



DHS FACT SHEET

on National Security Memorandum-16 on Strengthening the Security and Resilience of United States Food and Agriculture

On November 10, President Biden signed National Security Memorandum-16 (NSM-16) on Strengthening the Security and Resilience of United States Food and Agriculture. The NSM assigns key roles to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) related to overall strategic guidance and enhancing national unity of effort. DHS, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Justice, and other relevant agencies, will continue to integrate food and agriculture sector efforts across the Homeland Security Enterprise to promote the security and resilience of the Nation's other critical infrastructures. The NSM reinforces the Federal government's role in identifying and assessing threats, vulnerabilities, and impacts from high-consequence and catastrophic incidents affecting the Nation's food and agriculture sector, and in prioritizing resources to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards we face. Those threats include, but are not limited to those presented by potential chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) incidents, the consequences of climate change, and cybercrime.

The DHS Office of Health Security (OHS) coordinates the Department's efforts related to defending the food, agriculture, and veterinary systems of the United States against terrorism and other high-consequence events that pose a risk to homeland security. OHS, in partnership with the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office (CWMD), and the sector risk management agencies, and in coordination with the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), will accelerate and expand research and development (R&D) of current and new capabilities to enhance the security and resilience of the food and agriculture sector.

DHS roles include national exercise planning and coordination of time-sensitive R&D, consistent with the Department's authorities. DHS will leverage the broad network of homeland security-focused R&D infrastructure through collaborative partnerships with research facilities across the federal and state governments, academia, and private sector, including the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) and the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center (NBACC). These partnerships will deliver:

- Enhanced protection of food and agriculture critical infrastructure and associated supply chains;
- Mitigation and defense against the introduction of high consequence pests and animal or plant diseases;
- Strengthened agro-defense, food defense, and food protection efforts; and
- Improved intelligence gathering, data analysis, and information sharing.

Through enhanced partnerships and communication, DHS will also help ensure that state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, and private sector entities are better prepared for any range of high-consequence threats to the [Food and Agriculture Sector](#).