



STRENGTHENED FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY CONTROL OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS IN THAILAND

The food supply chain management of livestock products has become significant in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in view of the common ASEAN market. Because of its geographical advantages, Thailand plans to be the logistic hub for ASEAN. The significant increase in the quantity of imported and exported food products among member states, however, has raised concerns about health and food safety issues. The overlap of roles and responsibilities of various departments or organizations involved in food supply chain management is a problem, above all when urgent food safety incidents occur. The current project aimed to improve the food supply chain management of the livestock sector by assessing the food controls of the food safety authorities involved. It would also strengthen the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN), with a specific focus on the coordinating mechanism. The project was implemented in the two pilot provinces of Chiang Mai and Saraburi.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project conducted a series of activities to assess livestock supply chain management among food safety authorities in Chiang Mai and Saraburi, and organized a national-level meeting to identify gaps and overlaps in food control systems and to set up a roadmap to strengthen these systems. During project activities, the relevant officials significantly improved their understanding of food supply chain management in normal and emergency situations, enabling them to set up a standard mechanism to address gaps and identify coordination needs between different departments, and to provide the public and livestock industry with food safety information in a timely manner. The project also developed a harmonized guideline on the monitoring and surveillance of livestock products, piloted the guideline in the two pilot provinces, and established a national INFOSAN Web site for food safety coordination mechanisms for information-sharing.

IMPACT

The primary aim of the project was the institutional strengthening of food safety and quality control in the supply chain management of livestock products. However, its impact was felt far beyond this. Livestock production and meat/poultry processing are among the largest food sectors in Thailand and the contribution of small-scale meat producers is significantly high. These producers, generally family businesses, benefited by improving the safety and quality of their products, and by aligning their practices with the relevant national and international standards. Domestic and international market prices of Thai meat products will be consistent now that their safety and quality are systematically ensured and the risk in trade instability is minimized. At consumer level, ensuring high-quality livestock products has improved the confidence and the level of trust and, by protecting them from unsafe food, has contributed to overall public health and the quality of life of consumers.

KEY FACTS

Contribution
USD 261 000

Duration
June 2015 – December 2017

Resource Partner
FAO

Partners
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives,
Ministry of Public Health

Beneficiaries
Food business operators related to
the livestock sector (producers,
slaughterhouse operators, meat
processors and vendors)

RESULTS

- Food supply chain management among food safety authorities involved in livestock products assessed, and roles and responsibilities clarified.
- A Guideline on Controlling, Monitoring and Instruction for Production, Retailing and Consuming the Livestock Products throughout the Chain, in line with the relevant Codex guidelines, developed to address gaps in the existing system.
- Provincial-level meetings organized to introduce the Guidelines to improve the awareness and understanding of the good practices for livestock product handling throughout the supply chain.
- National INFOSAN web site established for close communication and coordination at both provincial and national level.
- National high-level meeting held with the media to disseminate the project results and to recognize the success of the approaches taken in the project.
- Food Safety Indicators regional consultation attended and project results shared.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code
TCP/THA/3502

Project Title
Institutional Strengthening on Food Safety and Quality Control in Supply Chain Management of Livestock Products

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