

**COOPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GLOBAL FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE (GFSI)
AND
THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)**

Adopted by the OIE and by the GFSI on 12th of July 2011

Between

The Global Food Safety Initiative (hereinafter referred to as GFSI) and

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (hereinafter referred to as the OIE

(GFSI and the OIE are hereinafter designated “the Parties” or “the Party”, as appropriate),

Preamble

Considering that the GFSI is a not-for-profit association of retail, manufacturing and food service companies and service providers associated with the food supply chain, which undertakes to share information relevant to the supply chain and review existing good retail practices, through benchmarking food safety schemes against the GFSI criteria;

Considering that the OIE is an intergovernmental organisation with 178 Member Countries, recognised by the World Trade Organisation as the reference organisation for setting standards for animal health, including zoonoses, whose mandate is to improve animal health and welfare worldwide and to facilitate safe trade in animals and animal products;

Considering that strengthening the linkages between GFSI and the OIE would assist both Parties to achieve their objectives of supporting safe trade, within the framework of their respective mandates;

The Parties have decided to conclude the following Cooperation Agreement:

Article 1: Scope

The aim of this Agreement is to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the Parties in relation to their respective mandates, programs and activities, including but not limited to standards, guidelines and recommendations on safe production and trade in food products derived from terrestrial and aquatic animals.

Article 2: Information on the activities of each Party

The Parties undertake to keep each other informed of activities undertaken in the fields of mutual interest, in particular where there is the potential to undertake joint activities. The Parties undertake to meet on a regular basis, as appropriate, to review and take action on activities of potential mutual interest.

Article 3: Participation in meetings

Each Party will invite the other Party to participate as an observer in meetings where matters of mutual interest may arise, and make the reports of these meetings available to the other Party. Such participation shall be subject to the respective organizations' rules for observer participation.

Article 4: Exchange of publications

The Parties will exchange their catalogue of publications and upon agreement, will exchange, free of charge, a limited number (normally 1-5) of copies of documents and publications on subjects of mutual interest.

Where appropriate, the Parties will benefit from the concessionary rates applied to their Members or affiliated organisations for further orders of publications.

Article 5: Other forms of cooperation

The Parties may decide to undertake other forms of cooperation, in particular:

- promotion of the use of international standards under the mandates of the Parties; and
- training and awareness-raising in Member countries, in particular developing countries.

Article 6: Consultations on cooperation

The two Parties will endeavour to extend their cooperation through formal or informal consultations on issues of common interest and will periodically assess the outcomes of this cooperation.

Article 7: Duration of the Agreement

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature by both Parties and shall remain valid until termination.

Each Party may propose termination of this Agreement by giving the other Party three months' written notice of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

Article 8: Amendments

Either Party may propose amendments to this Agreement by making a written notification. Agreement shall be reached through an exchange of letters.

In witness whereof, the Parties have signed this Agreement.

Signed in two copies, one copy to be held by GFSI and the other by the OIE.

For the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)

Jurgen Matern

Chairman

Date : 12th of July 2011

For the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

Bernard Vallat

Director General

Date : 12th of July 2011