

REPORT ON FOOD SAFETY IN AFRICA WORKSHOP HELD IN STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA

International Committee on Food Microbiology and Hygiene (ICFMH) held its 2nd Food Safety Workshop on 26 November to 01 December 2007 in collaboration with Stellenbosch University, WAITRO and IFS.

Terms of Reference:

I was nominated to represent WAITRO and ST-EAP and the workshop as the Africa Regional Focal Point.

Procedures:

ICFMH requested assistance from WAITRO by sponsoring participants.

WAITRO Secretariat granted the sponsorship with an agreement that WAITRO will get the benefits set upon by the secretariat.

Benefits to WAITRO at the workshop:

A presentation on WAITRO/ST-EAP was presented during the workshop.

WAITRO logo was displayed on T-shirts and stationery.

WAITRO was acknowledged during the workshop as a sponsor.

ST-EAP brochure was distributed to participants.

Findings:

A response from the audience after the ST-EAP presentation was positive. Participants had no knowledge on how to be involved in Framework Programme and how to respond to open calls.

A brief talk on Framework Programme was a highlight to participants, particularly those from African countries.

Conclusions:

Excursions were part of the workshop, which two firms were visited.

Laboratory experiments were also part of the programme, which was one of the highlights for someone who is not a scientist.

The workshop ended on Saturday 01 December 2007.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the representative from WAITRO/ST-EAP should only be at the workshop for minimum days, especially if the rep is not a scientist as the presentations are too technically and they just go over the head.

It will also be ideally if Africa Regional Focal Point office could coordinate the selection of participants and the payments and thereafter claim it from the Secretariat; as the back and forth delays things and improper planning.