

Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium: CY23 Action Plan

The Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC), established in response to Executive Order 13100 and re-chartered¹ in 2011, is a network of federal agencies with responsibilities and interests in the conduct and use of food safety risk assessment. IRAC provides a forum to support cross-agency information exchange and sharing of data, tools, and models to facilitate efficient use of federal resources and drive innovation in food safety risk assessment. The overall goal of IRAC's CY23 action plan is to advance the conduct and application of food safety risk assessment across the federal government. In 2022, the IRAC Member Survey Workgroup developed and implemented a survey of current and former IRAC member representatives to evaluate the relevancy of current IRAC activities and identify potential changes to consider for the future. The survey results led to several recommendations to improve communication, reflected in the proposal for two new workgroups as noted below.

OBJECTIVE 1. Enhanced Governance and Operation of the IRAC

- Hold four Technical Committee meetings to facilitate cross-agency information exchanges among the federal agencies and offices.
- Hold two Policy Council meetings to facilitate interagency strategic planning and support shared evaluation of the performance of the IRAC.

OBJECTIVE 2. Strengthen Outreach and Engagement

- Form a workgroup to enhance IRAC member participation to include involving junior agency staff in IRAC activities and a strategy to recruit new agencies and ensure engagement with current IRAC member agencies.
- Form a workgroup to review the IRAC website and make recommendations to improve it, in consideration of the survey responses on how the website is/is not currently used.

OBJECTIVE 3. Facilitate Information Exchange and Sharing Tools, Data, and Models

- Share two or more data sets, models, and/or related tools developed by federal agencies on Foodrisk.org.
- Conduct at least one interagency technical/scientific review of risk assessment reports, models and/or related tools.

¹ 2011 IRAC Charter available at: <http://foodrisk.org/irac/charter>
