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Press Release

**TRAINING INSTITUTE PARTNERS WITH MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AND
SAUDI FOOD AND DRUG AUTHORITY TO IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY**

Battle Creek, MI October 16 – The International Food Protection Training Institute announced today that it will assist the Saudi Food and Drug Authority in improving the food-safety training system in Saudi Arabia and the surrounding region through a partnership led by Michigan State University.

The Training Institute will deliver professional-development training programs to Saudi Food and Drug Authority employees through MSU's new Saudi Arabia Food Safety Education-Training Initiative (SAFE-TI) Office. "We look forward to this new partnership with MSU and the SFDA to establish a Regional Food Safety Academy," said The Training Institute's Executive Director Gerald Wojtala. "Working together with the SFDA to build training systems will be essential to improving public health domestically and internationally."

Frederik Derksen, professor and chair of MSU's Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, also looks forward to the new venture. "This is an exciting opportunity to apply MSU's renowned international expertise in food safety to enhance Saudi Arabia's knowledge base and regulatory infrastructure," Derksen said.

The SFDA is a new government authority responsible for regulating the safety of food, feed and pesticides in addition to drugs and medical devices, according to Ibrahim S. Al-Mohizea, Vice President of the SFDA for food affairs. "The partnership will help in increasing our capacity as a national food safety regulator," said Al-Mohizea, who received his doctorate in Food Science (Food Microbiology) from MSU. "We are hopeful that this initiative will have a positive impact on the safety of food not only in Saudi Arabia but in the whole region."

About the Training Institute

The International Food Protection Training Institute is a member of the [Global Food Protection Institute](#), a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization driving the adoption of food-protection policies and practices for a safer global food supply.

The Training Institute is building and administering the training infrastructure for the nation's integrated food safety system. To do so, it is working with federal regulatory and public-health officials to establish and oversee the implementation of a career-spanning food-protection training curriculum and courses that will increase training capacity and ensure competency and equivalency throughout regulatory jurisdictions at all levels of government.

Financial support for the Training Institute is provided through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and through the generosity of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

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