



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

“Food safety and security are the constitutional rights of every Egyptian and we work tirelessly to make sure this is fulfilled.”

Dr. Hussein Mansour, Chairman of the National Food Safety Authority of Egypt

Safer Food for Sustainable and Resilient Businesses – Enhancing the Food Safety Regulatory Environment of Egypt

Although several countries in the Arab region have taken steps to upgrade their food safety systems, the capacity and efficiency of many countries still need to be enhanced in order to assure an adequate surveillance of locally produced and imported food, as well as to demonstrate compliance with regional and international food standards and technical regulations. Until the enactment of the law on the establishment of a National Food Safety Authority (NFSA) in 2017, Egypt did not have a unified regulatory authority competent to supervise food safety, as well as that food safety in Egypt was regulated by various legislation and was overseen by around 17 different government agencies and units. With the official establishment and operationalization of the NFSA, Egypt has taken an essential step in the upgrading of its national food control system and towards enhanced consumer protection and trade facilitation in food.

UNIDO'S APPROACH

Since the inception of the National Food Safety Agency (NFSA) of Egypt in 2017, technical assistance has been provided to NFSA under the Country Support Program (CSP) in Egypt, an initiative led under the regional Arab Food Safety Initiative for Trade Facilitation (SAFE). With the aim to facilitate the full operationalization of the NFSA against international best practices, aiming at supporting the organization in fulfilling its mandate of protecting consumers' health and consumers' interests by ensuring that food products consumed, distributed, marketed or produced in Egypt meet the highest standards of food safety and hygiene, SAFE, through its country support programme, has dedicated an assistance programme to set-up and initiate the implementation of the NFSA's objectives along the following five intervention areas:

- Policy advice
- Institutional capacity and governance
- Awareness raising and advocacy
- Global forum and exposure to international best practices
- Training and human resource development

This initiative is fully in line with UNIDO's Food Safety Approach and the organization's mandate of promoting sustainable food systems that deliver food safety and nutrition security and improve the competitiveness of the agri-food processing sector through access to support services, markets and trade

opportunities, while ensuring economic, social and environmental sustainability.

IMPACT

With the aim to build its capacity and support NFSA's mandate to advance the food safety agenda in Egypt, the initiative contributes to an improved ability of the NFSA and its partners to contribute to and benefit from regional efforts of enhanced coordination and harmonization of food safety interventions, improved consumer protection, and a more efficient implementation of a national food control system in Egypt.

The project's achievements to date include:

- Development of internal regulations and governance system of the NFSA
- Development and update of technical regulations and a corresponding food regulatory policy
- Qualification of inspectors and training of trainers
- Implementation of a national pesticide monitoring programme

- Provision of inspection tools
- Implementation of a national awareness campaign, conduct of stakeholder consultations and participation in relevant regional and international food safety events

WAY FORWARD

The program of intervention was designed to help NFSA achieve its vision and fulfill its entire food regulatory mandate. The country support program for Egypt's primary food regulator is aiming to sustain these investments through a second phase of interventions, with the goal to enable NFSA become a leading food safety regulatory agency at both the regional and international levels, embracing best food regulatory development practices and with the ultimate objective to ensure optimum consumer protection and a favourable environment for food and agri-food business development.

AT A GLANCE

Project title:	Enhancement of regional trade capacities in food through harmonized regional conformity assessment and food safety systems
Thematic area:	Creating shared prosperity – food safety
Donor:	Kingdom of Sweden
Project counterpart:	National Food Safety Authority of Egypt
Budget:	325,000 USD (CSP Egypt)
Duration:	2014 - 2019