Food Safety Challenges

- Complex global food supply chain
- Rising levels of food trade including between developed and developing economies
- Differing levels of adherence to international agreements (WTO SPS/TBT) and standards (Codex) and lack of understanding on how to meet them
Food Safety Incidents Are Costly

Food Safety Incidents Impact

- Public Health
- Economy & Trade
- Food Security
Trade Context

- Food safety is an APEC priority
- Laboratory practices have direct trade impacts
- Consistent application of international standards and best practices
APEC Takes Action

FSCF Food Safety Cooperation Forum

PTIN Partnership Training Institute Network
Priority Areas

Stronger food safety systems + improved understanding of regulatory compliance = Fewer food safety incidents and trade disputes

- Supply Chain Management
- Incident Management
- Risk Management
- Laboratory Capacity
- Food Safety Regulatory Systems
Focus on improving laboratory capability through infrastructure improvements and training needs

- Metrology
- Sampling
- Quality assurance
- Analytical methods
- Data analysis
- Accreditation
2010: FSCF Expert Working Group identifies laboratory capacity as a priority area

2011: Workshop in Thailand on the global context of food safety

2012: Workshops in Peru, Malaysia, and Vietnam
2013: Laboratory Competency Strengthening Initiative

- STAG established
- Needs Prioritization Workshop
- Roadmap/ Prioritization Tool
- Economy pilots
Benefits of Proficiency Testing

- Hands on work improves skill level
- Increase reliability of results
- Ensure laboratory technicians & managers are using appropriate methods & procedures
- Strengthen use of international standards and best practices
Benefits of Proficiency Testing

- Foundational for accreditation
- Key element of lab improvement toolbox
- Build regional communication and collaboration
Use of International Standards & Conformity Assessment Systems

- ISO 17025 --- Testing and Calibration Labs
- ISO 17043----Proficiency Testing
- ISO/IEC 17011 ---Accreditation Bodies
- ISO/IEC 17040 ---Peer assessment
- CODEX Methods
APEC Specialist Regional Bodies

Technical Infrastructure Development to Support Trade

- Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)
- Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC),
- Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF)
- Asia-Pacific Metrology Program (APMP)
- Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC)
Collaboration and Communication
Lab Capability and Food Safety

- Rely on expert regional resources like APEC SRBs
- Explore ways to continue inter-laboratory collaborations to strengthen labs and build the FSCF PTIN lab network
- Consistent application of laboratory procedures and testing methods fundamental to facilitating food trade in the APEC region
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