Priority 15: Conduct research and education on **FOOD SAFETY RISKS** of small farms.

**100 out of 584 respondents (17%) ranked this topic as highest priority. Of those, 59 provided justification as follows:**

* 33 respondents (or 56%) commented that this will help reduce the risks for small farms and ensure small farms maintain a reputation of being less prone to health risks.

*“The chance for food born illness increases without proper education for both sellers and buyers. One bad incident publicized in the media causes losses for the whole community.”*

* 21 respondents (or 36 %) commented that Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) certification and standards can be difficult and costly to implement for small farms. If this was made more accessible and affordable, it would help.

“*We need more on GAPs and practical ways to implement them.”*

* 9 respondents (or 15 %) commented that research should be conducted to evaluate if small farms have the same risk as larger farms.

*“I believe the research will show that small farms and small farm infrastructure pose a lesser food safety risk than large farms and large farm infrastructure.”*