



Independent Review of APEC Food Safety Capacity Building Initiative

August 25, 2015
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US-APEC Technical Assistance to Advance Regional Integration

A joint project of the U.S. Agency for International Development,
the U.S. Department of State, and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Methodology

- Data collection:
 - Online survey with 81 respondents (18% of survey recipients)
 - Key informant interviews with 14 respondents, representing all three sectors (regulator, industry, academia) in the network
- Majority of the twenty-one APEC economies were represented

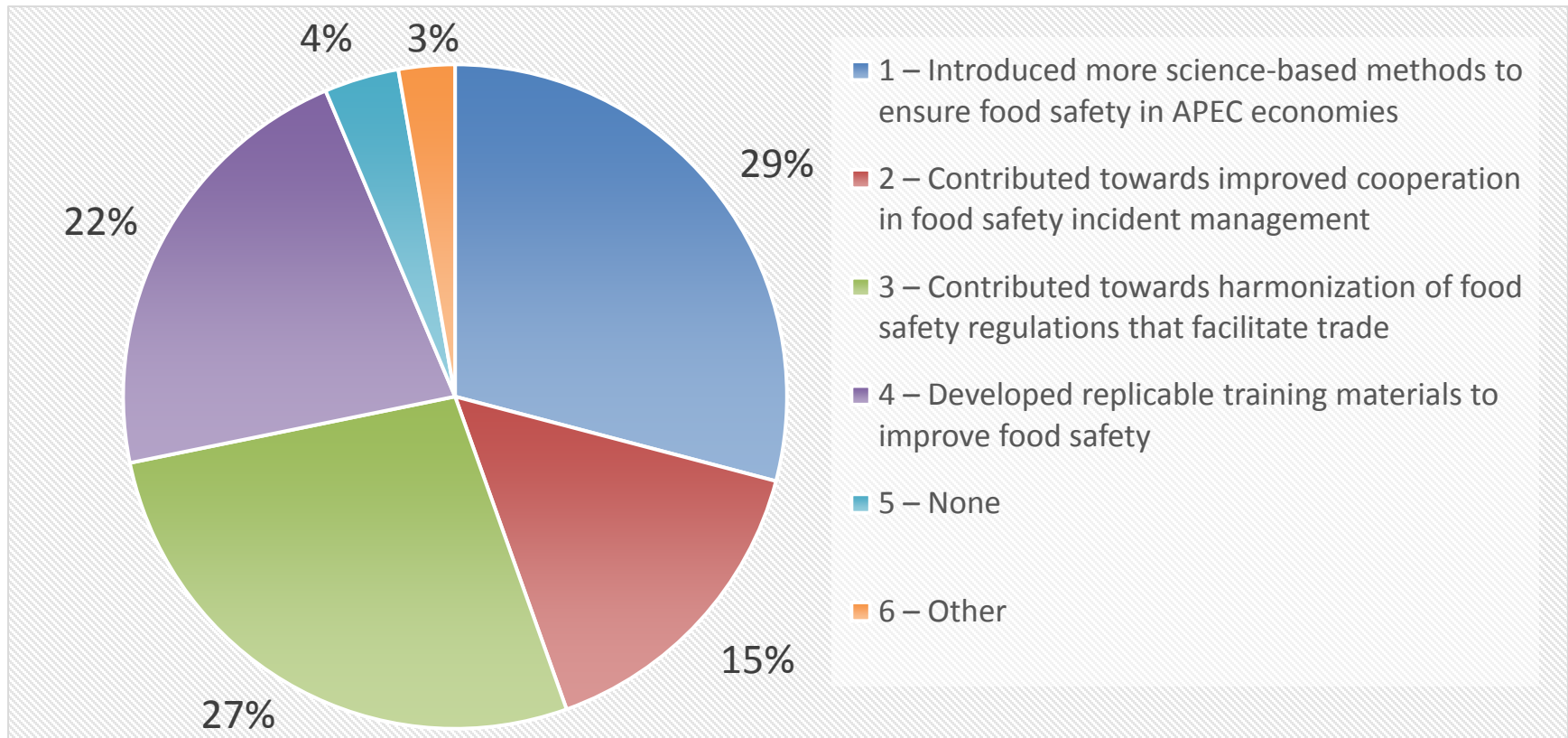
Findings- Relevance

- **Priority areas** are considered to be highly relevant to APEC and the individual member economies into the medium-term future
- **Types of activities** (networking, training, development of curricula) are also considered highly relevant

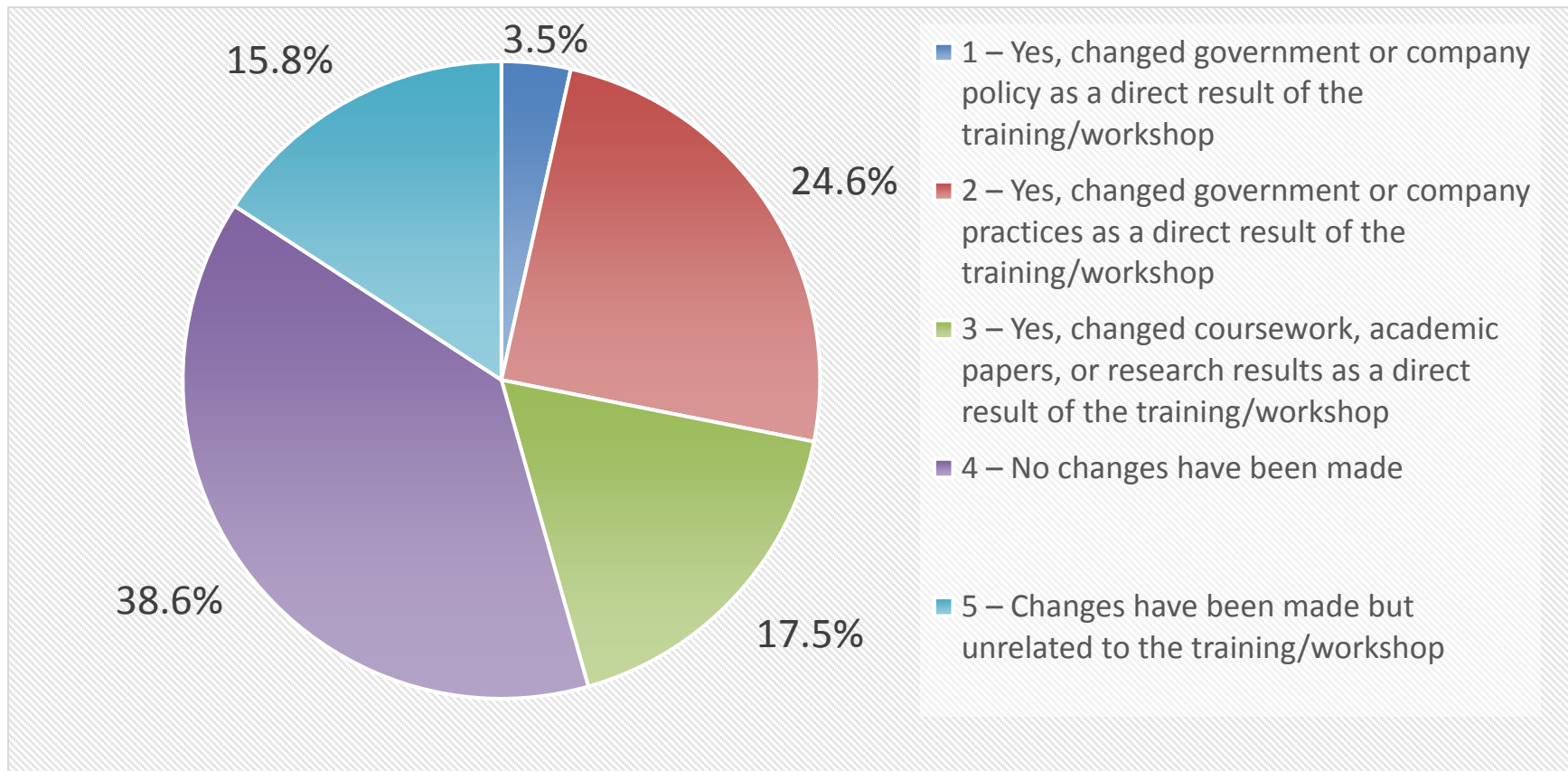
Sectoral differences among Key Respondents

- Industry views PTIN as one of the sole avenues for the private sector to engage with regulators in the region
- Regulators view the forum as an important venue to learn about regional experience
- The mix of sectors and of economies is viewed as a major value-added

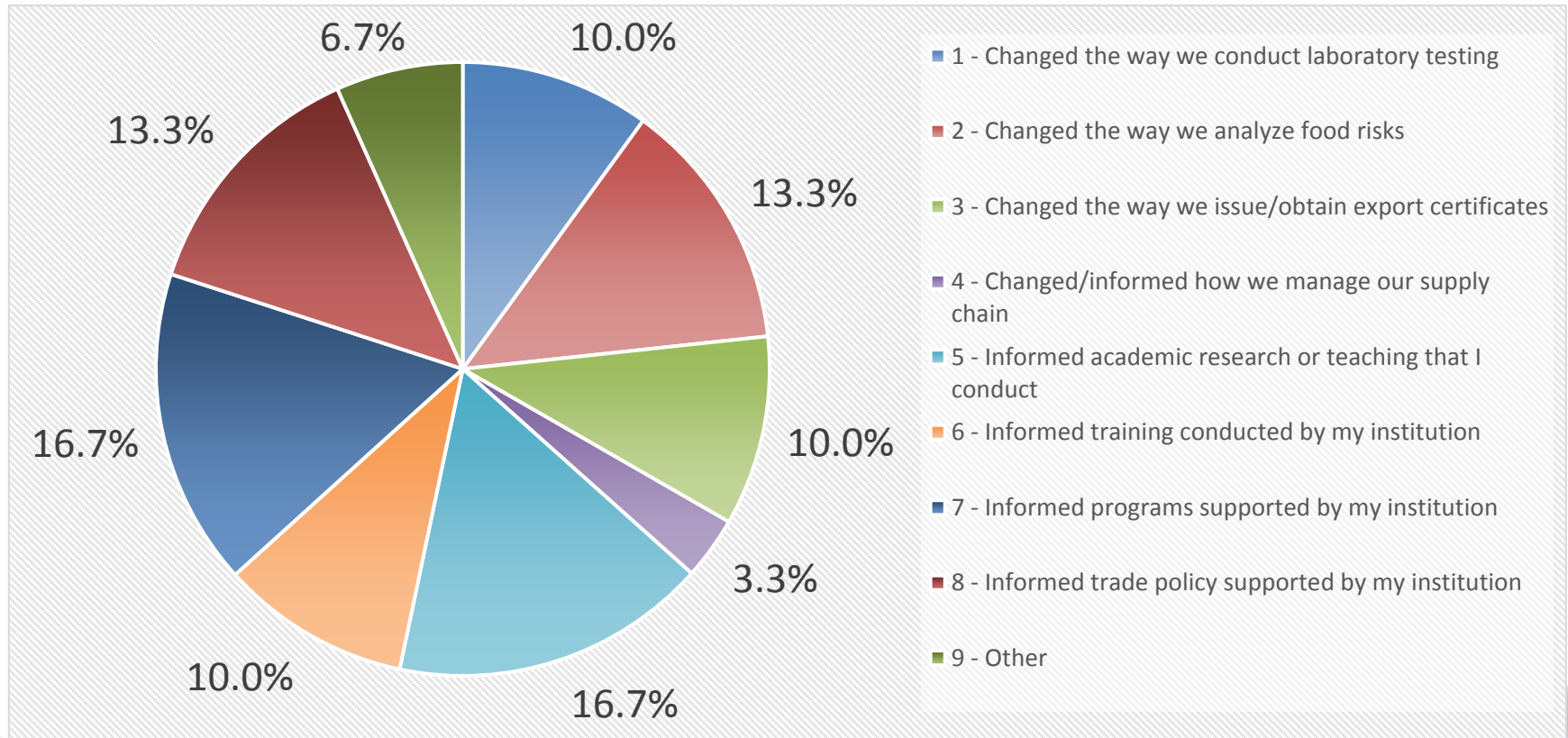
In Which Areas has PTIN Made the Biggest Contribution?



Has the training changed the way your institution operates?



Concrete examples of how your organization is applying the lessons from the training



N= 30

Concrete Changes at the Economy-level

“[In regard to] processed foods, we have started the steps to change our regulation in order to eliminate the code registration and improve health surveillance of manufacturing establishments.”

“Before, we sanctioned the laboratories without consideration. Now, we are revising our system of control of the evaluation of the laboratories.”

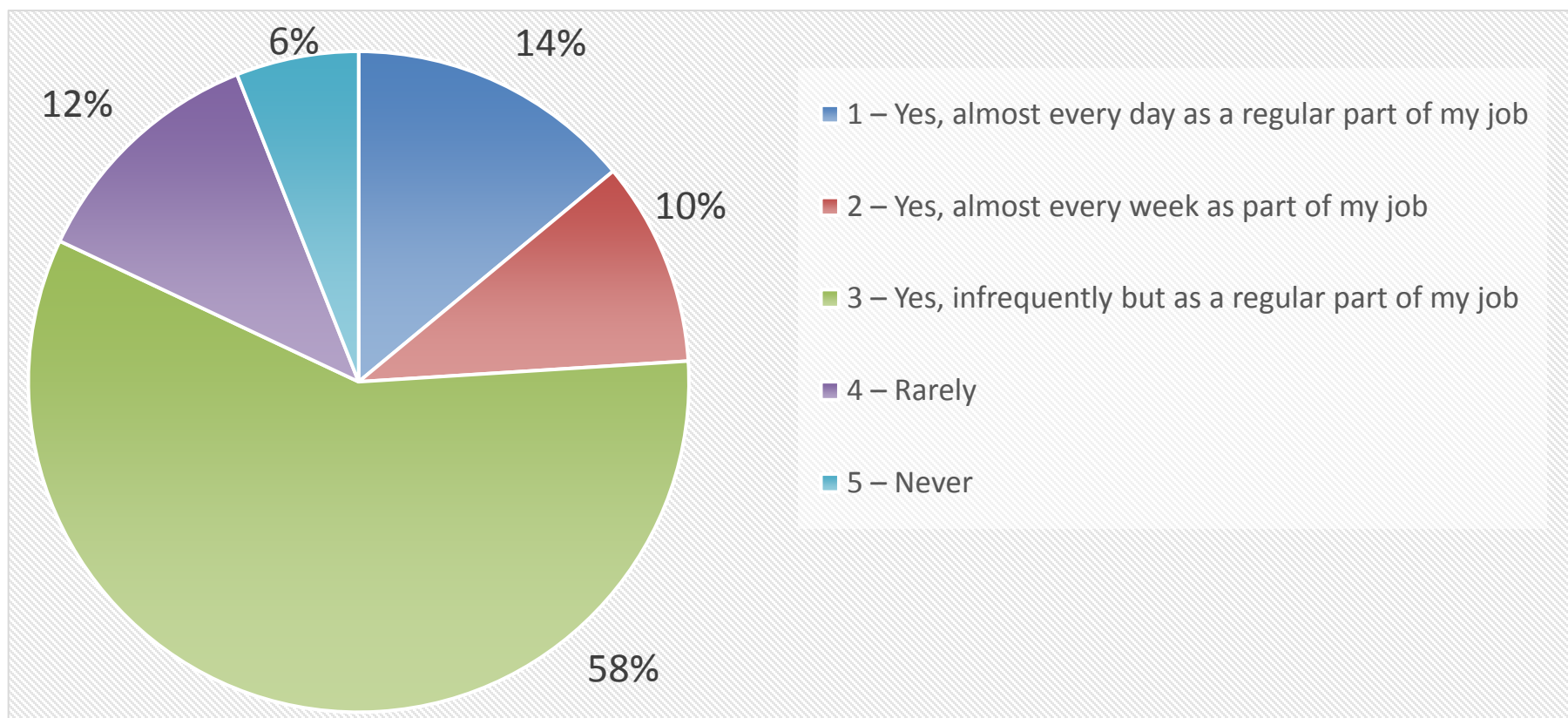
“We have changed the issuance of export certificates in a proper and more transparent manner.”

“[We now] take into consideration Maximum Residue Limits for the laboratory testing of fresh produce.”

Changes Cited among Partner Governments

- In Viet Nam, respondents felt that information and assistance gained through PTIN had a direct bearing on some provisions of the Vietnamese Food Safety law passed in 2014;
- In Laos, respondents cite the influence of PTIN in the way that government now engages private sector producers in contrast to the past;
- The Philippines government is in the process of replicating the MRL approach being piloted by PTIN in wine to mangos.

Application of Learning by Individual Trainees



Efficiency and Sustainability

- PTIN events considered good value-for-money
- Policy changes are long-lasting
- Trainees are applying what they learned
- Training modules replicated and translated into 5 languages (Chinese, Indonesian, Portuguese, and Vietnamese)

Future Directions

- Survey respondents would like more frequent trainings (37%) and a broader range of subjects (20%)
- Among key respondents:
 - Respondents from developed economies would like to see PTIN focus more on regulatory systems and harmonization
 - Respondents from developing economies would like more training

Areas for Improvement

- Collect and centralize information on policy changes and training activities taking place among PTIN members;
- Advertise the website more actively and add content;
- Increase frequency of communication or updates to members.

Recommendations: Sustainability

- Document examples of industry-sponsored trainings in more detail and disseminate among members to encourage replication
- Consider requiring training participants (or their institutions) to replicate training in their home economies with own-source or privately financed funds