

Role of Proficiency Testing in Building Laboratory Capacity

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FSCF Food Safety
Cooperation Forum
PTIN Partnership Training
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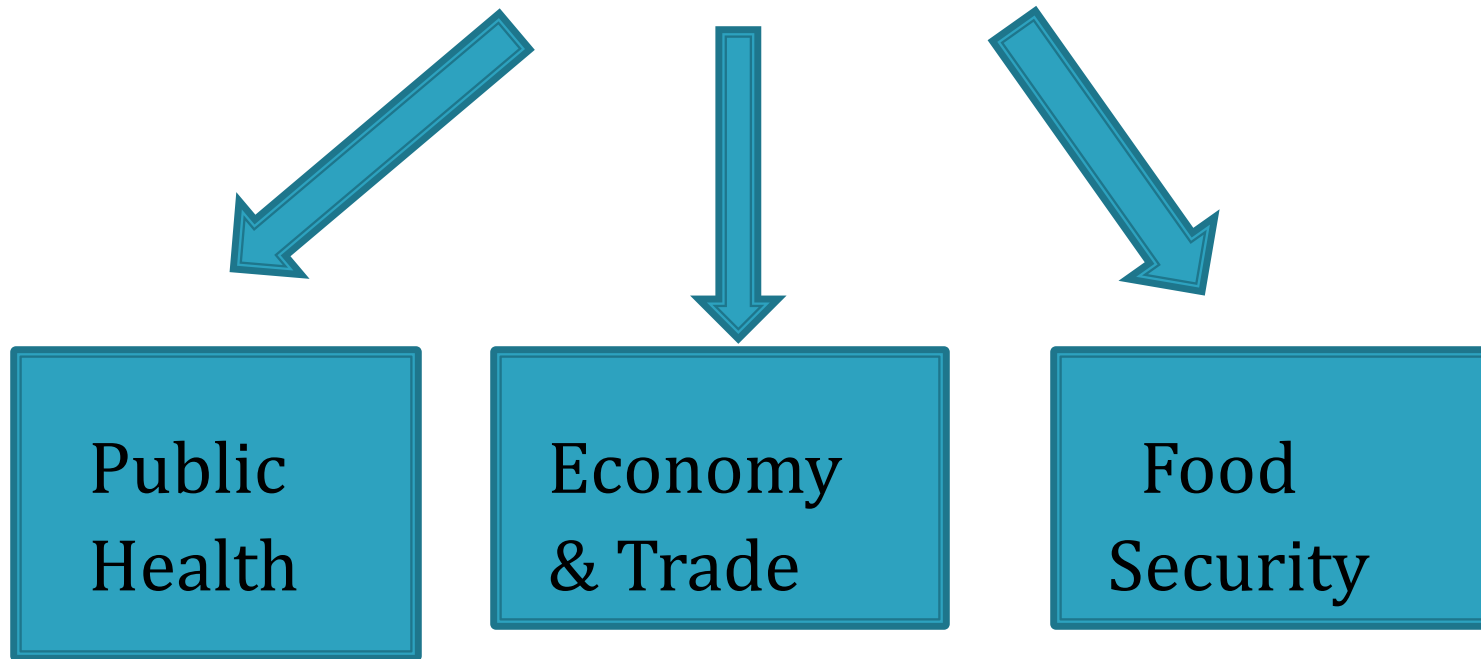
Food Safety Challenges

- ▶ 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



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



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Priority Areas

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



FSCF PTIN Expert Working Group

- ▶ Focus on improving laboratory capability through infrastructure improvements and training needs
 - Metrology
 - Sampling
 - Quality assurance
 - Analytical methods
 - Data analysis
 - Accreditation

FSCF Lab Capacity Building Efforts

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

FSCF Laboratory Capacity Building Efforts

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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