

# Food Safety Offers Opportunities for Global Collaboration



“Food safety is pre-competitive and a global opportunity requiring collaboration between the food industry, regulators and academics,” said Bob Baker, the global head of technical food safety development for Mars, at a recent meeting held in Beijing.

Paul Gallemore, Walmart China chief compliance officer, said of his company’s significant increase in its investment in food safety, “This increased investment reflects our growing commitment to enhance food

safety management in the supply chain and in all our stores.” These and other comments from major food industry companies indicate many global food companies are committed to raising the bar on food safety and that solutions to the problems being faced in addressing current and future threats to the world’s food supply are at the forefront of global food supplier’s business agendas.

## Nanjing Agricultural University One Health Center in Food Safety Steps Forward

The establishment of the One Health Center in Food Safety at Nanjing Agricultural University in collaboration with, and led by, the University of California, Davis’s Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (WIFSS) is a step forward for China and globally to address current and future threats to the world’s food supply. The collaboration between WIFSS and NAU unite two universities strong in agriculture and food science. Specifically:



WIFSS brings a history of addressing pre-harvest produce, meat and milk food safety through research, training and education. WIFSS’s connection to the University of California Davis and the School of Veterinary Medicine enhances the collaboration with scientists and educators specializing in agriculture, food science, animal science, and food safety.



NAU brings a long history of addressing post-harvest meat science and food safety.

Together, these universities can create a center with educational and training programs that can play an important role in helping global companies meet goals of providing a safe and sustainable food supply.

## Collaboration Benefits the Global Food Market

The vision of the One Health Center in Food Safety is to create a highly trained academic and regulatory workforce with the knowledge and skills needed to address food safety challenges from farm to table. It will be ready to meet the call to action issued by these leading companies in the food industry.

## One Health Center in Food Safety Meets Call to Action through Capacity Building

Through collaboration between the Nanjing Agricultural University, Jiangsu Province, the University of California at Davis, the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, and the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis, existing education, extension, training and research programs provides the platform for a sustainable workforce in the field of food safety.

The One Health Center in Food Safety will use the expertise from the collaborators to establish a global educational program that will develop a farm to table food safety system and train food safety workers. The Center will include expertise in disciplines that may be outside the realm of what is normally thought of for food safety, such as, veterinarians, epidemiologists, microbiologists, soil scientists, toxicologists, hydrologists, post-harvest specialists, public health specialists, and economists. A diverse group of faculty and researchers is needed to work on issues that affect the health of people, animals and the environment.

As food systems grow and change in China, and throughout the world, there is much work that must be done to understand the local and regional complexities of how food is produced, processed, packaged and provided to the public and to train the personnel involved in the foods from the environment through the various steps of the food chain.



Dr. Bennie Osburn, director of outreach and training at the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, (WIFSS), explains, “In order to effectively manage our food systems and keep them safe and secure, a reliable system must be developed and put into place – one of capacity building (future workforce), research, outreach, teaching, regulation and policy making and sustainability.”

Nanjing Agricultural University and Jiangsu Province are in the perfect position to become leaders in this capacity in China.

## A New Workforce – A Bright Future

In the coming years the education and training efforts of the One Health Center in Food Safety will provide the first wave of graduates entering the food safety field, providing a steady workforce to those companies who have a vision for a safe and sustainable food supply for the entire world.

