

Effective Strategies for Laboratory Capacity Building for Food Safety
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Food Control Conference
Ha Noi, Viet Nam, Oct 4-5, 2018

Food safety has been a global concern, but the mutual dependence of countries near and far arising from the global trade of food has brought about a need for an effective and efficient action plan to build capacity where it is insufficient, unstable or otherwise compromised. The food industry, especially the larger manufacturers and processors, has reacted by increasingly relying on the application of novel technologies deployed in a preventive holistic approach to accurately meet the requirements for regulatory compliance and quickly identify any divergence from these requirements and its root cause.

However, regulatory agencies in a majority of countries around the world cannot afford to move as fast in their efforts to ensure the safety of the food produced in their territory and preserve “their brand”. Many international organizations have been tasked to support capacity building for food safety and food security with very large investments from the traditional donors and great strides have been realized from these efforts. In recent years, multi-stakeholder programs have shown great potential for bridging the gap between development assistance and business in the world of food safety. Indeed, capacity building for food safety is a development goal, but it is also a business transaction.

In this presentation, we will discuss some of the economic incentives that make food trade a development tool and a good business decision using case studies. A framework for laboratory capacity building prioritization developed for the APEC region will be presented and the importance of public-private partnerships, of industry input and of long term planning will be discussed. Finally, some of the creative solutions that have enabled greater impacts for projects will be presented.