



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

INFOSAN ACTIVITY REPORT

2016 | 2017



INTERNATIONAL
FOOD SAFETY
AUTHORITIES
NETWORK



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Foreword

An increasingly interconnected global food supply means that risks posed by unsafe food have the potential to rapidly evolve from a local problem to an international emergency. Ensuring food safety is therefore an important component to consider in the broader context of achieving global health security.

While international food trade brings many benefits to consumers and contributes significantly to economic development, new challenges are constantly presented to food safety authorities around the world. Recent experiences, including the large and protracted outbreak of listeriosis in South Africa, have demonstrated that with the increased volume of food products traded globally, comes an increased risk of the spread of foodborne pathogens and contaminants across national borders. This necessitates more efficient information sharing among national food safety authorities from different countries.

Since 2004, the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) has facilitated the rapid exchange of information across borders and between members, during hundreds of food safety events.

As a member-driven, global network, INFOSAN has proven to be a practical, effective and efficient tool for information exchange, allowing for the implementation of risk management measures to prevent foodborne illness and save lives.

When faced with an urgent food safety issue, the ability to draw on the experiences of others is a major asset; members are encouraged to utilize the INFOSAN Community Website to connect with each other directly.

Safe food is critical, not only for better health, improved livelihoods and food security, but also for economic development, trade and the international reputation of every country. Efforts to improve food safety should therefore be strengthened through public health and development policies, especially as we look towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Together, we must work to scale up and mainstream food safety in national and international political agendas.

Commitment to active participation in INFOSAN is one important way in which national government agencies can demonstrate their dedication to improving food safety around the world.

All INFOSAN Members are encouraged to actively participate in INFOSAN by:

- Reporting urgent food safety events of potential international significance to the INFOSAN Secretariat;
- Responding to information requests from the INFOSAN Secretariat during the verification and assessment of events by providing all necessary information;
- Requesting international assistance through the INFOSAN Secretariat to respond to food safety events as necessary;
- Taking action on INFOSAN Alerts and disseminate information accordingly;
- Collaborating with their respective National IHR Focal Point on food safety events; and
- Sharing experiences and best practices related to food safety emergency management, so that all members can learn from one another.



Renata Clarke
Head, Food Safety and Quality Unit
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Rome, Italy



Kazuaki Miyagishima
Director, Department of Food Safety
and Zoonoses
World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland

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Abbreviations

AMRO	WHO Regional Office for the Americas
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASTF	Africa Solidarity Trust Fund
AU	African Union
AUFSMCM	African Union Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism
BAFRA	The Royal Government of Bhutan, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority
BFSA	Bangladesh Food Safety Authority
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CIFSQ	China International Food Safety and Quality
CIFST	Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology
CPLP	Community of Portuguese Language Countries
DFTQC	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EHEC	Enterohemorrhagic <i>Escherichia coli</i>
EREN	Emerging Risks Exchange Network
EU	European Union
EURO	WHO Regional Office for Europe
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IAFP	International Association of Food Protection
ICW	INFOSAN Community Website
IHR (2005)	International Health Regulations (2005)
INFOSAN	International Food Safety Authorities Network
IUFoST	International Union of Food Science and Technology
JEE	Joint External Evaluation

MOHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
NCC	National Codex Committee
NGS	Next-Generation Sequencing
NTU	Nanyang Technological University
NUS	National University of Singapore
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
RASFF ECCP	European Commission Contact Point
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SEARO	WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia
United Kingdom	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
US FDA	United States Food and Drug Administration
USA	United States of America (the)
WHO	World Health Organization
WPRO	WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific

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