



INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITIES NETWORK (INFOSAN)

# INFOSAN ACTIVITY REPORT



2011

---

2012



World Health  
Organization



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

INFOSAN activity report 2011-2012.

1.Food contamination - prevention and control. 2.Consumer product safety. 3.Food supply - standards. 4.Food analysis - standards. 5.International cooperation. 6.Program evaluation. I.World Health Organization. II.Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

ISBN (FAO) 978-92-5-107748-1 (print)

E-ISBN (FAO) 978-92-5-107749-8 (PDF)

ISBN (WHO) 978 92 4 150550 5

(NLM classification: WA 701)

## © WHO and FAO, 2013

All rights reserved. WHO and FAO encourage the use, reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product. Except where otherwise indicated, material may be copied, downloaded and printed for private study, research and teaching purposes, provided that appropriate acknowledgement of WHO and FAO as the source and copyright holder is given and that WHO and FAO's endorsement of users' views, products or services is not implied in any way.

Publications of the World Health Organization are available on the WHO web site ([www.who.int](http://www.who.int)) or can be purchased from WHO Press, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (tel.: +41 22 791 3264; fax: +41 22 791 4857; e-mail: [bookorders@who.int](mailto:bookorders@who.int)). Requests for permission to reproduce or translate WHO publications – whether for sale or for noncommercial distribution – should be addressed to WHO Press through the WHO web site ([http://www.who.int/about/licensing/copyright\\_form/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/about/licensing/copyright_form/en/index.html)).

All requests for translation and adaptation rights, and for resale and other commercial use rights should be made via [www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request](http://www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request) or addressed to [copyright@fao.org](mailto:copyright@fao.org).

FAO information products are available on the FAO website ([www.fao.org/publications](http://www.fao.org/publications)) and can be purchased through [publications-sales@fao.org](mailto:publications-sales@fao.org)

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) or of the World Health Organization (WHO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these are or have been endorsed or recommended by FAO or WHO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by FAO and WHO to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall FAO and WHO be liable for damages arising from its use.

The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of FAO or WHO.

Printed in Switzerland

INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITIES NETWORK (INFOSAN)

# INFOSAN ACTIVITY REPORT



2011

---

2012



**World Health  
Organization**



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



# FOREWORD

*The global nature and growing complexity of the food chain means that risks posed by unsafe foods have the potential to quickly evolve from a local problem to an international incident at an increasingly rapid pace. Ensuring food safety is therefore an important component to consider in the broader context of achieving public health security around the world.*

*While international trade of foods brings many benefits to consumers and contributes significantly to economic development, new challenges are constantly presented to food safety authorities around the world. Experience in the recent past demonstrates that with the increased volume of foods traded globally, comes an increased risk of the spread of foodborne pathogens and contaminants across national borders. This necessitates more efficient sharing of food safety information among national food safety authorities from different countries.*

*The need to build closer links among food safety authorities internationally is well recognized by FAO and WHO. Since 2004, the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) has provided an important platform for the rapid exchange of information in the case of food safety crises and for sharing data on both recurrent and emerging food safety issues.*

*It is therefore imperative that we continue to work towards strengthening INFOSAN through active participation and exchange of information during international food safety emergencies.*

*2011 and 2012 have seen several large-scale food safety events including the outbreak of Enterohemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC) in Germany linked to internationally-distributed sprouted seeds, as well as the food safety concerns that arose after an earthquake and tsunami damaged a nuclear facility in Japan. During these events and many others, we were all reminded of how interconnected our food supply is. At the same time, swift action among INFOSAN members facilitated sharing of information to inform risk management decisions around the globe, ensuring food safety and protecting public health.*

*When faced with an urgent issue, the ability to draw on the experiences of others is a major asset. With the launch of the new INFOSAN Community Website in 2012, communicating with food safety experts from around the world has never been easier.*

*Through our collaborative efforts and enhanced participation in INFOSAN we will be able to safeguard our global food supply. We can do it – but only if we continue to work together.*



**Ren Wang**  
Assistant Director General  
Agriculture and Consumer  
Protection Department  
Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the United  
Nations



**Kazuaki Miyagishima**  
Director  
Department of Food Safety and  
Zoonoses  
World Health Organization

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Acronyms   | 1  |
| Executive Summary  | 2  |
| INFOSAN 2011 – 2012  | 2  |
| Introduction   | 4  |
| Network Membership   | 5  |
| Overview   | 5  |
| Geographical Distribution of Membership and Representation by Sector | 5  |
| Expansion of INFOSAN Membership                                      | 7  |
| Roles and Responsibilities of Network Members                        | 7  |
| INFOSAN Activities   | 9  |
| Routine Activities   | 9  |
| Emergency Activities   | 12 |
| Major New Initiatives  | 19 |
| Raising the Profile of INFOSAN                                       | 21 |
| INFOSAN in the scholarly literature                                  | 21 |
| INFOSAN at international conferences and university training courses | 21 |
| Conclusion and Future Directions                                     | 22 |
| Appendices   | 23 |
| Appendix A – INFOSAN Events 2011                                     | 23 |
| Appendix B – INFOSAN Events 2012                                     | 28 |
| Appendix C – Length of INFOSAN events 2011                           | 33 |
| Appendix D – Length of INFOSAN events 2012                           | 36 |
| Contact Information  | 39 |
| WHO INFOSAN Secretariat  | 39 |
| FAO INFOSAN Focal Point  | 39 |

## Acronyms

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>AFRO</b>          | WHO Regional Office for Africa  |
| <b>AMRO</b>          | WHO Regional Office for the Americas                                      |
| <b>APEC</b>          | Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation   |
| <b>CAC</b>           | Codex Alimentarius Commission   |
| <b>DRC</b>           | Democratic Republic of the Congo  |
| <b>ECDC</b>          | European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control                        |
| <b>EFSA</b>          | European Food Safety Authority  |
| <b>EMPRES</b>        | Emergency Prevention System Food Safety                                   |
| <b>EMRO</b>          | WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean                         |
| <b>EURO</b>          | WHO Regional Office for Europe  |
| <b>EWRS</b>          | Early Warning and Response System   |
| <b>FAO</b>           | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations                   |
| <b>FOS</b>           | Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses                                    |
| <b>FSCF</b>          | Food Safety Cooperation Forum   |
| <b>GFN</b>           | Global Foodborne Infections Network                                       |
| <b>GLEWS</b>         | Global Early Warning System for Major Animal Diseases, including Zoonoses |
| <b>GOARN</b>         | Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network                                |
| <b>Hong Kong SAR</b> | Hong Kong Special Administrative Region                                   |
| <b>HQ</b>            | Headquarters  |
| <b>IHR</b>           | International Health Regulations  |
| <b>INFOSAN</b>       | International Food Safety Authorities Network                             |
| <b>Lao PDR</b>       | Lao People's Democratic Republic  |
| <b>OIE</b>           | World Organisation for Animal Health                                      |
| <b>RASFF</b>         | Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed                                      |
| <b>SEARO</b>         | WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia                                   |
| <b>UAE</b>           | United Arab Emirates  |
| <b>UK</b>            | United Kingdom (the)  |
| <b>USA</b>           | United States of America (the)  |
| <b>WHO</b>           | World Health Organization   |
| <b>WPRO</b>          | WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific                               |

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Executive Summary

### INFOSAN 2011 – 2012

To date, 181 Member States<sup>1</sup> (plus 10 Associate Member States, areas or territories) have joined INFOSAN since the launch of the Network in 2004. With 194 Member States belonging to WHO and FAO in total, the INFOSAN Secretariat will continue to encourage Member States to join INFOSAN until Emergency Contact Points and Focal Points have been designated in each. While the process to designate INFOSAN members at the national level is important, active participation of designated members through registration on the INFOSAN Community Website is vital.

The INFOSAN Community Website, launched in 2012, is the new online platform which provides a secure forum for exchanging important information related to food safety emergencies, routine surveillance data, lessons learned from outbreaks of foodborne illness, etc. It is also used by the INFOSAN Secretariat to disseminate INFOSAN Alerts during food safety emergencies of potential international concern. Those members who have not yet registered on the website will continue to be encouraged to do so.

Data from the online registration form has been used to compile summary statistics about which sectors are represented and in what proportions by INFOSAN members. To date, the majority (41% of INFOSAN Emergency Contact Points and 32% of INFOSAN Focal Points) report being based in an authority responsible for food safety, followed by health (32% of INFOSAN Emergency Contact Points and 27% of INFOSAN Focal Points). Many members also report being based in an authority with overlapping responsibilities covering food safety, human health, agriculture, etc. With the recent extension of invitations to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) National Focal Points for Food Safety (from national veterinary authorities), it is expected that more members will join from the animal health sector in the future (19 OIE National Focal Points for Food Safety have joined INFOSAN to date).

During 2011 and 2012, efforts were made to increase collaborative partnerships with other international networks, initiatives and agencies including the European Commission's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), for example. Strengthening collaboration at the national level between INFOSAN Emergency Contact Points and National Focal Points of the International Health Regulations

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_28135](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_28135)

