A Message from the Director

It is hard to believe that we are inching towards our four-year anniversary. The landscape of traceability is changing so rapidly that the momentum we have been a part of over the last few years is amazing! I remember having conversations with academics, industry, and regulatory representatives about why they should care about traceability in the first place. Today, those conversations assume the importance and need for better traceability and there is a sense of eagerness and urgency to act to that end. This change in mindset is partly a success story and partly a reminder of how much work is still to be done. Whether that’s training small and mid-sized enterprises in the Caribbean or having a two-day roundtable in the ASEAN region on the importance of technology, I am delighted to observe and partake in this global movement towards improved traceability.

The good news is we are not alone. Numerous initiatives and efforts are beginning to take hold across the globe all working towards similar end goals. The risk we face now is to ensure we are all collaborating and aligning to the extent possible to not fragment the global food supply chain into isolated silos of information. Information and knowledge sharing has never been more important; and if there are any lessons we can learn from other industries, how we agree to work with each other on a pre-competitive basis will be the foundation towards achieving the vision of end-to-end traceability.

The one thing I can promise is that GFTC will play its part in building this collaborative framework for private benefit and public good from better traceability.

Project Updates

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation awards funds to GFTC
GFTC is proud to announce a third grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for $1.2 million. This grant is a collaborative effort with Future of Fish, World Wildlife Fund, FishWise, and GFTC to build on efforts the Moore Foundation has previously funded around sustainability and traceability. Throughout the duration of the grant, which will run from April 2017 until June 2018, GFTC will conduct education and training around traceability, create tools for industry to implement traceability into their businesses operations, and engage in industry outreach to encourage interoperable traceability practices.

Capacity building of public- and private-sector stakeholders in the CARIFORUM region in enhanced traceability processes and systems
GFTC and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation of Agriculture (IICA) have completed co-hosting a series of 9 in-depth traceability workshops throughout the CARIFORUM region. Through these workshops, GFTC shared technical knowledge and good practices with attendees not only in traceability, but also in food safety, food recalls, audits, GMP, GHP, and HACCP. GFTC fostered the dialogue among attendees between private and public sectors to identify opportunities for collaboration across sectors to help achieve a common ground of understanding and implementation of traceability systems. GFTC hopes to partner with other organizations in the future to provide meaningful, impactful training that will help businesses not only see the benefit in traceability, but make steps to implement it as well.
Global Outreach

Check out where GFTC has been lately!
Seafood Expo North America
Boston, MA – March 19-21, 2017

The Global Food Safety Conference
Houston, TX – February 27-March 2, 2017

China Fisheries & Seafood Expo
Qingdao, China – November 2-4, 2016

National Traceability Workshop

National Traceability Workshop
Grenada – October 18-19, 2016

National Traceability Workshop
St. Lucia – October 25-26, 2016

National Traceability Workshop
Jamaica – November 8-9, 2016

National Traceability Workshop
Guyana – November 15-16, 2016

Visit GFTC at These Upcoming Events!

Seafood Expo Global
Brussels, Belgium – April 25-27, 2017
Traceability in the News

Food Traceability Market: Global industry analysis, size, share, growth, trends, and forecasts 2016–2024
Food traceability is nothing but the process to track any type of food through all stages of processing, production, and distribution.

Local food industry professionals briefed on traceability systems
Representatives of small and medium-sized food processors and food industry professionals have completed a two-day workshop aimed at building their capacity for implementing food traceability systems which ensure that health concerns about the safety and quality of food produced locally, imported or exported are adequately addressed.

Foodservice GS1 US standards initiative workgroups evolve to focus on implementation and operational efficiencies
GS1 US® has introduced a new structure for the Foodservice GS1 US Standards Initiative workgroups for 2017 focused on transitioning from basic standards adoption to establishing and sharing GS1 Standards implementation best practices for the foodservice industry.

Electronically tracing dairy goodness from farm to market
Gearing up to electronically trace dairy goodness from farm to market, Fonterra is on track to have total electronic traceability to world-class standards by 2020.

New era of traceability needs to involve the consumer
A system created to deal with food safety issues should also be a ‘conduit’ connecting consumers and farmers.

Partner News

Food Protection and Defense Institute Opens Registration for the 2017 Food Defense Conference
Minneapolis, MN
Registration is now open for the 2017 Food Defense Conference on May 3rd & 4th at the Commons Hotel in Minneapolis, MN. Connect with our extensive network of experts from around the world to discuss and learn from each other about the current state of food defense.

A current schedule is available on the Food Defense Conference website with confirmed speakers including our opening keynote, Andy Morling- Head, UK National Food Crime Unit. Sessions will focus on a variety of topics including detection methods, cyber security, FSMA IA requirements and implementation, and growing a food defense workplace culture. Check the Food Defense Conference website periodically for updated information and additional speakers.

With emerging and evolving food threats from terrorism, economically motivated adulteration, and disgruntled employees, we must remain vigilant to stay ahead of intelligent adversaries. Professionals in industry, academia, and government will attend this conference to discuss current threats and challenges, and to identify food defense solutions.

Attendees will have 2 full days of sessions, networking, and workshops geared specifically at reducing the impact of food system attacks and catastrophic events.

Register to attend at http://www.thefooddefenseconference.com/

GS1 US: Supporting the Food Industry for Traceability and Product Data Sharing
Guiding the food industry toward an integrated approach to traceability continues to be a focus area for two key
initiatives facilitated by GS1 US, the information standards organization that is also an Advisory Council member for GFTC. Between the two initiatives, more than 210 companies representing every facet of the supply chain are actively collaborating in the retail grocery and foodservice industries to identify challenges and develop solutions together for creating supply chain visibility—which is essentially the foundation for effective traceability processes.

Both initiatives have dedicated workgroups developing industry guidance for business processes in support of traceability. These include step-by-step advice on unique identification of products, labeling with GS1-128 barcodes with batch/lot information, as well as standardized data exchange protocols between trading partners. You can browse these tools and resources at www.gs1us.org or reach out to retailgrocery@gs1us.org or foodservice@gs1us.org.

In another collaborative effort within the food industry, GS1 US has also partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the International Life Sciences Institute North America (ILSI North America), 1WorldSync, and Label Insight to support the USDA Branded Foods Products Database. The goal of this public-private partnership is to enhance public health and the sharing of open data by augmenting the USDA National Nutrient Database with nutrient composition and ingredient information on branded foods and private label data provided by the food industry. The USDA Branded Food Products Database, which is seamlessly integrated into the existing USDA National Nutrient Database, ensures that these data elements are publicly available to those who will utilize them. This includes, but is not limited to, federal agencies, the research community, international databases, proprietary databases and end users, and the food industry. The partnership launched the Branded Food Products Database on September 16, 2016 with 80,000 items and has grown it to include more than 175,000 products in less than five months.

About GFTC

The GFTC desires to become the global resource and authoritative voice on food traceability by serving all aspects of the food system - from agriculture to the consumer – through the generation of knowledge in research gaps, delivering applied research, objective advice and practical expertise about data collaboration and food product traceability for private benefit and public good. Find out more about GFTC at http://www.globalfoodtraceability.org.

About IFT

Founded in 1939, the Institute of Food Technologists is committed to advancing the science of food. Our non-profit scientific society—more than 17,000 members from more than 90 countries—brings together food scientists, technologists and related professionals from academia, government and industry. For more information, please visit ift.org.

Pass it On

Have a contact who might be interested in GFTC? Feel free to pass on our newsletter.

Ask a Question

Have a burning question about traceability you need answered? Want to give a suggestion to improve the work being done by the Center? Feel free to email us at traceability@ift.org.

A huge thank you to all our sponsors for their commitment and support of the Center – find out more about them here: http://www.ift.org/gftc/advisory-council-and-sponsors.aspx.
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