From: David Gombas
cc: "suresh.decosta@us.mcd.com"; Tom Stenzel; Erin Grether;
Subject: Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 4:39:00 PM
Attachments: TWG meeting summary 091118.doc
TWG List.doc
TWG meeting summary 091216.doc

January 12, 2010

To: see Distribution List, below

Dear Steering Committee members,

This note is to bring you up to date on the Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative.

First, please mark your calendars to attend a joint meeting of the Steering Committee with the Technical Working Group (TWG) on April 19, immediately prior to the United Fresh annual convention at The Venetian in Las Vegas NV. The TWG will provide an update and discuss any issues. More information about the meeting will be forthcoming.

There has been strong interest in participating on the Technical Working Group, and there are now over 100 participants. A current list is attached for your information.

The TWG has now met twice, in November and December. Summaries of both meetings are also attached for your information. In short:

- As background on existing harmonization efforts, the TWG has been briefed by representatives of CanadaGAP, GFSI, and GlobalGAP on their standards development and benchmarking processes. Briefings have also been provided on the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Model Code for Produce Safety, the FDA Farm Investigation Guidance and the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement audit standards.
- The TWG is creating the harmonized standards by collecting and compiling existing GAP food safety standards. Nineteen organizations

have been contacted for permission to use their standards. Several of the standard owners are actively participating in the TWG.

- The TWG has developed a matrix of common audit categories, and have asked standard owners to divide their standards across the matrix, to ensure that the TWG accurately understands the standards and how the owners intend to use them. The TWG is comparing these divided standards by audit category, and selecting the best of each into a harmonized standard. The approach is laborious, but the group believes this is the best approach to harmonizing, rather than recreating, food safety standards, and will provide a reference for the source of each harmonized standard.
- Ten standard owners provided their divided standards in time for the TWG meeting in December. To date, only one has said they will not participate.
- To date, there has been adequate representation of the fresh produce supply chain to begin the process. However, once the harmonized standards have been drafted, it will be critical to have broader technical representation from commodities, regions, production practices and size (particularly small) operations. Invitations to such groups continue to be extended at every opportunity.
- United Fresh now has a public webpage dedicated to the Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative: http://www.unitedfresh.org/newsviews/gap_harmonization. This page will be continuously updated as the Initiative progresses.
- The TWG will continue to meet at roughly a monthly frequency. The December meeting was hosted by TWG Chair Suresh DeCosta at McDonald's Hamburger University facility. Several TWG members have volunteered to host future meetings:
    - February 17-18, Weslaco Research and Extension Center, Weslaco TX
    - March 10-11, Taco Bell, Irvine CA
    - April 7-8, Darden, Orlando FL
    - May TBD, US Foodservice, Rosemont IL

I hope you find this information useful. Please contact me if I can provide more.

David

Distribution List:

Brian Kocher	Chiquita Fresh North America
Mark Bataska	Sun World International
Tony DiMare	DiMare Company
Barry Eisenberg	River Ranch Fresh Foods
Bob Elliot	Sunkist Growers
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Jim Lemke	C.H. Robinson Worldwide
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Brian Stepien	Green Giant Fresh
Bill Schuler	Castellini Company
Kari Valdes	River Ranch Fresh Foods
Tom Young	Del Monte Fresh Produce
Scott Brooks	Yum Brands
Suresh DeCosta	McDonald's Corporation
Steve Grinstead	Pro*Act
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Reggie Griffin	Kroger
Roger Harkrider	H.E.B.
Mahipal Kunduru	Safeway
Jerry Noland	Safeway

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Rodrigo Santibanez	Walmart
Randy Scott	Food Lion
Dave Wiemer	Supervalu
Craig Wilson	Costco Wholesale
Frank Yiannas	Walmart
Bob Blakely	California Citrus Mutual
Reggie Brown	Florida Tomato
Nancy Foster	US Apple Association
Charles Hall	Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
John Keeling	National Potato Council
John McClung	Texas Produce Association
Matt McInerney	Western Growers
Bob Morrissey	National Watermelon Association
Laura Phelps	American Mushroom Institute
Chris Schlect	Northwest Horticultural Council
Bryan Silbermann	Produce Marketing Association
Tom Stenzel	United Fresh Produce Association
Mike Stuart	Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
Chris Valadez	California Grape and Tree Fruit League

David E. Gombas, Ph.D.
Sr Vice President, Food Safety and Technology

United Fresh
1901 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20006 USA
office: 202 303 3411
cell: 301 801 2226
dgombas@unitedfresh.org