Briefing Note

Global Food Safety Partnership

The World Bank is facilitating the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) for food safety capacity building. The partnership will bring together stakeholders to collectively address critical capacity building gaps through the establishment of an innovative open source knowledge sharing community of practice.

The need for the Partnership is driven by the increasing globalization of the food supply, as developed countries procure more and more of their food ingredients and raw material from developing countries, where any food incident rapidly becomes a shared problem. Food safety capacity needs to be strengthened within the developing and emerging markets, as a global public good, and in order to safeguard global public health while promoting food security, international trade, and economic development. The GFSP would respond to pressing operational and country client demands, while building on the extensive work undertaken within the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and other organizations.

The new Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) would:

- Formally establish a **Public-Private Partnership** for capacity building to support good food safety practices across the global agri-food sector encompassing regulatory institutions, private enterprises, producers and other stakeholders. This first step would include establishment of a **new food safety multi-donor trust fund (MDTF)**.
- Address critical capacity building gaps in food safety through an open source knowledge sharing community of practice ("Food Safety Academy") based upon international standards, industry defined operational competencies and best practice, applied innovation and R&D support, and delivered in state-of-the-art and contextually appropriate manner with the best available IT platforms and hands-on delivery systems. These activities would draw on a global network of expertise from institutions and food safety professionals who could be mobilized to address high priority risks or threats identified at country, regional or international levels and provide an essential resource of trainers.
- Deliver a 5-year **work program** of demand-driven food safety projects and advisory services. An initial pilot series of training programs are being developed in partnership with APEC, leading with a training on food safety prerequisites and HACCP to be delivered in June 2012. Other training programs will focus on supply chain management, food safety incident management, laboratory competency, risk analysis and food safety regulatory systems. The GSFP program would also provide assistance for incident management for high priority food hazards, strengthen analytics and metrics, and provide for monitoring and evaluation of the Partnership.

Enlisting a wide range of stakeholders, including government, industry, educational institutions, non-government organizations (NGOs) and service providers, the new Partnership would form a catalytic mechanism for rapidly improving understanding and technical competencies that underpin the effective management of food safety throughout the food system, from farm to fork and across the globe. Improved competencies, capacities, protocols, and risk-based management systems and regulations will lead to cascading social and economic benefits – including better health and nutritional outcomes, reduced risk of food-borne hazards, expanded participation of farmers and producers into higher value and global food supply chains, reduction in poverty, and improved food security.

The audience for capacity building needs can be loosely summarized into four targeted areas of concern:

- Public regulators, inspectors and managers;
- Private sector agri-food processors, manufacturers and value chain players;
- Producers and associated on-farm food safety and quality assurance of raw materials;
- Third party food safety auditors, service providers, trainers and certification bodies.

The Partnership would facilitate access to the essential resources and delivery mechanisms that would allow stakeholders, participating organizations and end users to meet the relevant public and private standards and requirements for accreditation. The Partnership would support global food safety efforts, with defined programs that reflect regional and country specific priorities and opportunities. Pilot programs under the Global Food Safety Partnership would be developed and tested in several countries, and then customized for delivery elsewhere.