The Sprout Safety Alliance

Overview and Progress

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Sprout Safety Alliance (SSA)

- Created through a partnership grant from FDA to Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH)

- 45+ participants
  - Sprout growers, seed producers, testing companies, retail, state and federal government, academia, etc.
Sprout Safety Alliance Goals

- Enhance knowledge and adoption of best practices for safe sprout production
  - Especially small sprout producers

- Develop a core curriculum
  - Aligning with the Produce Safety Rule

- Establish training and outreach programs
The SSA Curriculum: Table of Contents

Chapters

Welcome and Course Objective
1. Sprout Safety Hazards
2. Sprout Production Environment
3. Employee Practices
4. Cleaning and Sanitizing of Buildings and Equipment
5. Environmental Monitoring: Sanitation Verification
6. Environmental Monitoring: Listeria Control
7. Seed Purchasing, Receiving and Storage
8. Seed Treatment
9. Spent Irrigation Water and Sprout Testing
10. Additional Control Programs
11. Recordkeeping Procedures
12. Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption
13. Review/Additional Materials

Appendices

1. Regulation
2. Record templates
3. Model risk reduction program
Progress to date - curriculum development

- All chapters are drafted and under review.

- Pilot training/feedback sessions
  - Chicago, IL, Feb 2013
  - Washington DC, Oct 2013
  - Richmond, CA, Aug 2014

- Training slides are being developed.
Progress to date- Implementation

- Contact information of ~200 sprout growers from 26 states was collected.
- A survey on training format and delivery method was conducted.
- The SSA Education/Outreach Working group is being re-engaged and will work on the Implementation of the curriculum.
Thank you for your participation!

Get Connected with the SSA Today!

www.iit.edu/ifsh/sprout_safety