



# ASTA 2007 Annual Meeting & 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Sharon Gamboa

Quality Assurance Manager

Rio Valley Chili, Inc.

April 16 – 19, 2007

Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel  
Dana Point, California

# Adulteration Issues in Chili Processing

Protecting the raw material supply of capsicum products.

# What is Capsicum Adulteration?

- ❑ The contamination of Capsicum product with non-edible, toxic and/or cheap, low quality substances.
- ❑ In other words. . . . The capsicum product contains something that it should not contain.

# Examples of Adulteration:

- ❑ Sudan Red....I, II, III, and IV
- ❑ Lead Oxide ( a red pigment)
- ❑ Annatto
- ❑ Fine Grind nut shells such as pecan and walnut
- ❑ Grains such as rice powder, wheat bran, and oat bran
- ❑ Extracted capsicum meal that exceed allowable hexane levels.

# Why are Adulterants Used?

- ❑ To improve capsicum surface color
- ❑ As an economic adulterant to lower raw material costs.

# Problems caused by adulterated capsicum products.

- ❑ Risk of serious consumer illnesses due to allergies to the adulterant.
- ❑ Consumer exposure to potential carcinogens.
- ❑ Reduction of finished product quality such as flavor and color.
- ❑ Risk of losing your good reputation due to a product recall.

# The greatest risk to having adulterated capsicum products is a product recall

There have been a number of recalls in the last several years that have cost offending companies millions of dollars.

- Most, if not all of the offending companies were unaware they were using adulterated product.
- The key to recall protection is having an early warning system in place that detects and isolates potential contaminants early in the production process.

# How Does Rio Valley Chili Company protect it's raw material supply?

- Know your supplier!
- Test, Test, Test!
- If it sounds too good to be true.....it probably is!



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## Thank you!

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