



INTERNATIONAL FOOD CONTROL CONFERENCE 2026

15th - 17th October 2026, Ha Noi - Viet Nam



Biography

Full name, Title: M.Sc. Penelope Kirsch

Position: Food Safety Technical Specialist

Affiliation: Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food
Office (IPAAO), Embassy of Canada



Penelope Kirsch holds a Master of Science in Biology from Dalhousie University (1997) and joined the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in 2008. During her time in Ottawa, she served as Chief of the National Microbiological Monitoring Program and as a Technical Risk Assessor within the Office of Food Safety and Recalls. Since 2010, she has actively contributed to the development and review of international food safety guidance through the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

Prior to joining the federal government, Penelope worked as a chemical analyst and later as a quality assurance officer for a private laboratory specializing in pesticide residue analysis.

In October 2023, Penelope was appointed Food Safety Technical Specialist with the Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food office. In this role, she works across the Indo-Pacific region delivering technical assistance, capacity-building initiatives, and training for food safety regulators. She views this work as a natural extension of her longstanding involvement with Codex, supporting developing countries in strengthening their food safety systems and enhancing regulatory capacity to protect public health.