



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

International Food Standards



7 June 2019 World Food Safety Day



World Food Safety Day will give consumers, producers and governments a chance to focus on an issue that is often taken for granted. Food safety is invisible until you get ill. Anyone who has had food poisoning knows this. But there is also another more insidious side to unsafe food. Some chemical contaminants can accumulate in your body, and remaining invisible can creep up on you over time.

The labels on the food in our shops and markets do not read 'safe to eat' though it is implied by the products' availability on a retail shelf. We trust our governments and producers to keep our food safe.

On 20 December 2018
the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a **World Food Safety Day.**

There is a global organization working behind the scenes to support them with standards, codes of practice and guidelines to do just that – Codex.

In order to promote food safety internationally and avoid potential health hazards, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) manage a Joint Food Standards Programme, the Codex Alimentarius Commission. This multistakeholder partnership has been striving to protect health and facilitate trade while ensuring food is safe since 1963.

The 189 Codex members adopt standards, guidelines and recommendations in all areas related to food safety and quality: food hygiene; maximum levels for food additives; maximum limits for residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs; and maximum levels to prevent chemical and microbiological contamination. All these standards are based on robust, up-to-date scientific advice generated by FAO and WHO.

The challenge is to make sure everyone involved in food production is aware of what they need to do.



Codex and World Safety Day

World Food Safety Day will provide an opportunity to create awareness and ensure Codex standards lead to action everywhere.



The social, economic and environmental reasons for a World Food Safety Day

Food safety is key to achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals and a UN dedicated day would bring it into the spotlight, helping prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks. Safe food contributes to economic prosperity, boosting agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.



There is no food security without food safety. Ending hunger is about all people having access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.



Food safety has a direct impact on people's health and nutritional intake. Foodborne diseases are preventable.



When countries strengthen their regulatory, scientific and technological capacities to ensure that food is safe and of the expected quality throughout the food chain, they move towards more sustainable patterns of food production and consumption.



A globalized world with annual food exports currently in excess of USD 1.6 trillion and complex food systems demands international cooperation across sectors to ensure food is safe. Food safety is a shared responsibility among governments, food industries, producers and consumers.

World Food Safety Day (7 June) will draw global attention to the health consequences of unsafe food:

- More than 200 diseases are spread through food
- 1 in every 10 people suffer from contaminated food every year and around 420 000 die; 125 000 are children under five years old
- Foodborne diseases affect vulnerable people more than other groups
- The spread of threats such as antimicrobial resistance



Get involved

World Food Safety Day will promote awareness and inspire actions for safer food on a healthier planet.

Find out how: www.codexalimentarius.org and follow the hashtag [#WorldFoodSafetyDay](https://twitter.com/WorldFoodSafetyDay)

Starting in 2019, every 7 June will be a time to celebrate the myriad benefits of safe food.

