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PaperTitle **Food Safety - How do we Stay on Target?**

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ABSTRACT

Food safety has clearly become one of the top priorities on every food business forum and agenda. Expectedly, it also features prominently at the SAAFoST 2007 conference. There are several reasons and underlying factors for this prioritization that this presentation will review and offer solutions to. Important ones are; continuing news of large-scale foodborne-disease outbreaks, often accompanied by lacking statistics in developing settings and better detection and reporting methods in the developed world. Across the globe the lack of management support for food safety as a strategic goal in corporate governance has been identified as a problem. This often starts with no enforcement of simple preventative measures such as handwashing. Training on food safety is also not administered consistently and frequently a lack thereof at supervisory levels and senior management levels makes a formal food safety system difficult to implement. These and related factors have contributed to greater or smaller scale food safety failures even in environments certified to HACCP or equivalent food safety management systems. An era of increasing consumer awareness of food safety internationally and the increasing world focus on Southern Africa as hosts of world events re-emphasise the crucial need for effective and documented food safety management strategies across all spectra of the industry.