

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

Goals and Agenda

Meeting Goals

This workshop will bring together members of the academic, government, and private sector research community and other stakeholders to discuss the important role of the research community in generating, making accessible, and actively sharing data for the purpose of improving food safety. The goals of the workshop are to: (1) discuss research roles and agenda setting, (2) identify data needs within the research community, (3) discuss issues related to making data generated through research accessible and timely, and (4) identify realistic opportunities to enhance how research data are collected, made accessible, and actively shared to improve food safety.

Agenda

7:30-8:30 am **Breakfast**

8:30-9:00 am **Introduction and Background**

Led by: Mike Taylor, University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB)

- Welcome and introductions of participants
- Brief background on and status of the FSII project
- Review of agenda and goals for the workshop

9:00-10:30 am **The food safety research agenda: What is the role of the research community in the food safety information infrastructure?**

Led by: Bob Buchanan, Food and Drug Administration
Dave Gombas, United Fresh Produce Association
John Sofos, Colorado State University

The food safety research community is comprised of diverse public and private institutions that necessarily respond to diverse incentives and mandates. The purpose of this session is to review the roles of these institutions, understand how their research priorities and agendas are set, and discuss strengths and weaknesses in how current food safety research contributes to the goal of improving food safety. Three brief presentations will provide background on food safety research in academia, government, and the private sector.

Questions for discussion:

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

- How does the agenda for food safety research get set and is there a need for improvement?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses 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 food safety research community?
- What are the key opportunities for improvement?

10:30-10:45 am Coffee Break

10:45-12:15 pm Data needs of the food safety research community

Led by: Julie Caswell, University of Massachusetts
 Jan Singleton, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service/USDA
 Chris Wozniak, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service/USDA

Each research sector or institution often needs data generated by other research institutions or non-research generators of food safety data, such as regulatory agencies and the private sector, to fulfill their food safety agenda. This requires an awareness of and ready access to potential data sources. The purpose of this session is to discuss the food safety research community's data needs and whether it is currently getting the data it needs to fulfill its research role.

Questions for discussion:

- What government and private sector data and information are needed by the research community?
- To what extent are the research community's data and information needs currently being met?
- What are the constraints on the research community getting the data and information it needs?
- What are there realistic opportunities to improve the research community's awareness of and access to data collected by the government, other researchers, and the private sector?

12:15-1:15 pm Lunch

1:15-3:00 pm Accessibility and timeliness of data generated by the research community

Led by: Linda Harris, University of California, Davis
 Tim Jones, Tennessee Department of Health
 John Sofos, Colorado State University

The purpose of this session is to discuss how food safety information generated by the research community is made available to stakeholders.

Questions for discussion:

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of current approaches to disseminating food safety data generated by the research community?
- What are the constraints for improving the timeliness and accessibility of data generated by the research community?
- What are the opportunities for improving the timeliness of and access to data generated by the research community?

3:00-3:15 pm Coffee Break

3:15-4:30 pm Synthesis and Possible Next Steps

Led by: Mike Taylor, UMB
 Jan Powell, UMB
 Michael Batz, UMB

The goal of this session is to review critical issues identified by the research community with respect to generation, use and sharing of food safety information, and to create a list of realistic opportunities to enhance the role of research in improving food safety.