

New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre

Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with a brief update on progress with the establishment of the New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre (the Centre). We recognise the importance of involving all stakeholders together throughout the lifetime of the Centre. We will start by providing regular updates as we all co-develop the Centre's strategic, business and research plans.

Background

Following an expression of interest and request for proposal stage, the establishment phase of the Centre started on November the 15th 2014 and will continue until the strategic, business and research plans are delivered to the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on May 15th this year. The Centre is a partnership between industry, Government and research providers¹, and will be developed in a process of 'co-innovation'. The interim Director of the Centre is Nigel French from Massey University and the interim Co-Director is Gale Brightwell from AgResearch.

What has been achieved so far?

We have held a number of meetings with industry bodies, companies and agribusinesses, MBIE and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to help to develop a co-owned governance model, discuss the value proposition, and work on a programme for the upcoming sector and cross-sector workshops. These industry-focused workshops are aimed at exploring the food safety environment along the value/supply chain in the different food sectors in order to develop a shared vision for the Centre. The Centre partners recognise individual companies and sectors have already invested significantly in well-established risk management and routine monitoring programmes and ongoing, robust research programmes. There is an opportunity to build on this platform, address gaps and be increasingly proactive. We have developed a Vision Mātauranga plan for the Centre, which is at the start of an extensive consultation process.

Planning for the specific sector workshops is underway; we are in the process of setting dates, venues, and agendas, and compiling lists of invitees for the meat, seafood, dairy, horticulture and processing and manufacturing industries. These are aimed at managers with considerable technical knowledge and technical staff with an understanding of supply and value chains, and the food safety research needs and opportunities within each sector. The first one (meat sector) is scheduled for February the 10th and will be held in Te Papa, Wellington and facilitated by ESR. We aim to complete this first round of workshops by the beginning of March.

Following this, there will be a cross-sector workshop, to be held later in March, which is aimed at senior management or CEO's within each sector, including senior representatives from each of the earlier sector workshops. The aim of this workshop is to develop a shared vision for the Centre, across sectors, leading to a strategic plan, and essential information for the development of business and research plans. We will use innovative approaches, including a framework for 'co-innovation' and the development of both visual and written plans, both of which have been used successfully to

¹ The Centre is hosted by Massey University in partnership with AgResearch, Environmental Science and Research Ltd, Plant & Food, the Cawthron Institute, Auckland University and Otago University.

develop similar plans in other industries. This workshop will be facilitated by experts in co-innovation from Massey University, AgResearch and ESR.

What are our plans for the coming months?

- Communicate to all a timeline of actions that aim to deliver Strategic, Research and Business plans that are acceptable to both the MBIE Science Board and the boards of industry partners.
- Hold the sector and cross-sector workshops (see table below for dates and venues)
- Consult and implement the Vision Mātauranga plan
- Following a process involving industry and Government, appoint a Chair of the Board and develop the governance model, including nomination and appointment of governance and operational roles within the Centre
- Appoint members of the Stakeholder Consultation/Advisory Group
- Appoint members of the International Science Advisory Group
- Develop a co-owned NZ Food Safety Research Strategy
- Develop a business plan for the management of the Centre
- Plan research theme workshops with industry to develop a 5-year research plan
- Compile an inventory of relevant food safety expertise, equipment and other resources across all research and industry organisations in New Zealand
- Compile an inventory of ongoing food safety research in New Zealand
- Develop an international strategy and engage with overseas partners
- Develop an IP plan
- Circulate drafts of the strategic, business and research plans for consultation

Summary of workshops

Sector	Date	Venue
Meat	10th February	Wellington
Seafood	16th February	Nelson
Horticulture	23rd February	Auckland
Food processing and manufacturing	TBA	TBA
Dairy	26th February or 2/3rd March	Wellington
Cross-sector	17th March	TBA

How can you get 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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