The Sprout Safety Alliance
Overview and Progress

Kaiping Deng
Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH)
Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)
Sprout Safety Alliance (SSA)

- Established with a grant from FDA to Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH)

- The Alliance is composed of members from the sprout industry, academia, and federal/state government agencies.
Sprout Safety Alliance (SSA)

GOAL

To Enhance the sprout industry's understanding and implementation of the Produce Safety Rule and best practices

• Develop a core curriculum
• Establish training and outreach programs
SSA Curriculum

Hazards
1. Sprout Safety Hazards
2. GMP and Food Safety Fundamentals
3. Sprout Production Environment
4. Employee Hygiene and Health
5. Cleaning and Sanitizing of Buildings and Equipment
6. Environmental Monitoring: Sanitation Verification
7. Environmental Monitoring: Listeria Control

Food Safety Guidance Specific for Sprout Production
1. Seed Purchasing, Receiving and Storage
2. Seed Treatment
3. Spent Irrigation Water and Sprout Testing

Other Operation-Related Programs
4. Additional Control Programs
5. Recordkeeping Procedures

Outline of FDA Regulation
6. Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption
**Decision Tree for Corrective Actions for Spent Irrigation Water Testing**

- **No**
  - Release the product

- **Was the result presumptive positive (+)?**
  - **Yes**
    - Hold the products
      - Ask the testing laboratory to run confirmatory tests on the enrichment sample the lab had
      - **Was the positive (+) test result confirmed?**
        - **Yes**
          - The result was (-); or was not a pathogen
            - Release the product
        - **No**
          - Clean and sanitize equipment and sprouting areas

- **Take the following Corrective Actions**
  - Discard all contaminated products
  - Discard any other sprout production lots that were made from the same seed lot
  - Discard or return contaminated seeds and notify seed supplier
  - Perform other necessary actions to prevent recurrence
Pilot Sessions and Focus Group Meeting

• Vancouver, BC -- Aug 2012
• Chicago, IL -- Feb 2013
• Washington DC -- Oct 2013
• Richmond, CA -- Aug 2014
• Chicago, IL – Dec 2015
SSA Survey

- Contact information of ~250 sprout growers was collected.
- A survey on training format and delivery method was conducted.
Survey Demographic

Average Annual Monetary Value of Produce Sale

- < $25,000
- $25,000-250,000
- $250,000-500,000
- > $500,000

[Bar chart showing the distribution of average annual monetary value of produce sale across different income brackets.]
Existing Training in Sprout Industry

- Training DVD: 70%
- Handouts: 10%
- Posters: 0%
- Flash Cards: 0%
- Combination of the Four: 20%
## Training Format Preference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Formats</th>
<th>Ranking Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combination of Instructor-Led Class and Webinar</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor-Led Class</td>
<td>2.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webinar</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Training Course with FAQ</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Willingness to Attend a Training Class

- Would not attend a class: 0%
- 0.5 day: 10%
- 1 day: 60%
- 1.5 day: 20%
- As long as it takes: 10%
## Potential SSA Trainers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential SSA Trainers</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Regulators</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Extension Specialists</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tentative SSA Training Timeline

• 6/2016- Manual Printing (V1.0)
• 6/2016- Training Slide Review
• 7/2016- Online Module Development
• 8/2016- Train-The-Trainer (TTT) Course
• 10/2016- Manual Revision (V1.1)
• 10/2016- Sprout Growers Course
Thank you!

http://www.iit.edu/ifsh/sprout_safety/
sproutalliance@iit.edu

Kaiping Deng, PhD
Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH)
Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)

(708) 563-8170