

Developing a Global Tool for Chemical Risk Assessment

Context

One of the early focus areas of the Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) was risk analysis, given the priority it has within the food safety community and building on the work already undertaken within the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum and its Partnership Training Institute Network (APEC FSCF PTIN). Given the need for the GFSP to commence with one area of risk analysis, it was decided to prioritize addressing food safety chemical risk assessment. A variety of capacity building tools for chemical risk assessment exist around the world. A three-phase program was commenced to address scoping; assessment and development of an appropriate globally applicable capacity building tool for chemical risk assessment.

Strategy

Partnering to Build on Existing Resources

This activity has successfully built on previous work of the APEC FSCF and PTIN, harnessing the experience and the relevant stakeholders. From within the GFSP and from around the world, a small Expert Group was formed to advise on currently available tools and the development of a globally applicable tools for use by the GFSP. The project has drawn on considerable and recognized expertise and has been undertaken with significant in-kind contributions.

Results

Outcomes of the exercise include: comprehensive scoping activity identifying available materials on food risk assessment capacity building; a review of all materials based on a range of criteria to make them usable for the GFSP; a report with recommendations on the best way forward.

Based on the outcomes of the scoping and assessment phases, a draft Chemical Risk Assessment training module for global use is currently being prepared.

Several GFSP partners have expressed interest in piloting the module and a number of countries are eager to benefit from this tool. Once the module has been piloted and refined, it will be made widely available, including on the GFSP e-learning platform.