

## **Pre-Harvest Food Safety PDG**

**Names of Attendees:** Rafael Davila (Chairperson), Kate Burr (Vice Chairperson), Abdullahi Idris Muhammad, Alex Brandt, Alex Tudor, Alexander Cheah, Amy Parks, Angela Fraser, Brian Goodwyn, Camila Rodrigues, David Luedeke, Dhananjai Muringattu Prabhakaran, Douglas Marshall, Ellen Gabriel, Emilio Esteban, Erin Dreyling, Erica Fealko, Erica Miller, Esther Palmer, Ethan Reggia, Favour Okunbi, Festus Tawose, Greg Komar, Harsimran Kaur Kapoor, Javier Atencia, Jeff Lucas, Jens H. Kjaer, Jinquan Wang, Juan Moreira, Juzhong Tan, Karuna Kharel, Keith Ito, Kellie Burris, Larry Kohl, Laurel Burall, Lei Zhang, Lynette Schroeder, Manan Sharma, Michelle Smith, Myoengsin Choi, Neha Shantanu Wavare, Nikki Shariat, Quanhong Li, Rafael Davila, Sagar Pokhrel, Scott Moosekian, Sean Martinos, Sid Fuller, Suzanne Finstad, Tamra Tolen, Terry Arthur, Tim Jackson, T.J. Fu, Vikas Kumar Galipothu.

**Total Number of Attendees: 54.**

**Meeting Called to Order:** Sunday, July 27, 2025 at 8:30 A.M.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Kate Burr.

**Old Business:** Chairperson Rafael M. Davila provided a recap of last year's meeting. The guest speaker was Dr. Gustavo Reyes from WG who presented on pre-harvest pathogen sampling design and sampling. He developed a probability detection calculator. He also spoke about methods and how that can impact probability.

Also Dr. Javier Atencia presented on rapid enrichment technologies for pre-harvest. Since this presentation he has processed over 10k samples and is expanding it to other adoptions.

**New Business:** Chairperson Rafael M. Davila introduced Kate Burr, as the incoming Vice Chair for the PDG. Manan Sharma (VP, IAFP) provided an annual IAFP update. 2900 people registered for this IAFP Annual Meeting; it was mentioned that this registration is lower

compared to last year likely due to pauses on government travel and other travel restrictions. There will be a closed captioning option in all meetings using AI and IAFP is looking for feedback on functionality. The webinars have seen an increase in views this year compared to last. Reminded all Members to make sure that their email on their profile is current to ensure communications are received. Alexandra Tudor [Alexandra\\_tudor@bio-rad.com](mailto:Alexandra_tudor@bio-rad.com), Bio-Rad Laboratories was the guest speaker and provided a presentation covering using ddPCR as a Pre-harvest tool. She provided a background on how she got into produce food safety, Evolution of PCR, ddPCR for STEC, STECT testing and challenges, Pre-harvest applications. It was presented that Pre-harvest applications for this type of testing allows for decreased time to result (less than 24 hrs. for confirmation for true STEC samples, reduction of unnecessary food waste due to lack of confidence of results, more detailed risk analysis on virulence targets present in growing areas.

Provided review of case study involving E. Coli O80 which was a romaine lettuce outbreak but also linked to cattle origin. It is not included in the top 7 serotype analysis testing, so it would have been a false negative testing. Rafael engaged with the audience for ideas on direction for upcoming year. Last year focused on pre-harvest testing, he posed the question "When you think about pre-harvest, what is the first thing that comes to mind, or what would be of interest to expand upon."

Greg Komar, CA LGMA- Fresh produce is becoming a hot topic, is there a need to separate the produce pre-harvest from other industry. What can we do to understand the actual risk from the assessment. Good topic, is adjacent land. How can you monitor/assess the risk of adjacent land to growing areas at the farm level. As a group the following questions were posed: You can identify a hazard but how much of a risk does it pose, and how do you prioritize it? Reference was made to a CPS presentation using PAA at the field level, what other interventions can be used to control and mitigate risks? Chemical hazard risk mitigation at the growing level, thought to work with the Chemical PDG. This group has been historically micro focused but chemical

hazards play a role in hazards and risk assessments. Heavy metals and PFAS, CA prop 65 could all be areas of exploration. It was suggested that these ideas be put together for a potential round table for next year's symposium too.

Rafael shared important upcoming dates including next year's annual meeting is in New Orleans July 26–29, 2026. The call for symposia and roundtable deadline is Sept. 30, 2025. IAFP 2026 Call for Abstracts deadline is Jan 2026.

Greg Komar from CA LGMA, shared that Dec 11, Longitudinal Study results will be presented in Monterey, CA, more information will be shared.

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. Recommend the approval of Kate Burr, as Vice Chair of the PDG.

**Next Meeting Date:** Sunday, July 26, 2026, New Orleans, LA.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:32 A.M.

**Chairperson Name:** Rafael M. Davila.