The Cornell Food Science team has been working with schools to raise awareness around food science as a career

XD: I think the potential is there to greatly expand the number of researchers in food safety as it is a remarkably multi- and cross-disciplinary subject, with career opportunities in both private and public sectors, as well as academia. By establishing these partnerships through the natural career paths of industry and academia, I believe we are well positioned to raise awareness of this critical topic among students and enthuse the future workforce.

Q: Is the growing consumer demand for a wider variety of foods increasing microbial risk in the food supply chain? If so, what steps should both industry and consumers take to protect themselves?

GL: I would say so. Logically, a wider variety of foods on the market could increase microbial risk as the supply chain pathways are altered and expanded. This, in turn, requires the industry to adjust food safety management systems to be risk based. Novel foods and trends, like plant-based or insect proteins, bring a new set of challenges, requiring employees to increase their knowledge base to tackle safety risks. This is why Mars has a comprehensive Quality Management Program (QMP); to help us achieve the highest standards of quality and food safety management practices every day through continuous improvement.

One key initiative includes our summer scholars programme, whereby undergraduate students spend a summer undertaking research with Cornell faculty. This has shown to be a great way to recruit students into food science careers; some participants may go straight to food industry jobs after their degree, but many first pursue a food science graduate degree.

"One key initiative includes our summer scholars programme"

GL: As a whole, the food industry needs keep pace with current science and technology developments – and mentoring programmes, like that at Cornell, are a powerful tool to strengthen food safety science and inspire graduates to join us.

XD: It also means that we need to push for more transparent and traceable supply chains through technology, advocacy and regulation. For example, recently at the University of Georgia (UGA) we »

Are you digitally ready?

Build digital trust and protect your information, products, and reputation through best practice

Information Security Management (ISO/IEC 27001)
Keep your confidential information safe

Cloud Security (ISO/IEC 27017)
Building your confidence in the cloud

Privacy Information Management (ISO/IEC 27701)
Accountability and trust for personal information

Business Continuity Management (ISO 22301)
Minimize the impact of disruptive incidents

Are you digitally ready?

Assess | Train | Certify

bsigroup.com