

Food Packaging PDG

Names of attendees: Niam Abeysiriwardena (Chair), Monica Amburn, Swara Bhatt, Yang Chen, Betsy Craig, Bennett Dzandu, Ahmed El-Moghazy, Xuetong Fan, Jossie Garthoff, Upasana Hariram, Mitchel Jackson, Monica Jiang, Tony Jin, Quincy Lissaur, Caitlin Martin, Diana Mora-Lee, Kristi Muldoon Jacobs, Nadia Narine, Gabriela Oliva Coba, Kavita Patil, Ruby Ragland, Dheeraj Reddy, Victoria Romano, Evan Rosen, Xue Sha, Tracie Sheehan, Digvijay Singh, John Spink, Sue Teegardin, Max Teplitski, Quang Tran, Prem Sai Veeranki, Jason Wan, Nuradeen Yusuf.

Total Number of Attendees:33.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 26, 2026, 1:00 PM.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Swara Bhatt.

Old Business: No members objected to the acceptance of the minutes from the last annual meeting. The 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

New Business: Anthony Flood, Senior Director of Food & Ingredient Safety at IFIC, presented on the results of IFIC's survey on consumer perceptions of chemicals in food and food packaging. Of key importance to the PDG was the existence of a significant number of consumers concerned about packaging materials and that microplastics are now the second largest food safety concern after pathogens.

Dr. Eva Almenar, a Professor at the School of Packaging at Michigan State University, presented on the current landscape of sustainable food packaging materials, comparisons of the degradation profiles of different materials, the development of antimicrobial derivatives of sustainable materials, and environmentally friendly ethanol emitting materials.

The attendees were asked to raise some topics for the PDG to work on were discussed. These included Food Contact Substance Notifications, and addressing consumer perceptions

The group moved to a closer group discussion format, where additional topics were discussed. The need for sharing best practices and standardizing methods for assessing migration and safety in packaging materials was raised, with a collaboration with the assessment and auditing PDG proposed. Writing an academic or white paper on the current methods for assessment and the move towards standardization was proposed. Collaborating with the education and training PDG was also proposed, for this and for other topics where packaging is not currently being addressed in training. For the regulatory side, the changing regulatory environments in California and in Europe with respect to packaging were brought up, with the potential for a webinar to start the discussion sooner than the next meeting. Also raised was a reminder to propose for IAFP events in Europe and Latin America. A collaboration with the food fraud PDG was raised for the potential for fraudulent recycled packaging. There was also the idea of getting representation for the Food Packaging PDG on other PDG's roundtable proposals. A collaboration with the Food Chemical Hazards and Food Allergy PDG or the Food Hygiene and Sanitation PDG was proposed to put together a roundtable on contamination issues in food packaging. The lack of research to confirm assumptions about migration characteristics in recycled materials, and the lack of general education regarding how food packaging relates to

food safety more broadly, were both raised. An intersection with acid and acidified foods was relayed by one attendee.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend appointment of Niam Abeysiriwardena as the new Chairperson of the Food Packaging PDG, beginning at the 2026 Annual Meeting, for a two-year term.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, July 18, 2027, Kansas City, MO.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:30 PM.

Chairperson Name: Niam Abeysiriwardena.