



GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE
STAKEHOLDER MEETING REPORT
Wednesday 16th February 2011
London, UK





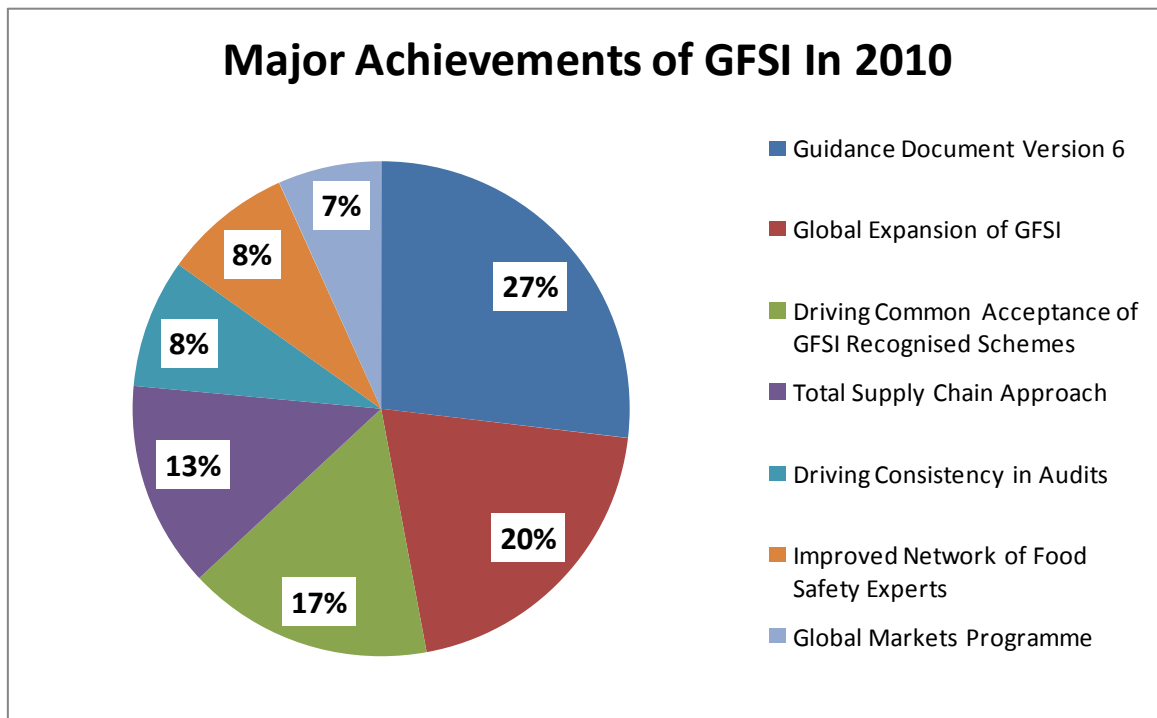
GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE STAKEHOLDER MEETING REPORT Wednesday 16th February 2011 London, UK

Chaired By: **Catherine François**, Director Food Safety Programmes, **The Consumer Goods Forum**, France
Cindy Jiang, Senior Director of Worldwide Food Safety, Quality and Nutrition, **McDonald's**, USA (GFSI Board Vice Chair)
Jürgen Matern, VP Regulatory Affairs & External Relations QSHE, **Metro AG**, Germany (GFSI Board Chairman)
Bill McBride, Managing Director, **Foodlink Management Services**, Australia
Yves Rey, Corporate Quality General Manager, **Danone**, France (GFSI Board Vice Chair)
Kevin Swoffer, Independent Consultant and Chairman of GFSI Technical Working Groups, UK

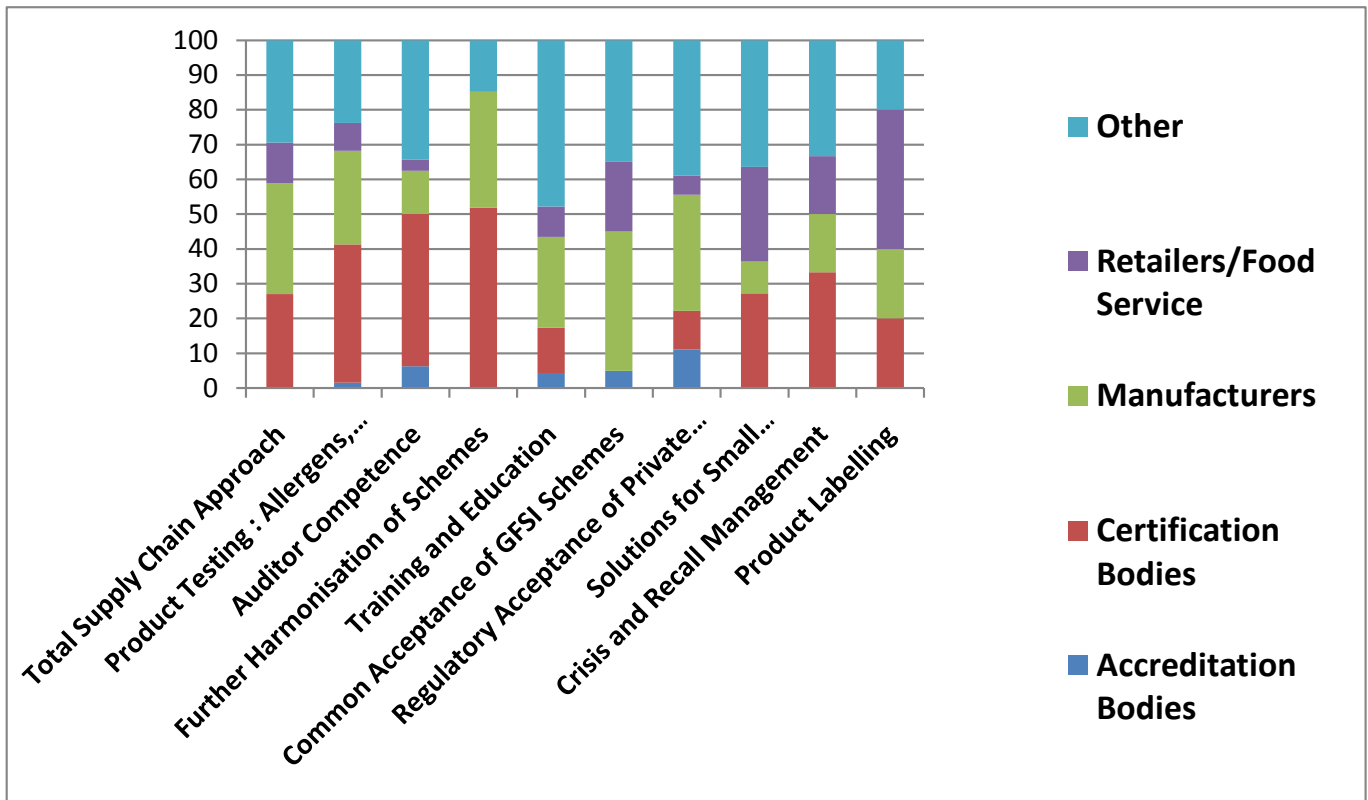
GFSI Stakeholder Survey Feedback

Ahead of the GFSI Stakeholder meeting which welcomed over 300 people to the Park Plaza Hotel in London on 16th February 2011, stakeholders were sent a survey and asked to provide their feedback about GFSI via three questions. The feedback received and which was presented in the meeting is as follows:

1. What do you consider were the major achievements of GFSI in 2010?



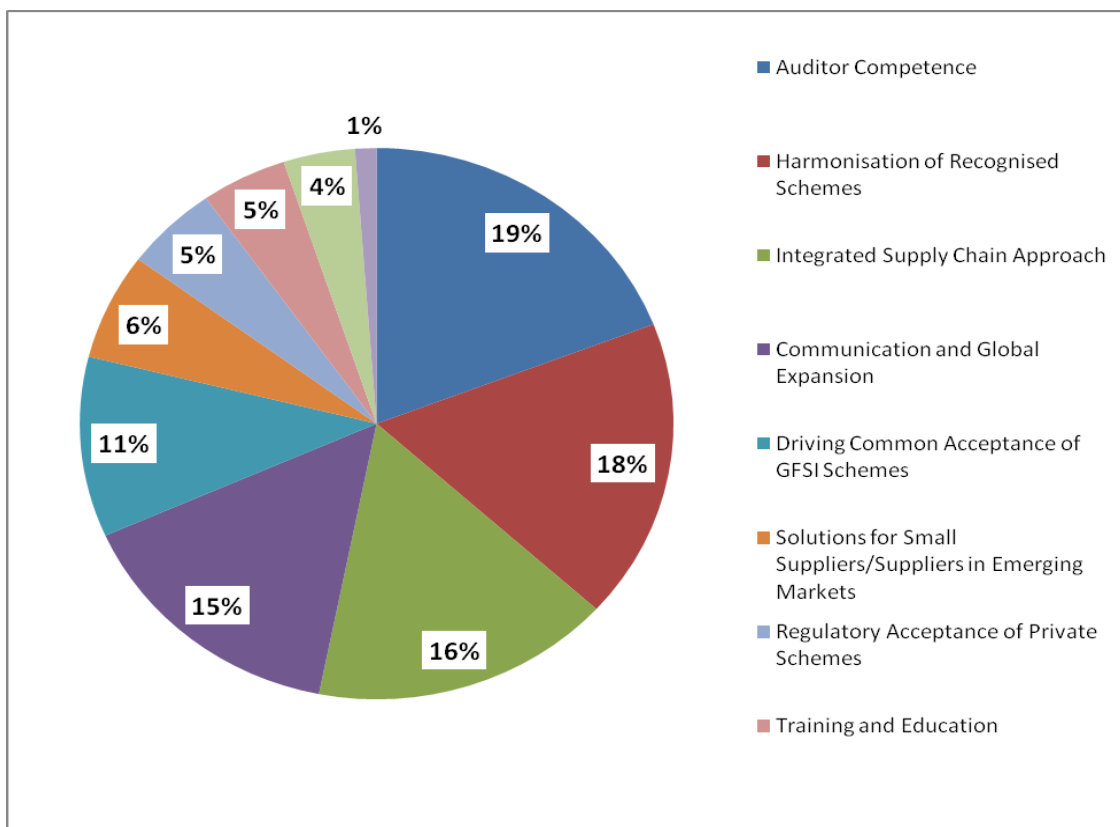
2. What are the top 3 food safety issues that you are dealing with right now in your business?



In order of importance, the top food safety issues are as follows:

- 1) Total Supply Chain Approach
- 2) Product Testing: Allergens, Pathogens and Contaminants
- 3) Auditor Competence
- 4) Further Harmonisation of Schemes
- 5) Training and Education
- 6) Common Acceptance of GFSI Schemes
- 7) Regulatory Acceptance of Private Schemes
- 8) Solutions for Small Suppliers/Suppliers in Emerging Markets
- 9) Crisis and Recall Management
- 10) Product Labelling

3. What are the 3 critical areas that GFSI should focus on in the next five years?



GFSI Update

Catherine François, Director Food Safety Programmes and GFSI, The Consumer Goods Forum, presented GFSI’s strategic priorities for the next five years which will also incorporate the output from this meeting.

1) Building Confidence in Certification

One of the main ways that GFSI will build confidence in certification is through its recently issued Guidance Document Sixth Edition, published in January 2011. The sector focus areas outlined in the Guidance Document *Part III – Scheme Scope and Key Elements* will allow technical experts in the GFSI working groups to come together to develop sector-specific requirements along the entire supply chain, as prioritised by the GFSI Board. The next focus areas are as follows:

2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed • Animal Handling • Packaging
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage and Distribution/Services • Equipment Manufacturing
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catering • Retail Outlets
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of Scopes A, B, C, D, E and L
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Guidance Document 7

Once the key elements are in place for each of these sectors, GFSI will be able to begin to accept applications from scope-specific schemes and continue in its objective of managing cost in the global food system by delivering equivalence and convergence between effective food safety management schemes.

A further way that GFSI will be working to build confidence is by improving auditor competence. The GFSI Auditor Competence Working Group, launched in September 2012 and comprised of 32 food safety experts, is working together to define the generic food safety auditor competencies underpinning GFSI benchmarked schemes which will:

- Determine the role, tasks, and expectations of auditors
- Define competencies (skills, knowledge and attributes) for each task
- Recommend options by which they can be assessed and verified

Below is the timeline for the work of the Auditor Competence Working Group:



2) Forging Links with other Organisations

The GFSI Regulatory Affairs Working Groups has published a series of documents and position papers relating to third party certification entitled “Enhancing Food Safety Through Third Party Certification”. These documents are available for use by anyone involved in GFSI and regulatory affairs.

The documents will cover:

- An Overview of GFSI and Certification
- What is the GFSI Guidance Document?
- Certification and Accreditation Framework
- Addressing Perceived Barriers to Acceptance of Third Party Certification
- Role and benefits of third party certification

3) Communication

GFSI will continue in its outreach to various parts of the world with more roadshows and events in 2011. Currently on the agenda are:

- **CCFA 7th Annual Food Safety Conference in partnership with GFSI**
13 – 15th April 2011, Hangzhou, China
- **GFSI Focus Day for Latin America**
2nd September 2011, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- **Japan Food Safety Day**
11th October 2011, Tokyo, Japan
- **Global Food Safety Conference**
15 – 17th February 2012, Orlando, Florida

Auditor Competence

Bill McBride, Managing Director, Foodlink Management Services, Australia and Chairman of the Auditor Competence Working Group, provided an update on the work of the Auditor Competence Working Group.

The objectives of this working group are to:

- Improve integrity, consistency and reliability of audit outcomes across all GFSI recognised schemes and supply chains
- Improve cost/benefit in qualifying auditors, by reducing the duplication and wastage in existing training options
- Provide a clearly articulated pathway for the professional development of food safety auditors
- Protect the GFSI franchise and that of the recognised GFSI schemes.

The working group is working towards the following deadlines:

Phase 1: Task Analysis, Define and Assessment of Competencies (2010/2011)

- 1.1 Task Analysis.
- 1.2 Define Competencies
- 1.3 Acquisition and Assessment of Competencies
- 1.4 Review short term options for GFSI education and experience requirements

Phase 2: Benchmarking or Equivalence Processes (2011/2012)

- 2.1 Benchmarking

Phase 3: Application of GFSI Auditor Competencies (2012/2013)

- 3.1 Application of GFSI Auditor Competencies
- 3.2 Process of implementation
- 3.3 Maintenance of Competencies

Attendees at the GFSI Stakeholder Meeting were asked to provide support to this working group by providing input to four key questions, and a summary of the comments made by over 300 attendees at the meetings were as follows:

Are the TWG objectives realistic and achievable and what are the major barriers?

- Generally achievable, but the timescale is very aggressive and requires a lot of resources.
- Good communication required with all stakeholders to ensure good understanding of benefits
- Multiplicity of schemes, differences in audit duration and necessary change in commercial positioning to move forward collectively will be a barrier for scheme owners
- Auditor capacity is an issue in some markets, in addition to the lack of specific scheme knowledge and high turnover of auditors globally
- Working across geographies and cultures can cause different interpretations so an integrity programme is recommended, perhaps with on-site assessment of auditors to ensure calibration and coherency
- What are the measurables for GFSI?

How can the food industry attract good qualified people into food safety auditing?

- Elevate the profile of an auditor to make it an aspiration career path, with better remuneration and recognition.
- Better promotion of auditing in schools and higher education institutions as a career opportunity with a well defined career path. Educate on the benefits and continuous education of the role.
- Positive testimonials of the value of an auditor by clients.
- Provide career development, on the job training, job rotation to avoid becoming stale or burnout and provide mentoring.
- Development of a professional forum for auditors which mirrors other career paths ie the financial sector.
- Partner with academia to develop food safety degree programmes with an auditor module.
- Greater recognition of the auditor position through a competent auditor license or personnel certification

What should the role of GFSI be in establishing and maintaining food safety auditor competence?

- Create harmonized foundation requirements for all auditors (competence, knowledge and practical skills) and set the competency framework for scheme owners and CBs
- Certification of auditors and establish a common assessment tool to certify the quality and capability of food safety auditors against a globally recognized programme and record results transparently in a globally accessible database
- Building confidence in auditors who audit against GFSI recognized schemes
- Providing a platform for discussion/information/network and perhaps create an association of chartered auditors. GFSI should provide a network of experts who can mentor current food safety auditors through their experience
- Monitor and calibrate auditor competency requirements with CBs and ABs
- Define education requirements. Work with the scheme owners to provide harmonized training programme/train the trainer programme
- Provide a mechanism for feedback on auditor competence and provide an integrity programme to monitor the system – ie GFSI to be more accountable
- Look at the way other industries have managed competency and apply the learnings to the food industry.

What is the one area of competence that we should focus on that would significantly improve audit consistency?

- Ability to assess risk
- Social skills
- Integrity
- Sector specific experience
- Objectivity and communication skills
- Provide guidance on sampling protocols
- Practical Experience
- Shadow audits/witness audits
- Technical knowledge on specific products/processes
- Ongoing training

- Audit duration to ensure work can be completed correctly

The working group will review this feedback during the next meeting in May and incorporate the comments into its workplan wherever possible.

An update on the progress of this working group will be provided on a regular basis in the GFSI Newsletter and during the next GFSI Stakeholder meeting to be held on **15th February 2012** in Orlando, Florida.