Food Safety Education in Developing Countries

Julie A. Albrecht, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Extension Food Specialist
Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
119 Ruth Leverton Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0808
Phone: 402-472-8884
Fax: 402-472-1587
Email address: jalbrecht1@unl.edu

Shakhlo Yarbaeva, M.S.
Former Instructor at Technological University of Tajikistan
Graduate Research Assistant
Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
115AA Ruth Leverton Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0806
Phone: 402-472-3717
Fax: 402-472-1587
Email address: shaxinj@hotmail.com

Abstract

The safety of food is an absolute requirement for food processing facilities in developing countries to export food they process. Understanding basic food safety practices in these countries is a challenge for numerous reasons including regulatory issues, politics, economic pressures, educational training and educational systems, cultural aspects and food production and technical issues. This poster presentation will focus on successful educational techniques used to teach food safety education in a developing country. Three US State Department grants and three Winrock International projects allowed faculty/student exchanges between a university in Tajikistan and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). At University of Nebraska, Lincoln (UNL), visiting Tajik faculty and students participated in selected courses, workshops, and field experiences which included field trips, work experiences and applied research specific to food safety and food processing. UNL faculty members were able to visit Tajikistan under projects funded by Winrock International to conduct food safety classes at the university for students and food processing workshops for persons in food businesses. UNL faculty used these opportunities to demonstrate a variety of educational techniques to involve students in the learning process at the university versus the traditional lecture. UNL faculty modeled the extension/outreach educational methodologies in workshops involving Tajik faculty when working with food processors and entrepreneurs. At UNL, Tajik students completed an applied research project on a food product and food safety problem specific to Tajikistan. For developing countries, faculty/student involvement in the educational process (formal classroom or extension/outreach programming and applied research) is necessary for transfer of new knowledge/concepts and adoption of new methods and techniques to produce safe food products for their country and potential export.

Key Words: Food Safety, Education, Extension, Outreach education