A Message from the Director

As we gear up for IFT 16 this year in Chicago, I am reminded of just how many dedicated professionals, individuals and scientists have devoted their lives to the science of foods and its innovation. The feeling of pride of being in such a cohort quickly fades into one of worry, because what comes with such a large community is a large fog of war. The Global Food Traceability Center was setup as a means to enable better, more seamless, efficient, effective, reliable means of sharing data across the food system. But information sharing can only occur when you are aware of the existence of such information. I am reminded of the famous quote by Donald Rumsfeld – “known knowns, known unknowns, unknown knowns and unknown unknowns.” In other words, there are things we know, there are things we know we don’t know, there are things we don’t know that we should know, and there are things that are currently unknowable. Information sharing has been such a big area of inquiry in the academic, professional and regulatory world, and yet we haven’t collectively figured out best practices in this field. However, from all the different initiatives that GFTC has either led or been a part of, I am confident that we are moving towards a world with greater visibility, transparency and collaboration – just not as fast as we like. As our own initiatives reach fruition and we can measure the real-world impact we are making one person at a time, one company at a time, one supply chain at a time and one sector at a time. I can’t wait to learn tomorrow what I don’t know today!

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 here.

Project Updates

Capacity Building of Public- and Private- Sector Stakeholders in the CARIFORUM Region in Enhanced Traceability Processes and Systems
GFTC is proud to announce a recently acquired grant working with Inter-American Institute for the Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). IICA helps encourage and promote agricultural development and rural well-being within in its Member States. They are the implementing body of the 10th EDF Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures Project, which helps to integrate CARIFORUM states into the global economy and improve market access by complying with Europe’s SPS measures. GFTC will be working with IICA to support implementation of SPS measures and increase trade opportunities in CARIFORUM through capacity building of public and private sector professionals and stakeholders in traceability systems and processes. Through a series of GFTC conducted in-depth workshops, on location, in numerous CARIFORUM states, information will be provided on various principles and benefits of traceability. GFTC looks forward to working with IICA to bring traceability information to the CARIFORUM region.

Moore Project – Phase II
Over the past few months GFTC has embarked on a Phase II of the Moore Project. Under an ambitious deadline, GFTC reached out to technical experts and business executives, from both the seafood and non-seafood sector, to form a Technology Architecture Working Group (TAWG) that met to identify technical considerations that must be addressed to enable global traceability. The group discussed solutions that will result in working systems and technical specifications when enabling chain length traceability. Further, it identified what future steps are needed to resolve technical challenges that currently do not have potential solutions.

The TAWG produced a draft technical specifications that will be vetted with a slightly larger group of subject matter experts who can critique and suggest further information and improvements before this document is released to the public. GFTC would like to give a thank those who participated in the work group. Without their help, it would not have been possible to meet our goal within the strict timeline. We are incredibly grateful for all the hard work and effort that was put forth by the work group.

Global Outreach
Check out where GFTC has been in the last few months!

**Future of Fish Traceability Workshop**  

**SeaWeb Seafood Summit**  
St. Julian’s, Malta – February 1–3, 2016

**9th International Forum on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**  

**67th Pacific Fisheries Technologist Conference**  
Blaine, WA – February 21–24, 2016

**GFSI Global Food Safety Conference**  
Berlin, Germany – February 29– March 3, 2016

**Seafood Expo North America**  
Boston, MA – March 6–8, 2016

**Food Safety: Increasing Quality and Compliance Conference**  
Arlington, VA – March 17–18, 2016
Visit GFTC at These Upcoming Events!

**Southern California Institute of Food Technologists Section Meeting**
Anaheim, CA – April 20, 2016

**Institute of Food Technologists Alamo Section Meeting**
Austin, TX – April 21, 2016

**Seafood Expo Global**
Brussels, Belgium – April 26–28, 2016

**IAFP European Food Safety Summit**
Athens, Greece – May 11–13, 2016

**INFORMS International Conference**
Kohala Coast, Hawaii – June 12–15, 2016

**Food Defense Conference**
Minneapolis, MN – June 29–30, 2016

**U.S. Round Table for Sustainable Beef First Annual General Assembly Meeting**
Denver, CO – July 12–13, 2016

Traceability in the News

Traceability in Seafood Chain about Money, not Just Ethics
Tejas Bhatt is featured in this article about a coalition of environmentalists and seafood industry professionals are campaigning to make the case that traceability in the seafood industry is about success in the marketplace as much as it’s about ethics.

**Food Traceability Technology Market: Global Industry Analysis and Forecast 2016 - 2022**

Owing to globalization and integration, food production and distribution system are becoming more interdependent. In order to reduce the wastage of food, and maintain a proper value chain ranging from production to consumption, a technologically advanced traceability is required. Traceability helps to manage the possible risk in the supply chain.

**How the Easter Bunny Ensures Supply Chain Traceability**

These days, the Easter Bunny is facing a huge supply chain challenge: To make kids happy around the globe, he needs to deliver chocolate to millions of households worldwide. Because he is a modern and responsible Easter Bunny, he cares about supply chain sustainability and traceability. He wants cocoa that is sourced from suppliers that provide fair working conditions, with no illegal practices, such as slave or child labor. He insists on only using high-quality chocolate for his Easter eggs.

**Diversey Care Makes Food Safety Management Digital**

Diversey Care, a division of Sealed Air, has launched a digital food safety management platform to help boost safety and quality of operations.

**ERP Systems in Food Safety and Traceability**

In a recent report by Aberdeen Group entitled Proactively Manage Food Safety and Compliance with Integrated Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), 48 percent of food and beverage manufacturers noted that ensuring compliance with current and future regulations is their top pressure.

**Process Manufacturers Succeed in the Cloud**

Process manufacturers - makers of food, rubber, liquid and chemical products, for example - face a litany of challenges from regulation and compliance to traceability and on-time delivery. Many process companies, however, find that achieving success is easier than ever with enterprise resource planning (ERP) in the cloud.

**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.

**Check us out!**

Don’t forget to check out the GFTC website for more information about our initiatives, projects and resources. You can find us at http://www.globalfoodtraceability.org.

**Pass it On**

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

We understand. If you would like to stop receiving this newsletter, please forward this email to traceability@ift.org with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.