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World Food Safety Day June 7th 2020

Food Safety in Nigeria: A Roadmap Towards Continuous Improvement

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World Food Safety Day Workshop

Hosted by: Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST)

Theme: Food Safety, Everyone's Business

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Safe food is a human right

But, safe food is everyone's responsibility

- The right to food enshrined in the Nigerian constitution
- No country has adopted national legislation to specifically realize this right (FAO)
- Food quality and safety are important aspects of the right to food

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Governments provide the policy, institutions, and guide food safety culture

- Legislation & regulation
- Food controls (national, WTO SPS)
- Surveillance (inc. coordination with FBO's, NCDC, Health Centres, consumer feedback, etc)
- Coordination(FBO's, NCDC, Health Centres, etc)
- Supporting infrastructure (laboratories)
- Communication
- Standards
- Education Training…

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Food business operators

Comply with directives

- Responsible for the safety of the food they produce, process, store, transport, sell to consumers
- Adopt minimum standards for hygiene at each step of their operations (Codex Alimentarius)
- Implement a food safety management system, based on the hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) principles
- Obligations in terms of notification of incidents, withdrawal and food recalls
- Obligation of '**traceability**'?
- Observe in-transit/consumer country's SPS regulations…

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And consumers

Follow manufacturers guidelines, adhere to traditional practices in handling, storage and preparation

- Access to water and sanitation
- Lack of education and awareness on food hazards
- Understanding of Good Hygiene Practices (GHP)
- Personal hygiene…

Source: Stearsng.com

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So herein lies the challenge (1)

But they are not insurmountable 

- Food systems in Nigeria are diverse, largely informal
- Lack of awareness of the socio-economic importance of food safety
- Lack of data and information on incidences of food-borne disease outbreaks
- Poor understanding of food safety and quality standards outlined in international agreements
- Capacity to undertake pesticide, microbial and heavy metal analyses is very low

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So herein lies the challenge (2)

- Inadequate infrastructure and resources to support scientific risk analysis and upgrading of food safety regulatory systems
- Inefficient food supply chains
- Corruption
- Poor traceability systems across supply chains
- Inability to enforce compliance with international standards and global best practices
- Household insecurity

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A need for S.M.A.R.T Goals (alongside a budget!)

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Long-term (sustained investment)

Around policy environment and infrastructural development:

- Link access roads from farms
- Power supply
- Water, sanitation and hygiene – production through to marketing
- End to end storage (from farms), transport and logistics upgrades integrating local, state and federal
- Technology transfer
- R&D
- Sensitization
- Accredited national laboratories (increased number of, and capacity)
- Decentralization of laboratory facilities (inc. private)
- Private extension and advisory services

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Medium-term

- Adopt a standard (employing codex as minimum) for stakeholders (e.g GFSI Global Markets, Safer Food, Better Business; SFBB etc) to implement – **address traceability**
- FBO access to technical assistance (capacity building)
- Enforce regulation
- 'Food safety friendly' policies (grants/loans for safety, import duty waivers, QMS accreditation wavers, development/improvement of product and process standards, subsidised product testing for value chain actors, registration of informal businesses, etc)
- Low cost, easy to use QC tools for food safety practioners and FBOs
- Public/private extension and advisory services
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) – production through to marketing
- Adopt an international standard (employing codex as minimum) for stakeholders (e.g GFSI Global Markets, Safer Food, Better Business; SFBB etc) to implement – address traceability
- Access to technology transfer pre and postharvest
- M&E
- Register of studies

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Short-term (low hanging fruits, least cost options)

With potential for significant impact

Objective: Risk reduction, mitigation, elimination

- Reach out! (awareness, education & sensitization) - sustained, targeted risk communication campaigns (carry all stakeholders along)
- Two-way communication strategy with public-private projects and programmes relevant to target value chains
- Better targeting of monitoring and evaluation activities (use of technology e.g. drones, ICT)
- Strengthen links (SON, NAFDAC, NAQS, Others) with public health bodies at local government, state level and federal level
- Enforce regulation
- Incentives/deterrent
- Gender sensitive
- M&E (establish short, medium, long-term data collection needs & measurement tools)

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Targeting one or two value chains around which to scrutinise policy and institutions, build capacity, target infrastructural development and measure impact

Product, process, stakeholder, enabling environment

- For example a known high-risk staple & a high value export crop
  - Cowpea (beans)
  - Egusi (melon seed)
  - Hibiscus
  - Gum Arabic
- Map key constraints
- Reflect on previous/current implementation issues
- Set S.M.A.R.T goals and develop a strategy

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