
Food Safety Research Needs in a Global Economy

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Overview

- Fork to Farm Approach
- Acceptable Risk
- Data to Inform Risk Assessments
- Need for Publically Funded Data

Fork to Farm Approach

- Emphasis placed on pre-harvest, on farm interventions may be inefficient
- Research needs to identify the most effective points in the chain for intervention
- Research needs to identify most economical points in chain for interventions

Interventions

- Silver bullets are rare
- Incremental changes important only at certain points in the chain
- Education needs to be considered an intervention

Acceptable Risk

- Food is not sterile
- Presence of a pathogen not necessarily a risk
 - Quantitation
 - » Real-time, “rapid” is relative
 - Infective dose
- Effectiveness of consumer education

Risk Assessment

- Biological risk assessments increasing in importance
- Data to inform the risk assessment essential
- Provide a scientific basis on which to base policy and practice

Publically Funded Research

- Increasing concerns expressed over industry data or research supported by data
- Importance of supporting and strengthening the peer review process

Summary

- Pathogen ecology and epidemiology studies will allow for targeted approaches at the appropriate place in the fork to farm chain
- Risk assessments, and the definition of acceptable risk, will allow policy and practice decisions with a scientific basis
- Public funding and peer review will build credibility into the research process