



Timeline of the Food Safety Best Practices Guide for Growing & Handling of Mexican Papayas

2019

Following the Salmonella outbreak linked to Mexican-grown papayas, the Texas International Produce Association (TIPA) formed a response group.

Shortly thereafter, FDA released a letter regarding their concern. TIPA enlisted Dr. Jennifer McEntire w/United Fresh (now IFPA) and conceptualized a multi-year, multi-step, multi-stakeholder approach to manage and verify the management of papaya safety.

2020

Efforts led by TIPA and ProExport Papaya (MX-based trade association), with support from United Fresh and Food Safety CTS, saw the first edition release of the **Food Safety Best Practices Guide for the Growing & Handling of Mexican Papayas** in both English & Spanish. The guide was developed with input from a broad array of stakeholders, is free, and serves as the base upon which proceeding efforts were built.

2021

More than 90% of the FDA's (active) **Green List** exporters of Mexican-grown papayas have participated in trainings within this effort for topics such as: "Food Safety Best Practices Guide for the Growing & Handling of Mexican Papayas," FSMA's "Produce Safety Rule," FSVP Manual Development," and SENASICA's "Anexo A Plan de Acción."

2022

Training remains on-going and additional work has included: the development of a **self-audit verification tool for use on farms**, model FSVPs for use by papaya importers, and a **root cause analysis protocol** to investigate issues.

The initial Root Cause Analysis protocol was initiated following a positive salmonella test during an FDA inspection. In response, ProExport Papaya promptly executed the developed protocol, revealing that the farm had employed inexperienced and untrained labor during the holiday season in Mexico. Subsequent corrective actions have since been put in place.

2023

First industry in Mexico to train in the new proposed FDA water standard and **launched food safety Training Kits**. Completion of a research paper for harvesting papayas presented to SENASICA to make improvements to the action plan for papayas and the guide. The verification program continues with more than 175 farms audited. Efforts persist in Guatemala to integrate them into the papaya industry, and establish the foundation for the National Papaya Board. And work continues...



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