

Food Traceability Laboratory



The Food Traceability Laboratory focusses on research into end-to-end visibility and traceability in food supply chains. The Laboratory provides a platform for collaboration for industry-facing research with real-world impact.

Deakin University's Centre for Supply Chain and Logistics (CSCL) strategic research agenda is focused on industry engagement and impact, in its core areas of urban and regional freight logistics, future supply chain capability and supply chain traceability. CSCL's research takes place through its Industry Laboratories, a model based on that used in MIT's Centre for Transportation and Logistics and adapted by CSCL to leverage engagement with all stakeholders. The model of partnership between academic researchers, industry and government addresses issues that no single company, agency or institution can address alone.

We understand food traceability as the systematic ability to access relevant information about a food product, throughout its entire life cycle and along the whole supply chain, by means of recorded identifications. Food traceability is important not only for business risk mitigation, but also for reasons of public safety, product integrity, supply chain efficiency and market access.

Issues of interest for the Laboratory are defined by its partners. They include the verification of food pedigree, product integrity, authenticity and counterfeiting, track and trace of food products, chain of custody and visibility gaps in food supply chains, the challenges of tracing blended and bulk products, cold chain assurance, and others.



The Food Traceability Laboratory

The Laboratory receives advice and guidance on its strategic direction, research focus, and activities from its members. The Laboratory is composed of an external Chairperson, a few select members of CSCL and Deakin, and a small number of Strategic Partners who are prominent members of industry or government. The Laboratory is chaired by a member of CSCL's Industry Advisory Board, Mr Tony Boll, (former Chief Executive Officer - South Pacific, DHL Global Forwarders).

The members of the Laboratory are passionate about food traceability and are active in individual companies, peak bodies, government agencies and research institutions. The members help establish and advance the Laboratory's research agenda, and may point out research opportunities, or provide access to data, information, research, facilities, or technologies of interest.

The Laboratory holds meetings biannually, and participation in the meetings can be face-to-face, or via teleconference. The members receive benefits, such as access to CSCL's reports or publications (subject to confidentiality constraints), and free participation in events organized by the Laboratory.

Priority Research Areas

The Deakin CSCL Food Traceability Laboratory has identified four priorities for 2020-2025.

1. Implementing Food Traceability

Development of a national data model for implementing end-to-end traceability that is solution and system agnostic and utilises global data standards.

This will support effective and cost-efficient system integration regardless of the scale of operation and the system/technology adopted. This is a foundation for extending traceability beyond the one up: one down mandate. It is particularly relevant in export markets where regulation is now in place requiring traceability from origin.

The first stage (The Australian Guide to Implementing Food Traceability) was published in late 2020. Development of product specific guides for red meat and organic products are underway.



2. Premium Value Streams Food Traceability

Premium Value Stream Guides capture premium product attributes such as sustainably produced, Halal, organics, circular economy and ethical sourcing to guide producers and manufacturers on what data to capture and share to underpin product claims.

3. Industry Education Seminars

Seminars to support industry awareness of food traceability, including peer researchers and front of a mix of industry, government, and researchers as Laboratory partners, bringing these networks together for industry benefit.

A series of e-resources is being developed to develop awareness of the importance of traceability and its implementation.

4. Halal food logistics and traceability

Halal traceability is relevant to our Muslim trading partners and our food export target of \$100 billion by 2030. Recent work in this area has been on red meat export to Indonesia.

We look forward to working with you!

Contact us

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