



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



UNIDO's Food Safety Approach: Safer Food for Sustainable and Resilient Businesses

CONTEXT

Food safety – a major food system component – is a key determinant of human health, a primary contributor to agricultural development and food security, and a vital consideration in food trade. Over the past half century, globalization of food production and trade have made food supply chains longer, more diverse and hence more complex. Given the importance of food safety to national economies, it is vital that all those involved in food production and supervision follow international best practices and apply internationally recognized standards.

APPROACH

Development, promotion and dissemination of best practices in food safety for the benefit of food and agri-food businesses as well as consumers is an essential element of UNIDO's mandate to accelerate and promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development. To this end, UNIDO is improving the competitiveness of the agri-food processing sector through access to support services, markets and trade opportunities, while ensuring economic, social and environmental sustainability.

UNIDO's food safety approach is designed to help execute the Organization's mandate and structure its interventions such that it can leverage its capacity building initiatives

as well as its advisory and convening power to support sustainable and resilient food and agri-food businesses. Therefore, it is a lever which ensures that the organization's food safety-related capacity development initiatives are effective and contribute fully, in a cohesive and holistic manner, to achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

The approach is centered around three key pillars:

- Enabling sustainable businesses through effective food safety capacity building;
- Enabling a favorable food safety environment through integrating food safety into the wider context of regulatory frameworks, national quality and food safety policies as well as infrastructure development;
- Fostering food safety advocacy and partnerships through enabling the engagement of the private sector in local, regional and global partnerships and advancing multi-stakeholder food safety dialogue and interventions.

WORKING TOWARDS



GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE



30+
COUNTRIES



PARTNERS

FAO, WHO, development banks, national governments, and the private sector



FOCUS AREAS

- Compliance capacity
- Policies and regulatory frameworks
- Enterprise certifications
- Centers of excellence
- Global partnerships



CONTACT

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ARAB FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE FOR TRADE FACILITATION (SAFE)

The Arab Food Safety Initiative for Trade Facilitation (SAFE Initiative), led by the League of Arab States and covering 18 Arab countries, facilitated regional trade in food products, and improved integration, via enhancement of regional coordination and harmonization mechanisms on conformity assessment and food safety, following international best practices.

Funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SAFE set up the Arab Task Force on Food Safety

(ATF) as a harmonization platform and sustainable mechanism for overall coordination of food safety measures in the Arab region. The initiative resulted in the establishment of a series of harmonized guidelines, protocols and standards, and drove adoption of Technical Barriers-to-Trade (TBT) and Sanitary/Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) provisions within the Pan-Arab Free Trade Agreement (PAFTA), as well as the creation of SPS and TBT Committees within the League of Arab States.

“Thanks to the efforts of member countries, partners and UNIDO, the SAFE initiative has already achieved great results. We are committed to building on these achievements and strengthening technical coordination between member countries for an effective regional food safety management system.”

Mr. Adel Al-Saqer, Director General Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO)



UNIDO's Food Safety Approach



Establishment of collaboration mechanism among

5

regional organizations



Capacity-building for

18

member states



Qualification and deployment of

12

regional risk assessors



Empowerment of

2,580

food safety officials and practitioners



Development of

25

regional technical guidelines, protocols and manuals