Building an international consortium in risk analysis for Latin America

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• WHY  Background
• WHO  FSRisk Consortium
• WHAT  Mission, Vision and Objectives
• HOW  Hybrid capacity-building program
WHY?

• Latin America is one of the largest food production and exports region
• Disparity in food safety regulations
• Severe budget restrictions in regulatory bodies
• Overwhelming increase in artisanal and small-size food establishments
• Lack of technical support against export market restrictions and emerging risks
• Demand to modernize the food inspection and surveillance systems: efficient, risk- and evidence-based
Survey 2013: Status of risk analysis knowledge and implementation in Latin America

Commerce was the main driver
Disparate level of implementation

Progress (5 yrs.)

- Red de Seguridad Alimentaria-RSA (Argentina)
  - rsa.conicet.gob.ar

- Chilean Food Safety Agency-ACHIPIA (Chile)
  - achipia.gob.cl

- Risk Assessment Unit-ERIA (Colombia)
  - ins.gov.co/Direccioness/Vigilancia/Paginas/Evaluacion-de-Riesgos-en-Inocuidad-de-Alimentos-(ERIA).aspx
WHY?

• Coordinated effort between international/regional agencies and universities

• TO AVOID:
  • Duplicity
  • Lack of harmonization = Confusion

• TO ACHIEVE:
  • Shared resources and expertise
  • Standardized curriculum
FSRisk Consortium

- Develop a food safety risk analysis training program for LAC countries
- Create a cadre of food safety risk analysis trainers in the region
- Establish new collaborative programs and information exchange
WHAT? FSRISK expertise

- Chemical and biological
- Quantitative methods and tools

- Risk assessment

- Risk profiles
- Risk ranking
- Risk-based inspection

- Risk management

- Risk communication plan

- Risk communication

HARMONIZED CURRICULUM
AVOIDING THE “ONE-HIT” TRAINING PANDEMIA

HOW?
From manuals to e-learning

Guidance
• Assessment
• Management
• Communication

Online modules
• Basic
• Advanced

In-person
• Hands-on
• WORKshop
• Trainers

In-country projects

Hybrid model
HOW? Guidance documents

• Risk analysis principles (Spanish and English, in progress)
• Microbial risk assessment (Spanish, in progress)
  • Microbial risk assessment tools & software
  • Case studies from the region
• Risk-based inspection (English, future)
  • Develop a risk-based food inspection system
  • Catalyze harmonization and equivalency
• Risk communication (Spanish, future)
  • Develop a risk communication plan for Ministries
HOW? Training program

• Hybrid capacity-building program
  • Online (online platform) with course modules
  • In-person for hands-on activities
  • Trainers in countries to further disseminate the information

• Development of in-country projects
  • Impactful projects with multi-sectorial involvement
  • Mentoring for project development
PROGRESSVET (U OF MN)

• Programa Regional de Educación Sistemática de Servicios Veterinarios in LATAM
• Online modules based on OIE veterinary competencies
• In-person meetings beginning and end
• Participants must have a project before starting
• Mentoring during the program
• http://progressvet.umn.edu/
HOW? Budget model

• In-kind time and internal funding
• Courses free of charge & fee for the certificate
  • Similar to other FSMA-related alliances
• Looking for additional funding sources
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Modernize the food inspection systems (efficient and risk-based)
2. Promote the development of technical documents that support decision-making
3. Improve risk communication at the government level
FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

• Create a network of food safety agencies/units in the region in risk analysis
• Joint risk assessments that affect several countries
• Provide independent support for countries
• Website
Thank you!
Gracias!
Obrigado!