



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

December 2020 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

- **December 16-17, 2020**, APEC FSCF PTIN Virtual Workshop on Pesticide Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Harmonization: A Trade Facilitative Approach to MRL Compliance (registration open)
- **December 17, 18, 19, 2020**, APEC Webinars to introduce APEC FSCF PTIN Whole Genome Sequencing Multiyear Workstream (registration open)

Ongoing Work:

- **December 3-4, 2020, and workshop in May 2021** APEC workstream to develop an APEC Risk Communication Framework

Upcoming APEC work is expected in areas of:

- Three Seminars on Perspectives on Electronic Certification, expected February 2021
- Success Stories from Export Certificate Reductions, expected February 2021
- Strengthening Management of Aquaculture Diseases, May-July 2021, tbd
- Workshop on Shared Responsibility of Import and Export Food Safety, April 2021, tbd

The FSCF and FSCF PTIN Steering Group will meet virtually in 2021, tbd

fscf-ptin.apec.org

Updates due to COVID19: For the 2021 APEC year, New Zealand, the 2021 APEC host, has announced a move to all virtual events for the year.

FSCF: 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.

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 FSCF 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.

[Links to APEC FSCF Publications](#)

- [APEC Food Safety Modernization Framework to Facilitate Trade](#)
- [APEC FSCF PTIN: A Trade Facilitative Approach to Pesticide MRL Compliance](#)
- [APEC Compendium of Government Administration in Setting Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides](#)
- [APEC Import Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides Application Form](#)
- [Streamlining Export Certificate Requirements for Food Products in the APEC Region: Facilitating Trade and Improving Food Safety by Advancing Science-based International Standards](#)

APEC Leader Statement November 2020:

APEC Economic Leaders met on November 20, 2020, and agreed to the concluding [APEC 2020 Leader's Statement](#) for the Malaysia year. APEC Leaders committed to protecting people's lives and safeguarding their health and resolved to further navigate the region towards recovery along the path of strong, balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure economic growth.

Development of an APEC Risk Communication Framework

Australia continues to host a series of three APEC workshops and electronic working groups to develop an APEC Risk Communication Framework. The first workshop met virtually July 24, 2020, after being postponed due to the pandemic. One hundred representatives from food safety regulatory agencies, food industry organizations, academia, and development banks of eighteen (18) APEC member economies, and FAO and WHO Western Pacific Regional Office attended. This workshop explored challenges faced by food safety regulatory agencies and the food industry in dealing with food safety risk communication and identified some of the causes to ineffective food safety risk communication. Participants discussed the purpose, scope, structure and principles to be included in the proposed APEC food safety risk communication framework.

The objectives of this workshop were to:

- explore the challenges faced by food safety regulators and food industry in food safety risk communication;
- identify the various causes of ineffective food safety risk communications;
- identify and compile world best practices in food safety risk communication; and
- discuss and build consensus on the purpose and scope of an APEC food safety risk communication framework.

Subsequently part A of the draft Food Safety Risk Communication Framework and an Industry Annex were circulated for comment by the electronic working group.

Workshop two met on December 3 and 4, 2020, to finalize part A of the Framework and to begin discussing development of Part B. A third workshop will be held in spring 2021 and the resulting final Framework will be presented at the Food Safety Cooperation Forum meeting in May 2021 for endorsement.

APEC FSCF PTIN Virtual Workshop on Pesticide MRL Harmonization and MRL Compliance

The United States will host a virtual workshop on **PESTICIDE MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS (MRLs) HARMONIZATION: A TRADE FACILITATIVE APPROACH TO MRL COMPLIANCE** on December 16 and 17 starting at 6 pm Pacific Standard time (10 am Malaysian standard time +1 day). The objective of this virtual workshop is to harmonize MRL enforcement policies across APEC economies to improve food safety and facilitate trade. The project seeks to build the capacity of member economies to meet APEC's goals of equitable and sustainable growth and improved social and economic well-being by helping economies take a consistent approach towards observance and enforcement of MRLs on specialty crops. Nominations (industry, economy, and academia welcome) are due by Tuesday, December 8, to Ms. Alana Baray (ABaray@nathaninc.com) and Mr. Marc Ciric (MCiric@nathaninc.com) of the US-SEGA team.

APEC FSCF PTIN Webinars to Introduce Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Multiyear Workstream

Earlier this year, the U.S. proposed via Concept Note a multi-year project, *Whole Genome Sequencing: Laboratory Capacity Building of Environmental Testing for Foodborne Pathogens*, to the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF)'s Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN). The effort was co-sponsored by Australia, Chile, Thailand, and the Philippines, and was fully endorsed by the FSCF in late June.

To kick off this effort, we are planning to hold a series of introductory webinars for the APEC community. We will hold three webinars, each targeted at a different sector (government, academia, and industry). The Awareness Webinars will:

- introduce WGS,
- promote awareness of the APEC FSCF workstream objectives, and
- provide sector-specific insights for policymakers, researchers, instructors, and laboratory managers.

Join us on to learn more about WGS and the APEC project! Please view the attached flyer, agenda, and registration instructions.

- Webinar—Government: Monday 14 December @ 21:00 (Washington, D.C.) / Tuesday 15 December @ 10:00 (Beijing)
- Webinar—Academia: Tuesday 15 December @ 21:00 (Washington, D.C.) / Wednesday 16 December @ 10:00 (Beijing)
- Webinar—Industry: Wednesday 16 December @ 21:00 (Washington, D.C.) / Thursday 17 December @ 10:00 (Beijing)

Do not hesitate to reach out to Kelly.McCormick@FDA.HHS.gov or Yanet.Rodriguez@FAS.USDA.gov with any questions. Queries regarding registration can be directed to MGonzales@CVM.TAMU.edu.

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