BLOCKCHAIN & FOOD TRACKING BLOCKCHAIN & FOOD TRACKING

Sayuri Moodliar, PhD November 2018

HOW DOES BLOCKCHAIN WORK

- Distributed ledger technology (DLT)
- Data stored globally on thousands of servers
- Everyone on network can see entries made in real time
- Entries are time-stamped and immutable
- Hacking of system or retrospective changing of data is difficult because of distributed duplicate records

ISSUES IN FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS

- Complicated processes
- Many links in the chain
- Opportunities for corruption, theft, and loss
- Waste and inefficiencies not recorded
- Errors in communication
- Gaps or inconsistencies in record keeping
- Difficult to track large inventory
- Tracking and tracing not always possible

HOW CAN BLOCKCHAIN HELP?

- Keeps track of each step of the supply chain process
- Automatic progression of process
- Multiple records of each transaction or step reduces fraud, theft, loss and corruption
- Record of waste and inefficiencies
- Improves food safety
- Duplicate and multiple records reduce miscommunication
- Allows tracking and tracing throughout the supply chain to identify and investigate problems
- Can also be used for predictive analysis for downstream forecasting

CASE STUDIES

- Coffee supply chain in Brazil
- Bourbon vanilla in Madagascar
- Agricultural produce in India