Food Safety Capacity Building: The role of public private partnerships

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Background

- Food safety is a shared responsibility

- It is in everyone’s best interest of there is better collaboration around food safety management
  - Consumers want safe foods
  - Manufacturers want to maintain and enhance their brands
  - Governments need to protect consumers and facilitate food trade

- The food industry is becoming increasing sophisticated at monitoring hazards and identifying emerging issues
  - If regulators interact more collaboratively and less prosecutorially with the food industry there will be better sharing of information a better use of resources
Many developing countries are poorly equipped to respond to existing and emerging food safety problems.

A WHO survey in 1989 of national capacities for effective protection against adverse environmental factors, including a clean water supply, basic sanitation and food safety, showed that less than 10% of the 136 developing countries had adequate capacities.

Inadequate capacities in developing countries continue to be a major obstacle in achieving WHO's food safety objectives. Underdevelopment poses difficulties for producing safe food, for domestic consumption and export.

Source: WHO website
Benefits of capacity building

- GAO Report: US foreign assistance with pesticide control will:
  - (1) Decrease the likelihood that U.S. consumers receive produce grown with pesticides lacking EPA tolerances for use on specific crops,
  - (2) Help these countries avoid no-tolerance pesticide violations
  - (3) Prevent economic losses to exporters and U.S. importers.
**Article 9**  
**Technical Assistance**

1. Members agree to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to other Members, especially developing country Members, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations. Such assistance may be, *inter alia*, in the areas of processing technologies, research and infrastructure, including in the establishment of national regulatory bodies, and may take the form of advice, credits, donations and grants, including for the purpose of seeking technical expertise, training and equipment to allow such countries to adjust to, and comply with, sanitary or phytosanitary measures necessary to achieve the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection in their export markets.

2. Where substantial investments are required in order for an exporting developing country Member to fulfil the sanitary or phytosanitary requirements of an importing Member, the latter shall consider providing such technical assistance as will permit the developing country Member to maintain and expand its market access opportunities for the product involved.
The objective is to enable the developing countries to reach the required level of food safety to be able to export their products

- Providing jobs and economic value and raising the food standards in the developing countries.
- Building confidence in the food safety control systems in place in the exporting country

Activities

- Bring staff from developing countries to training facilities within the EU for technical training
- Send technical experts to developing countries to provide on-the-spot training
- Deliver courses to explain EU legislation regarding exports to the EU
Food Safety Modernization Act (2011)

One Hundred Eleventh Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Began and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, two thousand and ten

An Act

To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the safety of the food supply.
TITLE III—IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF IMPORTED FOOD

Sec. 301. Foreign supplier verification program.
Sec. 302. Voluntary qualified importer program.
Sec. 303. Authority to require import certifications for food.
Sec. 304. Prior notice of imported food shipments.
Sec. 305. Building capacity of foreign governments with respect to food safety.
Sec. 306. Inspection of foreign food facilities.
Sec. 307. Accreditation of third-party auditors.
Sec. 308. Foreign offices of the Food and Drug Administration.
Sec. 309. Smuggled food.

SEC. 305. BUILDING CAPACITY OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WITH RESPECT TO FOOD SAFETY.

(a) In General.—The Secretary shall, not later than 2 years of the date of enactment of this Act, develop a comprehensive plan to expand the technical, scientific, and regulatory food safety capacity of foreign governments, and their respective food industries, from which foods are exported to the United States.
SEC. 422. LABORATORY ACCREDITATION FOR ANALYSES OF FOODS.

(a) RECOGNITION OF LABORATORY ACCREDITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) establish a program for the testing of food by accredited laboratories;

(B) establish a publicly available registry of accreditation bodies recognized by the Secretary and laboratories

(5) FOREIGN LABORATORIES.—Accreditation bodies recognized by the Secretary under paragraph (1) may accredit laboratories that operate outside the United States, so long as such laboratories meet the accreditation standards applicable to domestic laboratories accredited under this section.
“(6) MODEL LABORATORY STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall develop model standards that a laboratory shall meet to be accredited by a recognized accreditation body for a specified sampling or analytical testing methodology and included in the registry provided for under paragraph (1). In developing the model standards, the Secretary shall consult existing standards for guidance. The model standards shall include—

“(A) methods to ensure that—

“(i) appropriate sampling, analytical procedures (including rapid analytical procedures), and commercially available techniques are followed and reports of analyses are certified as true and accurate;

“(ii) internal quality systems are established and maintained;

“(iii) procedures exist to evaluate and respond promptly to complaints regarding analyses and other activities for which the laboratory is accredited; and

“(iv) individuals who conduct the sampling and analyses are qualified by training and experience to do so; and

“(B) any other criteria determined appropriate by the Secretary.
USA Top Ag Imports (excludes some commodities such as seafood)
Who will be affected by FSMA (sources of coffee)
No single company, organization, or even country can address global food safety
Capacity building needs

- **Capacity and technical assistance needs of developing countries may include:**
  - (1) Basic infrastructure
  - (2) Disease surveillance systems
  - (3) Food legislation and regulatory framework
  - (4) Collaboration and cooperation of food control agencies
  - (5) Participation in international standard-setting organizations
  - (6) Implementation of food quality and safety assurance systems
  - (7) National food control strategy
  - (8) Food inspection services
  - (9) Scientific and technical expertise
  - (10) Food control laboratories and equipment

Outcomes of an APEC Expert Working Group Convened in Washington DC, May 2010
APEC's 21 Regional Member Economies are:
- Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam

Goals of APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum

- Develop transparent information-sharing and communication networks that provide accurate and timely information to consumers and producers on food safety
- Work towards establishing domestic food safety regulatory systems within economies, including food inspection/assurance and certification systems
- Enhance skills and human resource capacities to enable the development of national food safety regulatory systems
World Bank led GFSP

Waters Corp
Mars Inc
USAID

Inaugural donors to establish a multi donor trust fund, creating the GFSP
Engagement Process – Strategy; Priorities; Activities

1 – Proposals received

Initiation

GFSP Secretariat

2 – Proposals reviewed and filtered in conference between coordinating committee and Secretariat

Review proposals and filter against criteria

Coordinating Committee (Co-Chairs; IOs)

3 – Consult with WGs

GFSP Decision

4 – WGs provide feedback

5 – Coordinating committee consolidates feedback and makes recommendation

6 – Repeat for Next Step

Full proposal/business plan (possible funding required)

7 – Implementation Process

FSTWG

Food Safety Technical

CWG

Communications

KLGW

Knowledge & Learning

MEWG

Monitoring & Evaluation
1. Following consultation process and selection of initiatives resulting needs assessments passed into NAEWG

2. NAEWG identifies gaps and passes assessments to relevant WGs

3. EWGs examine gaps and formulate/evaluate appropriate capacity building response

4. FSTWG consolidates responses and makes recommendations to Secretariat
Laboratory training: inclusion approach

Training regime

Internationally recognised competence

Candidate Laboratories

Enlarged community of internationally recognised competence

Accreditation Proficiency

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GFSP proposed mechanism for Lab capacity building

Key outcomes: training framework

1. Scoping visit – ensure fit for purpose training, e-learning pre-evaluation
2. Training the trainer at exemplar training laboratories to establish best practice and buddy system
3. In situ implementation, on and off site support, webinars, mentoring (Facebook/Twitter)
4. Assessment of proficiency - proficiency test materials, e-evaluation
5. Evaluation

Global Food Safety Partnership

SAFER FOOD STRONGER ECONOMIES HEALTHIER WORLD

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Summary

- WHO data indicates inadequate capacity in developing countries remains an obstacle to ensuring food safety compliance
- SPS signatories are committed to providing technical assistance to trading partners
- Capacity building measures can be the first step in building assurances of efficacy of foreign food safety systems
- Capacity building may ultimately lead to better distribution of responsibility for import safety
- Global Food Safety Partnership creates an exciting opportunity for participation on an equal footing