Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC) Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF) Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN) organized a webinar on Pesticide Maximum Residue Level (MRL) Harmonization: A Trade Facilitative Approach to MRL Compliance on June 17-18, 2021. This two-day webinar focussed on several aspects such as enhancing flexibility in pesticide regulatory environments, moving toward a positive MRL list system, MRL Establishment and Update on the Adoption of ASEAN MRL, Examining MRL Violation Data and Understanding the Cost of Non-Compliance, Engagement at the World Trade Organization on Pesticide Regulations, and APEC MRL Perceptions Survey: Findings and Ideas for Data Sharing and Industry Engagement. Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), presented the status of “Biopesticides for Breaking Non-Tariff Barriers and Related Capacity Building.” The presentation highlighted the key aspects of the Asia Pesticide Residue Mitigation through the Promotion of Biopesticides and Enhancement of Trade Opportunities that is implemented by APAARI in the Asia-Pacific. The project will help indirectly to build the capacity of the participating countries to develop residue data. Dr. Ravi also highlighted that a biopesticide program would result in lower residues but may not be sufficient alone to control the pest or be financially viable. The expected outcome of this pesticide mitigation project is to bring a sustainable process for regional data generation required for the registration of biopesticides and enhance regional cooperation and regulatory harmonization on MRLs within and across member states of ASEAN and SAARC.

Other key speakers of the webinar were *Mr*. *Matt Lantz*, Vice President, Global Access, Bryant Christie, Inc; *Mr. Jason Hafemeister*, Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, USDA; *Ms*. *Anna Gore*, Senior Program Manager, USDA/FAS;
*Mr. Charlotte Liang*, Office of Food Safety, U.S. Food and Drug Administration; *Ms*. *Gabrielle Ludwig*, Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs, Almond Board of California;
*Dr. Patricio Parra*, Director, R&D Consortium, Wines of Chile; *Ms. Alinne Oliveira*, Trade Policy Specialist, Global Access, Bryant Christie, Inc; *Dr. Amelia Tejada*, Consultant, Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority, The Philippines; *Mr. Gord Kurbis*, Vice President, Trade Policy and Crop Protection, Canada Grains Council; *Mr. Brent Wilson*, Deputy Director, Technical Trade Policy Division, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and *Ms. Erica Summe*, Program Manager, USDA/FAS.

The Food Safety Cooperation Forum's Partnership Training Institute Network (FSCF PTIN) was created in 2008 specifically to address the need to engage the food industry and academics with the regulators, to strengthen capacity building in food safety. The FSCF PTIN initiative was endorsed to provide capacity building in five core areas: risk management, regulatory systems, incident management, laboratory capacity building, and supply chain management.

