidify Strategic Partnership for Food Safety Capability Building

On June 15, amid a gathering of the world's consumer goods industry leaders at the CGF Global Summit in South Africa, GFSP partner the [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#) (UNIDO) and the [Global Food Safety Initiative](#) (GFSI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work collaboratively and advance food safety.

The partnership sets out to harness the vast experience and knowledge of both global organizations in order to implement "a roadmap for scaling up" by developing large-scale food safety capability building projects in a number of key regions in the global food supply network.

This development program will be based on the [GFSI Global Markets Program](#), which sets out how small or less developed food companies can meet the challenge of food safety and gain market access. It will be enabled by UNIDO, benefiting from their specialized experience in industrial development capability building.

According to a roadmap which is currently being drafted, this far-reaching food safety capability program will be implemented in a number of key locations, starting with China, Southeast Asia and Africa before being continued in further regions.

Commenting on the new partnership, Philippe Scholtès, Managing Director, Program Development and Technical Cooperation at UNIDO, said: "The World Health Organization estimates that up to

600 million people fall ill every year after eating contaminated food. Our collaboration with GFSI will further strengthen and promote multiple benefits of safe food for social inclusiveness, sustainability and industrial development."

Information for this news item was obtained from a joint UNIDO-GFSO news release issued on June 15, 2016. UNIDO is a member of the GFSP Governing Council.

A New Era For Coordinated Food Safety Interventions In the Arab Region

Increasing the flow of trade of food and agricultural products within the Arab Region is a key component of economic and social development in the region. Yet, trade of such commodities can be impeded by discrepancies in food safety standards developed and implemented by countries of the region. It can also be influenced by the different state of readiness of food safety systems at the national level.



Members of the Arab Task Force On Food Safety

To address these challenges, the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, [the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization](#) (AIDMO) and the [Arab Organization for Agricultural Development](#) (AOAD), are uniting their efforts to implement a project led by GFSP partner the [United Nations Industrial Development Organization](#) (UNIDO) and funded by the [Swedish International Development Agency](#) (SIDA) aimed at enhancing coordination of food safety measures in the Arab Region, including harmonization of food safety standards among countries signatories to the Pan Arab Free Trade Agreement (PAFTA).

This project is aligned with direction received from the Arab Economic and Social Council which, at its 95th Ministerial meeting, directed member countries to "enhance the common Arab standardization system and its technical requirements, including quality infrastructure and food safety in Arab nations, as a measure to enable free trade."

The Arab Task Force (ATF) on Food Safety aims to be a high level, specialized steering group composed primarily of senior representatives of organizations responsible for food safety and food safety standards in countries that are signatories to PAFTA.

This ATF, established under LAS, has 13 member countries (of the 17 PAFTA signatories). Following their meeting, a Chair was elected to lead the ATF along with the nominated Deputy Chairs. In addition, key priority areas of intervention were identified which included the need for food safety risk assessment, effective and more coherent participation in Codex meetings, more efficient border control systems for food inspection and movement of perishable goods, and country profiling to help identify gaps in the food safety system within the region. The second ATF meeting, where the outcomes of these initiatives will be discussed, is scheduled for September 2016.

At the same time UNIDO is closely cooperating and coordinating with [FAO](#) on a number of interventions under the project, such as a Codex initiative, risk assessment initiative and, with the regional FAO office, a situation analysis of the Arab countries on their food safety systems.

Through this Task Force on Food Safety, the Arab region is ushering in a new era of enhancements of food safety systems, helping increase food trade for the benefit of economic and human development in the region.

Thanks to Ali Abbas Qazilbash, Ph.D, UNIDO, for this contribution. UNIDO is a member of the GFSP Governing Council.

Upcoming Events

Jul.16-19	Institute of Food Technologists - IFT16, Chicago, IL USA
Jul. 31-Aug. 3	International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO USA
Aug.18-19	APEC FSCF PTIN Industry Regulator Workshop on Public Comment, Lima Peru
Sept.19-22	Global Aquaculture Alliance Annual GOAL (Global Outlook on Aquaculture Leadership) Conference, Guangzhou, China
Oct.11-13	IAFP - 4th Asia-Pacific International Conference on Food Safety & ILSI - 7th Asian Conference on Food and Nutrition Safety, Penang, Malaysia

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