

New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre

Newsletter - 2

Update on work completed over the last month

With the help of the industry participants, we have completed the first round of sector workshops. These were aimed at understanding food safety research needs from an industry perspective. Five workshops were held (meat and dairy in Wellington, horticulture and processing and manufacturing in Auckland and seafood in Nelson), attended by over 60 representatives from industry as well as MPI, MBIE and research partners.

Using a co-innovation model, participants from industry, government and research providers discussed sector issues and shared their expectations of the NZFSSRC. Sector responses have been collated. These will inform subsequent workshops and the development of the Research Plan. A summary of the notes from each sector workshops has been sent to each participant and they are encouraged to disseminate this information where appropriate to others in their sectors, as well as to provide feedback to Nigel French.

We would like to thank all participants that have sent us feedback so far. This is a unique opportunity, as your contribution will play an integral role in shaping the future of New Zealand food safety research activities.

In addition to the sector workshops we have been continuing to engage with other key stakeholders in trans-Tasman organisations, including Food Safety Australia New Zealand (<http://www.foodstandards.govt.nz>) and the Fresh Produce Safety Centre Australia and New Zealand (<http://freshproducesafety-anz.com/>), to make sure our work is aligned with their activities. We are planning a number of other activities related to our international strategy.

The next step is the cross sector workshop to be held on the 17th March at Te Papa in Wellington. If you have not been invited and would like to attend please inform Lorraine Bergen (L.Bergen@massey.ac.nz). The goal of this workshop is to co-create the Centre's strategic, business and research plans. This will be followed by research theme workshops to detail the research programmes with industry, government and research providers. These will be held in April, the dates and venues to be decided.

Activities running in parallel:

- An inventory of relevant food safety expertise, equipment and other resources across all research and industry organisations in New Zealand
- An inventory of ongoing food safety research in New Zealand
- Development of the international strategy
- Consultation with medical and veterinary professions/ public health professionals
- Consultation and implementation of the Vision Mātauranga plan
- Following a process involving industry and Government, finalise the composition of governance and operational roles within the Centre
- Appoint members of the Stakeholder Consultation/Advisory Group
- Appoint members of the International Science Advisory Group

How can you get involved/ stay involved?

- If you would like to attend any of the workshops, and have not already informed us, please let us know, either by contacting Nigel French directly (details below), or Lorraine Bergen (L.Bergen@massey.ac.nz).
- Please circulate this email to others who may be interested and provide us with email addresses for inclusion in our database of stakeholders
- If you have any comments or suggestions on our process and plans for developing the NZ Food Safety Centre, please contact Nigel French.

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