Food and Agriculture: Challenges in a Dynamic Global Environment

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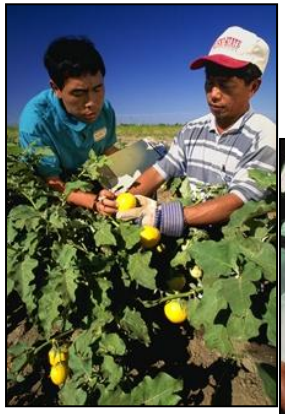
Challenges to Protecting the Food and Agriculture Sector

- Traditional security measures may not be effective
- Vast and open systems
- Animal and plant pathogens and pests – readily available
- Information on their use – available on the Internet

National Security Role

- Headquarters Personnel
  - Dedicated to national and homeland security and emergency/disaster response activities
- Nationwide Field Personnel (first responders)
  - Skilled professional staff in all States and territories.
  - Presence in nearly every parish, county, borough in the Nation.
  - Education – University and Cooperative Extension
  - Physically located on–site in food processing facilities
- International Field Personnel
  - Inspection of agricultural products
  - International food security



Protecting the Food & Agriculture Systems

- Awareness and Warning
  - National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN)
  - Increasing laboratory capacity to detect threat agents
  - Developing the Food and Agriculture Biosurveillance System to gain situational awareness for food safety and security
- Vulnerability Assessments
  - Conducting vulnerability assessments for domestic and imported products in partnership with State and Local Officials, the FBI, DHS, FDA and Industry
- Mitigation Strategies
  - Providing regulatory authority and training to support DHS agricultural quarantine inspection activities at US ports-of-entry
  - Developed security guidelines for food processors, distributors, and transporters
  - Developing countermeasures based on vulnerability assessments

Protecting the Food & Agriculture Systems

- Outreach and Professional Development
  - Higher Education Agrosecurity Program
  - Extension Disaster Education Network
- Research and Development
  - Agricultural Research
  - BioSafety Level (BSL) – 3 Facility
  - Detection, epidemiology and protection

Thank You

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