



**2026 Joint New Zealand Food Safety Science & Research Centre (NZFSSRC)/New Zealand Institute for Food Science & Technology (NZIFST) Conference
30 June – 01 July 2026, AUT, North Shore
Food Safety Sessions**

Day One: Tuesday 30 June 2026

Women in Science Breakfast 0715-0830

Kate Gatfield-Jefferies, 2025 Ernst Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Founder of Moodi

Understanding & Reducing Known Food Safety Risks 1100-1230

Chair: Sinisa Vidovic, Bioeconomy Science Institute

- Evidence needs to support the changing environment for contemporary regulatory decision making
Roger Cook, Ministry for Primary Industries
- A One Health approach to assess reservoirs and pathways of STEC infection in Aotearoa/New Zealand
Jackie Wright, PHF Science
- Vibriosis: New Zealand's next pandemic, a minor foodborne illness or both? **Graham Fletcher, Bioeconomy Science Institute**; Molecular epidemiology of outbreak-associated *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* ST50 in New Zealand **Xiaodong Guo, Lincoln University**

Plenary Session 1330-1500

How Western Science & Indigenous Knowledge Can Improve Our Food Landscape

Chair: Jamie Ataria, NZFSSRC

Mana Moana 3 Lakes Project

Chair: Distinguished Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith CNZM, Ngā Āhuetanga o Te Kai

Panel Discussion

Science Underpinning Food Safety 1530-1700

Chair: Phil Bremer, University of Otago

- What have we learnt from the devastating harmful algal bloom in South Australia **Tim Harwood, Cawthron Institute**
- Beneath the Surface: Are Chemicals in Agrifood Water a Food Safety Priority? **Andrew Pearson, Tonkin + Taylor**
- National & Global food safety emerging risk environment **Nikki King, PHF Science**

Day Two: Wednesday 01 July 2026

New Approaches in Food Safety 1100-1230

Chair: Marie Bradley, NZFSSRC

- How science underpins apple production **Rachel Kilmister, New Zealand Apples & Pears**
 - New technologies incl Artificial Intelligence to enhance FS **Jarred Mair, Ministry for Primary Industries**
 - Cold Atmospheric Plasma and Hyperspectral Imaging: Unlocking New Approaches for Contamination Control in Cellular Agriculture **Steffi Thomas, Bioeconomy Science Institute**
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