



# APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)

## September 2019 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events:

- **October 28-29, 2019** APEC Dairy Workshop to Identify Future Work on NTMs Affecting Trade (Beijing)
- **October 31-November 1, 2019** APEC Workshop to Identify Future Work on NTMs Affecting Grain Trade (Beijing)

### Upcoming work is expected in areas of:

- Enhancing MRL compliance and enforcement
- Development of guidance on general best practices, and risk communication with regard to MRL compliance, and modernization of food safety systems
- Antimicrobial resistance
- And continued work on streamlining the use of export certificates in the region through bilateral work with Peru.

The FSCF and the FSCF PTIN Steering Group will meet next in New Zealand in 2021 (date TBD)

Past workshop materials are available on the PTIN website:

[fscf-ptin.apec.org](http://fscf-ptin.apec.org)

**FSCF PTIN:** The APEC **Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)** is a public private partnership that helps APEC Member Economies anticipate, prevent, and manage food safety incidents to better assure the safety of the food chain and grow food trade in the Asia Pacific region. Working across borders, the FSCF PTIN engages the food industry and academics with regulators, to provide capacity building in food safety. The goal is to build the capacity of stakeholders in the supply chain in the use of international standards and best practices in food safety management from production to consumption, with a focus in five areas: incident management, supply chain management, laboratory capacity building, regulatory systems, and risk analysis.

**FSCF:** The **Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF)**, established in 2007 under the Sub-Committee for Standards and Conformance, seeks to facilitate trade in food while protecting public health and safety. This is done by strengthening food safety systems in the APEC region that are consistent with the WTO SPS and TBT Agreements. The Forum, which consists of APEC food safety regulators, is co-chaired by Australia and China.

### [Links to FSCF and FSCF PTIN Publications](#)

- [APEC Food Safety Modernization Framework to Facilitate Trade](#)
- [APEC FSCF PTIN: A Trade Facilitative Approach to Pesticide MRL Compliance](#)
- [APEC Compendium of Government Administration in Setting Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides](#)
- [APEC Import Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides Application Form](#)
- [Streamlining Export Certificate Requirements for Food Products in the APEC Region: Facilitating Trade and Improving Food Safety by Advancing Science-based International Standards](#)

### **Summary of the FSCF Meeting May 10, 2019**

The FSCF highlighted progress made towards meeting its food safety priorities and restated its commitment to work collaboratively to strengthen food safety systems and encourage the use of international standards across the APEC region. These are consistent with member economies' commitment under the World Trade Organization's Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade to both improve public health and to facilitate trade of safe food in the APEC region. FSCF members heard updates on FSCF PTIN capacity building efforts including Chile led work on antimicrobial resistance, US led work to identify mechanisms to reduce or streamline export certificates, US led work on the use of a scientific risk based approach to ensure food safety and facilitate trade in the APEC region as it relates to MRL compliance, a China led ecommerce workshop on cross border ecommerce and food safety (noting that members had not seen an increased food safety risk based on how food was purchased but would follow the growing use of ecommerce for food shipments), and noted the endorsement of the Australia led APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization and two implementation tools to support the uptake of the APEC Import MRL Guidelines for Pesticides. FSCF members expressed interest in potential additional capacity building efforts in the areas of antimicrobial resistance, MRL compliance and risk communication related to MRL compliance and modernization of food safety systems.

FSCF members agreed to an FSCF Statement which summarized the outcomes of the meeting and commitments for future work. To read the statement in its entirety click [here](#).

### **Summary of the FSCF PTIN Steering Group Meeting May 8, 2019**

The FSCF PTIN Steering Group recently met in Valparaiso Chile. Steering group members received an update regarding progress on the FSCF regulatory cooperation roadmaps on export certificates and pesticide maximum residue limits. They also heard from the Global Food Safety Partnership and the WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility regarding areas of potential collaboration. The FSCF PTIN recommitted to its original five priority capacity building areas of supply chain management, incident management, laboratory capacity building, risk analysis, and regulatory systems. The U.S. presented an update to the Mid-Term Review of the APEC Food Safety Capacity Building Initiative. The report evaluates the ongoing effectiveness of the FSCF PTIN to build capacity and influence policy and practice of food safety among APEC economies. Recommendations for the future include: agreement on medium-term priorities to guide work, agreement on performance indicators, published guidelines on how food industry can sponsor public-private FSCF PTIN events, clarifications on mandate and responsibilities of FSCF and PTIN respectively, and a broader FSCF PTIN mailing list. The report can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

The FSCF PTIN meets every two years on the margins of the FSCF meeting. The next meeting will be held in 2021 in New Zealand.

### **Summary of the FSCF PTIN Export Certificate Workshop May 8, 2019**

The U.S. led FSCF PTIN Export Certificate workshop was attended by 10 APEC economies as well as representatives from international organizations. The workshop provided an overview of the ten years of export certificate work to date in APEC under the FSCF Export Certificate Roadmap and updates to the APEC export certificate survey. While progress has been made under the model certificate for wine, in other areas progress is slower. Economies identified ways to streamline export certificate requirements, including eliminating duplication and ensuring the requirements are based on science and consistent with international guidance and commitments. Members agreed that certificate issues are still a concern in the region and more inter-session work is needed to move forward.

The United States will work with several pilot economies, starting with Peru, to continue work on streamlining the use of export certificate requirements and applying best practices. Because 2020 marks the end of the export certificate roadmap timeframe, at the 2021 FSCF PTIN meeting economies will assess progress and share what they have done in moving their economy towards streamlining of export certificate requirements.

Click [here](#) to view the export certificate brochure.

## **FSCF Expert Workshops on Trade Facilitation through Harmonization of Pesticide MRLs**

Differences between APEC member economies' pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs) for food or raw materials present a barrier to trade of food products in the APEC region. This FSCF project, self-funded by Australia, aims to facilitate trade of food products in the APEC region through harmonization of import MRLs for pesticides among APEC member economies specifically via the development of two practical tools. The first is a database that captures relevant information about government administration of regulatory import MRLs for pesticides in APEC member economies and the other is a template that describes the necessary information that will enable an import MRL request to be raised to any APEC member economy. These will assist food importers in applying to APEC member economies to establish import MRLs for pesticides associated with a food or a raw material for food that is to be traded in the APEC region.

- **Summary of the First Expert Workshop: Haikou, China, April 5-6, 2018**

At the Haikou workshop, APEC economy delegates and international experts collaborated to develop the two practical tools, consulted with APEC member economies about the implementation of those tools, and worked to reach consensus on an approval system for requests on import MRLs for pesticides as well as the tools developed. The tools are complementary to the *APEC Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides - a guideline on possible approaches to achieve alignment of international MRLs* and is part of the FSCF Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap for MRLs.

View workshop report and presentations [here](#)

- **Summary of the MRL Survey and Second Expert Workshop: Brisbane, Australia, October 9-12, 2018**

The workshop was attended by eighteen APEC economies and resulted in two practical tools to support the *APEC Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides - a guideline on possible approaches to achieve alignment of international MRLs*. View the *Guideline* [here](#). The tools were an APEC Compendium which provides a "snapshot" of government administrations in setting MRLs for pesticides, and an APEC Import MRL Application Form which describes the common elements of an import MRL application for pesticides in an imported food to be raised with any APEC member economy. Finalization of these two practical tools was subject to two rounds of verification where APEC economies verified the accuracy and completeness of the information provided to the Compendium. The two tools have subsequently been published on the APEC website.

- **Summary of the Third Expert Workshop: Valparaiso, Chile May 9, 2019**

At the Valparaiso workshop, APEC economies and international experts discussed the two implementation tools developed to facilitate harmonization of import MRLs and explored future steps to facilitate MRL harmonization. The two digital tools included the *APEC Import Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides Application Form* and the *APEC Compendium of Government Administration in Setting Maximum Residue Limits in Pesticides*. Participants agreed to work on further efforts that enhance MRL compliance and enforcement to support trade of safe food across the APEC region. The event concluded with discussion of potential next steps which could include development of a communication tool for policy makers on the APEC MRL work, additional work on MRL compliance, risk communication efforts and economy-specific capacity building to increase uptake of the compendium and MRL template tool. To view the application click [here](#) and to view the compendium click [here](#).

## **FSCF Expert Meetings on Trade Facilitation through an APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization**

The project aims to develop an 'APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization' (the Framework) to assist economies in modernizing their food safety systems while facilitating trade. The Framework includes principles and guidelines to food safety modernization outlining approaches to apply transparent, risk-based food safety controls based on international standards, such as those established by Codex Alimentarius Commission. The work is self-funded by Australia.

- **Summary of the First Expert Meeting: Hanoi, Viet Nam, November 15-17, 2017**

The first meeting of the FSCF project outlined a draft and key principles of the Framework and roadmap. The three-day expert meeting was attended by 48 participants from thirteen APEC member economies and five NGOs. The aim was to establish the purpose, scope, principles and key content of an APEC framework and roadmap on food safety modernization and reach consensus on the core elements of the project.

Over the course of three days, the expert participants discussed the changing landscape of food safety and trade in the APEC region, and created a draft roadmap for the progress of food safety modernization in APEC economies. The participants were then briefed on the process and outcome of the Western Pacific Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety. The meeting concluded with participants agreeing on a draft framework in preparation for the second expert meeting in Port Moresby, PNG.

View workshop report and presentations [here](#)

- **Summary of the Second Expert Meeting: Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, May 21-22, 2018**

The project was continued at SOM2 in Port Moresby, PNG with further consultations among APEC member economies to build consensus on the Framework. The twelve economies in attendance narrowed the draft's focus to food safety regulatory systems.

- **Summary of the Third Expert Meeting: Shanghai, China, November 5-7, 2018**

The meeting was attended by 12 APEC economies with the purpose to finalize the APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization. The Framework was successfully agreed to in principle, pending another round of the review of the final text. A preliminary digital design of the Framework was also presented to the meeting which was well received. Possible outreach and next steps include: translating the Framework into other languages, exploring future opportunities to collaborate with international bodies, developing an action plan to increase uptake of the Framework, and incorporating the framework into the long-term vision of the FSCF.

For a complete summary of the workshop click [here](#).

- **Summary of the Fourth Expert Meeting: Valparaiso, Chile, May 9, 2019**

The workshop aimed to demonstrate the completed APEC Framework on Food Safety Modernization to Facilitate Trade, promote the use of the Framework among member economies and explore future steps in food safety modernization or enhancement within APEC region. It was noted that modernization efforts have resulted not only in food safety improvements, but in tangible economic benefits to stakeholders as well. Key points noted were: i) the need for modernization work to be guided by international standards from Codex, encompassing a whole of food chain approach, including all relevant stakeholders; ii) the importance of using a risk-based approach to ensure that border management is coordinated across competent authorities; and iii) recognizing the need for continuous improvement.

To read the framework click [here](#).

## **Summary of the APEC FSCF Workshop on Trade Facilitation by Ensuring a Safer Food Supply through Cross-Border E-Commerce May 6-7, 2019**

China hosted a two-day workshop focusing on the current state of cross border e-commerce food trade via air transportation. Prior to the workshop, China established an electronic working group to gather responses to a questionnaire regarding economies experiences with e-commerce and food trade. China then produced a report and circulated it to all economies prior to the workshop. The workshop featured the experiences from a number of economies regarding the current state of e-commerce in their economies and shipments of food through ecommerce. China is currently working on developing a final report for the workshop.

## **Summary of the APEC CTI Workshop on Promoting Transparency through the Improvement of Information Submitted in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notification**

Peru hosted a two-day workshop through the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment to discuss misalignment between business and government perspectives on how SPS measures are notified. The workshop took place on August 22-23, 2019 in Puerto Varas, Chile. Economies discussed three areas related to the WTO SPS Notification system: (1) challenges faced by the public sector; (2) challenges facing the private sector, and (3) sources of information for improving stakeholder for improving stakeholders understanding of WTO notifications. Participants discussed the need for increased transparency and challenges faced when attempting to navigate the notification system. Main challenges for all sectors included: lack of complete information on the notification; language barriers; ambiguity; and lack of harmonization. Economies discussed the contents of the SPS chapters of their FTAs, focusing on SPS plus transparency obligations. Peru presented the outcomes from the Study of APEC Economies' (SPS) Notifications on Quality and Completeness of Information that was the basis for the workshop. To read the study click [here](#).

### ***Other News***

- The Food Safety Magazine released an article highlighting the role of the APEC FSCF PTIN entitled [The Role of Public Private Collaborations in Global Food Safety](#).

### **For More Information**

For more information on food safety activities in APEC, including links to past workshop materials and training materials, please visit:

**[fscf-ptin.apec.org](http://fscf-ptin.apec.org)**