

# **FSRC Food Safety Information Infrastructure Project: Phase 1**

## **Workshop on Research Community's Role in Collection, Access and Sharing of Food Safety Information** Baltimore, Maryland | February 1, 2007

**SESSION 1**

**9:00-10:30 am**

**The food safety research agenda: What is the role of the research  
community in the food safety information infrastructure**

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# The food safety research agenda: What is the role of the research community in the food safety information infrastructure

## *Questions for discussion:*

➤ What are the distinct roles of each research sector in the generation, use and sharing of food safety information?

### ➤ **Academia:**

➤ **Land Grant institutions**

➤ **Agricultural experiment stations**

➤ **Mandate to help public**

➤ **Education, Extension/Outreach, Research**

➤ **Address issues of interest to the public: food safety**

# What are the distinct roles of each research sector in the generation, use and sharing of food safety information?

- **Public:**
  - **Industry**
    - **Producers**
    - **Processors**
    - **Allied industries**
    - **Distributors**
    - **Retail**
    - **Foodservice**
  - **Regulators**
  - **Public health**
  - **Consumers**

# What are the distinct roles of each research sector in the generation, use and sharing of food safety information?

- **Provide knowledge**
- **Help in providing solutions**
- **Train new scientists**
- **Educate public**
- **Share information**
  - **Publications**
  - **Extension/outreach training programs**
  - **Workshops**
  - **Classroom teaching**
  - **Limited restrictions**

# What are the distinct roles of each research sector in the generation, use and sharing of food safety information?

## ● Audience:

- Researchers
- Industry
- Regulators
- Public health
- Consumers

● Progress reports

● Final reports

● Theses/Dissertations

● Patents

● Abstracts

● Conferences

● Refereed papers

● Trade magazines

● Bulletins

● Fact sheets

● Books

● Electronic forms

● Web pages

● Training games

● Extension education/outreach

● Integration

# The food safety research agenda: What is the role of the research community in the food safety information infrastructure

## *Questions for discussion:*

➤ How does the agenda for food safety research get set and is there a need for improvement?

### ➤ **Academia:**

#### ➤ **FOLLOW THE MONEY**

➤ **Becomes available when there are needs**

➤ **State, National, International**

➤ **Public health developments**

➤ **Outbreaks**

➤ **Emergencies**

# How does the agenda for food safety research get set and is there a need for improvement?

- **Emerging public health issues**
- **Emerging industry concerns**
- **Advances in science**
- **Advances in technology**
- **Advances in other fields**
- **Developments in allied industries**
- **Consumer lifestyles, needs and expectations**
- **Public attention**
- **Funding agency goals**
- **Industry association goals**

# How does the agenda for food safety research get set and is there a need for improvement?

- **Scientific association goals**
- **Individual company needs**
- **Scientific curiosity**
- **Regulatory actions**
- **Risk assessments**
- **Improvement needed**
  - **Long range planning**
  - **Coordination**
  - **collaboration**
  - **Progressive sequence based on findings**
  - **Risk assessments**

# The food safety research agenda: What is the role of the research community in the food safety information infrastructure

## *Questions for discussion:*

- What are the strengths and weaknesses in the current data generating efforts of the research community?
- **Academia:**
  - **Strengths**
    - **Academic freedom**
    - **Needs driven**
    - **Creativity**
    - **More money available**
    - **Public interest and attention**
    - **Diverse input**

# What are the strengths and weaknesses in the current data generating efforts of the research community?

## ➤ Weaknesses

- Students hired away
- Limited long term funding
- Infrastructure: Facilities, equipment
- Long range goals needed
- Coordination and collaboration needed
- Information overload and under-use
- Better use of produced knowledge in goal setting
- Inadequate industry participation and openness
- Need for a transparent system of goal setting and collaboration to address issues identified by RA

# The food safety research agenda: What is the role of the research community in the food safety information infrastructure

## *Questions for discussion:*

➤ What are the key constraints on improving the quantity and quality of food safety data generated by the food safety research community?

### ➤ **Academia:**

➤ **“Students Wanted”**

➤ **Money:**

➤ **Technician support**

➤ **Facilities / equipment / salaries**

➤ **Time needed: other activities: teaching, etc**

➤ **Indirect costs**

# The food safety research agenda: What is the role of the research community in the food safety information infrastructure

## *Questions for discussion:*

➤ What are key opportunities for improvement?

### ➤ **Academia:**

- **Importance of food safety**
- **Attention given to food safety**
- **Public awareness and pressure**
- **Industry awareness and sensitivity**
- **Need for education in food safety**
- **Regulatory modernization**
- **International harmonization**
- **Risk assessments**
- **Efforts such as this**