FOCUS ON
FOOD SAFETY

THE CHALLENGES
OF IMPROVING FOOD SAFETY

Food recalls are an immense safety problem and a threat to profitability. Last year, Food Safety magazine counted **456 food safety recalls globally** due to contamination, with each recall estimated to cost an average $10 million[1]. In addition to the societal and business impact, huge stocks of food are wasted and consumer trust is crushed.

What's standing in the way of taking food safety concerns off the table?

Not all companies can quickly identify the cause of a food safety incident

Tracing food across the supply chain takes days, if not weeks, as companies struggle to track a mix of digital and paper-based food data documentation across a complex and growing network of suppliers and distributors.

Gaps in supply chain monitoring create vulnerabilities

Deficiencies in production and monitoring processes expose the food system to vulnerabilities that could be eliminated. For example, researchers found that a significant number of food safety alerts were due to a lack of supply chain transparency, which permitted food fraud and corruption to occur[2].

Outdated food traceability practices aren't built for the modern era

Regulators are now demanding state-of-the-art practices and modern technologies to ensure food safety, and blockchain can help bring organizations up to standard[3].

IBM **Food Trust**™

BLOCKCHAIN
FOR THE FOOD SYSTEM

With a digital food system, network participants have access to tools and data to improve food safety and become a proactive contributor to bettering the food system as a whole. Blockchain technology stores digitized records in a decentralized and immutable manner, promoting trust and transparency which in turn helps to better the food system and ensure safer food.

TRANSPARENCY
Know the provenance, real-time location, and status of any food product. A transparent food system is an accountable food system.

END-TO-END TRACEABILITY
If a food safety issue is reported, it is immediately clear who is impacted and who should take action.

FOOD CONFIDENCE
With IBM Food Trust, you have a trusted source for increased supply chain visibility. Additionally, organizations can know which foods have been grown or produced in a certified manner, eliminating contamination risks and potentially harmful food fraud along the supply chain.

"We strongly encourage the leafy greens industry to adopt traceability best practices and state-of-the-art technologies to help assure quick and easy access to key data elements from farm to fork."
- Scott Gottlieb, FDA Commissioner

IBM Food Trust creates a secure, shared, and permissioned record of transactions. This enables unprecedented visibility during each step of the food supply chain. IBM Food Trust achieves new levels of trust and transparency, making food safer and smarter from farm to fork.

For more information
contact your IBM representative or visit **ibm.com/food**

[1]https://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/enewsletter/a-look-back-at-2017-food-recalls/

[2]https://www.foodsafetymagazine.com/signature-series/recall-the-food-industrys-biggest-threat-to-profitability/

[3] https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm624867.htm

APPLYING IBM FOOD TRUST
TO FOOD SAFETY

IBM Food Trust consists of different modules designed to help everyone in the food system, such as suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers collaborate.

The **Trace** module has specific benefits to support food safety initiatives. Participants can securely and transparently trace the location and status of food products upwards and downwards in seconds to better manage food safety within their supply network.

The **Certifications** module helps you securely manage certificates and documents for your organization, and access other permissioned documents in your supply network.

The **Data Entry and Access** module allows you to securely upload, manage and access your transactional data, allowing you to get the most out of digitizing transaction records.

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