



Legal Office

Food safety

Food safety and quality legislation provides the basis to ensure the safety of food throughout the whole production chain, “from farm to fork.” This involves the incorporation of the food safety and quality standards approved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Codex Alimentarius Commission was established by FAO and WHO in the 1960s. It has been recognized by the WTO SPS Agreement as the single international reference point for developments associated with food safety and quality standards and is the global reference point for consumers, food producers and processors, national food control agencies and the international food trade.

The Legal Office provides assistance to FAO Member countries and regional organizations to strengthen their legal frameworks for food safety and quality in support of an integrated food chain approach. It reviews national legislation in accordance with international standards and provides legal assistance in a manner that is tailored to the specific needs and legal system of member states. Through direct work with national lawyers, it also contributes to strengthening national legal capacities and facilitates an understanding of international food safety legislation among national stakeholders.



A multi-disciplinary team of lawyers from the Legal Office is buttressed by in-house FAO technical experts in each respective sub-area of agriculture, including on food safety and quality management.

Find out more from our publications available at www.fao.org/legal

Building in safety and quality

Organizational Result D2
Institutional, policy and legal frameworks
for food safety/quality management that
support an integrated food chain approach.