NEW FAO FOOD SAFETY STRATEGY 2022-2031 – UPDATE OF THE STATUS

(Prepared by FAO)

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for major transformations in agri-food systems to end hunger, achieve food security and deliver healthy diets to all. Food safety as an essential condition of food security, healthy diets and food trade, has an essential role to play in this transformative process. The international food safety conferences held in 2019 in Addis Ababa and Geneva under the title “The Future of Food Safety: Transforming knowledge into action for people, economies and the environment” called for political commitment to prioritize food safety. The presence of high-level officials from many countries as well as AU, FAO, WHO and WTO ensured that food safety was seen as an important priority without which SDGs could not be achieved. The events highlighted the continued relevance of the Codex Alimentarius as the international reference for food safety standards and the importance of harmonization of national food safety requirements with Codex standards and encouraged Members to continue engaging in Codex work to keep these standards relevant and up-to-date.

2. Further to the request of its Governing Bodies (Committee on Agriculture in October 2020, endorsed by Council in December of the same year), FAO is updating its Food Safety Strategy in alignment with the new FAO Strategic Framework for 2022-2031 and 2030 Agenda to ensure the continued relevance of our support to Members on food safety matters. Particular attention is given to involving WHO on a continuous basis through biweekly meetings to allow for the two Organizations’ respective strategies to be mutually supportive and complementary.

3. This paper aims to share the Draft Zero FAO Food Safety Strategy 2022-2031 (Appendix I) to allow for review and feedback by Members. The Draft Zero introduces the strategy, articulates a new vision and mission, and outlines four strategic priority outcomes, with underlying rationales and activities for delivery. The Draft Zero is intentionally not a flowing text yet, as the aim is to inform Members of the main substance of the new FAO Food Safety Strategy.

4. A process and timelines were endorsed by the Bureau of the Committee on Agriculture in its meeting in April 2021.

5. During the month of July 2021, the Draft Zero was shared during a first sequence of consultations with the members of the Bureau of the Committee on Agriculture, partner divisions in FAO and International Organizations. As a result, Draft Zero will be further developed into Draft One that will be subject to a sequence of consultations scheduled for October and November 2021. As the Committee on Agriculture will meet again in 2022 as its 28th Session to review the final draft Food Safety Strategy, this drafting process needs to be finalized by February 2022.

6. Codex Members and observers are invited to share any comments on the Draft Zero by 27 August 2021 via email to Food-Quality@fao.org, with a copy to Leonardus.Gorris@fao.org.
New FAO Food Safety Strategy 2022-2031 - Outline

1. Introduction

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)\(^1\) call for major transformations in agri-food systems\(^2\) to end hunger, achieve food security and deliver healthy diets to all.

- The 24\(^{\text{th}}\) Session of the Committee on Agriculture in 2014 endorsed FAO’s Strategy for Improving Food Safety Globally (COAG/2014/5)\(^3\), recognized the intrinsic interconnectivity between food security and food safety. There is no food security without food safety\(^4\).

- "The Future of Food Safety: Transforming knowledge into action for people, economies and the environment" meetings held in 2019 in Addis Ababa and Geneva have contributed to the political commitment to prioritize food safety.

- The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031\(^5\) has been designed to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind. Food safety remains a key area of work for FAO in this new Strategic Framework. “Safe food for everyone” is one of the 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) proposed under better nutrition.

- Food safety is complex, with close links to food quality, nutrition, economy, people and environment. Food safety, food security and sustainability are closely interconnected and decisions regarding for instance management, development and investment in one area may impact on other areas.

- The transformation of agri-food systems requires coordinated actions of all stakeholders at all levels, which will need FAO’s guidance and support, as well as focused investments, multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships at global, regional, national and local levels in food safety matters.

- Thus, a new strategy for food safety is being established to ensure that FAO provides the best and most timely support to Members on food safety matters, aiming for inclusive participation in normative work and science advice, strengthening national food control systems and making agri-food systems more resilient and sustainable.

- Food safety is relevant and interconnected across many, if not all, FAO functions/divisions. The food safety programme of FAO is one integral and coherent entity for that reason.

- This new FAO Food Safety Strategy aligns with developments in agri-food systems, utilizing a systems approach and including learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic, and provides advice on managing trends, anticipated challenges and crises at various levels that may affect food safety.

- This strategy will serve as an international guidance, policy and advocacy instrument to call for increased consideration for food safety in the FAO programmes and its integration across the entire food supply chain, and in operational and governance decision-making to guide adequate investments.

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2. The agri-food system covers the journey of food from farm to table – including when it is grown, fished, harvested, processed, packaged, transported, distributed, traded, bought, prepared, eaten and disposed of. It also encompasses non-food products that also constitute livelihoods and all of the people as well as the activities, investments and choices that play a part in getting us these food and agricultural product [http://www.fao.org/3/mf693en/mf693en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/mf693en/mf693en.pdf).

3. FAO’s Strategy for Improving Food Safety Globally. [http://www.fao.org/3/ml159e/ml159e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/ml159e/ml159e.pdf)

4. Food safety: assurance that food will not cause adverse health effects to the consumer when it is prepared and/or eaten according to its intended use. CAC43,2020. General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1- 1969)

2. **Background**

   **a) Situation**
   
   - Hunger, persisting malnutrition in all its forms, increasing prevalence of diet-related non-communicable diseases, high environmental impacts of food production and distribution, food losses and waste, and spreading antimicrobial resistance indicate that current food systems are not sustainable\(^6\).
   
   - A range of megatrends are challenging our ability to ensure food security for all in a sustainable way. Such trends include rapid population growth and associated increasing demand for food, increasing urbanization, climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, pandemics disrupting food supply chains, biosecurity/zoonosis, depletion of natural resources, food waste, consumer behaviour, etc\(^7\) \(^8\).
   
   - While food safety is not evidenced in the SDGs, it is essential for achieving SDG 2, which underlies the achievement of all other SDGs.
   
   - Today, agricultural products are produced and processed in greater volumes and distributed over greater distances than ever before. Widespread collaboration and contributions of all actors across the food supply chain, underpinned by robust governance, agreed international standards and harmonized regulations, are essential to food safety\(^9\).
   
   - Food safety incidents and food fraud threaten the complex, globalized food supply. The COVID-19 pandemic has raised new challenges to food security and demonstrated the need to better anticipate and prepare for emerging issues that may disrupt food supply chains, in order to avoid global crises and ensure safe food for all at all times.

   **b) Call to Action**
   
   - Given various megatrend challenges, current food systems need to transform to more inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems, delivering food security for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security for future generation is not compromised\(^10\).
     
     - **Urgency:** We need to act now - anticipate, prevent, absorb, adapt, transform\(^11\).
   
   - There is a big momentum globally for agri-food systems centred transformation, across UN agencies (WHO, draft new food safety strategy; UN Food Systems Summit\(^12\)) and FAO’s partners (e.g., WHO, UNEP, WFP, WTO, WB).
   
   - Food safety should be an enabler of food security, not a blocker. Food safety therefore needs to be an integral part of agri-food systems transformation from the onset.
   
   - The latest scientific and technical innovations offer opportunities for developing safer, more sustainable and resilient agriculture and fisheries. For instance, technologies such as big data and digitization that underly Agriculture 5.0, Industry 5.0 and Society 5.0. These could be made more broadly available and tailored to stakeholder needs at various levels.
   
   - **When governmental policies neglect food safety, high social, health, economic and environmental costs result, and the achievement of SDGs is impeded.**

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Out of the Addis Ababa\textsuperscript{13} and Geneva\textsuperscript{14} meetings, firm political commitments were made to integrate food safety into national and regional policies and to take coherent actions across multiple sectors in order to promote safe food and diversified healthy diets.

By addressing food safety in designing better agri-food systems, countries/value chains can establish quality control and management that will ultimately serve to make food systems better at addressing food security.

Members need support to make their agri-food systems more resilient and sustainable, whilst not compromising food safety.

- It is important to look ahead, see what is coming, avoid, prepare, manage issues pro-actively. Capacity development (of government, food business operators, regulatory authorities) and growing talent (future generation of food professionals) also need to take account of future challenges, be forward looking, contributing to operational preparedness of all stakeholders.

c) Food safety achievements and assets of FAO

- FAO has unique food safety and other expertise, covering a multitude of aspects of agri-food systems, and comprehensive knowledge of the diversity of sectors and food value chains, which is deployed focusing on stakeholder needs.
  - FAO covers value chains from farm-to-fork, supporting aspects of land, water, environment, production, economy, society for animal, plant and aquatic products and governments, private sectors and consumers.
  - FAO has networks across the globe connecting global to local and vice versa, deploying national and regional offices with established connections to governments and other stakeholders on matters of food safety and beyond.
  - FAO is a key knowledge building and knowledge sharing organization and provides for neutral dialogue and action platforms for all stakeholders.

- FAO has built strong food safety assets at global level for the common good. A few examples:
  - FAO’s scientific advice programme, run jointly with WHO, is a foundational asset for food safety globally, being supported broadly by members and other organizations, and underpinning all other key assets such as normative and capacity development work.
  - The Codex Alimentarius network that forms an inclusive platform for food safety governance and the Codex standards that global benchmarks for food safety and harmonization of standards.
  - Through FAOLex and other interactions, FAO provides legal support to Members to strengthen national and regional legal frameworks in relation to agriculture and food security.
  - FAO deploys resources and expertise for food safety capacity development of countries, especially those of low- and middle-income countries, tailored to their needs.

- FAO has shown to be able to collaborate and deliver through many (multi-stakeholder) partnerships, which is important given the complexity of food safety and interconnectedness of food safety with food security and nutrition.
  - FAO has long standing experience and expertise in food safety; examples of key collaboration partners within UN agencies (e.g., WHO, UNEP, WFP, UNIDO), international organizations (e.g., OIE, WB, WTO, STDF and Members), non-governmental and private sector actors.
  - Examples of some of FAO’s recent activities, delivered with such partners:
    - Jointly with other UN bodies/organizations driven the One Health approach

- Provided up-to-date guidance on COVID-19 to governments and food businesses.
- Started addressing AMR at global scale with urgency.
- Underscored importance of food safety by WFSD; communication to consumers.

3. The FAO Food Safety Strategy 2022-2031
   - Vision: Safe food for all people at all times.
   - Mission: To support Members to improve food safety at all levels by providing scientific advice and strengthening food safety capacities for sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.
   - Key considerations for the new strategy:
     - Strengthening and transforming agri-food systems, with an integral consideration of food safety, can be seen as a journey/gradual process involving various stakeholders (government, food business operators/associated industries, academics/educators, researchers, consumers). It includes capacity development addressing the immediate and longer-term requirements and resource investment opportunities of Members and others. Importantly, implementation and integration (at different levels in countries; in national law/regulatory provisions; in trade contexts) of food safety capacities will be key to making progress. FAO will continue to provide tailored support to Members and other stakeholders on direction and substance (e.g., normative work, science, systems transformation).
     - Countries/stakeholders are best placed to drive the gradual establishment of their food safety capacity, using their own data and evidence for decision-making. Having relevant data is key, since data are the basis to derive information, knowledge, and evidence from and to base decisions on such as regarding food safety policies, priorities, and emerging food safety issues.
     - Ideally, data and derived elements are implemented and maintained at global, regional, levels, assessed for efficacy/return on investment (ROI) and evolved for timeliness. Without such care of data, ROI likely is low and support to decision-making probably not effective. Data should be relevant and (re-)usable, so it is best when countries can generate, maintain and interpret their own data of good quality, whilst sharing and pooling data is important for regional and global purposes and in support of countries that may not yet be able to develop their own data. Resources and planning are needed for data generation and utility.
     - Safe food relies on good coordination and collaboration – partnerships with public and private entities. FAO should leverage partnerships more, for example for impact and efficiency/ROI. The contribution of others (stakeholders/partners) is key and adds value; FAO can leverage and learn from partners/collaborators. Partnering with governments, industries, academia, could be an opportunities to strengthen food safety (e.g., digitization, foresight, education, knowledge and science evolution; sharing), address challenges (e.g., emerging hazards and food trends; crisis and emergency situations; climate change and other megatrends; cyber security) and achieve ambitions (e.g., harmonization of standards; risk-based decision-making; resilient and sustainable food systems).
     - For building resilient and sustainable food systems, forward looking approaches such as foresight or horizon scanning are key. Through forward targeted intelligence, possible impacts of emerging trends and issues on food safety can be pre-empted, understood and addressed through collaborative and coordinated food safety governance, control and management actions. At the same time, some emerging trends and issues may offer benefits that need to analyzed so that opportunities can be optimized as appropriate.
   - Safe food requires efforts and investments, such as in
     - the evolution of science and technical guidance from FAO and partners now and going forward; outreach to/support of stakeholders (global-local; local-global) such as policy
makers - regulatory authorities - food business operators/ associated industries – consumer organizations/consumers);

- tailored application and innovation of systems, tools, technologies, practices for production, processing, distribution and other value chain operations; considering sustainability (e.g., natural resource management, circular economy approaches); opening up new nutrient sources; sharing for instance data, evidence.

- Balancing such decisions/trade-offs more objectively and transparently may require new ways of working and tools for governments and other stakeholders.

- Training/Education of future food safety professionals aiming to bring the new workforce into their jobs well prepared with adequate knowledge and skills to respond to the challenges and opportunities regarding food safety and the required transformation of agri-food systems. Note that the gender, youth and inclusion is a cross-cutting themes of the new FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031.

  - Delivery of the new food safety strategy within the FAO Strategic Framework.

- Food safety is a key area of work under the new FAO Strategic Framework. The Programme Priority Area (PPA) on “Safe food for everyone” recognizes, among other things, the importance of integrated, multi-sectorial food safety policy and legislation for agri-food systems adopted and implemented by governments. It also underscores the need to enhance food safety capacities and awareness of agri-food value chain operators and consumers. Given interconnectivities, the work on food safety is contributing to other FAO ambitions like for example to the PPA on “One Health”.

- FAO will need to develop its own proficiency and capacity regarding digitization opportunities and digital tools (incl., development and maintenance/evolution), such that it can best provide support and advice to Members and other stakeholders on applications that, for instance, relate to efficiency and impact of sharing data, innovating data analysis and interpretation, food control systems, capacity development, supply chain sustainability and resilience.

- FAO’s own capacity development (incl., skills, capabilities, expertise and infrastructures), for example, by creating dedicated resources and programmes supporting food safety communication, data and information management.

- FAO will collaborate in the development of strategic partnerships to share, collect, analyse and interpret food safety data relevant for food safety control and policy decision-making, on digital approaches to sharing information to countries and other stakeholders in support of, for instance, anticipation and management of emerging food safety issues, detection of early signals of food safety incidents, application of new technologies for the agri-food chain.

4. The four strategic outcome areas of the new FAO Food Safety Strategy 2022-2031

  - This FAO Food Safety Strategy presented below focuses on selected strategic food safety outcomes and actions. It emphasizes particular FAO areas of work on food safety that will be key in the next decade, while it builds on all the work of FAO (often done with partner organizations).

  - Between the four strategic outcomes there are many interdependencies in terms of outcomes and underpinning actions. Areas of work are highlighted where most relevant to the achievement of the specified outcome, but could be relevant for other outcomes or general FAO deliveries too.

a) **Outcome 1: Inter-governmental and Inter-sectorial coordination of food safety governance is reinforced at all levels**

**Narrative:**

  - The FAO/WHO Joint Food Standards Programme Codex Alimentarius is an important inclusive and neutral platform/point of dialogue for developing benchmark food safety and quality standards for domestic national and international trade and as reference and resource for national and regional standards. Codex standards are also a reference for harmonization of standards and minimization of regulatory burdens.
To make food safety consistently considered in food systems and Codex standards more impactful and timelier, stronger intergovernmental and inter-sectorial coordination and integration is required at all levels, from global, regional, national to local level and vice versa, and in line with the One Health principle.

Given pressures on food security, effective collaboration and prioritization of food safety is key.

Various stakeholders need support from FAO for engaging with standards development (actions under Outcome 2), and standards help strengthen national food control systems (Outcome 3) and the resilience of food systems (Outcome 4).

Strategic actions:

- Foster inter-sectorial (e.g., Food Safety, Public Health, Agricultural, Economy, Tourism, Trade, Environment, General Food Law) coordination and cooperation at all levels for safe and regulatorily compliant food in line with the One Health approach and addressing timely emerging food safety issues.

- Promote and support the Codex Alimentarius standards setting process and the inclusive engagement of stakeholders in the process, aiming for more impactful standards development coordinated with legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks of governments and sectors at country or regional level. Such standards may be/are benchmarks contributing to minimizing the burden/cost of multiple regulations through harmonization efforts.

- Convene, coordinate and facilitate global, regional, national food safety policy dialogue on governance matters. Support technical multi-stakeholder networks on current and emerging food safety issues.

- Enhance advocacy towards policy makers (including through World Food Safety Day) aiming for policy makers to prioritize food safety in national development programmes and to provide sustained budgets to food safety capacity development.

- Enhance engagement on food safety matters with non-state actors (private sector, including SMEs, producer associations, consumers, NGOs and civil society) for partnership and closer coordination and collaboration.

b) Outcome 2: Sound science and evidence are provided as the foundation for food safety decision-making

Narrative:

- To face the range of current and forthcoming food safety challenges, the sound science and evidence need to be used as a basis for decision-making.

- Under the auspices of FAO and partners, and with broad support of Member governments and other organizations, principles and methods for risk-based food safety assessment, communication and management approaches have been developed. These have proven to be invaluable for decision-making on many aspects of food safety governance, control and management.

- Given the evolution of food safety science insights, of food security challenges and food safety transformation drivers, the methods and approaches underpinning risk-based decision-making need to be evolved, kept up-to-date and innovated, to remain leading-edge and meaningful as a basis for timely decision-making. Speed of communication, food fraud and miscommunication are some of the challenges that need particular attention in collaboration/coordination with countries and other stakeholders.

- The data feeding into standards-setting, risk-based assessments and other processes and that are providing an evidence base for knowledge and decision-making need to be systematically collected, analysed, interpreted and made accessible as a public good.

- Data generation is part of National Control Systems (as per Outcome 3), including data to support information and evidence for setting food safety standards (as per Outcome 1), for assessing risks and identify emerging hazards (as per outcome 2) and identify challenges and opportunities to improve the resilience and sustainability of food systems (as per Outcome 4).
**Strategic actions:**

- Provide and communicate the breadth and depth of scientific knowledge, evidence and advice established by all relevant standing and ad-hoc expert committees that are needed to underpin Codex standards development and Member State decision-making for various food hazards (chemical, microbiological, physical, allergens) and food safety issues (e.g., AMR, water scarcity, food waste; food fraud, biotechnology, circular economy) following One Health principles.

- Support stakeholders to be aware of and understand risk assessment as the basis for international and national standard setting development, food control and for food safety risk management measures and decision-making processes.

- Strengthen timely and pro-active identification of emerging hazards, issues and trends, applying foresight and horizon scanning approaches to assess their possible risks as well as the opportunities they may bring, and to keep abreast of new trends around food systems (e.g., urban food systems; new protein sources, e.g., edible insects; circular economy, food printing; new food channels; consumer behaviour) and understand how and when these might affect food safety – leveraging two-way learnings from existing global, regional and local systems, including making use of traditional practices bases.

- Evolve the science and methodology in risk assessment targeting chemicals, including allergens, microbial and physical hazards. For example, considering non-animal testing-based (Next Generation) approaches, exposure to multiple hazards/substances, new/emerging food contaminants in chemical risk assessment; expanding microbiological risk assessment to for example food security impacts of global megatrend impacts and sustainability impacts of shortages in natural resources; and evolving other relevant risk assessment science areas to remain leading edge and aligned to innovative approaches, incl. those addressing miscommunication.

- Maintain essential international food safety databases (e.g., JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR) and platforms such as the one on National food control systems for dialogue and information sharing (e.g., GM Foods Platform) that provide and disseminate leading-edge scientific information, evidence and advice in inclusive ways to Members and other stakeholders on their practical relevance and use.

- Support development of and participate in the necessary data and information systems, that capture, maintain and analyse data across all One Health science areas - interpret and promote these as a basis for scientific advice, evidence and standard development – leverage strategic partnerships with public and private entities for maximum efficiency and return on investment/value of FAO resources.

- Partner in technical initiatives and support countries to utilize opportunities/manage challenges. Examples of new strategic partnerships areas: assessment of trends and food safety relevance (threats/opportunities); anticipation and management of emerging food safety issues; assessing opportunities of new science and technologies for improved food safety of the agri-food chain.

c) **Outcome 3: Food control systems have been further strengthened.**

**Narrative:**

- The national food control systems implemented by countries are the essential operational tool for assurance that food traded locally and internationally is safe for consumers. FAO works with countries to drive equality between local and international standards.

- National food control systems need to evolve to remain relevant with regards to developments in societies and consumers' preferences, the globalization of trade, megatrends impacting on food security, and the need for agri-food chains to become more resilient and sustainable.

- The global good practices agreed through Codex offer a basis for the continuous development of national food control systems, that should be well integrated across sectors in countries and across nations at the regional and global level for food safety impact and leveraging of resources. Capability and capacity development at all levels (supported by activities under Outcomes 1 and 2) are key to successful development of robust, resilient and impactful food control systems.
While the national food control systems typically focus on current food safety hazards and risks, their capacity for timely anticipation of future developments needs to take into account emerging issues at national to global scale potentially impacting food safety.

Both current and future developments benefit most from a strong and up-to-date evidence base that is locally relevant, amongst others including data generated as part of National Food Control Systems and from science and technical studies and developments (as per Outcome 2). The interpretation and communication of such data in terms of realistic food safety risks and potential emerging hazards (as per Outcome 2) helps to identify challenges and opportunities to improve the resilience and sustainability of food systems (as per Outcome 4). It also provides for a better basis for Governance (Outcome 1). 

**Strategic actions:**

- Strengthen and support participation in Codex Alimentarius work of governments and other stakeholders and the timely use of Codex standards and guidance by stakeholders for food safety standards harmonization, development of food safety standards and food control systems.
- Member states and other stakeholders are supported to assess their food control systems at various levels and identify areas for further improvements, integration and regional/global alignment of such systems, and approaches for monitoring progress and impact, incl. use of indicators.
- Update legal frameworks and regulatory systems, strengthen food safety policies and develop supporting strategies (e.g., biosecurity, risk management) to underpin and further strengthen national food control systems; support regional alignment/integration of standards, free trade zone initiatives and engagement of public and private stakeholders.
- With the support of partners, upgrade supporting infrastructures (e.g., food control laboratories; certification, accreditation services) and develop monitoring programmes to collect relevant food safety data (e.g., compliance; contamination). FAO brings regulatory and science perspectives.
- Support stakeholders to implement risk-based controls, including adoption of new technologies (e.g., e-certification; remote audits, support embedding food safety management schemes and food control into e-commerce platforms; strengthen preparedness for management of food safety emergencies, including early detection/ warning of food safety incidents; establish approaches to anticipate and manage emerging food safety issues, incl. those associated to societal, health and economic trends, as well as identify opportunities to strengthen food safety.

**d) Outcome 4: Public and private stakeholders are collaborating to ensure resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.**

**Narrative:**

- The food security challenges posed at global level now and in the next decades, the need to consider food safety integrally in developing long-lasting solutions require close collaboration and coordination of all stakeholders involved food safety related aspects of the agri-food systems of countries around the world.
- These challenges also call for the sharing of learnings, better ways of working with stakeholders and innovation of the tools and technologies available to address current issues and challenges across the food value chains and beyond.
- Importantly, across stakeholders, a much better coordination and preparation to jointly face challenges is needed.
- Food safety training and education need to focus on the youth as well as on life-long learning. Providing food safety awareness and skills at early age, fostering good practices, sharing of learnings, and innovation. It supports growing the next generations of food safety professionals and experts, proving them knowledge and opportunities to develop and mature.

**Strategic actions:**

- Support governments, agri-food chain operators, agri-food industry technology providers, academics, consumers and other stakeholders at all levels, including global scale in
understanding the interconnectedness of their actions, roles and responsibilities in modern food safety systems.

- Contribute to the promotion and development of good food safety practices, tools and technologies for various stakeholders along the food chain from production to consumption stage (from retail, food service, to consumer home), including those avoiding/minimizing loss of food resources at the production stage and wasting food at the consumption stage. Learn from developments by agri-food chain operators and technology providers and inform Members and other stakeholders.

- Learn from Members, governments and others at all levels regarding practices and opportunities for strengthening, for instance, the speed of stakeholder communication and of the resilience of governmental interactions at times of emergencies and crises. Collaborate with stakeholders to better prepare for jointly facing such exceptional situations and to share learnings post-crisis/emergency.

- Work with governments, agri-food chain actors and solution providers to find and develop tools and technologies for improving the sustainability of agri-food chains regarding the use of production and processing technologies that optimize yields, deal with challenges such as water scarcity and natural resources limitations as well as strengthen provision of safety and sufficient food to all at all times.

- Contribute to the improvement of current and future food safety capacities of food professionals that support governments, agri-food chain operations and other aspects of food systems. Work with governments, industry, research and academia on timely modernizing and updating food safety curricula and training programmes that are aligned on key principles and learning objectives at all levels and that support life-long education approaches and the further deployment of digital resources for tailored education and training.