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One Health in food safety and security education: A curricular framework

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ABSTRACT

The challenges of producing and distributing the food necessary to feed an anticipated 9 billion people in developed and developing societies by 2050 without destroying Earth's finite soil and water resources present extremely complex problems that lack simple solutions. The ability of modern societies to adequately address these and other food-related problems will require an educated workforce trained not only in traditional food safety, security, and public health, but also in other areas including food production, sustainable practices, and ecosystem health. To help address the need for such an educated workforce, a curricular framework was developed to assist those tasked with designing education and training for future food systems workers.

One sentence summary: A curricular framework for education and training in food safety and security was developed that incorporates One Health concepts.

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1. Introduction

The challenges of producing and distributing the food necessary to feed an anticipated 9 billion people in developed and developing societies by 2050 without destroying Earth's finite soil and water resources present extremely complex problems without simple solutions. The ability of modern societies to effectively address these and other food related problems will require an educated workforce trained not only in traditional food safety, security, sanitation, hygiene, and public health, but also in other areas including food production, sustainable practices, waste management, and ecosystem health. Furthermore, success in dealing with complex food related problems will be best achieved through ways that embrace a collaborative One Health approach for effective problem-solving.

One Health approaches to problem-solving are best described as being transboundary or cross-disciplinary. Inherent in a One Health approach is the idea that experts working together to solve complex problems will be more successful than experts working within an isolated field. The need for using One Health approaches in solving complex societal health problems has been well documented [1–4]. have simple solutions; as such, they have been described as 'wicked problems' [5]. Finding effective solutions to these wicked problems will require a One Health approach that considers not only the problem itself, but also the interconnected web of upstream factors related to the particular problem [5]. Education in the area of food safety has traditionally embraced

Modern food safety problems are complex in nature and do not

disciplines of microbiology, sanitation, hygiene, food science, and public health as well as good agricultural practices, good manufacturing practices, and implementation of principles of risk assessment through hazard analysis and critical control points. These subjects have been critically important in provisioning of safe plant and animal-based food sources to modern societies. Nevertheless, recent examples have emerged wherein solutions to particular food safety problems required cross-disciplinary approaches that involved researchers and subject matter experts from diverse fields, e.g. wildlife specialists, veterinarians, epidemiologists, toxicologists, and microbiologists [6,7].

To our knowledge no well-defined curricular framework exists for guiding education and training in food safety and security that embraces the many diverse disciplines that are involved in production and provisioning of safe and secure food supplies. To help address this need we designed a One Health in food safety and security curricular framework to assist those tasked with designing education and training for future food systems workers including

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od Safety/Security Leadership & Management	Subtopic	Agricultural Dynamic Management	Risk Analysis	Epidemiology	Biosecurity		Food Safety Plans	Pest Management	Sanitation & Disinfection	Feed Manufacturing	Ecosystem Monitoring	Water & Waste Management	Impact Assessment	Habitat Conservation		sustainable Agricultural Practices	Poverty and Food		Susceptible Populations	Agronomics	re
Foc	Major Topic		Food & Feed						Agriculture & Ecosystem							Food	& Societ	y	ပိ		
Food Safety/Security Foundations	Subtopic	Global Food Supply		Regulatory Oversight of Food & Feed Safety	Food- and Waterborne Illnesses	Public Health	Health & Hygiene	Sanitation & Disinfection	Food & Feed Adulterants and Contaminants	Pre- and Post-Harvest Food Safety	Food Safety Diagnostics	Tissue Residues & Antibiotic Resistance	Emerging, Zoonotic & Regulatory Diseases	Threats to Food Availability	Animal & Plant Production	Genetically Modified Organisms	Workplace Safety	Animal Welfare	Ecosystem Contamination	Ecosystem Services	One Healt
	Major Topic	Local ar and Fee	oal Food ply and	Food- and Waterborne Illnesses: Sourc						es & Prevention			Food Security	Food Production			Ecosystem				
Suggested Foundational Sciences		Cell Biology	Cell Biology Cross Cultural Competency/ Anthropology		Economics	Food science	Genetics (animal & namt)	Inorganic Chemistry	Math	Microbiology	6	Molecular Biology	Nutrition (animal & human)	Organic Chemistry	Parasitology	Pharmacology	Plant Biology	Sociology	Statistics	Toxicology	Virology

Fig. 1. A curricular framework for food safety and security education and training that incorporates principles of One Health.

food sanitarians, producers, manufacturers, researchers, teachers, and policy-makers.

2. Curricular framework design

During the design phase, brainstorming exercises were conducted to identify subjects, issues, concepts, and/or ideas related to food safety and security when viewing these subjects in the broadest-possible context. The identified subjects, issues, concepts and ideas were subsequently categorized into 3 tiers: basic sciences, food safety/security foundations, and food safety/security leadership & management. Suggested foundational sciences include traditional sciences as well as social sciences (see Fig. 1). Education and training in the food safety/security foundations (lower tier) is designed to provide awareness-level knowledge in a variety of different topics. Food safety/security leadership & management (upper tier) education and training will provide more in-depth understanding of problems and their related causes such that learners gain knowledge and skills needed to develop solutions to complex problems surrounding with the provisioning of safe and secure food supplies amidst finite resources. The importance of sustainability of planetary resources for food production is stressed throughout this framework through topical material in ecosystem health and sustainable farming practices.

Food safety/security foundations contains 5 major topics: (1) local and global food and feed supply and safety; (2) food- and waterborne illnesses: sources and prevention; (3) food security; (4) food production; and (5) ecosystem. Major topics in food safety/security leadership & management are: (1) core; (2) food & feed; (3) agriculture & ecosystem; and (4) food & society. Subtopics within each of these major topics are arranged according to subject matter.

Concept statements accompany each subtopic within food safety/security foundations and food safety/security leadership and management (see Tables 1 and 2); these succinctly describe what a student should know following learning within the listed subtopic. For example, the concept statement associated with 'Food- and Waterborne Illnesses' in the major topic of 'Food- and Waterborne Illnesses: Sources & Prevention' is: "Students know the causes of food- and waterborne illnesses in different food types, and resulting public health impacts."

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