

STATEMENT

1st Annual Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) Conference:

Coming Together for a Global Public Good

The 1st Annual GFSP Conference convened at the World Bank Offices in Paris on December 10- 12, 2012, to launch the GFSP, report on progress to date and review future actions. The Conference brought together over 90 participants from some 50 organizations, including US FDA Commissioner Hamburg, EU DG-SANCO Deputy Director General Ladislav Miko, OIE DG Bernard Vallat, WHO Assistant DG Keiji Fukuda, New Zealand Ambassador to France H.E. Rosemary Banks, Consumer Goods Forum MD Jean-Marc Saubade, Grocery Manufacturers Association President and CEO Pam Bailey, senior representatives from Waters Corporation and Mars Inc., USAID, Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs, and a large number of other international organizations, trade associations, food producers, governments, universities and technical institutions, and the World Bank Group. Video messages were provided by UN Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition David Nabarro and World Bank Vice President Rachel Kyte; the meeting was opened by World Bank Director for Agriculture and Environmental Services Juergen Voegelé. The Conference was followed by two days of workshops addressing tools for assessing capacity for food safety systems in developing and middle income countries, development of curricula for undergraduate and graduate programs, and promotion of good agricultural practices on-farm and good aquaculture practices.

The Conference reflected a variety of perspectives, and provided an opportunity to develop the basis for a consensus on the fundamental need for enhanced capacity to ensure food safety from farm to fork with a focus on developing and middle income countries. The Partnership represents a new paradigm for collaboration across the public, private and service provider sectors, recognizing that all stakeholders have important roles to play in improving global food safety systems and supporting better access to domestic and global food markets.

The Conference devoted attention to several key issues:

Food Safety is a Global Public Good that requires local solutions in close collaboration between the public and private sectors, based on globally applicable principles. Improving food safety globally would contribute significantly to economic development, facilitating trade, improving public health, and mitigation of global food and nutrition security risks.

Progress in 2012 and planned for 2013. The Partnership has evolved from a World Bank -- APEC FSCF cooperation initiative to a broader and more inclusive global partnership as defined in the GFSP Indicative Roadmap and 5-year Action Plan. Key activities include:

- Training Program Implementation, with initial capacity building focused on (i) Supply Chain Management (SCM), (ii) Food Safety Incident Management, (iii) Laboratory Competency, (iv) Risk Analysis, (v) Food Safety Regulatory Systems, and (vi) On-farm Quality Assurance.
- Global Capacity Building Scaling Up, including country capacity building needs assessments. Food safety issues along the entire value chain would be addressed, including the farm level good agricultural practice and quality assurance programs in terms of raw material supply and market access to emphasize rural development impacts. The current capacity building needs assessment tools were the subject of a dedicated workshop just after the Conference.
- Program Facilitation, to provide management and administration of the GFSP through a small Secretariat hosted at the World Bank and supported by advisory Working Groups (WGs), and

annual Partnership Conferences that include all stakeholders. Program Facilitation also includes an Open Knowledge and Innovation Platform for effective capacity building and to provide state-of-the-art, up-to-date resources for the training and capacity building delivered under the GFSP.

Funding. Early backing from Waters Corporation, Mars Incorporated, and USAID totaling \$1.0M was instrumental in creating the partnership and delivering initial training activities. The Netherlands has pledged \$1 million to the GFSP. A new Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) is being established to raise at least \$45M for implementation of the Roadmap and 5-year workplan. The World Bank's Development Grant Facility (DGF) has committed \$400,000 for FY13, with potential for \$800,000 more over the next two years. Outreach to additional donors will continue, and interested parties are encouraged to contact the GFSP Secretariat for information on becoming a donor.

Advisory Working Groups (WGs) consisting of experts from public and private sectors and service providers would be formed as needed and tasked to provide technical input and expertise in the design and delivery of the work program. Initial WGs will provide critical guidance to the Secretariat during the first 5-year period for: (i) establishment of the Open Source IT Platform (ITWG); (ii) communications strategy (CWG); (iii) technical inputs for topics and content of competency-based training materials, quality control, service provision, and delivery systems (FSTWG); (iv) Monitoring, Quality Control, Coordination and Evaluation (MEWG); and (v) future Governance and Fund Raising (GWG). The ITWG, CWG and FSTWG would initially be facilitated by Massey University, funded by the DGF grant, while the MEWG and GWG would be facilitated by the Secretariat.

A number of organizations have agreed to collaborate in the near term to prepare a framing document to facilitate formation and operation of the working groups. The framing document would focus *inter alia* on the process for establishing the working groups, membership criteria, ToRs, operational options, and coordination across working groups. The framing document is expected to be completed by end February 2013, and the working groups should be populated and operational beginning March 2013.

In addition to the advisory working groups referenced above, the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) is leading an initiative by academia and other partners to identify gaps in food safety curricula, building capacity and establishing and harmonizing core competencies at the university and graduate levels.

Results. A comprehensive system will be developed with the advice of the MEWG to provide for analysis and metrics to evaluate food safety capacity building, the findings from which would inform further decision-making, resource allocation, funding priorities for the MDTF, WB lending, bilateral aid agency grant making, and other interventions. Specific case studies and analytical work would be carried out to evaluate the public health and economic impact of the GFSP and related capacity building programs at the national, regional and global levels.

The **2nd Annual GFSP Conference** will be held December 9-13, 2013 at a venue to be announced.

Paris, 12 December 2012