



# FSRC Food Safety Information Infrastructure Project: Phase 1

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## **FSII Workshop Topics**

Workshops are a key component in Phase 1 of the FSRC's Food Safety Information Infrastructure Project. They are intended to foster in-depth discussion among key stakeholders in a format designed to identify realistic opportunities to improve food safety data collection, access, and sharing, as well as better understand issues and obstacles that may limit improvement. Each workshop will address a well-defined topic area and set of issues and be planned by a committee drawn from the relevant stakeholder community. The workshops will be held beginning in the fall of 2006 and continuing through early 2007.

There are five workshops currently being planned, as follows.

### **Foodborne Illness Surveillance and Other Federal Data Collection**

This workshop will focus on current activities of federal government agencies to collect and make accessible to others data and information that could be used to improve food safety. It will encompass the foodborne illness surveillance activities of CDC (in collaboration with the states), data collection for regulatory purposes, and food safety research conducted or supported by federal government agencies. While the workshop will examine information infrastructure issues through the federal lens, it will take full account of federal government interactions with state and local government and the private sector.

- Are current federal data collection activities meeting stakeholder needs?
- What are the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in the current system?
- What are the key constraints on improving the quantity and quality food safety data collected by the federal government?
- What are key opportunities for improving the quantity and quality of federal data collection?
- Is improved coordination and priority setting in the collection of data by federal agencies, involving both public and private sector input, a realistic objective?
- Are federally collected food safety data adequately accessible to other public agencies and private sector stakeholders?
- What are the key constraints on improving access to federally collected data?
- What are the opportunities for improving access to federally collected data?

### **The Role of the States**

This workshop will focus on food safety data collection, access and sharing at the state and local level. It will encompass surveillance, laboratory, regulatory, and research activities and address interactions among state and local agencies, between state agencies and federal counterparts, and between state agencies and other stakeholders.

- In what ways can data collected by state and local agencies be used by them and by stakeholders throughout the system to improve food safety?
- How well do state and local data collection activities support federal activities, and vice versa?

- What are the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in how food safety data are collected, made accessible, and actively shared by state and local agencies?
- How do differences among states and localities in data collection, access, and sharing affect food safety decision making at the national level and in the private sector?
- What are the key constraints (legal, policy, technical, resources, etc) on improving current practices?
- What are the realistic opportunities for improvement?

## **Private Sector Collection and Sharing of Food Safety Data**

This workshop will focus on the collection of food safety data by members of the food industry and consider whether and under what circumstances such privately-generated data might be useful to and could be shared with other stakeholders, public and private, to improve food safety.

- What types of data are currently collected by the food industry and for what purposes?
- What is the potential utility of industry-generated data for other stakeholders?
- How is that utility limited by the purpose and manner of the data collection?
- What are the key constraints (legal, regulatory, business, technical, resource, etc.) on industry sharing of food safety data?
- For what purposes and under what conditions might food industry sharing of data be possible?
- What are the realistic bases for broader public-private collaboration to improve collection, access, and sharing of food safety data, whether collected by industry, government, or other stakeholders?

## **The Role of the Research Community**

This workshop will address the role of the academic research community and other non-government researchers in producing and making accessible to the food safety community data and analyses that could be used to improve food safety. It will encompass the activities and practices of the universities and other institutions that conduct food safety research as well as the government agencies and other institutions that fund it.

- Are current research and data generating activities of the research community meeting stakeholder needs?
- What are the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in the current data generating efforts of the research community?
- What are the key constraints on improving the quantity and quality of food safety data generated by the research community?
- What are key opportunities for improving the quantity and quality of food safety data generated by the research community?
- Is improved coordination and priority setting among research institutions a desirable or realistic objective?

- Are the research community's food safety data adequately accessible to public agencies and private sector stakeholders?
- What are the key constraints on improving access to data generated by the research community?
- What are the opportunities for improving access to data generated by the research community?

## **Mechanisms for Data Access and Sharing**

This workshop will focus on the role of databases, repositories, cooperative agreements, and other mechanisms through which diverse institutions might collaborate to improve access to and active sharing of food safety data.

- How are databases and repositories currently used to foster data access and sharing?
- What is their current and potential utility for improving food safety?
- What are the key factors (legal, policy, business, technical, resources, etc) limiting the utility of databases and repositories, both inherently and as seen in current practice?
- What does experience to date suggest about how databases and repositories can be more useful in the future, considering such matters as purpose, institutional roles and responsibilities, technical issues, and financing?
- What other mechanisms (such as cooperative agreements among specific institutions for specific purposes) are currently used or should be considered to improve data access and sharing?

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