

## FDA's Food Protection Plan – Global Perspective

Nega Beru, Ph.D.  
Director, Office of Food Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
CFSAN/OCD HFS-001  
5100 Paint Branch Parkway  
College Park, MD 20740-3835  
Office 301 436 2021  
Fax 301 436 2632  
Email [Nega.beru@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Nega.beru@fda.hhs.gov)

### Abstract:

FDA regulates \$417 billion worth of domestic food and \$49 billion in imported food annually – accounting for 80 percent of the US food supply. The agency has oversight of more than 136,000 registered domestic food facilities (including more than 44,000 U.S. food manufacturers and processors) and approximately 113,000 U.S. food warehouses, including storage tanks and grain elevators. Approximately 189,000 registered foreign facilities manufacture, process, pack, or hold food consumed by Americans accounting for 15 percent of the US food supply. There have been dramatic changes in the volume, variety, and complexity of FDA-regulated products arriving at U.S. ports. The United States trades with over 150 countries/ territories with products coming into over 300 U.S. ports. In the last decade, the number of food entry lines has tripled. Recent outbreaks linked to fresh produce, peanut butter, and pet foods show how FDA responds quickly to contain food safety problems. While this level of response needs to be maintained and even enhanced, there is also a need to focus more on building safety into products right from the start to meet the challenges of today. In November 2007, FDA issued its Food Protection Plan, which highlights its intention to work with the private sector to build on the actions of the food industry to ensure product safety.

FDA's Food Protection Plan, encompasses three core elements: prevention, intervention and response. The *prevention* element means promoting increased corporate responsibility so that food problems do not occur in the first place. The *intervention* element focuses on risk-based inspections, sampling, and surveillance at high risk points in the food supply chain. The *response* element bolsters FDA's emergency response efforts by allowing for increased speed and efficiency.