

WHO Webinar:

From data to Impact - Four imperatives for turning information into action

Tuesday, 3 June 2025 [Online webinar](#)

**Speaker biography**

**Professor Karen H. Keddy**

**Head of Department, Veterinary Tropical Diseases, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences,  
University of Pretoria**



Karen Keddy (MBBCh, BSc (Med), MMed, FCPATH (SA) (Micro), DTM&H, PhD) is a medical microbiologist and a chair of the Country Support Task Force (CSTF) and member of the Parasitic Diseases Task Force of the WHO technical advisory group, Foodborne Disease Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG) for 2021-2025. She set up the national reference centre for bacterial enteric pathogens, the Centre for Enteric Diseases (CED) of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, in South Africa in 1997 after spending three months at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA as a guest researcher. She initiated the laboratory-based surveillance programme for bacterial enteric pathogens in South Africa, which included characterization of foodborne zoonoses. She has over 20 years' experience in water- and foodborne diseases, One Health, and antimicrobial resistance. She has contributed to World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization expert groups on foodborne diseases. She serves as a technical expert on the WHO Technical Advisory Group for Vaccines against Antimicrobial Resistance (TAG-AMR), TAG for Salmonella vaccines (TAG-SV) at WHO and the Target Product Profile Development Group for Typhoid Fever. Her current interests are the burden of foodborne diseases, especially in relation to climate change and food security, and antimicrobial resistance.

**Dr. Steven Jaffee**

**Lecturer, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, USA**



Dr. Jaffee is an agricultural and development economist with thirty-five years of experience working on multiple themes related to agro-food system development and transformation in low- and middle-income countries. He has led complex multi-disciplinary research programs, provided high-level policy advice, and contributed to investment project design and monitoring. Most of his career involved work at the World Bank, with extensive field experience in Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. His work has involved collaborations with researchers and practitioners affiliated with many other international organizations (including the FAO, UNIDO, WHO, WTO, ILRI and IFPRI), universities, and governmental and private organizations. Dr. Jaffee led the multi-disciplinary study resulting in the publication of *The Safe Food Imperative: Accelerating Progress in Low and Middle-Income Countries*. Together with Spencer Henson, he has also done extensive research and writing on the economic dimensions of food safety in relation to developing country trade and informal domestic food distribution channels. Dr. Jaffee has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania and a Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in agricultural economics from Oxford University.

**Dr Vittorio Fattori**

**Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**



**Vittorio Fattori PhD** is a Food Safety Officer in the Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division of FAO, where he is working both coordinating the foresight programme on emerging food safety issues, and providing scientific advice. In particular, some of his focus areas include: evaluating how new trends, and drivers of change can affect food safety in order to proactively respond to risks as well as optimize opportunities; working in the Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) to provide scientific advice to the Codex Alimentarius, FAO Members and other UN Agencies (e.g. WFP) on food additives, contaminants and residue of veterinary drugs in food; providing technical guidance on food safety regulatory issues - including emerging issues. Before joining FAO, Vittorio Fattori has worked in research laboratories both in academia and private sector in the

UK, Japan, and the USA. His research activities have focused on the assessment of food safety risks posed by some contaminants and pesticides. He also spent some time in Africa, where the work in a rural community has further impressed upon him the need for guidance and support concerning food safety and public health.

## **Dr Roger Cook**

### **Principal Adviser Strategic Science & Risk Assessment and Principal Microbiologist for New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS)**



Dr Roger Cook is the *Principal Adviser Strategic Science & Risk Assessment* and *Principal Microbiologist* for New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS), a branch of New Zealand's *Ministry for Primary Industries* (MPI).

Dr Cook gained a PhD in Microbiology from New Zealand's *University of Otago* and, following post-doctoral research in Toronto and Detroit, lead government-contracted research on meat hygiene including cold tolerant clostridial blown-pack spoilage at the *Meat Industry Research Institute of New Zealand* (MIRINZ).

In 1995, Dr Cook joined what is now NZFS advising on all matters of microbiological food safety and suitability including the “27-year programme” to reduce the level of foodborne campylobacteriosis in New Zealand. His team carry out food risk assessments, develop and manage research projects, and design monitoring programmes to support food safety regulations and specifications for both the export and domestic food sectors.

Dr Cook is a member of the *International Commission on Microbiological Standards for Foods*, participated in the *JEMRA* STEC and *FAO Clostridia* panels, is the head of the New Zealand delegation to the *Codex Committee on Food Hygiene* where he co-chaired development of guidelines for control of STECs in foods, and is a Past President of the *International Association for Food Protection*.