

## **Fruit and Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG**

**Members Present:** K. Kniel, S. McGarry, A. Adhikari, S. Allard, B. Annous, S. Assar, E. Bihn, A. Buchholz, A. Castillo, Y. Chen, N. Cook, V. Cranford, F. Critzer, M. Crowley, M. Danyluk, X. Fan, T.J. Fu, W. Fedio, D. Gombas, R. Gravani, J. Guzewich, M. Gutierrez, S. Grove, K. Hirneisen, K. Ito, S. Illic, L. Johnson, S. Koseki, A. Lee, L. Kohl, D. Macarisin, P. Millner, S. Lanini, M. Gonzalez, K. Matthews, S. Mukhopadhyay, C. Narvez, B. Niemira, X. Nou, J. Patel, S. Pillai, M. Sharma, A. Shaw, O. Simmons, L. Strawn, S. Thakur, T. Suslow, L. Tobilla, D. Ukuku, A. Valadez, Z. Topalcengiz, M. Villaneva, G. Wall, Q. Wang, Q. Wang, M. Wood, K. Warriner, R. Worobo, V. Wu, W. Xu, H. G. Yuk and Z. Yan.

**Board/Staff Members Present:** Linda Harris.

**New Members Present:** T. Lopez, V.L. Scott, Y. Zheng, J. Stout, C. Giambrone, S. Ruengvisesh, M. Eriksson Pate, C. Pu, R. Gonzales, J. Sierra, S. Finney, A. Bashall, D. Pahl, B. Escudero, B. Buschbach, Y. Chen, D. Weller, L. Graham, C. Hughes, G. Rajashekara, J. Hall, J. diStefano, C. Snabes, S. Micallef, D. Weller, F. Zhang, M. Dawson, J. Bannon, E. Thompson, S. Peterson, A. Ottesen, X. Zhang, A. Aceituno, T. Lee, M. Shah, D. Shumaker, K. Perez-Lewis, E. Arias, S. Gummalla, L. Lucia, R. Mills, M. Duplessis, K. Kubota, J. Mosqueda, L. Gage, S. Swanson, L. Mrachek, M. Villarreal Silva and A. Nair.

**Visitors/Guests Present:** M. Castle, M. Nunnely, S. Murphy, R. Klos, R. Binet, D. Wing, A. Wladyszewski, P. Manaliu, D. Wrigley, K. Smith, A. Smith, E. Reed, G. Setuare, B. Magunga, K. Shiraishi, D. Jones, J. Glynn, A. Kraft, C. Liu and E. Louve.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 1:03 p.m., Friday, July 25, 2015.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Kali Kniel and Sherri McGarry.

**Old Business:** Minutes from 2014 meeting were adopted without changes.

**New Business:** Historically, the FVSQ PDG provides a series of updates to the members, which are outlined below.

*Regulatory Update:* The regulatory update was provided by Samir Assar (FDA CFSAN). The Produce Safety Rule is currently with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and is on course to publish as a final rule by October 31, 2015. FDA will be putting out materials, such as Fact Sheets, on the FSMA website and is also planning extensive outreach. This PDG may be a one mechanism to disseminate information. While FDA is wrapping up rule development, it is moving toward implementation phase. FDA held a public meeting in May and is considering comments to the docket form that meeting. Summary of findings of a cantaloupe assignment will soon be available on FDA's website.

*Outbreak Update:* The outbreak update was given by Angela Hardin (FDA CORE). It included a summary of pathogen and foods involved in multistate outbreaks that FDA was involved. Discussions included information on source of the food whether domestic or imported and lessons from *Listeria* and other outbreaks. The *Cyclospora* outbreak from 2014 was mentioned along with a current *Cyclospora* outbreak investigation that is ongoing; FDA plans to share more information as it comes available.

*Alliance Updates:* Betsy Bihn provided the update on the PSA (<http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/>). In December 2014, PSA held a train the trainer course then in January the curriculum was tested with growers. Two train the trainer courses were held in June and more are anticipated. Hiring 4 regional specialists to support the training program. Started an international educators group and if anyone is interested they should contact Gretchen. Soil amendment summit planned for December 1–2, 2015, with a seminar series before the summit.

An update on the Sprouts Safety Alliance (SSA) was provided by Kaiping Deng. The SSA is currently developing training modules. Information is available at [http://www.iit.edu/ifsh/sprout\\_safety/](http://www.iit.edu/ifsh/sprout_safety/). Second stage of review of curriculum is underway; conducted 4 pilot training courses and refining based on comments. AFDO will manage the train the trainer materials once final, accreditation, and certification.

*Other Topics:* Angela Shaw from Iowa State University encouraged more dialogue among industry and regulators with the research community so researchers can be more aware of their needs. June 20–23 at the United Fresh Conference, there will be focused discussion on research needs for fresh cut and processing. Looking to increase partnerships. Suresh Pillai updated the PDG on APHIS extended use of irradiation on produce commodities for insects and pests to increase shelf-life. Several agreements have been signed to allow importation of irradiated fruits and APHIS has expanded the options to allow more flexibility on where the process occurs.

*New Business:* Kali shared the results of a survey sent to PDG members to better identify interests of the membership and enhance connecting those interested in similar activities, such as drafting white papers. PDG already has a webinar in the works for this Fall regarding with PSA on training.

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. Recommend to the Board that the website be enhanced to enable the selection and deselection of PDG(s) that a member (or non-member) can join and that updated information be automatically sent to the IAFP staff, and Chairs and Vice chairs of the applicable PDG(s).

**Next Meeting Date:** July 31, 2016.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:00 p.m.

**Chairperson:** Kali Kniel.