**Panel Discussion: Why Does Water Quality Matter to Food Safety and Sustainability?**

**Moderator:** Leon Gorris, Food Safety & Quality Officer, FAO

**Leon Gorris:** I'm pleased to introduce our panelists for today's discussion on why water quality matters to food safety and sustainability.

**Guo Miao, Food Safety Futures; ICMSF Secretary; Vice Chair, Water Safety & Quality PDG, IAFP**

Guo Miao will discuss the importance of water safety and quality in the food industry, highlighting the increasing demand for clean, safe water and the role of water in food processing.

**Himanshu Gupta, Technical Programme Manager, Standardization and Technical Policy, ISO Central Secretariat**

Himanshu will cover the ISO standards related to water safety and their role in ensuring food safety and sustainability.

**Kang Zhou, Food Safety Director, Global Beverages, Global Concentrate Solutions, and North America**

Kang will share insights on the impact of water quality on the beverage industry, including the challenges faced and the solutions implemented to enhance water safety and sustainability.

**Stefan Filip, Professor, University of East Anglia**

Stefan will explore the implications of water quality on the food industry, particularly in the context of climate change and sustainable development.

**Biography**

**Himanshu Gupta**

Himanshu Gupta is a Professor at the University of East Anglia, where he leads the Food Safety and Quality Research Group. His research focuses on food safety and quality, with a particular emphasis on the role of water and sanitation in food production.

**Kang Zhou**

Kang Zhou is the Food Safety Director at Global Beverages, Global Concentrate Solutions, and North America. He has extensive experience in the beverage industry, with a focus on food safety and sustainability.

**Stefan Filip**

Stefan Filip is a Professor at the University of East Anglia. He is a leading expert in the field of food safety and quality, with a focus on the role of water in food production and processing.

**Leon Gorris**

Leon Gorris is the Food Safety & Quality Officer at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He has extensive experience in food safety, with a focus on international cooperation and the role of scientific expertise in ensuring food safety.

**Guo Miao**

Guo Miao is the Secretary of the International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods (ICMSF) and the Vice Chair of the Water Safety & Quality Platform Group of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP). Her work focuses on the role of water in food safety and sustainability.

**Discussion Points**

1. **Different stakeholders and how can the necessary stakeholders be engaged?**

2. **Strategies to overcome these challenges?**

3. **Key challenges that the food industry is facing and how can they be addressed?**

4. **The role of scientific expertise in ensuring food safety and sustainability?**

**Abstract**

The food industry faces numerous challenges related to water quality and its impact on food safety and sustainability. This panel will explore the role of water in food processing, the importance of water safety and quality, and the strategies needed to address these challenges. The panelists will provide insights from various perspectives, including academia, industry, and international organizations, to offer a comprehensive view of the issue.