



AIARD's 56th Annual Conference May 31-June 2, 2020 in Washington, DC Hamilton Hotel

Making Food Safe: Meeting the Global Challenge

As the world population increases, so do the opportunities and challenges for ensuring that consumers have access to safe, nutritious foods that are sustainably produced, processed, and delivered to the marketplace. Food that is unsafe threatens the health of populations, harms agricultural value chains, and undermines global social and economic development.

AIARD's 2020 annual meeting will explore the many dimensions of global food safety – from production to consumption – and how improvements in food safety practices and technologies can help in building nutritious food systems for all. In addition, we will look at the key roles of various stakeholder groups such as government, business, research institutions, universities, and consumer groups, and ways they can effectively collaborate to accelerate the adoption of food safety practices that lead to reductions in foodborne illness, malnutrition, and hunger.

Conference Agenda

Sunday, May 31

- 5:00 - 6:30 PM** Career Workshop
- 6:30 - 8:00 PM** Registration and Welcoming Reception

Monday, June 1

- 8:00 - 9:00 AM** Breakfast, Registration, President's Address and Introduction of Future Leaders, Poster Sessions
- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Keynote Address, Panel Discussions

Session Theme: Food Safety Challenges and Risks in Today's World

In this morning session, we will explore the definition of food safety resilience in the context of global food systems. How can we characterize "safe" vs "unsafe" food and how do we know the difference? Where do the primary risks to food quality exist along the spectrum from

production to consumption? Are some value chains at greater risk than others? What are the costs of adopting better food safety technologies and practices and how do we incentive their adoption? What are the respective roles and responsibilities of various stakeholder groups – government, business, consumers?

12:00 - 1:30 PM Lunch, Networking, Poster Sessions

1:30 – 4:45 PM Panel Discussions, Small Group Presentations

Session Theme: Learnings from the Field and from Research – Building Safer Food Systems

In this afternoon session, we will hear from researchers and program implementers about approaches to reducing the risks of food safety, food loss, and to helping ensure availability of safe, nutritious foods to all consumers. What are cutting-edge solutions arising out of research? How are these being applied in the field? What are some real-world examples of value chains that have successfully adopted technologies or practices to reduce loss and what was needed to make this step? What do different solutions look like in different geographic contexts, or in different food sectors? How do gender, culture, and other cross-cutting concerns influence the ability to adopt food safety practices that lead to improved food systems and better nutrition?

5:00 - 7:00 PM Reception and Networking, Poster Sessions and Presentation of 2020 Awards

Tuesday, June 2

8:00 – 9:00 AM Breakfast and Networking, Poster Sessions

9:00 – 11:30 AM Panel Discussions, Roundtable Dialogue, Participant Recommendations

Session Theme: How do we Accelerate Improvements to Create Safe Food Systems that Reduce Loss and Waste?

In this final session, we will explore ways to accelerate food systems improvements that reduce waste and loss? What are the tools we have or need in order to adequately measure food safety? What recommendations can we make to stakeholders in both the public and private sectors? Do we have a robust enough research agenda and funding to meet the challenge in line with SDG goals for food security, loss and waste reduction, malnutrition and hunger?

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM Future Leader Presentations

12:00 - 2:00 PM Lunch, Conference Summary, Networking and AIARD Business Meeting

