



APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)

June 2016 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

- **August 17, 2016:** Workshop on Food Safety Systems (Lima, Peru)
- **August 18, 2016:** FSCF Import MRLs for Pesticides – Understanding the New APEC Guideline (Lima, Peru)
- **August 18-19, 2016:** FSCF PTIN Industry Regulator Roundtable on Public Comment (Lima, Peru)
- **August 18-19, 2016:** 9th Conference on Good Regulatory Practice (Lima, Peru)
- **October/November 2016:** FSCF Workshop on Import MRLs for Pesticides (Australia)

Past workshop materials are available on the PTIN website:

fscf-ptin.apec.org



Aquaculture Workshop in Peru,
June 2016

The APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) helps APEC Member Economies anticipate, prevent, and manage incidents, and thus better assure the safety of the food chain in the Asia Pacific Region. Working across borders, the PTIN engages the food industry and academics with regulators, to strengthen capacity building in food safety. The PTIN goal is to facilitate trade and protect public health by building the capacity of stakeholders in the supply chain in the use of international standards and best practices in food safety management from production to consumption, specifically in five areas: incident management, supply chain management, laboratory capacity building, regulatory systems, and risk analysis.

Building a Network of Aquaculture Trainers across the APEC Region, Joint APEC/GFSP project

According to the FAO, 20 of 21 APEC economies are aquaculture producers and 9 APEC economies are in the top 20 global producers worldwide. Aquaculture development and commerce have provided substantial benefits, but continued success depends on responsible controls to prevent the primary threats from unanticipated animal diseases such as recent bacterial infections (EMS; Early Mortality Syndrome) that have caused devastating declines in world shrimp production, and expectations for related food safety concerns that determine product acceptance and values (e.g. improper use of antimicrobial residues, environmental chemicals, and sanitary issues). Initial FSCF-PTIN aquaculture work began in a 2010 and has resulted in various deliverables. In September of 2015, FSCF-PTIN and the World Bank Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) Program held an aquaculture workshop at the World Bank offices in Ha Noi, Vietnam.

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 in person training, and also agreed to conduct further follow up training in each of their economies after completion of the workshop. Participants who completed all the training requirements received a certificate of completion that is recognized by the Association of Food and Drug Officials. The project was successful in building an initial network of aquaculture trainers across the APEC region and providing them with the materials to provide training in their own economy as well as key contacts and support. Following the workshop, it was recognized that there was a need for follow-up on train-the-trainer sessions and for keeping connected with the newly created network of aquaculture trainers. FSCF PTIN and GFSP are currently working to establish a mentorship program for several newly trained trainers to deliver training in Peru, Chile, and Viet Nam, to promote the sustainability and long lasting impacts of the initial training session and lead to other self-initiated aquaculture training activities.



- August 17, 2016: Workshop on Food Safety Systems (Lima, Peru)
 - Hosted by New Zealand, this workshop will facilitate maximum participation in food markets by APEC economies. This project will encourage partnerships between government and industry in developing best practice frameworks.
- August 18, 2016: FSCF Import MRLs for Pesticides – Understanding the New APEC Guideline (Lima, Peru)
 - In Spring 2016, the FSCF released a guidance document for member economies to attempt to reach alignment on pesticide Maximum Residue Limits to decrease the disruption in the trade of food. Non-compliance with each member economy can arise as discrepancies exist between regulatory systems. This guideline is designed to assist in minimizing discrepancies and facilitate trade, while protecting human health and provide increased opportunities for cooperation, collaboration, and work sharing. At this event, the new guideline will be reviewed to encourage its use by APEC economies with the aim of promoting trade.
- August 18-19, 2016: FSCF PTIN Industry Regulator Workshop on Public Comment (Lima, Peru)
 - This day and a half event will bring together food safety regulators and senior food industry representatives to discuss public consultation as a key regulatory tool to improve transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of food regulations. This roundtable builds upon several previous FSCF events which identified a need for consultation, communication, and collaboration in development of food safety regulations as core concepts and a need for further capacity building regarding how to increase transparency and use public consultation to produce high quality and effective food safety policy. The first day will focus on the principles of public consultation and a look at APEC best practices. The second day will include a presentation on the results of the updated Good Regulatory Practices in APEC Member Economies Baseline Study. This will be followed by a number of food sector related case studies on APEC economy experiences with public comment from both the regulator and industry perspective. The roundtable will aim at incorporating learning into practices in APEC economies and identify further capacity building needs.
- August 18-19, 2016: 9th Conference on Good Regulatory Practice (Lima, Peru)
 - This two-day conference held in the margins of SOM3 will foster good regulatory practices that are being implemented by APEC member economies and share experiences on the following topics: 1) building high level support for reform; 2) international regulatory cooperation; 3) stakeholder engagement; 4) benchmarking on GDP; 5) simplification strategies; and 6) GRP and inclusive growth. This conference will be structured to reinforce the specific activities that economies are taking to implement actions identified by APEC leaders in the 2015 APEC Structural Reform Ministerial Meeting Statement (SRMM). This statement raised a need for a stronger focus on promoting growth through structural reform, which this conference will work to promote.
- October/November 2016: FSCF Workshop on Import MRLs for Pesticides (Australia)

Handwashing Pilot: Improving Food Safety through Hand Washing and Drying Capacity Building

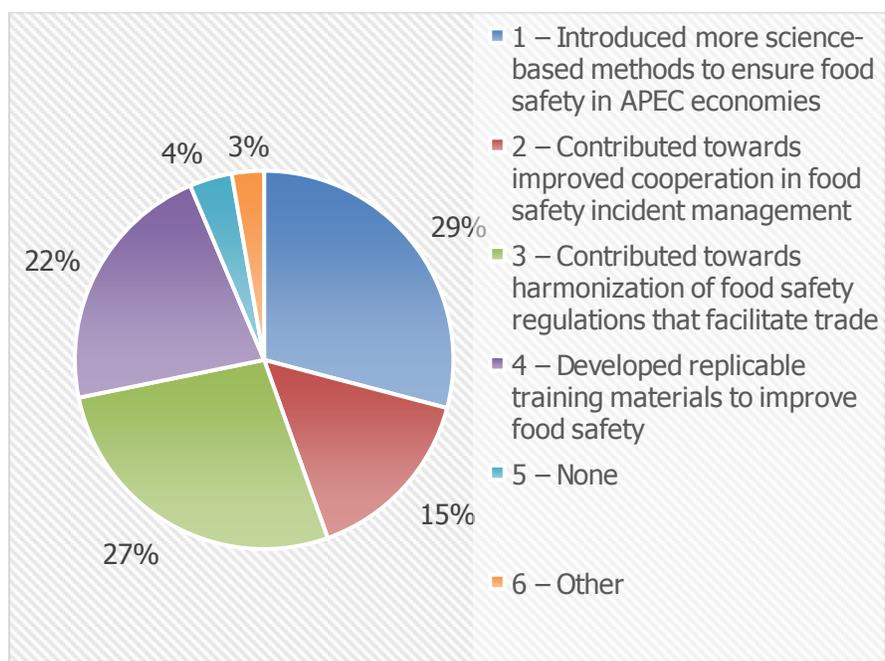
The FSCF PTIN continues to work to improve food safety through capacity building, including through prevention, detection, and control of foodborne pathogens. One of the most critical issues in food safety practices is hand hygiene. APEC has recognized that hand hygiene is a fundamental first response to ensuring food safety. While hand-washing is at the front line of all food safety, the impact of hand drying is less understood by food processing workers and management. Behavioral science shows that people may understand the importance of handwashing in terms of bacterial load reduction but not the importance of hand drying. The FSCF-PTIN is organizing a pilot program in Peru which will build the food safety capacity of Peruvian food processing facility employees and management, focusing on training in hand hygiene and, specifically, hand drying according to standard protocols. The training will explain to participants the consequences if workers are not compliant, for example, not spending adequate time to dry their hands. There is compelling evidence that showing workers and management the potential consequences has a profound effect on behavior, as no one believes their hands are dirty if they look clean. If this demonstration project succeeds in Peru, the intention is to replicate the project throughout the APEC region. Preliminary findings should be ready to be shared at meetings in Lima this August.

Independent Review of APEC FSCF PTIN Food Safety Capacity Building Shows Positive Benefits for the Region

In preparation for its fifth in-person meeting in the Philippines in August 2015, the PTIN Steering Group commissioned an evaluation to examine the success of the PTIN's capacity building efforts to date, and solicit recommendations on possible metrics to more rigorously monitor and evaluate future work. The evaluation was conducted by US- APEC Technical Assistance to Advance Regional Integration (US-ATAARI). The evaluation's conclusions recognized PTIN's ability to provide unique benefits to its members through the bringing together of a large range of economies and stakeholders. The report also identifies that PTIN's trainings are being applied by the large majority of participants, resulting in improved practices and concrete policy changes by APEC economies. PTIN's relevancy, effectiveness, and value in terms of training, curricula development and networking are distinguished within this report. The areas where PTIN programs have had the greatest impact include the introduction of science-based methods, improved cooperation in food safety incident management, harmonization of food safety regulations and the development of replicable training materials. Nearly a third of respondents reported they had changed policy or practices at their institution as a direct result of PTIN training and 18 percent said they have changed coursework, academic papers, or research results after participating in training. The full evaluation is available on the PTIN website.



Greatest Contributions of FSCF PTIN indicated in the Report:



APEC Wine Regulatory Forum develops an APEC Model Wine Export Certificate

The APEC Wine Regulatory Forum (WRF) has been working with the FSCF and PTIN since 2010 as a part of its regulatory cooperation work on export certificates and pesticide MRLs. The WRF has also carried out its own activities in these areas, which it reports out to the FSCF as sector specific work at FSCF meetings. In 2011, the elimination of unnecessary export certifications was identified as a key goal of the first WRF meeting. In 2015, the WRF Working Group on Export Certificates completed the development of the APEC Model Wine Export Certificate, reflecting a consolidation of existing requirements found in export certificates most frequently used in wine trade among the APEC economies, including certificates of origin, authenticity/free sale, and health/sanitation. This idea emanated from a consolidated wine document that the People's Republic of China (China) and the United States established in 2014. In May 2016, the APEC Model Wine Export Certificate was endorsed by the CTI at SOM II in Arequipa, Peru, clearing the way for its implementation by APEC economies. Implementation of the Model will be a key activity of the WRF during the remaining years of the project, 2016-2018.

Global Food Safety Partnership/FSCF PTIN Laboratory Capacity Building China

Pilot

In a study coordinated by Dr. Janie Dubois at the University of Maryland's Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, a lab capacity building program success was evaluated through analyzing a lab training pilot program in Shanghai, China. This work shop was jointly funded by the GFSP and PTIN. Laboratory capacity building is a priority area for FSCF PTIN. This study concluded that formal lab training has significant value and there is great effectiveness to the Train-the-Trainer approach that was utilized in this pilot, and has been utilized in events hosted by FSCF-PTIN. Those participants who had received the training were significantly more likely to replicate testing methods and experience consistent results than those individuals who had not participated in the training. These results are indicative of the positive impact of formal training programs and can lead to growth in lab capacity building efforts in the future.



China Lab Pilot Z-Scores: PTIN trained labs had superior outcomes in sample measurement

	Total groups			GFSP/PTIN			Non-GFSP/PTIN		
	number of scores where $ Z \leq 2$	total number of scores	$\% Z \leq 2$	number of scores where $ Z \leq 2$	total number of scores	$\% Z \leq 2$	number of scores where $ Z \leq 2$	total number of scores	$\% Z \leq 2$
chlortetracycline	25	31	81	18	19	95	7	12	58
total chlortetracycline	32	38	84	23	23	100	9	15	60

WTO's Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) – A Collaborative Approach to Strengthen Sanitary and Phytosanitary Capacity



From 2007 to 2009, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) trained food safety regulators from developing member countries in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to apply FAO's food safety capacity evaluation tools, thus providing a sound basis for subsequent food safety work within the APEC FSCF. The project was supported by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), which brings together the key international organizations and donors involved in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacity building, as well as selected developing country experts. Representatives of the STDF have participated in past FSCF meetings.

The STDF aims to strengthen collaboration in SPS capacity building and to identify and disseminate good practice in this area. Trade in food and agricultural products can be a powerful instrument to generate economic growth, achieve food security goals and reduce poverty. However, meeting food safety, animal and plant health requirements of trading partners remains a challenge for many developing countries. As a coordination and knowledge platform, the STDF undertakes work on a range of thematic topics focused on, for instance, the use of SPS capacity evaluation tools, prioritization of SPS investments for market access, and public-private partnerships to address specific SPS capacity constraints.



Recent STDF research in Southeast Asia identified key needs, opportunities and good practice to make the implementation of SPS measures more efficient and effective, with a view to reduce SPS-related trade costs and reinforce health protection. This work was discussed during a high-level plenary at the 5th Global Review of Aid for Trade, held from June 30th- July 2nd, 2015 at the WTO in Geneva. As part of this work, the STDF also produced a short film, "Safe Trade Solutions", which highlights examples of good practice in implementing SPS border controls in Chile, Peru and Colombia, in an effort to make goods flow faster across their borders, while preventing the introduction of pests and diseases, and ensuring that food is safe for consumers. More information on STDF's activities and projects, visit their website at: <http://standardsfacility.org/>

Vietnam 2017

FSCF PTIN is working to plan several events on the margins of APEC SOM 2 in Spring of 2017 in Viet Nam including:

- The **6th Meeting of the APEC FSCF**, which comprises senior food safety regulatory officials from APEC member economies, as well as relevant regional and international stakeholders. The FSCF plenary convenes every two years to reaffirm the key principles and directions of the FSCF; to review and evaluate progress made against FSCF goals; to present and showcase significant successes and challenges experienced by member economies in advancing the FSCF Action Plan and other FSCF recommendations of 2015; to review and advance the FSCF PTIN and other international collaborative partnerships established, to advance the work of the FSCF, including the FSCF's collaboration with the World Bank and Global Food Safety Partnership; to determine key forward directions and recommendations for the work of the FSCF from 2017-2019.
- The **FSCF PTIN Steering Group meeting** will include FSCF PTIN Steering Group members, which come from regulatory authorities, food industry, academia, and development banks. This meeting will review FSCF PTIN progress; discuss the interactivity with international food safety cooperation platforms; provide updates on FSCF PTIN and related APEC activities and upcoming workshops; and discuss the PTIN strategic direction.
- A **Proficiency Testing Workshop** led by China would build on the laboratory capability and proficiency testing activities already completed by the PTIN. Proficiency testing contributes to assessing the capability of labs, helping lab improve testing performance, investigating the training demands, and assessing the efficiency of training courses.
- An **Export Certificates Workshop** to advance FSCF work on regulatory cooperation on export certificates that would examine how to streamline and align requirements for export certificates in the APEC region. This workshop would be led by the United States.
- A **Workshop on Modernization of Food Safety Control Systems** led by China to facilitate information sharing and exchange of best practices among regulators, industry and academia in the area of food safety control systems modernization, as many economies are currently modernizing or overhauling their food safety systems to cope with newly emerging food safety challenges.

For More Information

For more information on the APEC FSCF PTIN including links to past workshop materials and training materials, please visit:

fscf-ptin.apec.org.

For more information on the Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) please see:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/global-food-safety-partnership>