

Aquaculture Food Safety Management in Malaysia

Context

The Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) is extending the work on aquaculture food safety that was initiated by the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum and its Partnership Training Institute Network (FSCF PTIN). It builds on the FSCF PTIN approach of combining the strengths of the public, private, and academic sectors to build capacity in specific national or regional commercial sectors.



Strategy

Scalable, Open-Source Training to Build Capacity

A Malaysia Aquaculture Food Safety Training Program is being developed with support from the Responsible Aquaculture Foundation. This collaboration aims to produce food safety trainings that boost in-country capacity by involving stakeholders and delivering customized training materials that are accessible online.

The training modules, which were developed via collaboration among government officials, aquaculture producers, industry associations, and service providers, are **comprehensive, relevant, and customizable**. They feature knowledge and control systems to prevent various food safety problems that have been identified as potential hazards in aquaculture production and processing operations. Topics range from best farming practices for particular aquaculture species to basic controls through good manufacturing procedures. The first eight modules are envisioned as training units that can be used to satisfy required training, support on-the-job training programs, or supplement academic curricula for future trainers.

The food safety training modules are customizable. Individual trainers, who have been identified in Malaysia, will be able to tailor the contents using situations, topics, photos, and languages that are specific to their regions. They will be available online and can be used to support on-the-job training programs or supplement academic curricula for future trainers.

Workshops were conducted in three regions of Malaysia to demonstrate the initial training modules and outline an Education Platform that RAF could build to house and support the respective training modules and related topics.

Results

Three workshops were conducted with over 50 participants including existing trainer talent from various commercial operations, as well as government trainers from the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, and the National Agriculture Training Council.

From these workshops a cadre of 6–8 trainers was selected to participate in the final production of training modules featuring food safety controls during aquaculture production and processing. The cadre of trainers, in turn, will teach other commercial operators and regulators how to boost in-country capacity for educational support for food safety aquaculture production and trade.

Scaling Up

The Malaysia Aquaculture Training Program has laid a solid foundation for scaling up by identifying key partners in government, industry, and academia. These partners came together to assess the current situation and training needs.

The approach is very cost-effective as initial productions of training modules can be easily transformed and customized with separate pictures and translations to suit multi-cultural audiences and additional nations.

Using an Open Source Platform

The finished training module products will be available on an accessible education/training platform most likely anchored to a Responsible Aquaculture Foundation website as soon as a website for preferred delivery and storage of information and materials is created. The modules are envisioned as training units that can be used to satisfy required training, support on-the-job training programs, or supplement academic curricula for future trainers.