Industry-Government Collaboration in Food Safety – The Canadian Approach

STDF/LNV/World Bank Workshop on "Public–Private Partnerships in Support of Sanitary and Phytosanity (SPS) Capacity"
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Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition

• Established – December 2000, incorporated August 2007

• **Our Vision:** Canada’s agriculture, fisheries and food industry will have a world-class reputation for producing and selling safe food.

• **Our Mission:** To facilitate, through dialogue within the food industry and with all levels of government, the development and implementation of a national, coordinated approach to food safety to ensure credibility in domestic and international marketplaces.
CSCFSC Membership & Activities

• Membership
  • Open to national, provincial & regional or local associations
  • Represents all segments -- input suppliers through to final marketers
  • Allied members – service providers

• Activities
  • Policy development
  • Advocacy
  • Pandemic/Emergency/Critical Infrastructure Planning
Presentation Mandate

• Focus on mechanisms/modalities of the PPPs in Canada
  • How they emerged?
  • Challenges and obstacles?
  • Outcomes, benefits and lessons learned?
  • Can they be replicated elsewhere?
PPPs in Canada

- Wide range of examples
  - Grading (Canada Beef Grading Agency)
  - Pedigreed seeds (Canadian Seeds Institute)
  - Traceability (Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, Agri-Traçabilité Québec, On-Trace, Can-Trace)

- Food Safety
Industry-led Food Safety in Canada

• Development started in mid-1990’s
• Collaborative effort initially between national farm organizations & federal government
• Evolved to include full supply chain & provincial governments after 2000
• **Major Principles/Objectives**
  • National HACCP-based programs (Codex principles & a common tool-kit/approach)
  • Industry-led, commodity or segment specific
  • Technically sound & administratively effective
  • Market driven implementation
  • Government recognized & Internationally Accepted
Result: 34 Food Safety Schemes

- **On-farm:** 21 commodity-based programs
  - Livestock (8), Poultry (6), Horticulture (3), Grains, oilseeds, pulses & special crops (1), Honey (1), Aquaculture (2)

- **Off-farm** (13):
  - Inputs (1): Feed mills
  - Food Products (5): Bottled water, Brewers, Ice, Vintners, Spices
  - Distribution (4): Fresh produce repackers & wholesalers, Retail distribution centres, Retail stores, Food banks,
  - Services (3): Trucking (10 modules), Packaging (6 modules), Water & wastewater
Produce supply chain integration

- Site specific HACCP (red)
- HACCP-based Program (green)
Scheme Development

• National Strategy
  • Stakeholder commitment

• Technical Requirements
  • Generic Hazard Analysis (HACCP model)
  • Prerequisite Programs (GAPs, GHPs, GTPs, etc)
  • CCPs & other requirements

• Implementation Tools/Training for Users

• Scheme Management System
Government Recognition - 1

- Canadian Programs a World’s First
- Two Programs
  - National On-Farm Food Safety Recognition Program
  - National Post-Farm Food Safety Recognition Program
- Based on a Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Ministerial Agreement (2001)
- Designed by Industry & Government
- Consistent with Codex & ISO concepts
- Lead by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) with Provincial & Territorial Participation
Government Recognition - 2

- Step-wise Process
  - Detailed Program Manuals & Requirements
  - Clear timeframes for process
  - Application
  - Screening
  - Team Selection (CFIA leader/FPT experts)
  - Desktop Review by Team Members
  - Team Input & Comment Compilation
  - Face-to-Face Meeting (Team & Applicant)
  - Industry Response to adjustment requests
  - Team Recommendation
  - Letter of Completion
Government Recognition - 3

- Step-wise Process continued
  - 3rd Party Audit of National Program/Scheme Implementation
- Final Government Assessment
- Letter of Recognition – provided by CFIA
- On-going Monitoring
  - Regular updating of technical requirements
  - 3rd Party Program/Scheme audit cycle
Challenges and obstacles?

• Initial buy-in – “food safety is not my problem”
• Development Funding – industry/government partnerships starting in 1997 & continuing
• Implementation:
  • Lack of human resources (trainers, auditors, etc)
  • Limited Funding (training & investment)
  • Limited Market Demand – changing now
• Sustainability
  • Limited revenue from certifications
  • Cost of maintaining technical requirements
Outcomes, benefits & lessons learned?

- National commodity/sector schemes – food safety is “noncompetitive”
- Integration – schemes based on a common approach (Codex, ISO, Canadian requirements)
- Mutual recognition along the supply chain
- Farm/Firm acceptance of industry-led programs
- Government acceptance – full partner from start (concept, funding, development, recognition)
- Internationally competitive – customer recognition, demonstrated acceptance by GFSI
Can they be replicated elsewhere?

- Industry-led Food Safety Schemes
  - Rigorous model
  - Clearly mapped approach
  - Tools available (including development training module)
  - Many Canadian schemes willing to share

- Government Recognition
  - Rigorous model
  - Based on Codex & ISO
  - Canadian government willing to share
Coalition Members

**National Organizations**
- CropLife Canada
- Canadian Animal Health Institute
- Canadian Trucking Alliance
- Animal Nutrition Association of Canada
- Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Canadian Hatching Egg Producers Association
- Turkey Farmers of Canada
- Chicken Farmers of Canada
- Egg Farmers of Canada
- Canadian Pork Council
- Canadian Cattlemen’s Association /Beef Information Centre
- National Cattle Feeders Association
- Dairy Farmers of Canada
- Canadian Horticultural Council
- Canadian Produce Marketing Association
- Canadian Meat Council
- Canadian Poultry & Egg Processors Council
- Further Poultry Processors Association of Canada
- Dairy Processors Association of Canada
- Fisheries Council of Canada
- Food and Consumer Products Canada
- Food Processors of Canada
- Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters
- Canadian Association of Regulated Importers
- Retail Council of Canada
- Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors
- Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers
- Canadian Restaurant & Food Service Association

**Provincial/Territorial Groups**
- Alberta Egg Producers Council
- Ontario Produce Marketing Association
- Small Scale Food Processors Association

**Allied Members**
- QMI-SAI Global
- Guelph Food Technology Centre
- GCP Consulting
- NSF Canada
Questions

Website: www.foodsafetycoalition.ca

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