



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

## February 2019 Newsletter

### Tentative Schedule of FSCF and PTIN Events in Valparaiso, Chile:

- **May 6-7, 2019:** Trade Facilitation by Ensuring a Safer Food Supply through Cross-Border E-Commerce Workshop (China)
- **May 8, 2019:** MRL Implementation Tools Showcase Workshop (Australia)
- **May 8, 2019:** PTIN Export Certificate Workshop (USA)
- **May 8, 2019:** PTIN Steering Group meeting (USA)
- **May 9, 2019:** Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization Workshop (Australia)
- **May 10, 2019:** Food Safety Cooperation Forum Conference

Past workshop materials are available on the PTIN website:

[fscf-ptin.apec.org](http://fscf-ptin.apec.org)

**FSCF PTIN:** The APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) is a public private partnership that helps APEC Member Economies anticipate, prevent, and manage food safety incidents to better assure the safety of the food chain and grow food trade in the Asia Pacific region. Working across borders, the PTIN engages the food industry and academics with regulators, to provide capacity building in food safety. The goal is to build 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, with a focus in five areas: incident management, supply chain management, laboratory capacity building, regulatory systems, and risk analysis. The Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF), established in 2007 under the Sub-Committee for Standards and Conformance, seeks to facilitate trade in food while protecting public health and safety. This is done by strengthening food safety systems in the APEC region that are consistent with the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements. The Forum, which consists of APEC food safety regulators, is co-chaired by Australia and China.

### Links to PTIN Publications

- Framework for Self-Assessment of Laboratory Capacity Building Needs



SelfAssessLabCap\_FN.pdf

- Improving Food Safety through Hand Washing and Drying Capacity Building



Handwash\_FN.pdf

- Food Industry Associations: Their Role and Value in Policy and Regulation



CTL\_FoodIndustryAssociations\_FN.pdf

- Streamlining Export Certificate Requirements for Food Products in the APEC Region: Facilitating Trade and Improving Food Safety by Advancing Science-based International Standards



Export-Certificate-Brochure-May-2017.p

### Expert Meetings on Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization

The project aims to develop an 'APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization' (the Framework) to assist economies in modernizing their food safety systems while facilitating trade. The Framework includes principles and guidelines to food safety modernization outlining approaches to apply transparent, risk-based food safety controls based on international standards, such as those established by Codex Alimentarius Commission. The work is self-funded by Australia.

- **Summary of the First Expert Meeting: Hanoi, Viet Nam, November 15-17, 2017**

The first meeting of the FSCF project outlined a draft and key principles of the Framework and roadmap. The three-day expert meeting was attended by 48 participants from thirteen APEC member economies and five NGOs. The aim was to establish the purpose, scope, principles and key content of an APEC framework and roadmap on food safety modernization and reach consensus on the core elements of the project.

Over the course of three days, the expert participants discussed the changing landscape of food safety and trade in the APEC region, and created a draft roadmap for the progress of food safety modernization in APEC economies. The participants were then briefed on the process and outcome of the Western Pacific Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety. The meeting concluded with participants agreeing on a draft framework in preparation for the second expert meeting in Port Moresby, PNG.

View workshop report and presentations [here](#)

- **Summary of the Second Expert Meeting: Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, May 21-22, 2018**

The project was continued at SOM2 in Port Moresby, PNG with further consultations among APEC member economies to build consensus on the Framework. The twelve economies in attendance narrowed the draft's focus to food safety regulatory systems.

- **Summary of the Third Expert Meeting: Shanghai, China, November 5-7, 2018**

The meeting was attended by 12 APEC economies with the purpose to finalize the APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization. The Framework was successfully agreed to in principle, pending another round of the review of the final text. A preliminary digital design of the Framework was also presented to the meeting which was well received. Possible outreach and next steps include: translating the Framework into other languages, exploring future opportunities to collaborate with international bodies, developing an action plan to increase uptake of the Framework, and incorporating the framework into the long-term vision of the FSCF. The finalized Framework will be launched at the May food safety meetings.

For a complete summary of the workshop click [here](#).

### Expert Workshops on Trade Facilitation through Harmonization of Pesticide MRLs

Differences between APEC member economies' pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs) for food or raw materials present a barrier to trade of food products in the APEC region. This FSCF project, self-funded by Australia, aims to facilitate trade of food products in the APEC region through harmonization of import MRLs for pesticides among APEC member economies specifically via the development of two practical tools. The first is a database that will capture relevant information about government administration of regulatory import MRLs for pesticides in APEC member economies and the other is a template that will describe the necessary information that will enable an import MRL request to be raised to any APEC member economy. These will assist food importers in applying to APEC member economies to establish import MRLs for pesticides associated with a food or a raw material for food that is to be traded in the APEC region.

- **Summary of the First Expert Workshop: Haikou, China, April 5-6, 2018**

At the Haikou workshop, APEC economy delegates and international experts collaborated to develop the two practical tools, consulted with APEC member economies about the implementation of those tools, and worked to reach consensus on an approval system for requests on import MRLs for pesticides as well as the tools developed. The tools will be complementary to the *APEC Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides - a guideline on possible approaches to achieve alignment of international MRLs* and is part of the FSCF Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap for MRLs.

View workshop report and presentations [here](#)

- **Summary of the MRL Survey and Second Expert Workshop: Brisbane, Australia, October 9-12, 2018**

The workshop was attended by eighteen APEC economies and resulted in two practical tools to support the *APEC Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides - a guideline on possible approaches to achieve alignment of international MRLs*. View the *Guideline* [here](#). The tools were an APEC Compendium which provides a “snapshot” of government administrations in setting MRLs for pesticides, and an APEC Import MRL Application Form which describes the common elements of an import MRL application for pesticides in an imported food to be raised with any APEC member economy. Finalization of these two practical tools is subject to two rounds of verification where APEC economies will verify the accuracy and completeness of the information provided to the Compendium. The two tools will be subsequently published on the APEC website.

## **Summary of the FSCF PTIN Workshop on Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Harmonization: A Trade Facilitative Approach to MRL Compliance: Brisbane Australia, October 9-10, 2018**

The U.S. led FSCF PTIN workshop was attended by 17 APEC economies with objectives to: 1) share information on how different APEC economies enforce pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) and manage MRL violations; 2) examine the role of the private sector in maintaining high levels of compliance with MRLs; and 3) explore the relationships between missing and disharmonized MRLs, MRL violations, trade, and other economic and social factors, including market stability and food security. Through panel discussions and facilitated break-out groups, participants developed a list of potential best practices for MRL enforcement to enable trade and avoid unnecessary rejection and destruction of safe food. There was general consensus that additional work in this area could be valuable, and that future efforts might include: development of a compendium on MRL enforcement practices across APEC economies; APEC guidance on best practices for MRL compliance, enforcement, and risk communication; and capacity building to implement these best practices. The United States is exploring opportunities for future work and will provide an update at the upcoming May food safety meetings in Chile..

Click below for the APEC MRL brochure released in conjunction with the workshop.



## **Summary of the Workshop on Trade Facilitation through the Recognition of Food Safety Systems Equivalence: Lima, Peru, June 21-22, 2018**

On 21 – 22 June 2018, the APEC FSCF Workshop on Trade Facilitation through the Recognition of Food Safety Systems Equivalence, led by Peru and co-sponsored by Australia, Chile, New Zealand, Philippines and Thailand, was held in Lima, Peru. This project was designed to contribute to APEC Leaders’ instructions to increase safe food availability through international trade with the implementation of science-based regulations and WTO-recognized international food-related standards. During the workshop participants agreed on the following points 1) APEC economies are interested in food safety system equivalence and measure-by-measure equivalence approaches 2) Equivalence is a tool to facilitate trade and encourage food safety 3) Equivalence assessments may not be reciprocal given that economies have different capacities and capabilities 4) Equivalence requires significant financial and human capital resources so economies should focus on high risk products. In the future, economies expressed interest in work areas including: increased awareness of Codex guidance and application, the development of a tool that would help economies in

the self-assessment of their own food safety system, identification of SPS/TBT measures used by APEC economies, and a pilot project to explore using equivalence between APEC economies.

## **Workshop on Building Competence in Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance among APEC Economies: Santiago, Chile, October 3-5, 2018**

Antimicrobial resistance is an emerging health issue related to food safety in the APEC region. It was stated in Ha Noi at the 2017 FSCF meeting that Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) issues as they relate to the impact on food trade were a concern and building competencies in AMR should be added to the priority areas. As a response, Chile conducted a three-day FSCF workshop last October on surveillance methodologies and building competence on AMR. The activity focused on encouraging APEC economies to participate actively in actions against AMR through the implementation of laboratory techniques to measure the susceptibility to antibiotics in a harmonized and standardized way and strengthen integrated surveillance of AMR present in microbial strains isolated from animals, environment and food.

## **Summary of the Workshop on Export Certification: Brisbane, Australia, October 18-19, 2018**

To continue the work of the FSCF Regulatory Roadmap on Export Certificates that began in 2013, the U.S. organized a two-day export certificate workshop, focusing on eliminating unnecessary duplicative requirements. This workshop was an effort to operationalize the implementation of streamlined science-based certificate requirements, facilitate trade in safe foods, and decrease costs for governments businesses and consumers. The 43 attendees from both government and industry exchanged viewpoints and shared best practices and lessons learned. The participants agreed on next steps to identify and eliminate non-science-based certificate requirements, such as future information exchanges, a workshop at SOM 2 in May 2019, and one on one capacity building with individual APEC economies.

## **Summary of the APEC FSCF PTIN Workshop on Dairy Export Certification: Brisbane, Australia, October 20, 2018**

The U.S. sponsored workshop facilitated a discussion between regulators, policymakers, and the business community on dairy export certification requirements. The goal of the workshop was to develop a model dairy certificate, but participants did not come to consensus and the project organizer plans to incorporate comments received at the workshop and recirculate for endorsement.

To read more about the workshop click [here](#).

### ***Other News***

## **APFAN Workshop on Food Analysis: Proficiency Testing (PT) and Reference Materials (RM): Bangkok, Thailand June 19-21, 2019**

The Asia Pacific Food Analysis Network (APFAN) Committee, plans to hold APFAN PT2 Workshop "Food Analysis: Proficiency Testing and Reference Materials", in Bangkok, Thailand on 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June 2019. Workshop Topics will include: Implementing ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in PT Schemes and RM production; Highlights of ISO 13528:2015 and ISO Guide 35:2017 and their applications; Harmonization of Food Analysis Methods (particularly for those identified as problematic measures and analysis in the APFAN PT Programmes); and Hands-On Training (Pre- or Post- Workshop): and Statistical Evaluation. Delegates are encouraged to attend and present oral paper(s) or poster(s). APFAN will call for papers in January / February 2019.

### **For More Information**

For more information on food safety activities in APEC, including links to past workshop materials and training materials, please visit:

[fscf-ptin.apec.org](http://fscf-ptin.apec.org)