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USAID-TIJARA PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM

TOUR OF U.S. FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION SYSTEM

IRAQ'S REINTEGRATION INTO THE GLOBAL
REGULATORY COMMUNITY



January 2012

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USAID-TIJARA PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM

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FDA FOOD SAFETY TOUR DELIVERABLE REPORT

TOUR OF U.S. FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION
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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ACRONYMS

APHIS	Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (of USDA)
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CDC	Center for Disease Control (of U.S. Health and Human Services [HHS])
CFP	Cochran Fellowship Program
COSQC	Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control
DG	Director General
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EGA	Economic Growth and Assessment
FAO	Foreign Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations [UN])
FDA	Food & Drug Administration (of U.S. HHS)
FAS	Foreign Agriculture Service (of USDA)
FSIS	Food Safety & Inspection Service (of USDA)
Gol	Government of Iraq
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Program
IFDA	Iraqi Food & Drug Administration
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoH	Ministry of Health
OIE	International Animal Health Organization
SIDA	Swedish International Development & Cooperation Agency
SPS	Sanitary/Phytosanitary
ToT	Training of Trainer
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 METHOD OF APPROACH

This report is identified as a deliverable in the *USAID/Tijara* International Trade/WTO Accession 2011-2012 Work Plan, Activity Reference 6.7: *International SPS Organization and Technical Assistance—Food safety reintegration into the global SPS regulatory community*.

The stated deliverables follow:

1.1.1 DELIVERABLES

- Develop, plan, organize and implement a tour for Iraqi MoH thought leaders and decision makers of U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. food safety inspection system.
- Provide technical assistance for Iraqi officials to receive educational (J1) visas, procure travel funding, and follow through with international travel and arrangements for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) hosts throughout the two-week program.
- Prepare and submit an after-action deliverable report.

The method of approach for this deliverable was to determine a specific need from the client, then develop a notional agenda and explore cooperative funding. Once the itinerary was finalized technical assistance was provided to assure visas, travel and all details for a successful educational program were finalized.

1.2 STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

Section 1 provides the Introduction, Method of Approach and Structure of this Report.

Section 2 includes discussions about Information Gathering, Planning & Implementation and After-Action Analysis and Report Writing.

Section 3 provides subsections regarding Background and Outlook & Way Forward regarding current capacity and future activities to bring Iraq's SPS inspection system to current standards and international recognition.

Annexes A through M provide supporting documentation, communications and photographs during the tour related to development, planning and implementation of the food safety tour.

2. PROCESS AND WRITING

2.1 INFORMATION GATHERING, PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

USAID/Tijara has had ongoing relationships with Government of Iraq (GoI) Baghdad and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) officials in the Ministries of Agriculture and Health. Director Generals (DGs) responsible for Sanitary/Phytosanitary (SPS) -- food safety, animal health and plant quarantine -- regulations and laboratory directors and managers and laboratory technicians responsible for implementing an Iraqi Food & Drug Administration (IFDA) have been included.

USAID/Tijara Deputy Director and Senior Agriculture Advisor held lengthy discussions with a broad range of officials from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Health (MoH) and Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control (COSQC) laboratories within the Ministry of Planning. Discussions were also conducted with officials at the U.S. Embassy including the Agricultural Minister Counselor, economists and various other USDA technical specialists in the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS).

The primary purpose of the April 3-6, 2011 needs assessment field trip was to facilitate discussions including the status of public health laboratories in Kurdistan and possible ways to implement, administer and enforce an SPS inspection system at all 22 Iraqi points of entry. During the April 2011 meetings KRG officials expressed interest in sending a team of MoH officials -- primarily technical types, but likely through the Ministerial and Director General (DG) level -- to tour the United States (U.S.) food safety inspection system. The officials discussed a prospective tour of food safety inspection agencies and border SPS inspection sites in the U.S. and reviewed a preliminary DRAFT notional itinerary of what a U.S. tour might look like. (See Annex B)

In response to clients' requests *USAID/Tijara* developed a notional agenda for the tour in consultation with MoH officials in Baghdad and KRG. *USAID/Tijara* then discussed and obtained partial sponsorship and coordination in hosting the tour from USDA FAS that manages the Cochran Fellowship Program CFP). (See Annex D). Throughout the process *USAID/Tijara* has had a key role in planning, in preparation of paperwork and in coordination with FAS officials and Iraqi Clients.

During the tour Iraqi officials and the *USAID/Tijara* representative will discuss operations with U.S. officials and trading partner representatives while touring the system. This will be an educational process to see not only what works in the U.S. system, but also what might be streamlined and developed differently if the system were being created from the beginning (as is generally the case in Iraq.) Tour participants departed Iraq on November 4 and returned November 20.

2.2 AFTER-ACTION ANALYSIS AND REPORT WRITING

Consistent with Year 4 of the *USAID/Tijara* International Trade/WTO Accession 2011-2012 Work Plan, this activity concluded with after-action analysis, debriefing activities an after-action documentary deliverable report entitled, "*Tour of U.S. Food Safety Inspection System: Iraq's Reintegration into the Global Regulatory Community*" submitted to USAID. Additional needs and future activities are suggested in "Outlook and Way Forward," of the following Section 3 in this Deliverable Report.

3. SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

3.1 BACKGROUND

Two primary ministries maintain statutory authority for legislation, administration and enforcement of Iraqi SPS requirements. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has primary authority for food safety requirements and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has primary authority for animal health and plant quarantine requirements.

USAID/Tijara has provided technical assistance to both ministries since at least March 2010. Each ministry has a long-range plan and strategies for developing an infrastructure for the long term implementation and enforcement of SPS regulations within its jurisdiction. Different long range plans result in some different specific needs for technical assistance, but also some needs in-common.

To become a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Iraq's SPS (animal health, plant quarantine and food safety) legislation and regulations must follow international WTO SPS standards and be developed and disseminated by Iraqi Official Representatives within the international to which WTO defers technical issues as follows:

- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for animal health issues;
- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the FAO (Foreign Agriculture Organization, of the United Nations) for plant health, pest & quarantine issues; and
- Codex Alimentarius (Codex) for food safety and some animal health-related issues.

OIE provides all international standards and guidelines for international trade of live terrestrial and aquatic animals and animal products. IPPC provides comparable guidelines for plants.

MoH representatives for food safety and public health issues help assure that current legislation is consistent with international guidelines as developed by the WTO SPS Food Safety Organization (Codex Alimentarius Commission, [CAC]). Codex is often supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Codex guidelines as they relate to the *Public Health Law* and the *Food Safety Regulations* are primarily under the jurisdiction of MoH but in coordination with MoA.

3.1.1 CURRENT SPS STATUS & PRE-TOUR ACTIVITIES

Iraq MoH has approved draft *Public Health Law* and *Food Safety Regulations* that have been submitted to WTO for distribution and review by Working Party members. This is one of the initial steps in assuring that Iraq's Sanitary/Phyto Sanitary (SPS – including food safety, animal health and plant quarantine) laws are consistent with international guidelines and a necessary step in Iraq's WTO accession process.

Currently there are 22 points of entry into Iraq – 6 airports and 16 border crossings (land or seaports). MoH is has a presence and is able to enforce food safety regulations at 15 entry points. Five of these 22 entry points are in Kurdistan and KRG has presence and enforcement capabilities at four.

Discussions between Baghdad and KRG MoH officials included the need for WHO and other donors to deliver funds already committed for laboratory refurbishment throughout Iraq and training and capacity building for laboratory personnel and border inspectors. The relationship between WTO accession and foreign investment in the health sector has also been evaluated.

Developing the critical infrastructure to implement, uniformly administer and enforce these SPS laws at all points of entry into Iraq is a larger and longer-term challenge. Passing the draft *Public Health Law* and *Food Safety Regulations* is relatively straightforward compared to administering and enforcing these laws on an ongoing basis consistent with WTO requirements for transparency and treating all WTO-member trading partners uniformly at all Iraqi points of entry.

The primary goal for this tour was to help Iraqis visualize the future. Authorizing legislation had approved creation of an IFDA, but officials delegated the responsibility had little idea of what it would look like. This tour allowed Iraqi decision-makers to see a fully functioning model and dialogue with the officials who are responsible for its daily operation. Throughout the process Iraqi officials were able to visualize a model that they can modify and adapt to meet Iraq's needs. By participating in this process Iraqi officials were able to visualize the model and see what is to be.

Increased understanding and knowledge were gained to develop the critical infrastructure – regulatory framework, central administration, port inspectors, diagnostic laboratories, appeals process, etc. – to administer and enforce food safety requirements for domestically produced and imported products. Developing an open and transparent system in Iraq for administering and enforcing SPS food safety regulations will be a systemic legacy for *USAID/Tijara* regardless of Iraq's success in achieving WTO accession.

The Cochran Fellowship Program (CFP) that hosted the Iraqi delegation in the U.S. offers training for officials from middle-income countries and emerging market countries. Training opportunities are for senior and mid-level specialists and administrators working in agricultural trade and policy including food safety.

Mr. Saif Natiq, Deputy Director, USAID/Tijara originally was designated as the component's representative to participate on the tour. Ultimately, Mr. Natiq was unable to accompany the delegation due to issues related to simultaneous applications for J1 and SIV visas. An educational training program was hosted by CFP and Texas A&M University. In-depth educational sessions were scheduled with senior U.S. officials at critical components of the U.S. food safety inspection and testing systems. (See full agenda in Annex M).

Sites visited included border crossings, Administrative offices in Washington, DC and reference laboratories. Training was conducted by highly knowledgeable, competent senior U.S. and state government officials who administer and run the U.S. food safety system on a day-to-day basis. Participants were able to participate in discussion about Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) inspection of red meat, poultry and egg products and FDA authority over everything else and to discuss APHIS authority versus FSIS and FDA.

3.1.2 LESSONS LEARNED: POST-TOUR DEBRIEFING

MoH participants on the U.S. FDA and food safety tour indicated confusion about reasons for U.S. split authorities for food safety inspection between FDA and USDA. Their preference is for a single food safety agency. KRG MoH officials stated that they will likely also review the Jordanian FDA as a Middle-East model for streamlined applications of the U.S. food safety inspection system before moving forward to develop an IFDA.

Tour participants were very impressed with the volume of trade, border inspection processes at the U.S./Mexican border and by input from Mexican embassy officials. Bottom line: the tour achieved the objective of triggering thought processes about what parts of the US system might work or not in applications to the Iraqi food safety system.

Draft legislation authorizing an Iraqi Food & Drug Administration (IFDA) is currently under consideration at the KRG parliamentary (at least committee) level, and if adopted would grant MoH authority over implementation of SPS food safety regulations according to MoH.

New KRG political leadership at the Prime Minister and Ministerial levels will be selected during early 2012 and changes in some priorities and strategic plans will likely result. *USAID/Tijara* will adjust technical assistance and programs consistent with the newly evolving agenda.

MoH officials requested that *USAID/Tijara* explore possibilities for officials from the medical/pharmaceutical division of MoH to also visit U.S. FDA facilities and processes for drug approval and public health regulations. *USAID/Tijara* will explore alternative sources for funding and sponsorship.

MoH and MoA continued to request technical assistance and direction to resources regarding Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP), risk-based inspection processes and ISO accreditation for reference laboratories and laboratory technicians.

In Summary: Iraqi officials are in the initial formative stages of a multiple-year process for developing SPS regulations and an implementation and enforcement infrastructure. *USAID/Tijara* efforts during the coming year will only help shape the thought process. Actual adoption and future implementation will take place long after funding for the final year of *USAID/Tijara* ends. Even that scenario depends on an Iraqi political and security environment that is conducive to compromise, transparency and acceptance of international norms.

3.2 OUTLOOK AND WAY FORWARD

Developing an open and transparent system for administering and enforcing SPS food safety regulations will be a systemic legacy regardless of Iraq's success in WTO accession. GoI/Baghdad MoH has declared policy for forming an Iraqi Food and Drug Administration (IFDA) but the operational logistics have not been determined. Technical input and guidance of high level decision makers, travel to visit other functioning SPS systems and training of trainers activities will be included in this phase of the project.

MoA and MoH officials from both Erbil and Baghdad have agreed that the next critical needs will be technical expertise and advice for International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accreditation and certification of MoA reference laboratories, HACCP training and Risk Analysis. Officials from both locations have provided letters to *USAID/Tijara* requesting technical support in these areas.

Workshops involving food safety and animal health officials from Baghdad and Erbil include discussion of SPS (including veterinarian) inspection of live animals and animal products and food safety inspection at Iraqi points of entry. Assessing regional laboratory capabilities to accurately evaluate products for animal and plant pests and diseases and food safety conditions in a timely manner is critical for facilitating the flow of food and agricultural products at entry points consistent with WTO guidelines.

Participants in these workshops are high level decision-makers within the GoI Ministries responsible for implementation, administration and enforcement of SPS regulations necessary for WTO Accession. The workshops provide a forum for dialog and input regarding critical needs to improve laboratory speed and accuracy and to develop the inspection infrastructure at points of entry. For example, live animal quarantine facilities will be available at five entry points – Baghdad Airport, Um Qasir, Ibrahim Khalil, Tripil and Haj Umran.

Consistent with the 2011-2012 Revised Workplan *USAID/Tijara* will continue to coordinate with USDA FAS and GoI ministerial officials to conduct the following activities:

- Continue to facilitate information sharing and transparency and provide technical support for veterinary experts and legal counsel from Baghdad and KRG as draft live animal import regulations are developed and shared to provide one uniform Iraqi standard.
- Dr. Jamal, MoA animal health and Dr. Salar MoH, Head of the Directorate of Foodhygiene both attended a 4-week SIDA training course in Stockholm during late 2010 that included ISO and HACCP introductory material. Dr Salar also worked as a regional customs inspector in Norway prior to returning to Iraq in 2006. *USAID/Tijara* will continue to cultivate these and other progressive thought-leaders by providing public awareness and technical training material regarding HACCP, ISO accreditation for laboratories, risk assessment and risk-based inspection.
- Sponsor workshops and public education programs for MoA and MoH spokespersons to discuss technical issues and linkages between WTO Accession, establishment of rule of law and transparent legislation regarding SPS regulations for plant and animal health. Assure that SPS legislation and regulations are consistent with guidelines from international technical organizations – OIE, IPPC and Codex.
- Provide technical expertise to Iraqi officials, regardless of region, to facilitate open and transparent movement of agricultural products from province to province within Iraq and through all 22 Iraqi points of entry.
- Anticipate that 100 percent sampling of all loads and some other current SPS inspection practices will be challenged during WTO accession working party meetings and bilateral negotiations prior to WTO accession.
- Begin discussions among decision makers at Ministry of Finance, Customs Commission, MoH Food Safety and MoA Animal & Plant Health regarding convergence of activities for streamlined and seamless inspection procedures at all Iraqi points of entry. This process would be consistent with the “one face at the border” strategy implemented when the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was formed in the U.S.
- Coordinate with ministries having primary SPS authority -- MoH for food safety and MoA for animal & plant health -- to develop risk based inspection procedures and laboratory expertise.
- Continue to coordinate with FAS and other donors to provide technical support for developing an Iraqi Food & Drug Administration (IFDA) at MoH and risk assessment/HACCP training and ISO accreditation for reference laboratories at both MoA and MoH.
- Develop additional understanding and how to achieve laboratory accreditation and international recognition of ISO certified reference laboratories, HACCP and risk-based inspection procedures and risk-based sampling (Iraq still samples 100 percent of all loads for food safety).



Left to Right: Dr. Salar, Dr. Lambert, Dr. Jamil at pre-tour briefing dinner. *Photo by Mr. Saif Natiq*



Iraqi Food Safety Delegation with Trainer at the White House
Left to Right: Dr. Hassan, Dr. Khudair, Wiryia, Min. Taher, trainer, Dr. Salar, Newzad, Dr. Jamil



Iraqi Delegation with Texas A & M Trainers



Iraqi Delegation in FDA Food Safety Laboratory

Annex A: **Field Trip Report**

Name: Charles Lambert and Saif Natiq

Date Submitted: April 15, 2011

Component: International Trade/WTO Accession

Beneficiaries/Counterpart Organization: KRG officials from Ministry of Health (MoH) and USAID Regional Reconstruction Team (RRT) Advisor for Kurdistan.

Date(s) of Trip: April 3-6, 2011

Workplan Activity Reference: This Field Trip and Assessment is consistent with Line 3.8 -- *Laboratory Needs Assessment by ISO Accredited Authorities* — from the 2011-2012 USAID/Tijara Annual Workplan.

1. Objectives and Purpose of Field Trip:

The primary purpose of the April 3-6 laboratory needs assessment field trip was to facilitate discussions including the status of Public Health laboratories in Kurdistan and possible ways to implement international standards and *USAID/Tijara* recommendations to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in the Kurdistan region (KRG). This event served as an assessment and information gathering stage prior to implementation of a model in KRG. If successful it could serve as a precursor to comparable activities at all 22 points of entry into Iraq resulting in adoption of ISO standards for laboratories across Iraq.

KRG MoH officials previously expressed a need for calibration of laboratory testing equipment, proficiency testing of laboratory personnel, and ultimately, ISO accreditation of KRG food safety and quality control laboratories as they move to administration and enforcement of a single set of food safety regulations at all KRG points of entry.

USAID/Tijara technical advisors visited the KRG MoH Central Reference Laboratory, the Kurdistan Standardization and Quality Control laboratory at KRG Ministry of Planning and the Kurdistan Medical Quality Control Agency laboratory in Erbil. The team determined the types of equipment used and tests being implemented and will assist KRG officials in selecting an accredited private sector contractor to be paid for by KRG to conduct with the necessary activities that lead to ISO accreditation.

This field trip was a follow-up to earlier workshops conducted during May and August 2010 that facilitated discussion among Government of Iraq (GoI) MoH officials regarding implementation of the draft *Public Health Law* and *Food Safety Regulations*.

2. Agenda/Outline of Field Trip:

This Workshop follows earlier Workshops to facilitate discussion among GoI MoH officials regarding implementation of the *Public Health Law* and the *Food Safety Regulations* and to draft uniform implementing regulations.

Dr. Lambert and Mr. Natiq met with KRG MoH officials led by Dr. Salar Mustafa Saidon to continue discussion about resolving technical needs identified for the 2011-2012 Work Plan.

Three critical needs include 1) calibration and ISO certification of diagnostic laboratories and technicians, 2) the need for uniform administration and enforcement of Food Safety laws and regulations at all Iraqi points of entry and designation of responsibilities for MoA and MoH in the inspection process, and 3) restructuring Iraqi Ministries and moving to a single food safety agency.

Dr. Salar attended the 4-week Food Safety training at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in Stockholm during late 2010 and was a regional customs inspector in Norway prior to returning to Iraq. Dr. Salar strongly supports Iraq's accession to the WTO and has sent *USAID/Tijara* a letter signed by the KRG Minister of Health requesting continued *USAID/Tijara* technical support.

KRG officials have expressed interest in sending a team of KRG officials -- primarily technical types, but likely through the Director General (DG) level -- to tour the United States food safety inspection system. There has also been discussion and movement towards creation of an Iraqi FDA at Gol Bahgdad MoH and at this stage both MoH and MoA view themselves as the primary ministry in position to supply the service.

The officials discussed a prospective tour of food safety inspection agencies and border SPS inspection sites in the U.S. and reviewed a preliminary DRAFT itinerary of what a U.S. tour might look like. KRG officials said that this very much fits with their thoughts so *USAID/Tijara's* next steps are to provide cost estimates per person and to explore the possibility of partial co-funding from U.S. sources.

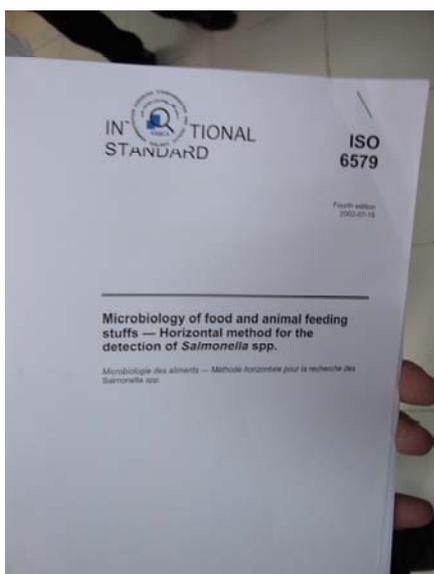
Dr. Lambert and Mr. Natiq also met with Lloyd Mendes, USAID Representative, Senior Reconstruction Team, RRT to discuss progress and plans for the *USAID/Tijara* International Trade/WTO Accession Project and perspectives from meetings with KRG MoA and MoH officials, regional political and security issues and other issues of mutual interest.



Dr. Salaar, KRG MoH (left) looks on as Dr. Lambert (center) reviews laboratory equipment with KRG laboratory technicians



High Performance Liquid Chromatography equipment



Laboratory manual for Microbial testing



Dr. Salar, the Food Safety Laboratory Director and Dr. Lambert

3. Key Personnel Met/Attendees of Meetings Held:

Names of the Participants

Organization Represented / Contact Information

Dr. Amer Omar Ali, KRG – Iraq Ministry of Health Private Bureau

MoH KRG, Erbil pbkmoh@yahoo.com

Dr. Salar Mustafa Said, KRG Head of Directorate of Foodhygiene

MoH KRG, Erbil salarsaid59@yahoo.com

Dr. Muayad Abdulrahman Koji, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister, Quality Control Affairs

MoH KRG, Erbil muayad.koji@gmail.com

Soran Mohamad Ismail, Laboratory Director, Public Health laboratory Management

MoH KRG, Erbil shaz_kkk@yahoo.com

Lloyd Mendes, USAID Representative, Senior Development Advisor Regional Reconstruction Team, Kurdistan Region

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Dr. Chuck Lambert, Sr. Economist & Agricultural Advisor, WTO Accession

USAID/Tijara clambert@tijara-iraq.com

Mr. Saif Natiq, Deputy Team Leader/WTO Accession Program Specialist

USAID/Tijara snatiq@tijara-iraq.com

4. Outcome and Summary Findings of Field Trip:

USAID/Tijara is working with the Iraqi government on uniform administration and enforcement of tariffs and SPS measures at all points of entry into Iraq. Standardizing measures at the five entry points in the Kurdish provinces could be a model for expansion to the other crossing points in the lower Iraqi provinces. Currently there are 22 points of entry into Iraq – 6 airports and 16 border crossings (land or seaports). MoH is has a presence and is able to enforce food safety regulations at 15 entry points. Five of these 22 entry points are in Kurdistan and KRG has presence and enforcement capabilities at four.

Food Safety import requirements to enter KRG exceed Codex recommendations because very load is sampled regardless of whether the product is fresh, frozen or processed. Codex provides for sampling techniques that require less than 100 percent of all loads being tested. Because of National Treatment issues, domestic production and processing will be required to meet the same SPS HACCP requirements as imported products requiring additional domestic HACCP training. HACCP training will likely be mostly Training of Trainer (ToT) programs for both senior port inspection officials and domestic food safety personnel.

Iraqi technicians have been trained in overseas programs and laboratory equipment has been purchased from recognized reputable suppliers. MoH indicated a need for technical assistance on the ground to assure that equipment is properly set up and calibrated and for proficiency testing of laboratory technicians once the equipment is accurately operational.

KRG MoH expressed a need for ISO accreditation or certification of food safety and quality control testing laboratories. This step will likely include both on-ground training and some possible overseas training for laboratory management and senior technical personnel.

MoH officials mentioned the need for HACCP training. This would include SPS HACCP training for all food groups at the border including risk based sampling, microbial, pathogen and residue testing. Some laboratories are currently testing 100 percent of all loads crossed at some border crossing points in Kurdistan and this is not consistent with WTO guidelines.

Gol/Baghdad MoH has declared policy for forming an Iraqi Food and Drug Administration (IFDA) but the operational logistics have not been determined. Both KRG MoA and KRG MoH indicated that they are ideally suited to assure farm to fork food safety. Technical input and guidance of high level decision makers, likely travel to visit other functioning FDA systems and ToT activities will all likely be included in this phase of the project.

KRG officials have expressed interest in sending a team of KRG officials -- primarily technical types, but likely through the DG level -- to tour the United States food safety inspection system. The officials discussed a prospective tour of U.S. food safety inspection agencies and border SPS inspection sites and Gol/Baghdad officials will also be invited to participate.

4 (a). Documents, Materials, Resources from Trip:

5. Recommendations and Follow-up Action (if necessary):

- i. **Actions:** Continue to facilitate information sharing and transparency between officials at Gol MoH Baghdad and MoH KRG. Sponsor workshops and public education programs about linkages between WTO Accession, establishment of rule of law and transparent legislation regarding SPS regulations for food safety. Provide technical expertise to Iraqi officials, regardless of region, to facilitate open and transparent movement of food products from province to province within Iraq and through import points of entry.

Anticipate that 100 percent sampling of all loads and some other current practices will be challenged during WTO accession working party meetings and bilateral negotiations prior to WTO accession. Be prepared to provide technical expertise and explain international guidelines in these instances. Work with Iraqi government officials to implement and enforce WTO-consistent legislation as passed and expand administration and enforcement to all 22 Iraqi points of entry.

Work with USG officials and private contractors to develop the itinerary for a tour of U.S. food safety and border crossing inspection processes for Iraq government officials from Gol Baghdad and KRG. Explore potential co-funding sources from USG in addition to Gol self-funding for tour participants.

- ii. **By whom:** MoH and MoA officials from Gol Baghdad and KRG with ongoing technical assistance and messaging provided by *USAID/Tijara* International Trade/WTO Accession Advisors and Specialists.
- iii. **Expected timeline:** Tour of U.S. inspection facilities during the last half of 2011. The overall SPS inspection and laboratory certification strategy is further expanded and developed in the *USAID/Tijara 2011 - 2013 Workplan*. The timeline for WTO Accession is to be completed by the end of the 2-year extended workplan.

Signature of person completing report:

_____ Date: _____

Signature of Component Leader:

_____ Date: _____



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Annex B:

June 3, 2011

TO: Ministry of Health (MoH) Officials
Baghdad and KRG

FROM: USAID/Tijara International Trade/WTO Accession

RE: *Invitation to participate in a tour of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and Food Safety Inspection System*

Following expressions of interest and ongoing discussion with MoH officials in Baghdad and the KRG regarding observing first-hand the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Food Safety Inspection System (FSIS) in the United States, USAID/Tijara has worked closely with the US Foreign Agriculture Service officials in the US Embassy, Baghdad to develop a proposal and an itinerary of events for a Study Tour to the USA. Ongoing discussions are underway to identify locations that will best achieve the objectives of providing the participants with actual program delivery of the FSIS at a number of sites in the US. Given approvals in principle by the FAS, we are pleased to extend an offer of invitation for a limited number of Iraqi government officials to participate in USA based Study Tour while continuing to finalize the details. The following is an outline of the proposal:

- **Date and length of tour:** Approximately two weeks during September 2011.
- **Participants:** Limited to **five officials from MoH Baghdad** and **five officials from MoH KRG**. These officials should be decision-makers and working in areas of responsibility for forming the Iraqi FDA or domestic and imported food safety inspection. Participants should have a high level of English language fluency to be nominated as a participant.
- **Budget and Cost Share:** The final approval of this Study Tour is premised on a cost-share principle between the Iraq and US Government.

The Iraqi officials will be responsible to pay for:

- 1) round-trip flights from Baghdad to Washington, D.C. and,
- 2) per diem expenses during travel including time in the U.S.

The U.S. Government will be responsible pay for

- 1) all accommodation expenses between arrival to and departure from the U.S. and,
- 2) all air and ground transportation while the participants are in the United States.

- **Names of Participants:** To begin the process of obtaining visas and developing itinerary details it will be necessary for officials at the U.S. Embassy and USAID/Tijara to have a firm commitment of this invitation plus names, titles and passport information for individual participants before June 14. Mr. Saif Natiq, USAID/Tijara will contact the relevant ministries to receive these names and coordinate the process with U.S. embassy participants.
- **Liaison:** We are also proposing that Mr. Natiq travel with the group during the tour to facilitate liaison with tour sponsors in the U.S. and occasional technical translation. General understanding and communication will be the responsibility of the participants.
- **Notional Agenda:** A notional agenda is attached. This may change depending on a number of factors but will give you an idea of the type of facilities and officials that will be visited during the tour.

Please notify the USAID/Tijara project of your approved participation in the FSIS Study Tour by contacting Mr. Chuck Lambert clambert@tijara-iraq.com or Saif Natiq snatiq@tijara-iraq.com by no later than **June 15th 2011** and we will begin the process of obtaining visas on your behalf and finalizing the agenda.

Thank you in advance for your interest and participation.

Annex C:

DRAFT--Notional Agenda for Iraqi Food Safety Tour of U. S.–DRAFT

Day 1: Depart Baghdad through ?? Istanbul, Dubai, Bahrain ??

Day 2: Arrive Washington, DC Mid-late afternoon, check in hotel and dinner with DC tour facilitators... MX embassy???

Day 3: AM Meet with FDA and overview of FDA food safety regulatory authorities. PM tour of FDA reference laboratory (if there is one) in DC/MD.

Day 4: AM meet with USDA FSIS and APHIS and overview of respective food safety regulatory authorities. Discussion of HACCP based inspection principles and uniform administration and enforcement of SPS EX-IM regulations at all US points of entry. Sample-based inspection, residue monitoring... etc..

Optional.. USDA trade data aggregated from Customs EX-IM data using product codes.

Day 5: Flight to Buffalo, NY and tour of Niagara US/Canadian border inspection. Practices and procedures, SPS pre-clearance, automated pre-notification. Risk-based inspections and handling huge volumes while maintaining safety standards.

Day 6: Tour of Moyer beef packing and in-plant inspection. Optional.. see also Omaha

Day 7: Shopping in DC area and DOR

Day 8: Flight to Omaha tour of a beef packing plant in Omaha area.

Day 9: Drive to Ames and tour of APHIS laboratory. PM flight to Atlanta.

Day 10: tour of CDC and CDC reference laboratory. Tour of FSIS reference laboratory.

Day 11: Tour of Athens Poultry disease Laboratory and an FSIS inspected poultry processing plant.

Day 12; Depart Atlanta through ?? Istanbul, Dubai, Bahrain ?? direct or via DC

Day 13: Return to Baghdad

Additional points to be covered: laboratory certification, international recognition of ISO certified reference laboratories, HACCP and risk-based inspection procedures, sampling (they still do 100% of all loads for food safety), Iraq is thinking of combining food inspection with drug quality control within one agency and notes that US is now thinking about splitting the two.

Discussion about FSIS inspection of red meat, poultry and egg products and FDA authority over everything else. Discussion about APHIS authority versus FSIS and FDA.. Karen Hulebak or Dr. Raymond to discuss what US would do differently if starting from clean slate.

Annex D:

About The Cochran Fellowship Program

Overview

Since 1984, the U.S. Congress has made funds available to the Cochran Fellowship Program for training agriculturalists from middle-income countries and emerging market countries. Training opportunities are for senior and mid-level specialists and administrators working in agricultural trade and policy, agribusiness development, management, animal, plant, and food sciences, extension services, agricultural marketing, and many other areas.

Individuals selected for Cochran trainings come from both the public and private sectors. All training occurs in the United States. Training programs are designed and organized in conjunction with [U.S. universities](#), [USDA](#) and other government agencies, agribusinesses, and consultants. The Cochran Fellowship Program is part of the United States Department of Agriculture's [Foreign Agricultural Service](#), Office of Capacity Building and Development, Trade and Scientific Exchanges Division (USDA/FAS/OCBD/TSE). Since its start in 1984, the Cochran Fellowship Program has provided U.S. - based training for over 14,300 international participants from 123 countries worldwide.

Program Objectives

Program objectives are to provide high-quality training resulting in knowledge and skills that will:

- (1) Assist eligible countries to develop agricultural systems necessary to meet the food and fiber needs of their domestic populations; and
- (2) Strengthen and enhance trade linkages between eligible countries and agricultural interests in the United States.

Training Focus

The Cochran Fellowship Program (CFP) offers short-term training opportunities, most ranging from 2 weeks to 1 month, depending on the objectives of the program. Participants meet with professionals in their fields, participate in field observations and industry visits, experience on-the-job training, attend university courses and seminars, or participate in a combination of the above. No training, however, will be approved which directly enhances a country's ability to export goods in competition with the United States. CFP works closely with U.S. agricultural trade and market development associations to identify potential areas of training for countries participating in the Cochran Fellowship Program. Every effort is made to match U.S. agricultural interests with those of the recipient countries.

Training Program Design

Each training program reflects a philosophy that training should provide participants with sound technical knowledge and the opportunity to test and practice new skills and knowledge in practical situations. Therefore, most programs offer a mixture of technical instruction, practical field observations, and "hands-on" experience. Programs are specially designed in accordance with the training objectives discussed during interviews with candidates and the recommendations of the respective USDA/FAS Foreign Agricultural Affairs Officer.

Page Last Updated: June 6, 2011

Annex E:

From: Itle, Lindsey FAS [mailto:Lindsey.Itle@fas.usda.gov]
To: Verdonk, Ronald P (Baghdad); Rush, Charles L (Baghdad)
Subject: Cochran Food Safety & Inspection Procedures (AKA the FDA tour)

Ron & Charles,

I sorted through all of the emails related to this program yesterday and came up with a one page summary of what I gathered Chuck wants this program to cover. That document is attached and I would appreciate your feedback as to if this is in the ballpark or not.

I have already talked to Texas A&M and given them a vague idea of what the program would be and they are very excited to be involved. They have done similar programs in the past and are very good at being able to get all the regulatory folks (FDA, APHIS, FSIS, and border crossings) to meet with Cochran groups.

Thanks,
Lindsey

Cochran Fellowship Program Food Safety & Inspection Procedures

It is proposed to host a group of 8 - 10 Iraqis, 7 from the KRG and 3 from Baghdad, from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture in the U.S for a two-week training program. A USAID local employee in Iraq, Saif Natiq Jabbory, will accompany the group and provide Arabic interpretation during the program. His expenses will be 100% covered by USAID. USDA will cover the fellows' domestic travel and lodging expenses, while the Iraqis will pay their own roundtrip international airfare to the U.S. in addition to their per diem expenses.

The program should cover the administrative set-up of the U.S. food safety regulatory system, emphasizing the sharing of duties across several different agencies with common regulatory standards. The structure and function of national laboratories and border inspection posts should also be highlighted.

Meetings in Washington, DC should include:

- **The Mexican Embassy:** Carlos Vazquez, Ag Counselor in the Mexican embassy in Washington has offered to host the Iraqis and discuss perspectives of a high-volume trading partner dealing with the US system. Post and USAID support this meeting.
- **The Food & Drug Administration, The Food Safety Inspection Service, The Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service:** Overviews of respective food safety regulatory authorities covered by FDA, FSIS, and APHIS. Discussion about FSIS inspection of red meat, poultry and eggs and FDA authority over everything else, as well as APHIS authority versus FSIS and FDA. Introduction of HACCP based inspection principles, sample-based inspection, residue monitoring, and uniform administration and enforcement of SPS regulations at all U.S. points of entry. Discussion of what U.S. would be different if starting from a clean slate. Emphasis on shared authorities and interagency coordination.

Outside of DC:

- **Border Inspection:** Practices and procedures, SPS pre-clearance, automated pre-notification, risk-based inspections, HACCP, random sampling (Iraq is still sampling 100% of all loads for food safety), and handling huge volumes while maintaining safety standards.
- **National Laboratories:** APHIS laboratory, Center for Disease Control (CDC) reference laboratory, FSIS reference laboratory. Laboratory certification and international recognition of ISO certified reference laboratories.



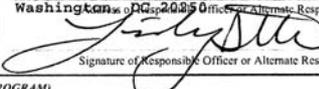
Delegation with USDA Cochran Fellowship Program Sponsors

The USAID Tijara Provincial Economic Growth Program

Annex F:

U.S. Department of State
CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR (J-1) STATUS

OMB APPROVAL NO. 1405-0119
EXPIRES: 07-31-2011
ESTIMATED BURDEN TIME: 45 min
*See Page 2

1. Family Name: Al Sammarraie		First Name: Saif Natiq Juboori		Middle Name:		Gender: MALE		N0008516519	
Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy): 07-16-1982		City of Birth: Baghdad		Country of Birth: IRAQ		Citizenship Country Code: IZ		Citizenship Country: IRAQ	
Legal Permanent Residence Country Code: IZ		Legal Permanent Residence Country: IRAQ		Position Code: 100		Position: CATEGORY - GOVERNMENT		J-1 	
Primary Site of Activity: 1400 Independence Ave, SW		Washington, DC 20250							
2. Program Sponsor: US Department of Agriculture, Research & Scientific Exchange				Exchange Visitor Program Number: G-3-00351					
Participating Program Official Description: GOVERNMENT VISITOR; PROFESSOR; RESEARCH SCHOLAR; SHORT-TERM SCHOLAR; STUDENT ASSOCIATE; STUDENT BACHELORS; STUDENT DOCTORATE; STUDENT INTERN; STUDENT MASTERS; STUDENT NON-DEGREE									
Purpose of this form: Begin new program; accompanied by number (0) of immediate family members.									
3. Form Covers Period:			4. Exchange Visitor Category:						
From (mm-dd-yyyy): 11-01-2011			GOVERNMENT VISITOR						
To (mm-dd-yyyy): 11-21-2011			Subject/Field Code: 01.0000		Subject/Field Code Remarks: none				
5. During the period covered by this form, the total estimated financial support (in U.S. \$) is to be provided to the exchange visitor by:									
Current Program Sponsor funds : \$6,000.00									
Total : \$6,000.00									
6. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE / DHS USE OR CERTIFICATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER OR ALTERNATE RESPONSIBLE OFFICER THAT A NOTIFICATION COPY OF THIS FORM HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (INCLUDE DATE).				7. Lindsey Itle			Alternate Responsible Officer		
				Name of Official Preparing Form			Title		
				USDA/FAS/OCBD/TSED					
				1400 Independence Ave. SW, South Buildi			202-690-0777		
				Washington, DC, 20250			Telephone Number		
							07-15-2011		
				Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer			Date (mm-dd-yyyy)		
8. Statement of Responsible Officer for Releasing Sponsor (FOR TRANSFER OF PROGRAM)									
Effective date (mm-dd-yyyy): _____ Transfer of this exchange visitor from program number _____ sponsored by _____ to the program specified in item 2 is necessary or highly desirable and is in conformity with the objectives of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended.									
Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer					Date (mm-dd-yyyy) of Signature				
PRELIMINARY ENDORSEMENT OF CONSULAR OR IMMIGRATION OFFICER REGARDING SECTION 212(c) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT AND PL 94-484, AS AMENDED (see item 1(a) of page 2).						TRAVEL VALIDATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER (Maximum validation period is 1 year*)			
The Exchange Visitor in the above program:						*EXCEPT: Maximum validation period is up to 6 months for Short-term Scholars and 4 months for Camp Counselors and Summer Work/Travel			
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Not subject to the two-year residence requirement						(1) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time			
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subject to two-year residence requirement based on:						Date (mm-dd-yyyy)			
A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government financing and/or									
B. <input type="checkbox"/> The Exchange Visitor Skills List and/or						Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer			
C. <input type="checkbox"/> PL 94-484 as amended						(2) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time			
Name _____ Title _____						Date (mm-dd-yyyy)			
Signature of Consular or Immigration Officer _____ Date (mm-dd-yyyy) _____						Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer _____			
THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE FINAL DETERMINATION REGARDING 212 (c).									
EXCHANGE VISITOR CERTIFICATION: I have read and agree with the statement in item 2 on page 2 of this document.									
Signature of Applicant _____ Place _____						Date (mm-dd-yyyy) _____			

Annex G:



COCHRAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
2011
APPLICATION FORM

(NOTE: PLEASE TYPE IF POSSIBLE)

***** APPLICATION AND ATTACHMENTS MUST BE IN ENGLISH *****

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: AL SAMMARRAJE, SAIF NATIQ JUBOORI

FAMILY NAME, Given Name

(Please capitalize FAMILY NAME.

Name must correspond exactly
to passport or travel documents;

Date of Birth: 18/July/1982

(Day / Month / Year) e.g., 03/March/1970

City of Birth: Baghdad

Country of Birth: IRAQ

Country of Citizenship: IRAQ

Home Address:

Mansour, Dist 603, St. 17 No. 54,

(# Street)

Baghdad

(Town or City)

IRAQ

(Country and Post Code)

COMPLETED APPLICATION SHOULD INCLUDE:

- 2 Letters of Recommendation
- 2 Photographs
- Photocopies of All International Travel Documents (Passport)
- Signed Conditions of Training
- Medical Clearance Documentation

MALE FEMALE

07901113458

(Home Telephone)

07901113458

(Personal Mobile Telephone)

saifnatiq@yahoo.co.uk

(Personal Email Address)

II. CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:

Deputy Director

(Title or Position)

USAID/TIJARA

(Organization/Company)

Al- Mansour Al – Amree'rat Street

(# Street)

Baghdad

(Town or City)

Iraq

(Country and Post Code)

From: 18 / July / 2009 To: Present

(Dates of Employment)

07901113458

(Work Telephone)

N/A

(Fax)

07901113458

(Work Mobile Telephone)

snatiq@tijara-iraq.com

(Work Email Address)

- 2 -

V. ACADEMIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE

A) Academic

Name of Institution	Field of Study	Dates Attended	Degree & Date Completed	Language of Instruction
Nahrain University	Medical Engineering	2000	B.Sc , 2004	English
Nahrain University	Medical Engineering	2004	M.Sc , 2008	English

B) Training: (List additional training in home country.)

Field of Study	Dates	Language/Place of Instruction

C) Additional Training in Other Countries:

Field of Study	Dates	Language of Instruction	Country
Immunoassay Advance Training Course	2005	English	UAE , Czech Republic
MR/CT Camera	2009	English	Jordan

Awards, Honors, Scholarships Received, Publications, Professional Memberships:

VI. LANGUAGES

(Please indicate **ENGLISH** capabilities in first line, additional languages on remaining lines)

English	Conversation	Reading	Writing
Little to none			
Understands some but will need interpreter			
Adequate English skills			
Good English			
Fluent	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
Other Languages			
Describe your skill level			
Arabic	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent

- 3 -

COCHRAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
CONDITIONS OF TRAINING

Name of Participant AL-SAMMARRAIE, SAIF NATIQ JUBOORI
(FAMILY NAME, Given name, Other names)

Country IRAQ

If I am accepted to receive technical training under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cochran Fellowship Program, I agree to adhere to my arranged program, to devote my time and attention to my studies and/or practical training, and to conform to Cochran Program regulations and procedures for the duration of my training program. I will not seek extension of the period of my program but will return to my country without delay upon completion of my training acquired under this program. I also agree to conform to all laws of the United States.

Furthermore, I thoroughly understand the following policies of the Cochran Fellowship Program:

I. Dependents:

USDA strongly discourages family members from accompanying or joining a participant while he/she is in training. The Cochran Program is not responsible in any way for family members.

II. Attendance of Participants at Conferences and Meetings

Attendance of participants at national or international conferences, conventions or meetings of professional, trade, or other associations is not permitted unless such attendance is a part of the Cochran participant training program.

III. Conditions for Termination of Training Programs:

USDA reserves the right to terminate the training program of those participants who:

- A. Change the course of study without authorization from the USDA/Cochran Fellowship Program.
- B. Fail to show sufficient interest in or to pursue effectively their training program.
- C. Have severe mental or physical health problems.
- D. Conduct themselves in a manner prejudicial to the program or to the laws of the United States.
- E. Marry during training without securing prior USDA approval.
- F. Have in any way falsified information on the application and/or supporting documents.

- 25 -

- 4 -

IV. Travel:

If selected, the applicant, their institution, or other sponsor assumes financial responsibility for travel to and from Washington, D.C. or their specified arrival/departure site.

V. Financial Support:

The applicant is aware that the financial support provided by the USDA Cochran Program is for training fees, emergency medical insurance, lodging and food only. The daily maintenance allowance is adequate for modest lodging and food. USDA does not fund any expenses related to family members accompanying the participant.

VI. Health and Insurance:

It is a requirement before arrival in the United States that every participant has a physical examination and be determined to be in good health. Proof of medical fitness (a signed letter from a medical doctor within 12 months of the program start date) is required before you will be allowed to travel to the United States as a Cochran Fellow. The insurance provided to the participant while in the United States will cover only **EMERGENCY** medical care and **DOES NOT** cover pre-existing conditions, prescriptions, dental or optical work. In addition, the participant may be responsible for paying the first \$50 in medical expenses for each occurrence. **I understand that USDA and its training providers are not responsible for any costs related to medical care while in the United States.**

VII. Debts and Obligations:

The participant will be responsible for all debts and financial obligations incurred while in the United States.

Signature below indicates agreement to and understanding of the above conditions.

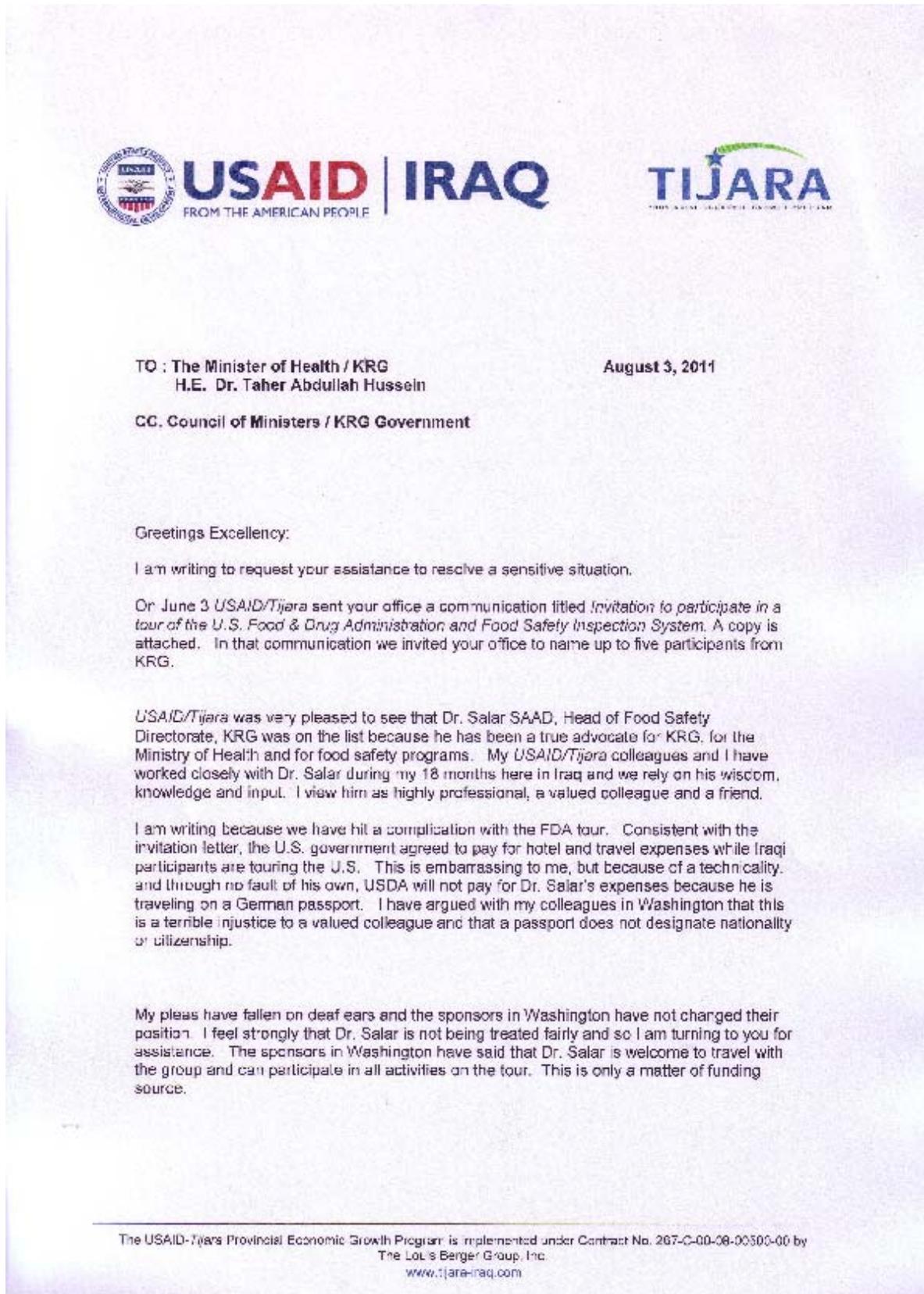


Applicant's Signature

1 August 2011

Date

Annex H:

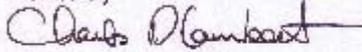


The USAID Tijara Provincial Economic Growth Program

It has been indicated that KRG could pay for Dr. Salar's expenses while he is in the U.S. with approval from the Council of Ministers. I am pleading Dr. Salar's case and asking if you will submit a request to the Council of Ministers to fund these expenses. Our best estimate is that the additional cost will be approximately \$7,000 U.S. This is a relatively small amount when the funding already committed by MoH and USDA is considered. But, as already indicated, this funding is critical to assure that Dr. Salar is treated fairly.

I am willing to consider whatever action might increase the chances that these funds will be approved. Please let me know if there is anything else that I can do and I will try to make it happen. Thank you in advance for your assistance. It is an honor to work with you and the professionals in your Ministry.

Sincerely



Dr. Charles Lambert

USAID/Tijara Senior Economist & Agricultural Advisor
Mansour, Bagdad, Iraq
Email: clambert@tijara-iraq.com
Web site: www.tijara-iraq.com
Cell phone (Iraq): +967-7801-678-087

Annex I: Field Trip Report

Name: Saif Natiq Jabbory	Date Submitted: 2011-08-20
Component: International Trade/ WTO Accession	
Beneficiaries/Counterpart Organization: Ministry of Health/ Kurdistan Region	
Date(s) of Trip: 17 th August 2011	
Work plan Activity Reference: WTO Y4 AWP Activity Reference 6.7	
<p>1. Objectives and Purpose of Field Trip: This trip was about to provide Technical Assistant to complete and finalize the requested Forms from the Consular Section in the US Embassy DS-157 & DS-160 for visa issue regarding the Coming US Study Tour to the United States . USAID/TIJARA coordinate with the FAS Department in the US Embassy to take a group of Iraqi Officials to visit the FDA System in US as Iraqis will have their own FDA in the coming future so this Trip will help them to know the International System and How it works and what they need to do for their own system. Another Important issue is to arrange shipping the HS Tariff Schedule back to Tijara Office in Baghdad from Erbil to help our component to deliver the Work Shop that will be done in Baghdad starting from September 2011 for the Central Office of the Iraqi General Customs Commission.</p> <p>2. Agenda / Outline of Field Trip:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Assist the Iraqi Officials to Complete and handle the Original Document after completion which is requested for Visa Interview DS-157 and Online Visa Request to the United States DS-160. 2) Helping the GoI Officials to prepare the other requirements for the Visa Interview like the Visa Fees Check and courier waybill. 3) Arrange to Ship back the Iraqi HS tariff Schedule Books to Baghdad Tijara office from Erbil. 	
3. Key Personnel Met/Attendees of Meetings Held:	
Names of the Participants	Organization Represented / Contact Information
Dr. Taher Abdulla Hussein	Minister of Health / KRG
Dr. Jamil Ali Rashid	Ministry of Health
Wirya Ghazi Abdulla	Ministry of Health
Newzad Abdulla Hussein	Ministry of Health
Dr. Hussein Mohammed Sora	Kurdistan Parliament

4. Outcome and Summary Findings of Field Trip:

- All requested Document DS-160 & Ds-157 has been completed and handled to all Participants.
- Brief the participants about all the other documents that they need to bring with them in the Interview day.
- Scheduling a Visa Interview with the Consular Section in the US Embassy on 23rd August 2011 at 07:30 AM.
- Bringing the Documents for Customs Tariff Schedule back to Baghdad Office for Training Preparation that will started in September 2011 in Baghdad.

4 (a). Documents, Materials, Resources from Trip

5. Recommendations and Follow-up Action (if necessary):

iv. Actions:

US Tour for Iraqi Officials will be held in FDA offices in United States between Nov. 6th till Nov. 19th 2011.

v. By whom:

Saif Natiq Jabbory, Deputy Team Leader International Trade/ WTO Accession.

vi. Expected timeline:

6th November 2011 .

Signature of person completing report:

Date: _____

Signature of Component Leader:

Date: _____

- ***Please attach any photos taken or supporting documents obtained during the trip to this report. (Section 4).***

Annex J:

Field Trip Report

Name: Charles Lambert/Saif Natiq	Date Submitted: October 13, 2011
Component: International Trade/ WTO Accession	
Beneficiaries/Counterpart Organization: Ministries of Health and Agriculture/Kurdistan Region	
Date(s) of Trip: October 8-11, 2011	
Work plan Activity Reference: WTO Y4 AWP Activity Reference 6.7	
<p>1. Objectives and Purpose of Field Trip:</p> <p>This visit had three purposes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOH, a visit to the Participants of the coming FDA tour to the United States in a coordination with FAS in US Embassy is to make sure that participants know very well the full schedule and agenda for this tour (Attachment A) and also to introduce a brief history of the US FDA structure and how they can get benefits from this tour (Attachment B.) • MOA, as a continuation on our work to uniform the Live animal import Regulation and to see the difficulties that they are facing before the final changes and release of the Iraqi Live Animal Import. • USAID Briefing, Meet with Walter Doetsch from Erbil Office/USAID and Brief him about all the meetings and discussions with MoH Kurdistan plus the MoA. <p>2. Agenda / Outline of Field Trip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with DG of KRG Veterinary Services and his Deputy to talk about the Live Animal Import Regulations and OIE Codes and other training courses that Tijara can support them with. • Meeting with Minister of Health Dr. Taher Abdulla and Discuss the issues regarding the Iraqi FDA and the Suggested Tour to the United States . • Meeting with USAID Reps in Erbil Mr. Walter Doetsch and Brief him about the Work that have been done. 	

3. Key Personnel Met/Attendees of Meetings Held:	
Names of the Participants	Organization Represented / Contact Information
Dr. Taher Abdulla Hussein	Minister of Health / KRG
Dr. Jamil Ali Rashid	Ministry of Health DG Food safety
Walter L Doetsch	Senior Development Advisor USAID Regional Representative
Dr.Salar Saad	Ministry of Health
Newzad Abdulla Hussein	Minister's Administrative Director

4. Outcome and Summary Findings of Field Trip:

- All requested Document for Visa has been completed and participants are ready to go to the US.
- Brief the participants about FDA Structure and some points about what they will see and the Schedule of the Trip.
- Helping them to see the possible flights going to Washington DC airport and returning to Iraq.

4 (a). Documents, Materials, Resources from Trip

- Attachment: Trip Agenda
- Attachment: Pre-briefing Materials
- Attachment: Photo

5. Recommendations and Follow-up Action (if necessary):

vii. Actions:

US Tour for Iraqi Officials will be held in FDA offices in United States between Nov. 6th till Nov. 19th 2011.

viii. By whom:

- a. Charles Lambert , Senior Economic Ag Advisor International Trade / WTO Accession.**
- b. Saif Natiq Jabbory, Deputy Team Leader International Trade/ WTO Accession.**

ix. Expected timeline:

End of November 2011

Signature of person completing report:

Date: _____

Signature of Component Leader:

Date: _____

Please attach any photos taken or supporting documents obtained during the trip to this report. (Section 4)

Annex K:

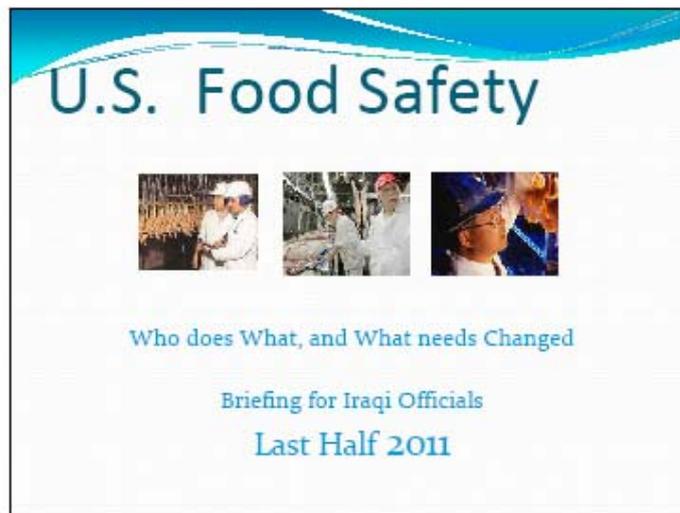
Final list of FDA Food Safety Tour Participants

1	TAHER ABDULLAH HUSSEIN	hawramytahir@yahoo.com	00964662230089	MoH
2	JAMIL ALI RASHID	drjamil_alirashed@yahoo.com	009647504348372	MoH
3	SALAR SAID	salarsaid59@yahoo.com	009647504817658	MoH
4	WIRYA GHAZI ABDULLAH	wryaerbil123@yahoo.com	009647504614281	MoH
5	NEWZAD ABDULLAH HUSSEIN	pbkmoh@yahoo.com	009647503139000	MoH
6	HASSAN MUHAMED SORA	N/A	N/A	MoH
7	KHUDAIR KHALAF SHALLAL	al_anbar_health2010@yahoo.com	07901779396	MoH



In Washington Left to Right – Salar, Wira, Newzad, Hassan, Minister Taher, Khudair & Jamil

Annex L:



U.S. Public Health and Food Safety

- Federal (Centers for Disease Control-CDC, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture-USDA, Health and Human Services-HHS, Dept. of Homeland Security-DHS)
- State (Departments of Health, Agriculture and Environment)
- Local (City/ County Health Departments—not universal)

Who Handles What?

The diagram illustrates the division of food safety responsibilities between the USDA and the FDA. On the left, the USDA logo is shown above a collection of images including various cuts of meat, poultry, and seafood. On the right, the FDA logo is shown above images of dairy products, fresh produce, and processed foods. A source note at the bottom reads: "Source: United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service".

U.S. Federal Regulation of Food Safety

- USDA—Food Safety and Inspection System (FSIS)
 - USDA—Animal & Plant Health Insp'n. Serv. (APHIS)
 - HHS—Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - HHS—Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
-
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Department of State
 - Department of Commerce

U.S. Food Safety, Federal Level

- USDA—FSIS, Foreign Ag Service (FAS), Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Agriculture Research Service (ARS)
- HHS—FDA (Centers for Food Safety and Nutrition—CFSAN) (Center for Veterinary Medicine --CVM)

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

- Meat (cattle, pigs, horses, goats, lamb—not bison)
Federal Meat Inspection Act—1906
- Poultry (chicken, turkey, ostrich, quail, duck, geese, etc)
Poultry Products Inspection Act--1957
- Egg Products (not shell eggs)
Egg Products Inspection Act—1970
- Humane Methods of Slaughter Act--1958
- Labeling—accurate and not misleading

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- Everything but meat, poultry and egg products
- Fish, seafood, produce, dairy products, shell eggs, infant formula, pet food, feed, veterinary medicines
- Pure Food and Drug Act—1906
- Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act--1938

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

- Epidemiology Services (EIS)
- Outbreak Investigations
- Statistical information
- Laboratory services
- Research
- FoodNet—surveillance for food borne infections
- PulseNet—Laboratory links for connecting isolated cases thru use of Pulse Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE)

Major Differences between FSIS and FDA

- Enabling legislation says daily, continuous inspection and Congress provides the appropriations to staff the inspection service (9,500 FTEs and a \$1 Billion budget)
- Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act does not require daily inspection, and FDA is not funded to do so (Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009) so they do periodic audits, as much as ten years apart.
- Import safety and inspection (later)

Differences between FSIS and FDA

- FSIS writes rules and regulations, and enforces them thru inspection and regulatory actions. By pulling the inspection work force from a plant, it is essentially shut down
- FDA writes policies and guidelines, and promotes their use thru education.

Difficulties in the U.S. System

- Dual jurisdiction plants producing FDA and FSIS products, ie:
 - Pizzas (meat vs vegetarian)
 - Soup (Chicken noodle vs vegetable soup)
- Cross contamination, ie:
 - Deli meats and cheeses and differing Listeria monocytogenes tolerance levels
- On farm practices, with cattle and green leafy vegetables as one example
- Non-amenable species, such as Bison (FDA?)

Food Safety at the State Level

- FDA may subcontract with State agencies to do the audits on products under FDA authorities
- States may produce guidelines for growing and processing of FDA products, such as green leafy vegetables and sprouts
- FSIS has given 27 states the authority to do daily, continuous meat and/or poultry inspection.

State Inspection of Meat and Poultry

- The state's inspection system must be at least EQUAL to the Federal inspection system
- The state's inspection system will be audited every 3 years, and inspection authority can and has been removed if the state fails the audit
- State inspected meat and poultry products can only be used for intrastate commerce, no interstate or international trade is allowed (2008 Farm Bill)
- Funding for state inspection comes from FSIS for 50%

Exceptions to the Rules

- FDA requires HACCP plans for fish, seafood and infant formula companies, while FSIS requires HACCP plans for all their regulated products and plants
- FSIS allows small poultry growers to slaughter and process up to 20,000 birds per year without daily, continuous inspection
- Custom exempt slaughter only gets audited once per year
- Religious exemptions for slaughter
- Retail processors if less than 25% to institutions or wholesale

Restaurant Inspections

- Local or State authorities
- Health, Agriculture or Environmental agencies
- No national standards or practices
- Priority rating based on risk
- Publication of findings very dependant upon the jurisdiction doing the inspection
- Often inspection is a result of a complaint as opposed to proactive and preventive

International Trade and Food Safety in the U.S.--FDA

- Imported foods from over 150 countries
- Imports arrive at over 300 ports of entry
- Minimal if any inspection at the ports
- No audits or inspections of the exporting countries
- FDA issues import alerts when problems are found
- Inspection of imports is increased as a result of a finding of a problem (antibiotic residuals, pathogens causing an outbreak, etc)
- Fruit imports comprise 50% of consumed fruit in the U.S.
- Fish and seafood, 70% of the US diet is imported

International Trade and Food Safety in the US--FSIS

- Countries must request permission to export meat, poultry or egg products to the U.S. An animal health risk assessment is done by APHIS and the countries inspection system is then audited. It must be at least EQUIVALENT to the US Federal system, including rules, continuous federal inspection, and laboratory capacity and testing. Rule making then proceeds according to statutes governing imports. Currently 34 countries are authorized to export meat, poultry or egg products to the US.

International Trade and Food Safety in the US--FSIS

- All meat and poultry exports must arrive at one of 140 import houses located on the land border crossings and water ports. All import houses have FSIS inspectors, and all imports with one exception undergo re-inspection at the port, with 5% having lab samples drawn for pathogens and residues at a frequency based on risk
- All exporting countries undergo an in-country audit on an annual basis, and authority to export can and has been withdrawn based on these audits.

Thank You!

Questions?
&
Discussion

Recommended Web Sites: US Food Safety Agencies

<http://www.fda.gov/>

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/default.htm>

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/index.shtml

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/border_security/port_activities/agro_inspection/

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/cargo_security/csi/



Iraqi Delegation at U.S. Capital



Annex M:

**Cochran Fellowship Program
Food Safety & Inspection Procedures
November 5-19, 2011**

*Designed in conjunction with:
Texas A&M University*

Saturday, November 5

15:40 Arrival of Khudhair Shallal to Washington Dulles Airport on Qatar Airways flight #51
Transportation will be provided by [Super Shuttle](#).
Confirmation #2831577
After you pick up your luggage, search for an airport employee for directions to the Super Shuttle ticket counter. It should be located on the lower level just before the East and West exits.

17:00 Arrival to Washington Dulles Airport on American Airlines flight #6193
Jamil Rashid, Hassan Muhamad Sora, Taher Hawramy, Wirya Ghazi
Abdullah, Newzad Abdullah Hussein, Salar Said

You will be met by an employee from Executive Car Service, holding a "Cochran Fellowship Program, USDA" sign. The group will be transported to your hotel by Executive Car Service, 703-719-9008.

Hotel : Residence Inn/Marriott Hotel
2120 P Street, NW
Washington, DC
Tel: (202) 466-6800
Confirmation Numbers: 89204598, 89205406, 89206134, 89206530,
89207080, 89207799, 89208051

Sunday, November 6

Free day in Washington, DC

16:30 Drs. Michael McWhorter, International Training Coordinator, and Ma'ad Mohammed
arrive in Washington, DC
Lodging Confirmations: 89208723, 89209277

Monday, November 7

08:30 Depart Hotel for USDA
Transportation provided by Executive Car Service (703)719-9008
1400 Independence Ave. SW

USDA/FAS Cochran Fellowship Program Orientation - Room 3107

Ms. Lindsey Itle, Ms. Marielsie Avila, and Jessica Harkness
USDA South Building
Wing 1 Independence Ave.

Please note, you will need your Passports for the Cochran Orientation.
Enter the building and obtain assistance from the guard to secure a visitor's pass.
Please ask the guard to call Ms. Itle or Ms. Avila to escort you into the building. Ms.
Itle's telephone number is (202) 690-0777. Ms. Avila's telephone number is (202)
720-2151.

09:00 Cochran Fellowship Program Orientation

pm Cultural activities

Tuesday, November 8

08:15 Depart Hotel for USDA
Transportation provided by Executive Car Service (703)719-9008

09:00 Lecture on Risk Assessment and Sampling Agricultural Commodities at Ports of Entry
Dr. Don Schaffner, Extension Specialist in Food Science and Professor at Rutgers University. He also serves as the Director of the [Center for Advanced Food Technology](#). Rutgers University
USDA South Bldg. Rm: 2854

11:30 Lunch USDA Cafeteria

12:45 Depart for US Food and Drug Administration
Transportation provided by Executive Car Service (703)719-9008

Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

13:30 Appointment with US Food and Drug Administration
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
5100 Paint Branch Pkwy.
College Park, MD 20740
POC: Johnny E. Braddy, DVM, MPH, CAPT, USPHS
Director, International Visitors Program
Tel: 301-436-1709
Ms. Sandra Boston
Tel: 301-436-2380

Overview of US Food Safety System

Training Program Focus: U.S. Food Safety regulations related to milk, fruits & vegetables and valued added processing/labeling

FDA's General Compliance and Inspectional Role in Food Safety
Product Adulteration Branch, Division of Enforcement, Office of Compliance
General Approach to Food Defense
Office of Food Defense, Communication & Emergency Response
Approaches to Risk Management and Resource Allocation
Treatment of imports vs. domestic product
Expiration dating
Compliance monitoring, penalties and other issues
Federal and state roles and responsibilities
FDA's food recall system
Operational issues
Coordination w/local officials
Roles of government and industry
Public notification – methods, timing, effectiveness

Wednesday, November 9

09:00 Depart hotel for Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Transportation provided by Executive Car Service (703)719-9008

10:00 Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
5201 Paintbranch Pkwy
Patapsco Building Suite 2134
University of Maryland, College Park

Mrs. Nora Petty
(301) 405-8382

12:00 Lunch

13:15 Appointment with the International Food Information Council (IFIC)
1100 Connecticut Ave. NW Ste. 430
(202) 296-6540
Andy Benson
benson@IFIC.org

15:00 The Mexican Embassy: Carlos Vazquez, Ag Counselor Mexican Embassy,
Washington, DC; discussion and perspectives of a high-volume trading partner
dealing with the US system.

Thursday, November 10

09:00 Depart Hotel for USDA
Transportation provided by Executive Car Service (703)719-9008

Appointment with USDA/FSIS
1400 Independence Ave. SW

POC: **Cheryl M. Davis**
Office of International Affairs – FSIS
Room S-208 South Building/Sub Basement
Phone: 202-690-1004
E-mail: cheryl.davis@fsis.usda.gov
Overview of Food Safety and Inspection Service

Charles Williams, Program Analyst
Regulations and Directives Development Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Overview of Field Operations
International Equivalence Staff
Office of International Affairs

Import Procedures
Mary Stanley, Director
Import Inspection Division
Export Certification
Virginia Olson, Senior Advisory
Import/Export Programs Staff
Office of International Affairs

Risk Assessment
Dr. Chaunfa Guo, Mathematician Statistician, OPHS

FSIS Food Safety Laboratory System
Mr. Steven McDermott Senior Director (202) 690-0297
Dr. Victor Cook
Chief, Microbiological Issues Branch
Office of Public Health Science

The USAID Tijara Provincial Economic Growth Program

14:00 Depart Hotel for Washington Reagan International Airport

16:30 Depart Reagan International Airport for Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas
American Flt: 1035

18:50 Arrive in Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport

Pick-up Avis commercial van
Confirmation numbers: 23088018US2, 23086733US5

Hotel: TownePlace Suites Fort Worth Downtown
805 East Belknap
Ft. Worth, TX 76102
(817) 332-6300
Confirmation numbers: 89704121, 89704101, 89704118, 89704116,
89704131, 89704077, 89704114, 89704068,
89704076

Friday, November 11

am Site Visit to Standard Meats
5105 Investment Drive
Dallas, TX
Dr. Scott Boleman
(817) 271-9816

pm Site visit to AFA Foods
1301 Northpark Dr.
Ft. Worth, TX
(817) 886-7549/cell (817) 271-9146
Food Safety practices in the value added meat processing environment
Mr. Tim Biela, Executive VP for Food Safety & Quality Assurance

pm Travel to College Station, TX

Hotel: Homewood Suites
950 University Drive East
College Station, TX
(979)846-0400
Confirmation number: 80919621

Saturday, November 12

Free Day

Sunday, November 13

Free Day

Monday, November 14

Escorts: Drs. Uel Stockard & Ma'ad Mohammed

09:00 Site Visit to Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (APHIS/VS certified
laboratory)
USDA/ APHIS/VS animal/zoonotic disease diagnostic protocols
Dr. Roger Parker

13:30pm Site visit to The National Center for E-Beam Food Research
Advanced irradiation technologies supporting food safety
Mr. Mickey Speakmon, Facilities Manager 458-1640

Tuesday, November 15

07:30 Depart for Austin Texas

10:00 Site visit to Texas Department of State Health Services
8407 S. Wall Street
State level food safety monitoring responsibilities supporting the national food safety network
Joe Williams (512) 834-6670

Susan Tennyson, Director
Julie Loera, Manager for Policy, Standards, and Quality Assurance
Ms. Claire Perkins, Division Director (512) 834-6670 ext. 2173
Claire.perkins@dshs.state.tx.us

Dairy Products Division. Mr. Dan McCreary
Meat Safety Assurance Group. Federal/State Regulatory Authority Harmonization and review of inspection protocols with special emphasis on intra-state processors
Dr. Butch Johnson, Division Director (512) 834-6760 ext. 2541
Butch.johnson@dshs.state.tx.us

13:30 Site visit to the Texas Department of Health Services Food Safety Laboratory
Supporting Food Safety with Advanced Diagnostic Laboratory Technology
1100 W. 49th Street
Ms. Monica Kingsley, Laboratory Director
(512) 458-7562 monica.kingsley@dhs.state.tx

Dr. Grace Kubin (512) 458-7111

Hotel: SpringHill Suites
4501 S. IH 35
Austin, TX
(512) 441-8270

Confirmation numbers: 89798363, 89798411, 89798573, 89798718,
89798867, 89799023, 89799340, 89829144,
89800452

Wednesday, November 16

09:30 Depart Austin for Appointment with Tyson's Foods Poultry Processing Center
Food Safety Practices in a Value Added Processing Environment

USDA/FSIS Inspection and Quality Assurance Program
1200 W. Kingsbury St
Mr. Rudy Saucedo, Manger
(830) 379-5151
Sequin, TX

14:00 Site visit to Food Safety Net Services, LTD
(FDA certified food safety laboratory)
199 West Rhapsody Dr.
San Antonio, TX
Dustin Morgenroth (210) 308-0675 x. 218
Ann Muriu (210) 308-0675 x. 216

Hotel: SpringHill Suites
411 Bowie St.
San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 222-2121
Confirmation numbers: 89804723, 89804785, 89804847, 89804881,
89804937, 89805046, 89805124, 89831640,
89801959

pm Enjoy San Antonio River Walk - cultural experience

Thursday, November 17

am Depart for McAllen, TX

Hotel: SpringHill Suites
1800 S. Ware Road
McAllen, TX
(956) 682-6336
Confirmation numbers: 89823103, 89823187, 89823251, 8982396,
89823545, 89823606, 89823667, 89827707,
89825189

Friday, November 18

09:00 Visit US/Mexico Border Crossing for Review of Federal Plant Quarantine Program
Activities

Location: USDA/APHIS Pharr/Hidalgo Port of Entry Facility
(956) 283-2051

Hosts: Ms. Bonita Brumfield, Port Director
Ms. Dianne Vlasik, Cargo Chief, cell (956) 227-7171

pm Site visit to Texas Department State Health Services Regional Laboratory
(Supporting border health, food safety, DHS/CDC)

1301 S. Rangerville Rd
Harlingen, TX
Aurora Martinez
(956) 364-8748

15:00 Depart for Harlingen Airport

16:45 **Drs. Stockard & Mohammed** depart for Houston Bush/College Station on
Continental Flts: 4552/5001. Arriving at 20:19

16:45 Delegation depart for Houston on Continental flight #4552

18:05 Delegation arrive in Houston

19:25 Delegation depart for Dallas Ft. Worth on Continental flight #4587

20:44 Delegation arrives in Dallas/Ft. Worth

Hotel: Spring Hill Suites
2240 W Grapevine Mills Circle
Grapevine, TX
(972) 724-5500
Confirmation numbers: 89843300, 89843498, 89843572, 89843620,
89843705, 89843822, 89843925, 89844604

Saturday, November 19

08:45 Dr. Khudhair Hotel Check-out
09:00 Dr. Khudhair take free hotel shuttle to the Dallas airport
11:47 Dr. Khudhair depart from Dallas Ft. Worth on United flight #0370

12:00 Hotel Check-out
13:30 Take free hotel shuttle to the airport
15:40 Dr. Khudhair arrives in Washington Dulles
17:00 Depart Dallas Ft Worth on American Airlines flight #048

21:45 Dr. Khudhair depart from Washington Dulles to Doha, Qatar on Qatar Airways flight #0052

Sunday, November 20

09:30 Arrive in Paris, Charles de Gaulle Airport
12:15 Depart Charles de Gaulle Airport to Amman on American Airlines flight #7196
17:25 Arrive in Amman, Jordan

23:55 Dr. Khudhair depart Doha, Qatar to Beirut, Lebanon on Qatar Airways flight #420

Monday, November 21

01:00 Depart Amman, Jordan on Royal Jordanian flight #820
04:00 Arrive in Erbil, Iraq

Have a safe journey!

Program Contact Information:

Texas A&M University

Michael McWorther
The Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture
Texas AgriLife Research
Office Tel : 979-845-7697
Mobile: 979-229-8434
gm-mcwhorter@tamu.edu

Cochran Fellowship Program Lindsey Itle

Office Tel: 202-690-0777
Emergency Mobile: 814-934-5467
lindsey.itle@fas.usda.gov

Marielsie Avila

Office Tel: 202-720-2151
Emergency Mobile: 787-944-6934
marielsie.avila@fas.usda.gov

Cochran Fellows - Iraq

Mr. Jamil Rashid
Mr. Hassan Muhamad Sora
Mr. Taher Abdullah Hussein Hawramy
Mr. Wirya Ghazi Abdullah
Mr. Khudhair Khalaf Shallal
Mr. Newzad Abdullah Hussein
Dr. Salar Said (self funded)



Classroom Training Sessions



Delegation with Iraqi family in Texas



Dr. Salar makes a point during TX A&M discussion



Minister Taher addresses FDA officials



Delegation relaxes on San Antonio Riverwalk