



Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership

The Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership is an FAO-led Partnership for Capacity Development for Feed Safety, **with the objective to strengthen the capacity of relevant stakeholders along the feed and food value chain to produce and supply safer feed.** Thereby contributing to animal health and welfare and enhancing food safety and food security.

In particular the Partnerships purpose is:

- to strengthen and develop technical and functional capacities of producers, policy makers and other operators along the supply and production chain;
- to share best practices and risk-based measures for preventing and controlling hazards in feed;
- to support smallholders in reducing health risks for their animals and in reducing feed and food losses; and
- to create and share scientific knowledge on new feed and technologies.

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1. Why do we need feed safety?

A rapidly growing population, along with an increase in urbanization and income, especially in less economically developed countries, are driving the demand for foods of animal origin. The consumption of animal products is expected to be 60 percent higher in 2050 than today. Concurrently, the demand for feed will continue to go up with an increase in the food-feed-fuel competition and in the food prices. Measures to reduce imbalanced consumption of animal products, to produce food and feed more efficiently and to reduce food and feed losses and wastes are necessary to face this challenge.

The challenge is not only to meet the growing demand for feed but also to ensure the safety of animal feed. Animal feed safety impacts on animal health, welfare and productivity as well as the safety of the human food supply and the livelihood of farmers. Safe feed helps to reduced production costs, maintains or increases food quality and reduces food losses and wastes. Feed is an integral part of the food chain and its safety has been recognized as a shared value and a shared responsibility. Feed production must therefore be subject, in a similar manner as food production, to the quality assurance of integrated food safety systems.

Commercial feed manufacturing generates an estimated annual turnover and sales value equivalent to USD 85 billion worldwide. Animal feed may also be produced on-farm in form of pasture, grain or roughage or in simple on-farm mixers as compound feed. It is important to note that more than 50 percent of the worldwide consumed meat and over 70 percent of milk is produced by smallholder farmers, which rely mostly on locally available feed resources and agro-industrial by-products.

The role of animal feed in the production of safe food is recognized worldwide, and several critical incidents have underlined its impact on public and animal health, feed and food trade, and food security. For instance, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Foot-and-Mouth Disease; dioxin, mycotoxin, E.coli O157:H7 contaminations; the development of antimicrobial resistance, they are all related to animal feeding.

Work on the application of the risk analysis framework provided by the [Codex Alimentarius](#) in the field of animal feeding has facilitated the further understanding of the role of animal feed safety on public health and of the importance of risk-based measures to prevent and control hazards. Hazards may be introduced with source materials or via carryover or contamination of products during handling, storage and transportation. The presence of a hazard may also result from accidental or deliberate (e.g. fraud) human intervention. Hazards associated with feed are biological, chemical and physical agents such pathogenic microorganisms, mycotoxins, heavy metals, dioxins, dibenzofurans and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides, and radionuclides.

In many countries adequate know-how and sufficient awareness are lacking to ensure feed safety among all operators along the whole value chain. Even where more knowledge is available and control systems are in place, new and unconventional feed ingredients are entering the production chain e.g. agro-industrial by-products (such as the ones of the biofuel industry), insects, food processing by-products, food wastes, etc., and with them, possibly new safety risks. Moreover, many countries still lack feed regulatory frameworks and fail to implement feed regulations harmonized with the [Codex Alimentarius](#) and other international standards.



2. Why do we need the Feed Safety Multi- Stakeholder Partnership and what can we achieve?

FEED SAFETY IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Feed safety is a prerequisite for food safety and human health and a necessity for animal health and welfare. The entire food chain shares the responsibility to supply safe, healthy and nutritious food, starting at the production and supply of safe feed. Safe feed is also a component of access to trade, income generation and economic sustainability; it contributes to feed and food security and decreases feed losses. Therefore, one single action or one individual player cannot attain feed safety. Collaborative action of intergovernmental organizations, governmental authorities, academia, farmers, producers, private sector and civil society as a whole are essential to establish a safe and sustainable feed and food value chain.

IMPROVING FEED SAFETY THROUGH A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP

The Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership's goal is to improve globally the safety of feed through the development of technical and functional capacities of all relevant stakeholders. The Partnership addresses feed safety in the feed and food continuum that includes feed ingredients, feed inputs, feeding practices, feed handling, packaging, transportation, storage and manufacture. The Partnership has a global geographical coverage and will undertake activities relevant to all major feed and livestock products and related supply chains. Some activities will benefit all regions, while others will address more localized feed safety issues. The primary beneficiaries will be producers and policy-makers in feed- and livestock producing countries. Producers will benefit through the development of capacities to address feed safety issues.

The implementation of the Partnership's activities are expected to result in the following outcomes:

- **Closer collaboration among stakeholders** (through multi-stakeholder policy and technical dialogues, fora and collaborative activities).
- **Increased scientific information and data** (for instance on hazards associated with animal feed).
- **Effective communication and advocacy.**
- **Broader exchange (sharing) of data and information and knowledge among all stakeholders** (through the development of databases, case studies and the production of publications).
- **Enhanced technical expertise and know-how** (as a result of training).
- **Adequate legislations and their effective implementation.**

3. How can you participate in the Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership?

POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS

Partners of the Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership can be members of the following groups:

Public sector (governmental and institutions): Intergovernmental organizations, regional economic development organizations, governmental organizations and institutions of [FAO member states](#), and financial institutions.

Private sector (including producers): Organizations, federations and/or associations, or foundations representing at national, regional or global level industry, farmers, retailers, food distribution, etc., or individual companies related to feed production and/or use and formally recognized in an FAO member state.

Civil society: Organizations, federations and/or associations or foundations representing at national, regional or global level consumers, professionals and interest groups, and formally recognized in an FAO member state.

Academia and research: International or FAO member states' universities, education and research centres.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

There are two ways of to participate in the Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership:

1. Becoming a PARTNER, if you chose to contribute financially or in-kind to already planned activities of the [Action Plan June 2016 – June 2017](#) or to new activities that you might want to propose
2. Without becoming Partners, you can still participate by proposing new activities to be implemented within the Partnership, considering the [general requirements and criteria for selection of activities](#) (below).

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES

General requirements for proposed activities to be considered by the Partnership:

- contribute to the overall objective of the Partnership: to develop the capacities of the relevant stakeholders to ensure the production and supply of safe feed;
- follow the capacity development approach as defined in the programme of the Partnership;
- be implemented in [FAO member countries](#);
- address one or more of the elements/ components of the programme of the Partnership:
 - development and facilitation of partnerships and networks;
 - generation of scientific information and data;
 - communication and advocacy;
 - knowledge generation and exchange;
 - development and enforcement of policy and legislation;
 - institutional strengthening; and
 - education and training.; and
- be implemented and/or funded by partners of the Partnership, in any collaborative combination; and proposed by an organization or institution, not by individuals.

Criteria for the selection and prioritization of activities:

- long term and widespread impact of results;
- replicability and possibility of up-scaling;
- likely to achieve fast and evident results;
- sustainability of results;
- possibly targeting multiple stakeholder or more than one;
- proposed and or supported by a large number of stakeholder; and
- aligning/contributing to related FAO or the Partners' activities.

LIST OF POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES

The following list of activities are example activities that members could propose and implement in the Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership.

Example activities targeting multiple stakeholder groups:

1. To encourage and facilitate partnerships among the different stakeholders along the feed and food value chain through:

- International, regional and national multi-stakeholder fora to share best practices, scale up successful experiences and to develop new collaborative initiatives
- International and regional feed regulators/private sector meetings
- Development of case studies and fact sheets on successful partnership experiences
- Twinning initiatives between countries to disseminate experiences and lessons learnt

2. To generate, gather and widely disseminate scientific information and data to enhance feed safety and to underline its importance along the food and feed value chain on:

- Impact of feed safety on sustainable feed and food production
- Database on hazards, their sources, their levels and variability (seasonality) in feed to facilitate feed assessment (it could include compilation of analytical results of presence of hazards in feed)
- Standardized/model feeding regimes for exposure assessment for animals
- Transfer of hazards from feed to products of animal origin
- Database on current analytical methods specific for feed
- New analytical methods for rapid screening and for confirmation for feed
- Emerging hazards, including toxins
- Safety of novel and unconventional feed sources and production processes (e.g. bio-products, insects, food waste)
- Methods for decontamination (e.g. physical, chemical, biological methods for treatment of feed)

3. To develop communication and advocacy activities to raise awareness on the importance and implications of feed safety for the food chain and for the livestock sector and to enhance the profile of the activities that

address this theme (communication and advocacy should be appropriate to the audience and fit for purpose and must also be included in each individual project):

- Raising awareness addressing policy makers, food/feed regulators, legislators, including cross-cutting regulatory jurisdictions (e.g. One Health, public and animal health and welfare, waste disposal)
- Flagging feed safety through a series of workshops run in conjunction with the Codex Commission and relevant Codex Committees meetings
- Broaden the international and regional feed regulators meetings to all players of the food production and feed sectors (e.g. regulators and industry/manufacturers/retailers), producer groups, farmer representatives and other stakeholders
- Raise awareness on feed safety issues to private sector platforms, e.g. SAI, SSAFE
- Side events/round tables, etc. in conjunction to food and livestock sector major events (e.g. meetings of the International Food Technologists IFT and of the European Federation of Animal Science, EAAP; the World Veterinary Congress; the World Dairy Summit, the World Meat Conference, the Committee on World Food Security, CFS)
- Information campaigns (radio, video, web and paper communication) and other events targeting wide audience
- Link feed safety aspects with other subjects, such as animal health and welfare, food quality and safety, food security, environmental protection
- Information campaigns targeting other stakeholders which might play a role in the feed and food chain (e.g. transporters, suppliers)
- Fact sheets/case studies, posters, communication material showing the benefits (e.g. economical, on public and animal health, ethical) of feed safety to farmers, feed and food producers, citizens
- Raise awareness on importance and responsibility of farmers (including small and less developed farmers) to contribute to the production of safe feed and food (e.g. video, farmers manual on feed safety issues and regulations)
- Disseminate lessons learnt by countries (government, institution and private sector) which have implemented the *Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding*
- Raise awareness on importance of feed safety in technical/professional schools, universities, professional associations
- Developing e-games, e-learning programmes and webinars, either through peer-to-peer programme or experts communication
- Exchange of students and study tours
- Encourage inclusion of feed safety in educational programmes (from primary schools onward), relevant university curricula and continuous education programmes (e.g. veterinary science, animal science, agronomy, food technology)

4. To encourage knowledge generation and info sharing through:

- A web-based knowledge platform for the benefit of all stakeholders throughout the value chain
- Inventory of on-going and recent projects addressing feed safety
- A database of best practices
- An information platform for interested farmers, feed producers and their associations (e.g. application for cell phones, text messages, internet based, TV/radio programmes; sharing of best practices/success stories)

- An internet platform for questions and answers and information on hazards in feed
- Disseminate information on national legislation / regulations and international requirements

Example activities targeting individual stakeholder groups:

1. Farmers

- Produce training materials (e.g. manual on the use of by-products of the biofuel industry and other non-food products), fact sheets (e.g. best practices/success stories) and extension material
- Produce basic field manuals on various topics (e.g. aflatoxin controls), based on Codex texts as appropriate
- Training on good agriculture practice, including pasture management, appropriate storage and production of safe and balanced/nutritious feed, monitoring/testing (e.g. through extension services; farmers schools, study tours/exchanges)
- Promote the application of the Codex [Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding](#) through the FAO/IFIF Manual of Good Practices for the Feed Industry
- Improve storage facilities (e.g. through credit provisions, communal storage)
- Support development of farmers associations
- Training for detection and quantification of hazards at farm level

2. Governments

- Develop tools and methods for feed risk assessment, based on Codex [Guidelines on Application of Risk Assessment for Feed](#) and other relevant texts
- Develop priority list of hazards in feed at national and/or (sub-) regional level, on Codex [Guidance on Prioritizing Hazards in Feed](#) and other relevant texts
- Prepare a manual on implementation of risk assessment procedures and on hazards prioritization, based on *Codex* Guidelines on Application of Risk Assessment for Feed and on *Codex* Guidance on Prioritizing Hazards in Feed and other relevant texts
- Support the development, revision and enforcement of feed safety legislation/regulations based on Codex texts and the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, as appropriate
- Support the development of approval, monitoring and surveillance programmes for the feed sector
- Develop an international or regional rapid alert system for feed
- Training on development of control programmes, risk assessment and emergency plans e.g. through twinning, seminars, study tours/exchanges
- Support the establishment of laboratories and their accreditation
- Improving storage facilities (private and public) e.g. through credit provisions, communal storage
- Support the development of policy and incentives for feed safety
- Produce training material for laboratories based on the FAO manuals and guidelines
- Encourage governments in investing in research on feed hazards
- Support for early and continuing education on safe feed production/handling

3. Feed (and Food) producers (including feed mills, transporters and food industry when applicable)

- Produce a manual on Hazard Control Critical Control Points (HACCP) application to feed
- Train on good manufacturing practice/HACCP and certification, feed sampling and analysis
- Promote the use of the FAO/IFIF Manual of Good Practices for the Feed Industry
- Develop GMP and guidance for safe production and use of novel and unconventional feed ingredients (e.g. food processing waste, bio-products, insects, food waste) and resulting from new production processes
- Encourage the creation of producer associations and voluntary producers schemes
- Encourage the development of incentive systems to facilitate the production of safe feed and food (e.g. paying premium a for feed that meet product specifications)
- Improve storage facilities, e.g. through credit provisions, communal storage

4. How do we put the Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership in practice?

FOLLOWING THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Activities implemented in the **Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership** should follow a capacity development¹ approach. The capacity development approach addresses different dimensions, i.e. individuals, organizations and the enabling environment. It considers social, economic and policy aspects together with technical ones and provides stakeholders and countries a leading role to ensure the sustainability of activities. The development of technical and functional capacities in those three dimensions is fundamental in ensuring feed safety. "Technical capacities" are needed by target groups to respond to their responsibility to ensure feed safety. These include, among others, the capacity to implement good agricultural practices, good manufacturing practices and marketing and laboratory practices. "Functional capacities" are needed to uptake and sustain changes at governmental, farm, industry and professional level to ensure that the technical know-how is embodied in local systems and processes in a sustainable way.

Capacities developed at the "individual dimension" lead to changes in skills, behaviours and attitudes among actors in livestock, feed and food sectors. Training, knowledge sharing, and networking are ways of strengthening capacities in this dimension. Strengthening capacities at the "organizational dimension" consists of taking measures to improve the overall functioning and performance of an organization or institution. This dimension impacts directly how individuals within the organization develop their competencies and use their capabilities. The "enabling environment" is where capacity development takes place, meaning the setting where individuals and organizations put capabilities into action. It includes: political commitment and vision; policy, legal and economic frameworks; budget allocations and processes; governance and power structures; incentives and social norms.

¹ Capacity is defined as "the ability of people, organizations and society as a whole to manage their affairs successfully. Capacity development is the process of unleashing, strengthening and maintaining of such capacity".

In the **Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership**, activities and projects will require:

- Effective engagement with national actors.
- Analysis and understanding the specific context.
- Implementation of capacity development activities and projects.
- Constant highlight on sustainability.

GOVERNING BODIES

Implementing activities of the **Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership** will rely on the guidance and coordination of a Steering Group (one representative member of each Partner), and the facilitation through the FAO based Secretariat, as well as technical inputs from Ad hoc Technical Advisory Groups.

The Partners

Partners are those who signed the Partnership Agreement and contribute to the Partnership and its overall objective through in-kind and/or financial resources. They might be:

- [FAO members states'](#) governmental organizations and institutions;
- intergovernmental organizations;
- private sector organizations, initiatives and companies involved in feed and livestock food chains;
- NGOs engaged in activities aligned with the scope of the Partnership;
- financial institutions;
- academia and research centres; and
- public and private standard setting bodies.

The Steering Group

The Steering Group is responsible for providing overall strategic guidance and direction, and highlight priorities, more specifically, it:

- advises on specific activities within the framework of the programme of the Partnership;
- oversees and monitors the implementation of the overall programme of the Partnership;
- proposes technical experts that might be appointed to the Ad hoc Technical Advisory Groups (see below) and provides advice on their terms of reference, as proposed by the Secretariat;
- facilitates the collection of data and information;
- promotes stocktaking and scaling up of the successful experiences of the overall programme of the Partnership;
- provides suggestions for the effective coordination of the overall programme of the Partnership undertakings with other relevant initiatives;
- reviews the functions and composition of the governance bodies of the Partnership and proposes modifications, if necessary;
- proposes to terminate the agreement with Partners acting contrary to the interests and goal of the Partnership and thus deviating from the Partnership Agreement they have committed to;
- provides advice on and approve the terms of reference and evaluator(s) proposed by the Secretariat;
- assesses the result of the evaluation and makes recommendations for further activities;
- initiates the peer review of the outputs of the overall programme of the Partnership on an ad hoc basis; and
- prioritizes and selects the activities to be implemented on the basis of pre-defined criteria.

Each Partner is represented in the Steering Group (SG) by one representative member. The Steering Group might include observers. One FAO staff will be an ex officio member of the SG. Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations and technical experts may be invited to attend the SG, in an advisory role. The SG will normally meet once a year to review progress and provide comments and suggestions regarding the Partnerships' work programme. It is envisaged that during the annual general meeting, a special event may be open to the general public and media. For practical reasons the annual general meeting may be organized back-to-back with other consultations/meetings, whenever possible. The final decision about the agenda, venue and timing of the meeting shall be taken by the SG on the Secretariat's proposal. Partners will be expected to bear the costs for their participation in the SG meetings. Exception may be granted upon request and after approval by the SG.

The chair, a member of the SG, will change in each meeting (balancing in the rotation different stakeholder groups). An FAO staff member will serve as permanent vice-chair of the SG. FAO will serve as Secretariat of the SG and prepare a report after each of these meetings. Electronic consultations might also be organized if necessary.

Decision-making procedure: approval by consensus will be sought for decision-making; however, whenever this will not be reached, decisions will be taken by a qualified majority.

The SG will be consulted prior to new Partners being accepted in the Partnership.

The Secretariat

Based at FAO (Animal Production and Health Division), the Secretariat will coordinate and provide technical input to the programme of the Partnership. In particular, the Secretariat will:

- be responsible for the implementation of the work plans;
- prepare terms of reference for and appoint Ad hoc Technical Advisory Groups;
- report to the SG and the Partners on progress;
- take into consideration the comments and suggestions made by Partners and the SG, e.g. during annual general meetings and take action as appropriate;
- take into consideration the advice of the SG regarding new Partners and activities and make final decision on their approval accordingly;
- prepare terms of reference for and appoint evaluator(s); and
- provide administrative support to the implementation of the programme of the Partnership and organize its different activities.

Ad hoc Technical Advisory Groups

Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) might be appointed by the Secretariat if considered necessary by the Secretariat or if proposed by the SG. The Ad hoc TAGs provide technical and scientific expertise to support implementing specific activities already approved by the SG. In particular:

- to assist in data and information collection; and
- to contribute, review and comment on specific outputs of the Partnership (e.g. publications, training material, etc.).

Members of the TAGs (the Experts) will be selected and appointed by the Secretariat based on proposals by the SG. If possible, Partners can provide experts as in-kind contribution. TAGs will report to the SC through the Secretariat.

The Secretariat will select the TAG members (experts) based on:

- their demonstrated level of expertise;
- their complementarity, i.e. aim for the ability of the TAG as a whole to address different production and processing systems, geographical regions, etc.; and
- their background, origin and affiliation, i.e. aim for the ability of the TAG as a whole to understand and address different interest groups.

ACTION PLAN 1 (JUNE 2016 - JUNE 2017)

During its 1st meeting on 29th and 30th of June 2016, the Steering Group has selected the following activities to be implemented during the subsequent first year of the Partnership. The selected activities initially have either been proposed by different stakeholders responding to a “call for proposals for activities and projects” issued in April 2016 and/or have been flagged in a survey on the implementation of the Codex guidance on feed risk assessment and hazard prioritization and related capacity development needs, released by FAO, Codex Alimentarius and the Government of Switzerland. The activities have been selected and prioritized in accordance with the above listed criteria for selection.

1. Activities selected for implementation:

- Organization of Annual International Feed Regulator Meetings
- Development of a Repository (database) of other Feed Safety Capacity Development Activities, Opportunities and Resources
- Set up of platform(s) to share knowledge and best practices (Dgroups, website, training meetings, Helpline)
- Development of Database of Feed Safety Experts and Professionals
- Development of Database of Feed Safety Organizations and Institutions
- Support to the practical implementation of feed safety risk assessment and hazard prioritization through the production of training material, training, tools and methods

2. Activities selected for implementation under specific conditions:

2.1 To implement after gathering further information: Stock-tacking on existing fact sheets, survey to understand the specific topics of interest:

- Preparation of fact-sheets on different contaminants (biological and chemical)

2.2 To implement provided dedicated funding and resources are available:

- Training on good practices for the feed industry (use of the FAO/IFIF Manual of Good Practices for the Feed Industry)
- Dissemination of successful experience and case studies

- Update of the FAO/IFIF Manual of Good Practices for the Feed Industry
- Preparation of guiding materials on feed legislation and regulations

3. More information needed to possibly select these activities for implementation:

- Production of fact-sheets on feed of increasing relevance (e.g. insects, aquatic plants and marine resources)
- Development of case studies
- Set-up of hazard alert system
- Production of fact-sheets on by-products (e.g. former food and food processing by-products, biofuels by-products)

Join us in the Feed Safety Multi-Stakeholder Partnership and get in contact with Feed-safety@fao.org if you have further questions, recommendations or general comments.

To express your interest in becoming a member of the partnership, please fill out the [manifestation of interest](#). To propose activities, please fill out the [activity proposal form](#).

Feel free to distribute this document!

