



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2021/SOM2/SCSC/FSCF/016

Agenda Item: 7.6

**Project Update - Whole Genome Sequencing:
Laboratory Capacity Building of Environmental
Testing for Foodborne Pathogens**

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: United States



**8th Food Safety Cooperation Forum
28-29 May 2021**

Whole Genome Sequencing:

Laboratory Capacity Building of Environmental Testing for Foodborne Pathogens

Kelly J. McCormick

International Policy Analyst, International Affairs Staff
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Kelly.McCormick@fda.hhs.gov





Workstream Rationale



- Decrease in costs, increase in accessibility
- Environmental sampling and subsequent WGS can help identify contamination pathways
- Better inform agricultural practices that reduce overall contamination



The Workstream Aims to:



- Improve public health conditions, allowing APEC economies to respond more quickly to foodborne outbreaks and to understand the ways in which foodborne contamination occurs, resulting in decreased loss of life and productivity due to foodborne illness. This will be achieved by:
 - Improving traceback and overall food safety management by optimizing pathogen detection techniques.
 - Strengthening capacity of APEC region laboratories' environmental sampling methods.



Activity Plan



- Phase 1: Awareness Webinars
- Phase 2: Kick-off Workshop: *How WGS has revolutionized food safety: from environmental sampling to foodborne disease prevention, response, and mitigation*—September 2021
- Phase 3: Sub-Regional Lab Trainings—2022
- Phase 4: Teach-Forward by Training Participants—2022-2023
- Phase 5: Workshop: *ToT Presentations to Food Safety Experts and Policymakers*—May 2023



QUESTIONS?

Contact: Kelly.McCormick@fda.hhs.gov

