Compilation of the status of food safety policy implementation in participating Asian countries

INTRODUCTION

Prior to the workshop, a questionnaire was sent to the delegates in 13 Asian countries to find out the status of the food safety policies, their development and implementation at the national level. The replies received were compiled as the basis for discussion during the food safety regional policy consultation.

The questionnaire covered ten points as below:

1. Is there any food safety policy at present either independent of part of other policies?
    1.1   If so, the department that has issued it?
    1.2   Which departments were involved in the development?
    1.3   What points were covered in the policy?
    1.4   How long did it take to develop the policy?
    1.5   At what level has the policy been endorsed?
    1.6   What year was it issued?
    1.7   Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security NPSF/SPSF?

3. Is there an action plan for implementing the policy?

4. Who monitors implementation of the policy?

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on future strategic direction for food safety decisions in their country?

6. What is the scope/planned scope of the food safety policy in your country? i.e. food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition, etc.

7. Background to the development of the policy
    7.1   What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
    7.2   What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?
    7.3   What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?

8. Indicators for food safety
    8.1   What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?
    8.2   List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of food safety policies in your country

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?

COMPILATION OF COUNTRY RESPONSES ON FOOD SAFETY POLICIES

I. BANGLADESH

1. Is there any food safety policy at present either independent of part of other policies.
No food safety policy exists. A policy entitled National Food Safety and Quality Policy, 2012 was drafted as an independent policy. Currently, the draft policy is being further reviewed by stakeholders.

1.1 If so, the department that has issued it?
The initiative has been taken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with the support of the FAO Food Safety Project.

1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?
In draft development process, an expert working group was constituted and led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, comprising members from the key ministries and their agencies; private sectors, including industries, trade bodies, NGOs, consumers group, academics, researchers and others:
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)
- Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MOLGRDC)
- Ministry of Food
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
- Ministry of Industries
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Commerce
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Environment and Forests
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- private sector, such as the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries
- food processing industries
- consumer organizations, including Consumers Association of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Food Safety Network
- UBINIG, a national but internationally reputed NGO
- food analysis laboratories, including ICDDRB, Bureau Veritas, SGS and others
- academic and scientific institutions
- others.

1.3 What points are covered in the policy?
The points covered in the policy include food chain approach with good practices in different areas, multi-sectorial involvement and coordination, risk analysis, national food analysis capacity and networking, risk-based inspection, information, education and communication, food-borne illness surveillance and residue monitoring, standards and regulations, etc.

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?
It took some ten months to develop the first draft but the process was initiated four years back.

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?
To be endorsed by the Parliament.

1.6 What year was it issued?
Not yet issued.

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
Food safety and quality policy refers to other policies: Food Policy, Food and Nutrition Policy, National Fisheries Policy, National Livestock Development Policy, National Poultry Development Policy, Export Policy and the Import Policy Order.

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security NPSF/ SPSF?
(Food safety and quality is one of the priority components of the National Nutrition Services of Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Programme under the MOHFW for the next five years period (July 2011–June 2016). It has been incorporated in the sixth Five-Year Plan.

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
Yes, a draft Plan of Action has been formulated.

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
Currently, food safety and quality control is a shared responsibility of more than 15 ministries and their concerned agencies with inadequate coordination, although a National Food Safety Advisory Council (NFSAC) has been constituted under the Bangladesh Pure Food (Amendment) Act, 2005, lead by MOLGRDC. Recently a decision was taken by the Cabinet to shift the lead ministry of the NFSAC to the MOHFW, considering its mandates and resources available, particularly infrastructure and human resources. In the draft Policy, a provision was kept to develop a Central Food Safety Coordination Authority under the MOHFW, with clearly defined terms of reference and structures. It will be a separate entity to coordinate the activities of all the concerned stakeholders, both vertically and horizontally.

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on future strategic direction for food safety decisions in their country?
No food safety strategy exists. Under the draft policy, strategies have been formulated.

6. What is the scope/planned scope of the food safety policy in your country? i.e. food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition, etc.
The planned scope of the policy is to provide policy orientations to guide the development of a framework for an effective national food control system.

7. Background to the development of the policy
Food safety and quality is an important determinant for improving public health, ensuring food security and enhancing food trade, both in domestic and international markets. Ensuring safe and quality food is a shared responsibility of a large number of ministries and their agencies, without clearly defined mandates, which leads to gaps and overlaps and inadequate coordination in regulatory mechanisms. Furthermore, the situation has been triggered by the poor commitment from the food producers, processors and traders. All these factors lead to rampant food contamination and adulteration, which affect consumers' confidence and food trade, both domestically and internationally.

Inadequate capacity and capability of, and clearly defined mandates for, the technical agencies in the country to analyse risks, generate data for monitoring and evaluation, prevent and control food safety emergencies are also affecting the assurance of safe and quality food in the country.

7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
The key drivers for developing food safety policy were contamination and adulteration of foods, gaps and overlaps in regulation, poor commitment from the food producers, processor and traders, weak links between the food processors/producers and regulatory bodies, etc.

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?
There are inadequate data available in the country regarding contamination and the adulteration level of the food items, either processed food or primary produce. Data from the laboratory analysis of the Institute of Public Health showed that 40–60 percent food items do not comply with the set standards. Frequently a number of reports published in different news media regarding adulteration and contamination of food items, which are mostly observatory in nature rather than having scientific evidence.

Food safety and quality control is a shared responsibility of more than 15 ministries and their agencies. Inadequate coordination, gaps and overlaps among the regulatory bodies and even intra-agency (at different levels) have been identified. Weak and non-risk-based food inspection, poor commitment from the food industries or food business were identified.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?
Inadequate commitment, lack of timely effort, inadequate coordination and cooperation among different ministries and agencies and other stakeholders were important issues in developing the policy.

8. Indicators for food safety
8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?
The overall goal of the Policy is to develop an efficient and well-functioning food safety control system in that will lead to improved public health and enhanced trades of food commodities.

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.
1. Draft policy approved by the Parliament.
2. Risk-based food inspection in place.
3. Food-borne disease surveillance system developed.
4. Food Safety Emergency Response Plan adopted.
5. National Food Safety Laboratory and the laboratory network fully functional.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country
Safe and quality food is an important determinant for the improvement of public health. The food safety policy that is being developed will have impact on improvement of public health, nutrition and food trades, leading to sustainable good health and development of the country.

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?

Food safety and quality situation of the country is at the initial stage. All the elements of a well-coordinated and effective food safety and quality control system should be in place to implement the policy. So, strengthening institutional capacity, including skill development of the inspectors, capability of the food analysis laboratory with trained human resources, capacity for food-borne disease surveillance, skills for preventing and controlling food safety emergency, etc. are urgently needed to implement the proposed policy.

II. BHUTAN

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?
There is no independent food safety policy; however, the food safety components are well captured under the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, which is awaiting endorsement from the Government.

1.1 If so the department that has issued:
The Food and Nutrition Security Policy is formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.

1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?
The formulation of the National Food and Nutrition Security policy was initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, with core working group from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and Gross National Happiness Commission Secretariat (GNHCS). The departments that were directly involved in the formulation of the policy are: Department of Agriculture, Department of Livestock, Department of Agriculture Marketing and Cooperatives, Council for RNR Research of Bhutan, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority and the Department of Public Health.

Additionally, the policy document was thoroughly discussed with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Works and Human Settlement), autonomous agencies (National Land Commission Secretariat and GNHCS), international development partners (FAO, WFP, WHO, SNV, UNICEF) and local government (all 20 dzongkhags, or districts).

1.3 What points are covered in the policy?
1. rationale (preamble)
2. guiding principles
3. vision
4. policy goals and objectives
5. policy statements
6. food and nutrition security information and communication
7. institutional arrangements.

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?
It took more than two years to formulate the policy primarily because the whole process was very consultative and had to be put through various levels of consultation and review.

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?
The National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) has not been endorsed yet (we expect it will be done soon). Once endorsed, it will be at the national level.

1.6 What year was it issued?
Not yet.

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
Yes, and the policies and other legislation that have direct bearing or reference to the NFNSP are: The Constitution of Bhutan, Vision – 2020, Land Act (2007), Food Act (2005), Forest and Nature Conservation Act (1995), Seed Act (2000), Plant Quarantine Act (1993), Livestock Act (2001), Cooperative Act (2009), Bhutan Water Policy (2003), Bio-Security Policy (2008), National Health Policy (2011) and the Economic Development Policy (2010) and National Forest Policy (2011).

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security (NPSF/ SPSF)?
The country is currently in the process of formulating the eleventh Five-Year Plan (2013–2018). Towards this, one of the objectives and sector key results for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is to enhance food and nutrition security.

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
The groundwork for the formulation of strategic action plan for the implementation of the NFNSP has already been prepared with support from FAO. However, the detailed strategic action plan will be developed once the policy is endorsed.

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
Over all, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will monitor the implementation of the policy; on the nutrition components, the Ministry of Health will have a bigger role to play.

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on the future strategic direction for food safety decision in your country?
Not applicable.

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
The scope of the NFNSP covers food and nutritional aspects; the food safety is captured under the utilization goals of the policy.

7. Background to the development of the policy
7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
The NFSP was formulated primarily because of lack of coordination; food and nutrition were treated in isolation and was implemented independently by various sectors without much impact. The Ministry of Agriculture pursues sustainable food production through the Departments of Agriculture and Livestock with supplementation from the Department of Forests and Parks Services. Nutritional aspects are attempted to be addressed through kitchen gardening, backyard livestock enterprises, supplementation through NWFPs collected from the wild and promotion of diversified food production initiatives. Food safety and quality aspects are maintained through the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority. The Department of Agriculture Marketing and Cooperatives and the Food Corporation of Bhutan as well as private enterprises are engaged in food distribution and storage while the Ministry of Economic Affairs deals with food import

regulations. The Ministry of Health, through its public health department and nutrition cell is promoting healthy consumption practices. Awareness on food and nutrition aspects are also conducted by the Ministry of Education as well as other line agencies. The implementation of food and nutrition actions by numerous agencies and these various efforts are not coordinated in terms of planning, implementation or reporting.

The other reasons are:
- The incidence of food insecurity is high in rural areas where poverty rates are also high.
- Food insecure dzongkhags indicate that daily calorie intake per capita averages 1 883 kilocalories (26 percent lower than the national average).
- The pace of domestic food production is lower than demand.
- There is a high prevalence of malnourishment among children younger than 5 years – at 5.9 percent.
- Around 33.5 percent of children are stunted, while 12.7 percent are underweight.
- Around 9.5 percent of children are born with a low birth weight.

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?
Comprehensive research focusing completely on food and nutrition security has not been conducted in Bhutan. The data and data sources for the NFNSP include poverty analysis and assessment reports, the vulnerability analysis and mapping, 1995 (MOAF/WFP), renewable natural resources statistical publications, Bhutan Living Standard Surveys (NSB), annual health bulletins (MOH), the National Nutrition Survey (December 1989–1999) and related documents. Various literature, including policy documents, was referred to when formulating the NFNSP.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?
The major constraint was financial. Because this is one policy developed by the Ministry without involving external consultants, the lack of expertise was a constraint; however, this constraint was to some extent overcome through consultative process.

8. Indicators for food safety
8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?
National Bio-security and Food Safety Programme is one of the major programmes for the Ministry during the eleventh Five-Year Plan, with the sole purpose of enhancing food safety. Some of the indicators are:

Outcome	Outcome indicators	Unit	Baseline	11th Plan target
Outcome 1: National biosecurity/biosafety enhanced	1.Proportion of known exotic pests and diseases prevalent in neighbouring countries and globally prevented from entry into the country	%	80 animals N.A. plants	100 animals and 100 plants
	2.Proportion of transgenic plants/ animals/their products (GMO/LMO) prevented from entry into the country	%	N.A.	100
Outcome 2: Wholesome food safety and quality assurance enhanced	1.No. of HACCP/ISO certified establishments increased	Nos.	6	11
	2.Mandatory labelling of imported food commodities	%	0	100

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country

Outcome	Outcome indicators	Unit	Baseline	Taget
Output 1.1: Regulatory and quarantine system strengthened	Number of diagnostic labs established at quarantine stations (5) and at dzongkhags (10)	No	3	15
	Number of PLQOs with decontamination facilities for infected plant and animal materials	No	0	5
Output 1.2: Biosafety measures in place	Biosafety Act of Bhutan implemented	No	0	1
Output 2.1: Food safety and quality assurance system in place	Emergency response procedures against entry of GMOs/LMOs into the country and establishment developed	No	0	1
	Percent of food handlers trained and licensed on food safety	%	70	90
	No. of food processing establishments certified	Nos.	0	20
	Established formal inspection and certification system for both domestic and export market (organic and others)	Nos.	0	1
	No. of local food commodities for which the regulatory standards on safety are developed in line with Codex principles	Nos.	0	10
Output 2.2: National Food Testing Laboratory (NFTL) fully functional	NFTL fully accredited as per ISO 17025	No	0	1
	A laboratory with LMO and GMO product detection capability established	No	0	1

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country
Not applicable, since the NFNSP is not implemented yet.

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?

a) Infrastructure and additional human resources

- Strengthening the quarantine facilities with equipment and additional human resources for ensuring food safety and quality in the country.

The additional human resources needed are as follows:

- Food safety specialist, food safety officers and food technologists for commodity-specific inspection and certification.
- Food microbiologist, food chemist, food biotechnologist, analytical chemist and food toxicologist to better investigate the source of latest food-borne illness outbreak, manage the quality control laboratory, keep products safe and supervise testing of the microbiological, physical, chemical and sensory properties of foods and ingredients.
- Epidemiologist in times of food-borne disease outbreak and surveillance.

b) Capacity building

- Strengthening the capacity of technical staff engaged in food import and export in spection and certification.
- Enhanced capacity in understanding the concept of biosecurity and its relationships with animal health, plant protection, food safety and the importance of risk analysis.
- Strengthening the technical capacity of the laboratory analysts.
- Technical and financial support in establishing a National Food Safety Emergency Response Team, in line with international requirements.

III. CAMBODIA

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?
No

1.1 If so, the department that has issued it?
Not applicable

1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?
Not applicable

1.3 What points are covered in the policy?
Not applicable

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?
Not applicable

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?
Not applicable

1.6 What year was it issued?
Not applicable

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
Sure, after issuing the National Food Safety Policy, it will emphasize the above-mentioned examples.

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security (NPSF/SPSF)?

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
Not yet

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
Under discussion

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on the future strategic direction for food safety decision in your country?
For the time being, under the Asian Development Bank SPS Management Systems Project Phase 2(SPS-2), the Ministry of Health has started to collect the references and information sources and drafted a food safety policy.

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
This food safety policy aims to ensure a common vision of food safety issues, in line with international commitments within the Cambodian framework and environment, as it exists at present. The policy highlights the obligations of organizations, agencies and individuals in assuring food safety.

The policy will improve the implementation of the food safety system for the protection of consumer health and to enhance Cambodian food export competitiveness and draw on key principles for institutional arrangements and its implementation among relevant ministries on food safety matters, based on scientific principles, economic efficiency and effective trade facilitation.

The policy scope is the safety of food within the whole food chain: primary production, primary and secondary processing, storage, transport and distribution, wholesale and retail, export and domestic consumption, commonly referred to as "farm to table" or "boat to table". Food safety is the process to ensure that food will not cause harm or affect the health of the consumer when it is prepared or eaten according to its intended use.

7. Background to the development of the policy
7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
To implement a sound food safety system for the protection of consumer health, reduce the Government's fiscal burden of disease, enhance national production efficiencies and the national food export competitiveness

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?

Table 1: Estimated DALYS per 100 000 population by cause

Country	All cases	Diarrhoeal diseases	Unintentional injuries (accidents)
Cambodia	38,451	2,801	1,923
China	15,378	388	1,769
Lao PDR	40,324	3,181	3,849
Myanmar	29,728	1,672	2,274
Thailand	20,508	297	2,032
Viet Nam	16,642	493	1,730
USA	14,266	29	964
Australia	11,021	27	774

Source: World Health Organization. Department of Measurement and Health information (2004).

Summary of Outbreak Investigation and Action in Year 2012 (1)

No	Nature of event	Place	Date	Summary of Finding	Action
1	Methanol Poisoning	Ov Lork village, Prasat Bakong commune, Prasat Bakong District, Siem Reap Province	7-9 January 2012	Two persons shared a bottle of rice wine bought from a local store. After drinking the wine, they developed blurred vision, cold, clammy hands and legs, malaise, dizziness. They were brought to Provincial Hospital where they died. Leftover wine was tested at Food Safety Bureau lab and found to have elevated methanol level.	Get histories of cases; sent wine for testing; public advised on danger of methanol poisoning
2	Methanol Poisoning	Watbo village, Salakomreuk Commune, Siem Reap town, Siem Reap province	1-3 February	3 persons drank rice wine bought from a local store. They developed blurred vision, dizziness, cold, clammy sensation, malaise. They were brought to provincial hospital where they died. Leftover wine was tested at FSB and had elevated methanol level.	Obtain case histories; send wine for testing; health education
3	Acute Diarrhea Outbreak	Koh Toch village, Koh Rong Commune, Sihanouk district, SHV province	26-28 February	14 cases developed vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea after eating crabs; rectal swabs were negative for bacterial pathogens	Case investigation, sample collected and sent to NIPH; treated cases for dehydration
4	Food Poisoning	Tbong Beng village, Veal commune, Kong Pisey district Kg Speu province	09-11 April 2012	69 cases developed diarrhea, malaise, nausea and vomiting after eating raw salad with octopus during wedding ceremony	Treatment of cases at referral hospital
5	Food Poisoning	Samley Tbong,Prey Mnors and Svay village, Samley & Thnot commune, Kg Ror district, Svay Rieng province	05-07 June 2012	102 cases developed diarrhea, malaise, nausea and vomiting after eating raw salad, cabage,paya with octopus and pork during new house party ceremony	Treatment of cases at referral hospital

Summary of Outbreak Investigation and Action in Year 2012 (2)

No	Nature of event	Place	Date	Summary of Finding	Action
6	Food Poisoning (Banh Cheo)	Chheu Slab village, Kork Khpos commune, Banteay Ampil district, OMC province	14-19 July 2012	08 cases developed diarrhea, malaise, nausea and vomiting after eating Banh Cheo with raw salad, herp	Obtain case history and sample for testing at NIPH
7	Food Poisoning (snail pond)	Sambo village, Dangko commune, Dangko district, Phnom Penh	12-14 August 2012	05 cases developed nausea, hot in body, paralytic in emtremities, neurologic signs after eating snail with source water and beer. 3 cases admitted in KSH . Collected serium and spinal fluid send to USA- Alanta result positive for angiostrongilus	Obtain case history and sample for testing
8	Food Poisoning	Leas village, Baray commune, Baray district, Kg Thom province	23-24 August 2012	12 cases developed diarrhea, malaise, nausea and vomiting after drinking fanta and coca cola during new house ceremony	Treatment of cases at referral hospital
9	Food Poisoning (tetradon fish)	Anlong village, Sambourmeas commune, MuKampul district, Kandal province	16-17 September 2012	2 cases developed nausea, hypotonia, eye moment , difficult breathing after eating tetradon fish, both of them were died.	Treatment of cases at referral hospital
10	Food Poisoning (coffee ponsoning)	Pong Teuk village, Koh commune, Tram Kork district, Takeo province	18-19 September 2012	10 cases (2 deaths) developed vertigi, trismus, agitation, muscle spasm, difiicult breathing after drinking pack of coffee	Treatment of cases at referral hospital

Table 2: Visitor arrivals to Cambodia and revenue generation

Year	Visitor arrivals	Change (%)	Length of stay (days)	Tourism receipts (US$ million)
2001	604,919		5.5	304
2002	786,524	30.0	5.5	379
2003	701,014	-10.9	5.8	347
2004	1,055,202	50.5	5.5	578
2005	1,421,15	34.7	6.3	832
2006	1,700,412	19.6	6.3	149
2007	2,015,128	18.5	6.5	1,400
2008	2,125,465	5.5	6.5	1,595
2009	2,161,577	1.7	6.45	1,561
2010	2,508,289	16.0	6.45	1,786
2011	2,881,862	14.9	6.50	1,912
2020	7,000,000*			5,000*

Note: *=projected; Data in 2003 reflects impact of SARS in 2007 and

2008 it reflects the global economic crisis.

Source: Ministry of Tourism.

Point 3: Law, subdegree and regulation:

IMP 868 is the first step in food safety collaboration and coordination within a multi-agency system. Unlike with its regional neighbours (China, Lao PDR and Viet Nam), there is no food safety law in the country; there are a number of laws that in part relate to food safety issues throughout the agro-based product supply chain, they are:

- Law (Reach Kram) on the Quality and Safety of Products, Goods and Services; NS/RKM/0600/001 dated 21 June 2000
- Law (Reach Kram) on Standards of Cambodia; NS/RKM/0607/013 dated 24 June 2007
- Law (Reach Kram) on the Administration of Industry and Handicraft; NS/RKM/0606/018 dated 23 June 2006

- Law (Reach Kram) on Fisheries; NS/RKM/506/011 dated 21 May 2006
- Law (Reach Kram) on Tourism; No. NS/RKM/0609/007 dated 10 June 2009
- Law (Reach Kram) on Customs; NS/RKM/0707/017 dated 20 July 2007
- Law (Reach Kram) on Animal Health and Production; NS/RKM/0112/005 dated 14 January 2012
- Law (Reach Kram) on Pesticides and Agricultural inputs; NS/RKM/0112/005 dated 14 January 2012
- Law (Reach Kram) on Civil Code; NS/RKM/1207/030 dated 08 December 2007
- Law on adoption and ratification of the Protocol to become a member to the WTO; N/RKM/0904/002 dated 09/09/2004

Pending laws (from late drafting to adoption stage) include:
- Law on Water and Sanitation
- Law on Disaster Management
- Law on Consumers' protection.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?
Not yet discussed with the relevant ministries, but consensus is necessary.

8. Indicators for food safety
8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?
- A good indication on food and drinking water safety and the national burden of disease is the measurement used by the World Health Organization on disease impact that combines the incidence of illness (morbidity) and death (mortality) into an indicator, termed the Disability Adjusted Life Year (DALY), in which one DALY is one year of healthy life lost to illness or death.
- Effective food safety management system.

8.1 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.
1. Need to protect public and consumers' health.
2. Need for food and drinking water safety.
3. Need to reduce food poisoning and contamination incidents.
4. Need to export agricultural products.
5. For improving health, need strategies related to zoonotic diseases and food safety.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?
- capacity and capability of laboratory to analyse and identify hazards
- food safety and emergency response experts
- capacity building.

IV. INDIA

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?
The food safety in the country is governed by the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations included.

There is no separate food safety policy in India. However, food safety has been referenced in:
- National Health Policy, 2002
- National Agriculture Policy, 2000
- National Nutrition Policy, 1993.

1.1 If so, the department that has issued it?
The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is the nodal regulator in the areas of Food safety in the country. The other Policies have been issued by the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Agriculture, and Women and Child Development, respectively.

1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?
The Food Safety Standards Act was piloted by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI), but after its enactment it was handed over to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The FSSAI is presently with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Such policies were formed after inter-ministerial consultation.

1.3 What points are covered in the policy?
- **The guiding principles of the Act are:**
    1. Laying down science based standards for articles of food.
    2. To regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and imports.
    3. To ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

• National Health Policy – extracts

4.22 Enforcement of Quality Standards for Food and Drugs

4.22.1 NHP, 2002 envisages that the food and drug administration will be progressively strengthened, in terms of both laboratory   facilities and technical expertise. Also, the policy envisages that   the standards of food items will be progressively tightened up at a   pace which will permit domestic food handling/manufacturing   facilities to undertake the necessary up gradation of technology so that they are not shut out of this production sector. The policy envisages that ultimately food standards will be close, if not equivalent, to Codex specifications; and that drug standards will be at par with the most rigorous ones adopted elsewhere.

• National Agriculture Policy – extracts

Quality consciousness amongst farmers and agro processors will be created. Grading and Standardization of agriculture products will be promoted for export enhancement. Application of science and technology in agriculture will be promoted through a regular system of interface between science and technology institutions and the users/potential users to make the sector globally competitive.

• National Nutrition Policy – extracts

Prevention of Food Adulteration: Prevention of food adulteration must be strengthened by gearing up the enforcement machinery.

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?
The Act was passed in 2006 but FSSAI became operational in June 2008.

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?
It is an Act of Parliament.

1.6 What year was it issued?
2006

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
The Food Safety Standards provisions explicitly refer to food safety, trade and consumer protection.

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security (NPSF/SPSF)?
India follows a five year plan for implementation of its various schemes. During the eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007–2012), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in its sector plan referred to food safety and quality control and the following indicators the following:

- creating food safety authority for speedy enforcement of safety standards
- ensuring implementation of capacity building project with the objective to enhance capacities in laboratories, awareness of food safety, and hygiene
- strengthening state labs, capacity building and a food portal, with comprehensive and informative/analytical database
- rationalizing protocol for establishment of labs for food safety
- implementing the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
FSSAI as a regulator is looking after the food safety and other aspects.

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
The FSSAI and each ministry for their respective policies.

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on the future strategic direction for food safety decision in your country?
Not applicable.

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
The Food Safety Standards Act envisages covering all aspects of Food Safety as per the definition of food. "Food" means any substance, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, which is intended for human consumption and includes primary food to the extent defined in clause (zk), genetically modified or engineered food or food containing such ingredients, infant food, packaged drinking water, alcoholic drink, chewing gum, and any substance, including water, used in the food during its manufacture, preparation or treatment but does not include any animal feed, live animals unless they are prepared or processed for placing on the market for human consumption, plants, prior to harvesting, drugs and medicinal products, cosmetics, narcotic or psychotropic substances.

7. Background to the development of the policy

Extensive consultations were held with stakeholders in the sector by MOFPI and it marketed the transition from multiple laws to one single integrated food law. The Group of Ministries constituted by the Government, held extensive deliberations and approved the proposed Integrated Food Law, with certain modifications. The Integrated Food Law was titled The Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005. The main objective of the Bill is to bring out a single statue relating to food and to provide for a systematic and scientific development of food processing industries. It is proposed to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, which will fix food standards and regulate and monitor the manufacture, import, processing, distribution and sale of food so as to ensure safe and wholesome food for people.

7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?

1. consumer protection
2. manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and imports of safe food
3. food security
4. facilitation of trade.

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – any gaps identified?

The proposal of enacting FSS Act was considered at the highest level in the Government.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?

- Movement from multilevel and multi-departmental control to one integrated law.
- Integrated response to strategic issues, such as novel or genetically modified foods and international trade.
- Licensing for manufacture of food products, which central agencies now grant under various Acts and Orders, would be decentralized to the Commissioner of Food Safety and officers.
- Single reference point for all matters relating to food safety and standards, regulations and enforcement.
- Shift from mere regulatory regime to self-compliance through food safety management systems.
- Responsibility on food business operators to ensure that food processed, manufactured, imported or distributed is in compliance with the domestic food laws.
- Provision for graded penalties depending on the gravity of offence and, accordingly, civil penalties for minor offences and punishment for serious violations.

8. Indicators for food safety

8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?

The goals are stated in the preamble of the Act. A separate authority – the FSSAI – has been created to monitor, measure and implement the goals.

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.

1. System of licensing/ registration of food business operators.
2. Compliance to various food safety regulations by food business operators.
3. Consumer awareness and protection.
4. Controls an export and import of food.
5. Strong food testing laboratory network for risk analysis, including random sampling of food for safety parameters.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country

- Licensing/registration of nearly 35 million food business operators ensured.
- Implementation in the 35 states/UTs and their enforcement by state government.
- Strengthened food testing lab infrastructure.
- A strong food-import control system in place.

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?

- At the strategic level, the senior managers need to be sensitized to the need for food safety and the system to be put in place.
- At the medium level, the managers need to be kept updated about the operational system and measures to increase efficiency.
- At the lowest level, human resources in retail, production, storage, etc. need to be trained and their skills upgraded regarding the needs of the Act and its regulations.
- There is an absence of certified reference materials producers and proficiency testing service providers, which are essential for food labs to be of international standards.
- Trained auditors for the food safety management system and skilled laboratory personnel are required.

V. INDONESIA

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?

Existence of any food safety policy at present	The department that has issued?	The departments that were involved in the development*	The points covered in the policy	How long did it take to develop the policy?	At what level has the policy been endorsed?	Year of issue	Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country?
Act No 7/1996 on Food The latest revision of the Indonesian Food Act was approved by Parliament in November 2012 and will be signed by the President	The Government of the Republic of Indonesia	MOA, MMAF, MOI, MOH, MOT, NADFC, MOF, local government	• Food security • Food safety, quality and nutrition • Law enforcement • Food registration • Etc.		At the national level and local government	1996 2012	Yes, it does
Act No. 18/2009 on Livestock and Animal Health	The Government of the Republic of Indonesia	MOA, MMAF, MOI, MOH, MOT, NADFC, local government	• Animal health services, including animal health centre services		At the national level and local government	2009	Yes, it does
Act No. 31/2004 on Fisheries Act No. 29/2009 Amending Act No 31/2004	The Government of the Republic of Indonesia	MMAF, MOA, MOI, MOH, MOT, NADFC, local government	• Fish cultivation • Fishery business • Fishery research and development • Empowerment of fishermen • Law enforcement, etc.		At the national level and local government	2004 2009	Yes, it does
Act No. 21/2004 on Endorsement of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity	The Government of the Republic of Indonesia	MMAF, MOA, MOI, MOT, NADFC, MOE, MOF, local government	Biotechnology/ novel foods/ GMO		At the national level and local government	2004	Yes, it does
Government Regulation No. 28/ 2004 on Food Safety, Quality and Nutrition	The Government of the Republic of Indonesia	NADFC, MOA, MMAF, MOI, MOH, MOT, local government	Sharing responsibilities between the institutions involved in the food chain		At the national level and local government	2004	Yes, it does
Government Regulation No. 21/2005 on the Bio Safety of Genetically Engineered Products	The Government of the Republic of Indonesia	MOE, MOA, MMAF, MOI, MOH, MOT, NADFC, MOE, MOF, local government	Biosafety of transgenic products		At the national level and local government	2005	Yes, it does

Existence of any food safety policy at present	The department that has issued?	The departments that were involved in the development*	The points covered in the policy	How long did it take to develop the policy?	At what level has the policy been endorsed?	Year of issue	Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country?
Government Regulation No. 69/1999 on Food Labelling and Advertisement	The Government of the Republic of Indonesia	NADFC, MMAF, MOA, MOI, MOH, MOT, local government	Food labelling and advertising		At the national level and local government	1999	Yes, it does
Presidential Regulation No 39/ 2010 on The Committee of Biosafety on Transgenic Products	President of the Republic of Indonesia	MOA, MMAF, MOI, MOH, MOT, NADFC, MOE, MOF, local government	The establishment of the Biosafety Committee		At the national level and local government	2010	Yes, it does

Note:
MOA = Ministry of Agriculture NADFC = National Agency of Drug and Food Control
MOH = Ministry of Health MMAF = Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
MO = Ministry of Industry MOF = Ministry of Forest

* Departments involved in the development included NGOs, associations of industry, consumer associations, academia as well as Parliament for the law or act preparation.

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security(NPSF/ SPSF)?

National development plan:
- The National Long-Term Development Plan 2005–2025, is committed to maintaining the global food market, achieving sustainable prosperity for the people and protect the health and safety of consumers.
- The National Medium-Term Development Plan 2010–2014 directives to improve food security and community national status in the development of food safety and nutrition.

Sector development plan:
Strengthening of food safety infrastructure to ensure the availability of high quality and safety of food products for domestic and international markets:
- Improvement and harmonization of technical regulations, guidelines and standards.
- Facilitation for hygiene and sanitation practices and/or food safety systems, based on HACCP principles along the food chain (from farm to table concepts).
- Strengthening of food safety control institutions (testing laboratory, competent authority of food safety) and competence of human resources.
- Improvement of public awareness on food safety.

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
National
- National Action Plan on Food and Nutrition
- Regional Action Plan on Food and Nutrition
- National Movement on Food Safety Consumed by School Children
- National Food Safety Network (consists of Food Intelligent Network, Food Control Network and Food Promotion Network).

Sector

- Development and dissemination of standards and regulations.
- Harmonization and dissemination of standard and regulation to regional and/or international standard.
- Development of guidelines on implementation of hygiene and sanitation practices and/or food safety system, based on HACCP throughout the food chain.
- Encouragement and facilitation for hygiene and sanitation practices and/or food safety system, based on HACCP.
- Improve the competitiveness of food products (including the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises).
- Improvement of farm, packing houses and products registration and certification.
- Strengthening of food safety pre-market evaluation and post market surveillance.
- Capacity building for testing laboratory on food safety analysis.
- Improvement of capacity of competent authority of food safety and certification body.
- Improvement of capacity of food inspectors, investigators and facilitators.
- Food-borne disease surveillance.
- Monitoring and surveillance of food safety for domestic consumption.
- Monitoring and surveillance of food safety in border lines.
- Implementation of Indonesian Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed.

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
Based on the Government Regulation No. 28 /2004 on Food Safety, Quality and Nutrition, the Ministers and the Head of NADFC monitors the implementation of the food safety policy, both in the national and sector level, according to their duties and authorities.

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on the future strategic direction for food safety decision in your country?
Not applicable.

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
Food security, food safety and food quality and nutrition.

7. Background to the development of the policy
7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
- Food constitutes a basic human need, of which the fulfilment is a fundamental right of each Indonesian, in the realization of quality human resources to carry out the national development.
- Sufficient availability of safe, nutritious and quality food is a main prerequisite, which must be met in the effort to arrange a system that provides protection for the purpose of health and to play a larger role in increasing the prosperity and welfare of the people.
- Food as a trade commodity requires the support of an honest and responsible food trading system so that food is available that is within reach of the purchasing power of the community and to participate in the role to increase the national economic growth.

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?
Considered data and sources in developing food safety policy:
- the status of public health
- food-borne disease incidence

- the national consumption data
- hygiene and sanitation practices and/or food safety system, based on HACCP principles
- availability of standards, laws and regulations related to food safety, quality and nutrition
- availability of institutions (agencies, offices, laboratory, etc.) in term of resources (human resources, financial), structures, procedures/protocols, infrastructures, etc.
- food safety monitoring and surveillance.

Gaps were identified on the above conditions.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?
- Food safety is as increasingly important as a global public health issues.
- Wide coverage area of control and large diversity of foods, including imported products.
- The need improving knowledge and skill to produce high quality and safe foods (SMEs in particular).
- The need to increase the number of competent food inspectors, investigators and facilitators.
- Increasing number of food safety problem and rising consumers concern.

8. Indicators for food safety
8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?
That sufficient availability of safe, quality and nutritious food is a main prerequisite, which must be met in the effort to arrange a system that provides protection for the purpose of health and to play a larger role in increasing the prosperity and welfare of the people.

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.
1. The status of public health.
2. Food safety monitoring and surveillance.
3. Food-borne illness and outbreak.
4. Availability of regulations, standards, etc.
5. The awareness of public and consumers.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country
The food safety policy is expected to realize the quality human resources to carry out the national development and to play a larger role in increasing the prosperity and welfare of the people.

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?
- risk analysis (especially risk assessment)
- risk based inspection (including traceability)
- quality in food testing laboratory
- food-borne diseases surveillance
- research on food safety
- capacity for the National Food Safety Emergency Response Planning.

VI. JAPAN

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?
The national food safety policy is based on the Food Safety Basic Law (the Basic Law).

1.1 If so, the department that has issued it?

1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?
The draft of the Basic Law was developed by the Cabinet Secretary in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW).

1.3 What points are covered in the policy?
The Basic Law covers the following points of the national food safety policy:
- taking appropriate measures at each stage as necessary of the food supply chain
- prevention of adverse effects on the health of consumers
- science-based approach
- harmonization with international standards
- responsibilities of the State
- responsibilities of the local governments
- responsibility of food-related business operators
- roles of consumers
- legislative measures.

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?
The bill for the basic food safety passed into law in the Diet in May 2003 and came into effect in July of that year.

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?
After the outbreak of BSE in September 2001, the national food safety policy was reviewed to protect national public health first; to take appropriate measures throughout food chain; and to introduce risk analysis. The draft of the Basic Law was introduced to the Diet in early 2003 after the intense discussion over a year.

1.6 What year was it issued?

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
In addition to the Basic Law, the following laws have significant some links with food safety:
- Food Sanitation Law (MHLW) – food safety
- Health promotion Law (MHLW) – food and nutrition,
- Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law (MAFF) – food safety and stable agricultural production
- Fertilizer Control Law (MAFF) – food safety and stable agricultural production
- Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Control Law (MAFF) – animal health and stable livestock production
- Law Concerning Safety Assurance and Quality Improvement of Feed (MAFF) – feed safety and stable livestock production
- Abattoirs Law (MHLW) – food safety.

The Basic Law [English version] is available at:
http://www.fsc.go.jp/sonota/fsb_law1807.pdf

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security (NPSF/ SPSF)?
The Government approved the Medium-Term Programme for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas in March 2010. This programme specifies that the Government shall take appropriate measures, based on sound science, to ensure food safety and consumer confidence. The programme is revised approximately every five years.

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
- Each related ministry has its own action plan.
- MAFF ensures the safety and quality of production materials (such as feeds, fertilizers, pesticides, veterinary medicines).
- MAFF is responsible for the improvement of food safety throughout the food chain.
- MAFF risk management activities include:

Developing
- priority list
- risk profile
- guidelines for surveillance and monitoring
- guidelines for total Diet study.

Conducting surveillance and monitoring according to medium-term and annual plans.

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
Government agencies, local governments and food-related business operators shall take the appropriate measures at each stage as necessary of the food supply chain under the Basic Law.

The MAFF and MHLW established the Standard Operating Procedures for Food Safety Risk Management. The objectives of the SOP are to conduct risk management, based on scientific principles in accordance with internationally accepted framework, to ensure consistency and transparency of risk management and to reflect stakeholders' opinions in risk management processes.

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on the future strategic direction for food safety decision in your country?

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
The Food Safety Commission was established in the Cabinet Office under the framework of food safety risk analysis and to conduct food safety risk assessments independently from the risk management ministries. MAFF and MHLW play the roles of risk managers under the framework. The risk managers interact with the risk assessor throughout the risk-assessment process.

7. Background to the development of the policy
7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
Japan has experienced Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli O157:H7 as well as new food production technologies, such as genetic engineering and nanotechnology. To properly respond to all the challenges, combined with the high public concern towards food safety, the Basic Law was enacted in 2003.

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?

In the case of considering policies on risk management priority and risk mitigation measures for hazardous substances, the following data and information should be considered, and data gaps should be identified:

- toxicological data of that substance
- physicochemical character of that substance
- analytical methods of that substance
- surveillance data on concentration of that substance in food
- mechanism of occurrence and contamination routes
- food consumption data
- food production methods
- methods of reduction and prevention
- quantity of related food production
- impact of mitigation measures on health risk and other relevant issues (cost, quality, quantity, etc.)
- activities in other countries and international bodies
- interest of stakeholders, etc.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?

Data gaps and the shortage in human resources (number of officers and their expertise).

When data gaps are identified, surveillance, investigation, research and collection of information to fill the gaps should be conducted to implement science-based regulations. The MAFF makes effort to enhance capacity building of regulators and promoting regulatory science.

8. Indicators for food safety

8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?

Important points to implement policies under the Basic Law are as follows:

- implementation of risk assessment related to food safety
- formulation of policies on the basis of the results of the risk assessment, the dietary habits of consumers and other circumstances
- promotion of exchange of information and opinions with stakeholders
- establishment of a system to cope with emergency and other situations
- close and mutual coordination among relevant administrative organs
- enhancement of research supporting food safety
- collection, compilation, utilization of internal and external information
- ensuring appropriate food labelling
- consumer education and learning regarding ensuring food safety
- consideration of impacts on the environment
- determination and publication of basic agreement to implement measures.

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.

1. Dietary exposure of chemical or microbiological hazard in foods.
2. Concentration of chemical hazards in foods.
3. Positive ratio of microbiological hazards in foods.
4. Case of food-borne illness.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?

To strengthen food safety risk analysis, the Government must secure resource persons and enhance the development of human resources who can apply the best possible science to its regulatory activities in the food safety area. The following expertise is required for risk managers or risk assessors:

- biochemistry
- microbiology
- toxicology
- chemistry, including analytical chemistry
- statistics, etc.

VII. REPUBLIC OF KOREA

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?
1.1 If so, the department that has issued it?
1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?

The policy of food safety for agricultural products contains a binary management system that is divided by product items and by their distribution.

The Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MFAFF) has responsibility for the distribution of agricultural products. It is also in charge of the production, manufacturing, distribution and import of meat and poultry products and fisheries. Any other matter is controlled under the Korea Food and Drug Administration (KFDA).

The Food Safety Policy Committee coordinates adjustment of policies and controls the whole system. To improve the coordination and effectiveness of safety surveillance on imported food, three of the major quarantines were combined under the Ministry of Agriculture in June 2011.

The goal is the prevention of potential diseases and a strict monitoring sanitation system for imported agrifood, meat, poultry and marine products. The Food Safety Policy Committee processes the research and development of new techniques in botany and veterinary science. The offices are located in six major areas in the country.

Inspection of imported foods is conducted at the border by KFDA, which has developed and implemented an integrated system for safety control of imported foods.

1.3 What points are covered in the policy?

Our policies cover prohibition of harmful, unhealthy foods and the use of other substances that could be hazardous and toxic in food, the restriction for the use of food additives and packaging materials and the monitoring of food manufacturing facilities and employees, food imports and inspection procedures, recall and inspection guidelines and labelling regulations.

- i) Production and manufacturing
  - HACCP and good manufacturing practices (GMP)
  - control of residue level for pesticides and veterinary drugs
  - control of contamination in foods
- ii) Distribution
  - safety assurance for imported foods
  - food-borne illness surveillance
  - monitoring safety of food products in the market
- iii) Risk communication
  - consumer participation in safety policy-making and monitoring activity
  - education
- iv) Harmonization with international standards.

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?

The Good Agricultural Practice on Controlling Risk Factors, such as pesticide, heavy metals, pathogenic microorganism from production of agricultural products to packaging after harvest, was adopted in 2006 by way of a three-year demonstration project.

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?

These days, the continued occurrence and diversity of agrifood accidents contribute to the increase of consumers' anxiety. As consumers' income continues to increase, so too does the public's quality

of life demands, such as safety, health and environment, keep increasing. In fact, research in 2010 revealed that the public cares more for safety than freshness and price. Accordingly, the Government is expanding risk communication through the regular exchange with stakeholders.

1.6 What year was it issued?
The MIFAFF adopted the Good Agricultural Practice in 2006 and livestock hazard analysis and critical control point in 1998 for controlling intensively pesticide residue, heavy metals and hazard microorganism, etc. The Beef Traceability for Improvement of Livestock Safety was adopted in 2008. It will be expanded to cover pork next year. MeatWatch was introduced and implemented in 2010 to alleviate concerns about imported beef. The KFDA adopted a long-term and annual food safety policy.

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
The food safety policy refers to other international standards and guidelines, including Codex and leading systems in major industrialized countries.

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security NPSF/SPSF)?
- The Government established and implemented the Food Safety Manage Foundation Scheme, based on the Frame Act on Food Safety, in 2009, which was carried by the Food Safety Policy Committee. In 2012, the Government established a secondary Food Safety Manage Foundation Scheme.
- According to the Food Safety Manage Foundation Scheme, each agency establishes and examines the scheme every year.

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
Food safety and consumer affairs policy division under the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries establishes and run the implementation plans based on the Food Safety Manage Foundation Scheme. This division establishes long-term plan named Agricultural Food Consumption Safe Advance Policy and post-manage and inspect every organization.

Each agency sets a safety scheme for agriculture, meat and poultry products every year and communicates to and inspects local governments.

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
The Government takes responsibility for surveillance and post-management; consumers and experts inspect the main policies and points that should be improved. They also monitor implementation of policies. For example, the group of consumers evaluates slaughterhouses every year.

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on the future strategic direction for food safety decision in your country?
Does not apply.

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Policy Division under the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries develops, combines and runs the food safety policy and consumer policy.

Food safety and nutrition are covered in the food safety policy developed by KFDA. The main vision is to build a preventive and effective food safety management system.

7. Background to the development of the policy

7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
Due to the high expectation of consumers for food safety, the Government works to expand food safety from farm to table by developing policies designed to create an atmosphere of reliability for public reassurance. In addition, the Government regards food safety as the most essential and fundamental condition for the improvement of the food industry. It is important that the production-distribution-export trade should be controlled to improve the country's international competitiveness.

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?
Policies refer to the Codex and the example of other industrialized countries. They are applied differently, according to politics, social conditions and the public's sense of security.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?
The Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Policy Division controls the production stage of agrifood and the range of processes for meat and poultry products. There were difficulties in the development of the safety policy at the primary production stage because producers were not safety conscious and their capabilities needed to be reinforced.

The main point of the food safety issue is the combination of the capability of producers and consumers: Producers should follow the rules and consumers should be aware of the risks and what they can do to prevent food safety problems. The Government is working to better educate the public and producers to resolve the difficulties.

8. Indicators for food safety
8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?
The vision is to provide reliable and safe food to consumers through the safe management of food from farm to table. To achieve this vision, a first-rate scientific safety control system was built and aims to realize food safety administration for consumers. To achieve these objectives, the Government will assess the level of safety techniques used in industrialized countries and strive to catch up and provide reliable food safety by measuring every year:
- food-borne illness incidents
- non-conformity rates as a result of surveillance for domestic and imported foods
- any recalls.

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.
There are three factors for the risk analysis of food safety:
1. Rapid and precautionary risk control.
2. Scientific and reasonable risk assessment.
3. Risk communication through participation and communication.

Accordingly, the most important five factors to assess these factors:

1. Government policy.
2. Reinforcement of consumer capability.
3. Reinforcement of producers' capability.
4. Scientific information.
5. The media.

When these five factors are harmonized properly, the public's trust in food safety will be greater.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country
Food safety from "farm to table" strengthens the precautions in production, manufacturing, distribution and marketing for safe food and to control the occurrence of diseases, such as food poisoning.

The policies strengthen the communication with consumers, industries and the Government, instils trust in food safety and contributes to establishing an environment of reasonable and safe food consumption through the expansion of the right to know for consumers.

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?
A measure for funding for safety support of small-scale farm and fishery is being considered. We are supporting basic infrastructure, such as facilities and equipment of hygiene safety, so that farm and fisheries enterprises can strengthen their safety control of products through technical training and professional consultations.

The physical and human resources are expanding to strengthen on-the-spot action and communication ability with consumers. There are efforts to secure the inspection equipment for a new type of risk factors, such as radioactivity, and reinforce related professional human resources.

VIII. LAO People's Democratic Republic

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?
A food safety policy was issued in 2009.

1.1 If so, the department that has issued it?
Ministry of Health

1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?
- Ministry of Health: Food and Drug Department; Hygiene and prevention Department
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry: Agriculture Department, Livestock and Fishery Department, Animal Health Centre
- Ministry of Industry and Commerce: Industry Department, Domestic trade Department, Import-export Department, Policy Trade Department
- Ministry of Science and Technology: Standard and Metrology Department

1.3 What points are covered in the policy?
1. the importance of food safety
2. food safety situation in internationally
3. food safety situation in Lao PDR
4. rationale for the development of the national food safety policy
5. terms of definitions
6. scope of food safety policy
7. objective of national food safety policy
8. essential elements of the national food safety policy
9. strategies of food safety
10. organizational responsibilities and coordination
11. implementation

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?
Three years – since 2006

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?
The food safety policy was endorsed by the Prime Minister.

1.6 What year was it issued?
2009

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
Food Law No: 04/NA, 15 May 2004

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security NPSF/SPSF)?
The Ministry of Health programme under consumer protection.

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
Yes, in the sector level, but it is thus complex to implement; for example, it can be implemented under the animal health, animal production or the fisheries development strategies.

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
The Food and Drug Department

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on future strategic direction for food safety decisions in your country?
It exists but needs to be revised according to the updated situation.

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
Food safety only.

7. Background to the development of the policy
7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
1. To have an efficient and effective food safety programme that protects the health of consumers.
2. Need for a coordination mechnism with key stakeholders.
3. Globalization (Food Safety Policy 2009, point 4).

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?
- food-borne disease data in Lao PDR
- inadequate food safety control acivities
- Food Safety Policy 2009, point 3.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?
Limited experience and thus dependent on international experts.

8. Indicators for food safety
8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?
Goals:
- Protect and promote better health for the people of Lao PDR by ensuring that people consume safe, hygienic and nutritious food.
- General indicators.
- Reduce morbidity and mortality due to food-borne illness.
- Promote safe food production and international and domestic trade in safe food.

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country
1. Better coordination and better understanding among key partners.
2. Food safety considered important.
3. Clear responsibilities for each ministry.
4. Capacity for food control.
5. Use a risk-based approach.
and
1. Safe foodstuff in the primary production.
2. Efficient and sufficient legislation.
3. Ability to conduct a risk analysis.
4. An integrated food chain approach.
5. Strengthened capacity of human resources.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country
The farm-to-folk approach, which needs to have a better understanding on the responsibilities of each stakeholder in food safety.

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?
- the food safety policy sthrenghthening and review
- strategy development and implemenation
- monitoring and evaluation
- awreness rasing for keystakeholder for it implementation
- capacity building
- improve the capacity of food control from production to consumers
- cooperation and collaboration among concerned agencies, including the private sector
- enhance the Food Safety Authority to conduct risk analysis (especially in the risk management)
- develop appropriate manual, guidelines and standard operating procedures in the food control system
- strengthen the analysis capacity of necessary hazards by training analysts and provide laboratory equipment
- strengthen the gathering of data system for food contaminants
- strengthen the capabilities of producers to implement effectively the application of GMP, GHP, SSOP and HACCP in food premises (SME) and good agricultural practices in farm production by providing adequate and efficient training to food producers and inspectors.

IX. MALAYSIA

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?
National Food Safety Policy

1.1 If so, the department that has issued it?
Food Safety and Quality Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia

1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?
The National Food Safety Policy was developed by the Food Safety and Quality Division under the purview of the National Food Safety and Nutrition Council. The Council is chaired by the Minister of Health and is the highest national advisory body on food safety and nutrition in the country. It comprises 18 various ministries and government agencies, academia, industry and consumer associations and professional bodies. The lead agency for the Council is the Food Safety and Quality Division.

1.3 What points are covered in the policy?
The points covered in the National Food Safety Policy are objective, scope and the following essential elements:

1. food safety infrastructure
2. food safety legislation
3. inspection and enforcement services
4. food laboratory
5. information and communication technology
6. ensuring food safety throughout the food chain
7. scientific information gathering and analysis
8. product tracing
9. managing food safety crisis
10. management system for food safety assurance
11. education on food safety
12. safety of imported and exported foods
13. participation in international food safety forums.

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?
One year

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?
The policy was endorsed at the national level by the Malaysian Cabinet.

1.6 What year was it issued?
2003

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
The food safety policy explicitly refers to policies on food safety. In formulating the policy, reference was made to the food safety policy of other countries at the regional as well as international levels.

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security (NPSF/SPSF)?
Ministry of Health Strategic Plan 2011–2015

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
Yes, there is the Plan of Action on Food Safety 2010–2020, based on the Plan of Action for Food Safety 2003, which was reviewed and revised in 2009.

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
National Food Safety and Nutrition Council

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on the future strategic direction for food safety decision in your country?
A policy already exists.

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
Food safety

7. Background to the development of the policy
7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
- Protect consumers from health hazards and fraud while facilitating trade.
- Advancement and development in the field of food science and technology.
- Globalization of food trade.
- The implementation of international and regional trade agreements.

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?
Yes, gaps were identified: data regarding monitoring and surveillance, enforcement and promotional activities.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?
The main challenges were multi-agency and multidisciplinary collaboration and cooperation involving relevant government agencies, food industries, consumers, the scientific community and others.

8. Indicators for food safety
8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?
The main goal is to safeguard consumers' health by providing direction to all stakeholders in establishing food safety measures through collaborative effort. The policy is implemented through the National Food Safety Action Plan. Examples of indicators used to measure achievement are:
- number of premises complying with legislation
- number of premises registered, certified and licensed
- number of analytical methods developed
- number of new and amended laws
- number of promotional activities conducted
- number of guidelines developed
- number of modules developed.

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.
1. Food safety infrastructure.
2. Food safety legislation.
3. Food laboratory.
4. Monitoring and surveillance.
5. Information and communication technology.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country
The food safety policy has enabled resources and expertise to be optimally organized and used in a more systematic and integrated manner to tackle food safety issues, which previously lacked coherency due to overlapping functions, grey areas, lack of coordination and limited resources.

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?
Special skills are needed in capacity and capability building in laboratory analysis, human resources training, research and monitoring and surveillance.

X. MONGOLIA

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?

The issue of providing secure, qualified and sufficient foods to the public is part of national security and thus under the domain of the Government. The Mongolian Constitution Law (1992) states, "The citizens of Mongolia are guaranteed to enjoy the rights and freedoms to a healthy and safe environment and to be protected against environmental pollution and ecological imbalance." The National Public Health Policy (2001) established a long-term framework for public health, with the intent to: "Provide the environment for people live, work, learn and get public health protection and support by providing balance to human and environment."

The food safety policy strategies are stated in the following policy documents: The Concept of National Security of Mongolia (2010), The Millennium Development Goals-Based Comprehensive National Development Strategy (2006) and the State Policy on Food and Agriculture (2003). The essential content of these documents covers the correct use of environmental, economic, financial and human resources that will increase the efficiency of production, output, quality of products and competitiveness and will provide safe food for the public.

The food law was approved in 1995 and renewed in 1999 and some amendments made in 2001 and 2003. The government programme 2008–2012 planned to renew the food law. A group of Parliament members initiated the food safety law proposal. Both laws are under discussion in the Parliament.

The purpose of the food law is to regulate all aspects related to food processors and consumers in order to provide consistent, sufficient, safe and nutritional food to the population. The purpose of the food safety law is to ensure food safety in raw materials and food throughout the food value chain.

In 2001, the Government approved and implemented the National Programme on Food Supply, Safety and Nutrition by Resolution #242. The programme was revised due to the current system of the food supply in the country, worldwide food deficiency, the rise of food price and recommendations of international agencies (such as the United Nations and others). In 2009, the Government reviewed the achievements of the first national plan of action for food security, which ran from 2001 to 2007, and used the lessons learned to develop an improved National Food Security Programme (NFSP) for the period 2009–2016. Then the programme changed its name to the National Food Safety Programme, in line with the National Development Complex Programme (2005) and the State Policy on Agriculture Development (2009).

1.1 If so, the department that has issued it?

The primary departments managing the National Food Safety Programme are the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture and the Ministry of Health. The main goal of the programme is to provide the country with secure supplies of accessible, nutritious and safe food to enable healthy livelihoods and high labour productivity and that is founded on the participation of people, government and the public and private sectors.

The NFSP has 27 major components and a financing plan and it envisages a public-private sector partnership with investments from: i) the private sector (43.3 percent); and ii) government (34.7 percent); development partners (20.6 percent) and local government/NGO (1.4 percent).

1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?
1. Ministry of Industry and Agriculture
2. Ministry of Health
3. Ministry of Finance
4. Ministry of Education and Science
5. General Agency for Specialized Inspection
6. Customs General administration
7. Center of Standardization and Measurement
8. Authority for Fair Competition and Consumer Protection
9. National Security Council
10. Mongolian Food Processors Association
11. Mongolian Meat Association and other NGOs.

1.3 What points are covered in the policy?
The programme has four priority areas and 13 objectives:
    Pillar 1: Enhancing the Enabling Environment
    Pillar 2: Commercial and Household Food Security
    Pillar 3: Restructuring Food Safety
    Pillar 4: Promoting Nutrition and Public Health

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?
The policy development took more than two years. This programme is being implemented from 2009 to 2016 (Phase 1: 2009–2012; Phase 2: 2013–2016).

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?
The NFSP was endorsed in 2008 during a national validation workshop and provincial meetings by farmer-to-consumer food chain stakeholders. It was approved by the Cabinet in February 2009 under Government Resolution 32/2009. Implementation is being coordinated by a high-level Interministerial Committee headed by the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry.

1.6 What year was it issued?
National Food Safety Programme, 2009

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
The Government designed the food safety action based on the requirements of the World Health Organization and a strategy of Pacific countries. In this:
- Food safety policy, activities and analysis of risks should follow the principle that they be based on scientific proof and evidence.
- Follow the standards, guidance and instruction, which are approved by the food legislation commissions for improving the Mongolian involvement to Codex activity.
- Make activities that take in situation when food safety has lost to the international method level.
- Extend the food safety science and analysis.
- Improve the activities between the branches.
- The Government has responsibility to provide the financing for diagnosing and treating illness due to food problems.

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security (NPSF/SPSF)?

The NFSP (2009–2016) is harmonized with the following national plans, strategies and frameworks:

- Agriculture Sector Development Strategy (2006–2015), published by MOFALI in 2007 The Concept of National Security of Mongolia (2010)
- The Millennium Development Goals-Based Comprehensive National Development Strategy (2006)
- The State policy on Food and Agriculture (2009)
- Comprehensive National Development Plan (2007)
- National Plan of Action of Food Security, Food Safety and Nutrition: 2001–2010 (2001)
- Economic Growth Support and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2003)
- Government Action Plan: 2004–2008
- Medium-term Budgetary Framework: 2006–2008
- UN Development Assistance Framework: 2007–2011 (2007)
- Joint Government/UN Food Security Assessment Mission to Mongolia, FAO, UNICEF, UNDP (April 2007)
- National Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Targets (as revised by Government Decree on 31 December 2007
- Millennium Development Goals based comprehensive National Development Strategy of Mongolia
- Food Security and Livelihoods in the Small Urban Centres of Mongolia.

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?

According to the recommendations of the national meeting "Mongolian Ground – Mongolian Food" in January 2010, the Prime Minister suggested to renew the Food Security National Programme by including the III Campaign of Wilderness, Ecological Clean Products and Milk, which was approved by the National Food Safety Programme.

Each pillar of this programme contains a set of prioritized components with budget lines. The NFSP is a rolling programme targeting: i) rehabilitating the crop and horticulture sectors, ii) restructuring food safety and control and iii) lifting the nutritional condition of vulnerable people. New activities and resourcing requirements will be identified over the years to come, resulting in periodic updating.

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?

There is a national committee, which is obliged to take responsibility to develop, manage, control and monitor the implementation of the National Food Safety Programme.

But there are too many organizations having overlapping responsibilities for food security (access, safety and nutrition). The first programme had too many objectives, subprogrammes and activities for efficient implementation. Oversight and coordination is generally weak, resulting in unplanned programme implementation and a lack of accountability.

The Government Agency on Specialized Inspection Agency is responsible for all inspection activities related to imported and domestically produced food. The agency has begun to implement the food safety inspection system as a farm-to-table approach. But national resources for inspection activities are fairly limited. The animal-originated products are the main problem areas in terms of food safety. The spread of the nomadic lifestyle of herders posed particular problems in terms of enforcement and collection of data, particularly regarding the origin of products. There are about

70 food laboratories and 700 food inspectors/quality assurance staff. Food inspection focuses on end products with limited attention to other parts of the food chain, including primary production, transport, storage and marketing. The national Codex team will be re-established and start to develop and recommend food standards according to FAO/WHO Codex guidelines

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on the future strategic direction for food safety decision in your country?
Against the background of growing concerns about the quality and safety of domestic and imported foods, strengthening national capacity for implementation of Codex is central to improving domestic food safety and assuring the safety and quality of imported foods. Through improvements to domestic food regulatory capacity, the country is likely to significantly enhance its ability to meet international market requirements for its primary products.

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
The overarching goal for the NFSP (2009–2016), crafted by stakeholders across the farm consumer food chain in 2008 and endorsed by Cabinet in February 2009, is:

> *"to provide the entire nation with secure supplies of accessible, nutritious and safe food to enable healthy livelihoods and high labour productivity, founded on the participation of people, government and the public and private sectors."*This goal is consistent with the revised national MDG targets set by the Mongolian Parliament Decree on 31 December 2007: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from malnutrition.

Strategic objectives
The strategic objectives for the NFSP are:
1. Enabling environment: to promote institutions and policies that are critical to enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of the food and agriculture sectors, such as legislation, consumer education, capacity building and needs-based vocational training, financing the essential investments, oversight, etc.

2. Commercial and household food security: to achieve self-reliance in those food staples that can be produced competitively and efficiently in the country, while caring for the poor and vulnerable.

3. Food safety: to rationalize the food management and safety system into a modern, proactive structure that consumers can trust.

4. Food nutrition: with special focus on children and vulnerable groups, to achieve the national MDG nutrition target to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from malnutrition.

7. Background to development of policy
7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
The preparation of the NFSP was carried out by an eight-member, part-time, cross-sector national team in 2008 under the SPFM/ MON/8801 project: Formulation of a National Programme for Food Security in Mongolia. The team was guided by the MOFALI Minister's Council and the Strategy, Policy and Planning Department and supported by a short-time FAO adviser. The FAO project was prepared in January 2008, approved and signed in February and started on 1 March. The agreed timetable for the formulation process, including a rapid assessment of the first National Action Plan for Food Security (2001–2007), is indicated in the workplan in the

project document. During the NFSP preparation period, FAO fielded a number of other technical missions:

- Joint WHO/FAO Food Safety Assessment Mission: (16 to 28 April 2008)
- FAO TCP project: Improved Meat Hygiene and Commercial Meat Processing (TCP/MON/3105)
- FAO TCP project: Support to the Productive Water Sector (TCP/MON/3102)
- Joint WHO/FAO Food Safety Assessment Mission
- FAO TCP project: Improved Meat Hygiene and Commercial Meat Processing (TCP/MON/3105)
- FAO TCP project: Support to the Productive Water Sector (TCP/MON/3102).

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?
The basic proposals for the NFSP were reviewed in May 2008 during a validation workshop at the MOFALI headquarters in Ulaanbaatar. A total of 83 public and private food and agriculture sector delegates attended, including producers and processors, consumers, deputy aimag governors, NGOs, civil society at large and foreign development partners and donors. The proposed components of the NFSP were discussed and prioritized. Feedback from delegates was incorporated in the programme. This was submitted for consideration to the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry's Council. Again, feedback was incorporated into the draft. Simultaneously, the draft NFSP document was circulated to all line ministries for review and comment. Feedback was incorporated into the draft.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?
The current food safety management system is inefficient, and many areas of an effective national food safety system are not adequately addressed. The current food law (1999) fails to provide adequate clarity to regulations, industry and consumers because food inspection is poorly focused. Support for good agriculture practices is limited and the mechanism strengthening them is not clear in the current food safety management system. There is lack of resources development of national standards according to Codex texts; lack of supporting structures (subcommittees) for the NCC, FAO; and insufficient training on food safety

Food producers do not have any good knowledge of food safety and sanitation at the level of production and preparing raw materials. Also, there is insufficient stakeholder knowledge and awareness of Codex and international standards and their role in promoting food safety and quality.

Data on food contamination are currently disjointed, while many resources are spent on sampling and analysis of food. There is no national database on food contamination.

Food industries commonly do not focus on good hygienic practices or on implementing a preventive approach to food safety control. The early warning and response system for human diseases should facilitate the detection of and response to commonly reported food-borne illnesses and outbreaks.

8. Indicators for food safety
8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?
a. Food inspection and certification: rationalizing and restructuring the system, including the national laboratory network along the entire food chain, including the step-by-step introduction of the following and, thereafter, HACCP:
- good agricultural practices (GAP)
- good manufacturing practices (GMP)
- good hygienic practices (GHP).

b. Food processing: modernizing and expanding food processing, mainly financed by the private sector.

c. Food contamination: control of sources of physical, chemical (drug and pesticide residues etc.), bacteriological contamination.

d. Food reserves: re-organizing strategic food stocks.

e. Prevention of food-borne disease (public health): improving surveillance and control of food-borne diseases.

f. Natural Mongolian foods: certification, labelling and generic branding of clean, safe organic foods.

The National Food Safety Programme has such goals as reducing imported food and producing products with a high level of food safety and standards in Mongolia:
- promoting codex regulatory framework in the country
- promoting knowledge and uptake of scientific principles and risk analysis principles
- strengthening Codex risk management capabilities
- cooperating internationally and locally
- publishing and disseminating Codex standards.

1. National policy priorities for food safety and strengthening of food regulation:
- improved food safety and quality of domestic foods through the development and application of food standards based on Codex standards
- enhanced capacity of the food industry to access overseas markets and meet international market requirements
- enhanced capacity to assure the safety and quality of imported foods.

Implementation strategy
- Develop an overall national food safety and quality policy statement defining national priorities for food regulation and Codex with stakeholder input and engagement.

2. Strengthening the national Codex institutional framework and structures:
- institutional and administrative structures for managing Codex standards at the national level
- structure, composition and terms of reference of national Codex Committee
- interagency coordination and collaboration
- mechanisms for communication (e-mail, Website, consultation meetings, etc.).

Implementation strategy
- Implement actions to secure high-level support for managing Codex activities at the national level, including lead agency responsibilities, location of Codex contact point, leadership and management of the national Codex Committee and mechanisms for interagency cooperation.

3. Strengthening national capacity for Codex:
- capacity building of the national Codex Committee
- training of the national Codex contact point on the management of Codex work at the national level
- improving awareness of Codex at the national level across government and stakeholder groups
- supporting participation in Codex meetings of priority interest

- engaging in international standards development processes through submission of written comments
- developing regional networking and links to share information and experiences
- supporting and encouraging involvement of stakeholders (industry and NGOs) in Codex activities.

Implementation strategy
- national training workshops
- attendance of Codex meetings
- visits to other countries to study structures and approaches.

4. Promote the development of national food safety and quality standards for priority products and sectors based on Codex:
- reviewing and strengthening the national legislative framework for adoption and use of Codex standards at the national level
- reviewing priority areas for standards development, taking into account safety and trade interests
- promoting knowledge and understanding of Codex standards among stakeholders
- disseminating Codex standards (of importance to Mongolia) into the national language.

Implementation strategy
- revise relevant national legislation to facilitate adoption of Codex standards at the national level
- develop list of Codex standards of importance to Mongolia
- conduct national training and awareness workshops on the use of Codex standards at the national level.

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.
1. Food safety regulations.
2. Food borne disease rate.
3. Food contamination level.
4. Percentage of domestic companies that met hygienic requirements, such as GAP, GMP and GHP.
5. The level of sanitation facilities in food companies.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country
With continuous growth of the world's population and subsequent increase in food demand and supply, the issue of food safety has become increasingly important in all countries worldwide. The Government set its goal to provide the population with safe and nutritious food supplies and prevent acute and chronic food-borne diseases.

There is a great importance that FAO and WHO cooperate with the Government on the development of food safety policies for countries in Asia, especially for Mongolia, as it is happening at the same time as such bills as Food Safety and Food Law are being renewed and undergoing Parliament discussions.

It's our hope that all participants of this conference will acknowledge Asian countries' need in implementing many activities for strengthening food safety by further ensuring the safety of raw materials at all stages of the food production chain, from animal stalls and crop fields to the consumer tables, increasing the responsibility of food producers and importers, developing a domestic food safety control system, bringing the food safety control to a new level by strengthening professional food control agencies and introducing risk-based food safety control approaches.

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?

All the officers of the Government and NGOs involved with food safety should increase their knowledge of the fundamental purpose of a food safety and security management system and the principles, processes and techniques used for the assessment and management of food safety hazards. They should also learn the following subjects:

- The effectiveness of the organization's management of risk through its food safety risk assessment and control planning.
- The capability of an organization to maintain and exceed compliance with legislative requirements.
- The adequacy of the organization's emergency preparedness and response.
- The implementation of operational risk control, monitoring and measurement.
- The continuous improvement of food safety management system performance.

XI. PHILIPPINES

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?
Ensuring food safety in the Philippines is a shared responsibility of the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture. To ensure the safety of food for the consuming public, the agencies involved have developed policies relative to food safety. The Department of Agriculture is responsible for primary production (growing, harvesting and post-harvest facilities) while the Department of Health has responsibility for secondary production (excluding meat and meat products). Local government units are also involved in the Food Safety Program.

1.1 If so, the department that has issued it?
The agencies mentioned have an existing food safety policy and system in place. However, with the impending Food Safety Bill, the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture and the local government units will jointly implement the Bill.

1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?
1. Department of Health
2. Department of Agriculture
3. Department of Interior and Local Government
4. Local government units.

1.3 What points are covered in the policy?
1. Public health and safety (protection from food-borne and water-borne illnesses and unsanitary, unwholesome, misbranded and adulterated foods).
2. Industry and consumer confidence in the food regulatory system.
3. Economic growth and development.

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?
The agencies involved drafted the Bill in 2010 in accordance with prescribed standard procedures.

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?
The Food Safety Bill is now at the legislative branch for its final review prior to enactment.

1.6 What year was it issued?
Aside from the Food Safety Bill, the Philippine Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health was mandated to implement the following:
- Republic Act 3720 – Food Drugs and Devices and Cosmetics Act as amended by the 1987 Philippine Constitution
- Republic Act 9711– Food and Drug Administration Act of 2009
- Republic Act 7394 – The Consumer Act of the Philippines of 1992
- Republic Act 8976 – The Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000
- Republic Act 8172 – ASIN Law
- Executive Order 51– Milk Code of 1986
- Other issuances through circulars and orders.

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
Yes

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security (NPSF/ SPSF)?
Yes

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
Yes

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
For the Food Safety Bill, the Food Safety Regulation Coordinating Board monitors and coordinates the performance and implementation of the mandates of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health, the Department of Interior and Local Government and the local government units in food safety regulation.

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on the future strategic direction for food safety decision in your country?
Not applicable

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
Potential hazards in foods from farm to fork

7. Background to the development of the policy
7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
1. trade agreements
2. protection of consumer interest
3. contaminants in foods during production and/or processing and distribution
4. intentional contamination.

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?
- authorizations issued to establishments under their jurisdiction
- establishments compliance and/or non-compliance to regulatory requirements
- current food standards
- capabilities of food testing laboratories
- food-borne illness monitoring and surveillance
- regulatory food inspectors training.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?
- political
- economic
- people and culture.

8. Indicators for food safety
8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?
Protection and promotion of public health through:
- development of standards, methods and procedures
- enforcement and procedures in dealing with violations
- regulatory compliance
- risk management plan
- food-borne and water-borne diseases.

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.
1. Links of the food chain from supplier to consumer.
2. Control of hazards and processes.
3. Inspection, sampling and testing.
4. Inspectors training and competency.
5. Imposition of food safety standards.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country
1. Increased public awareness and food industry responsiveness to food safety regulatory standards and consumer satisfaction.
2. Expanded market shares in food and agricultural exports.

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?

There is a need for training to enhance the inspection skills and techniques of food inspectors and capabilities of laboratory analysts.

XII. THAILAND

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?
Thailand has a strong food safety policy under the National Food Committee Act 2008, which is chaired by the Prime Minister, and the Strategic Framework for Food Management, was approved by the Cabinet in November 2010.

1.1 If so, the department that has issued it?
The Secretary and Co-secretary of the National Food Committee are the Secretary-General of the Food and Drug Administration, under the Ministry of Public Health, and Co-Secretary of National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?
Ministry of Public Health, through five departments:
- Food and Drug Administration
- Bureau of Food Safety Extension and Support, under the Office of Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Public Health
- Department of Medical Sciences
- Department of Health
- Department of Diseases Control.

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, through the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards, which involves six departments:
- Department of Livestock
- Department of Fisheries
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Rice
- Department of Agricultural Extension
- The Office of Agricultural Economics.

The other ministries and organizations from the food supply chain management:
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Commerce
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Science and Technology
- Ministry of Industry
- Office of the Consumer Protection Board
- Office of The National Research Council of Thailand
- National Health Commission of Thailand
- The Thai Chamber of Commerce
- The Federation of Thai Industries
- The Thai Health Promotion Foundation.

1.3 What points are covered in the policy? (explained further on)
- Strategic Theme 1: Food Security
- Strategic Theme 2: Food Quality and Food Safety
- Strategic Theme 3: Food Education
- Strategic Theme 4: Food Management

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?
It took 12 months.
- At the first meeting in September 2010, the National Food Committee approved the Strategic Framework for Food Management as proposed by the Committee and proposed to the Council of Ministers for approval. Thereafter, the Framework was given to the Office of National Economic and Social Development Board and other agencies to be used as an operational guideline and to report to the National Food Committee in the future. The Deputy Prime Minister, who was Chairman of National Food Committee, proposed the Framework for inclusion in the agenda of the Cabinet meeting in November 2010, at which time it was approved, though it was recommended that the opinions of additional agencies should be elicited to improve the Framework's operation.
- In February 2012, the Deputy Prime Minister signed on, appointing specific implementation committees for each strategic theme to collaboratively implement the strategic framework.

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?
To be endorsed by the national Food Committee and the Cabinet.

1.6 What year was it issued?
2012

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
Yes, the Food Safety, Food Security, Food and Nutrition, Food Halal, Trade Promotion in Country strategies through the themes: "kitchen of the world", food education and consumer protection.

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security (NPSF/ SPSF)?
Yes, food safety is a top-ten priority for the Office of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Health. The Bureau of Food Safety Extension and Support is a secretary office to cooperate and collaborate between departments and provincial health offices to implement the plans.
- In 2013–2014, the Bureau of Food Safety Extension and Support took on an implementation role for food safety for school children.
- In 2012, the Thai FDA launched a primary good manufacturing practice inspection and certification for small and medium-sized enterprises; 70 percent of the processed food manufacturers are expected to meet the GMP requirements of the food law by the year 2013.

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
Yes, there is a yearly food safety plan for every province through a provincial food committee, which comprises multi-agencies involved from farm to table, aiming to:
- standardize food safety along the food chain
- promote safety standard implementation in all levels of food production throughout the food chain
- elevate the standard of food service in restaurants and catering as well as promote Thai food culture
- strengthen the control and regulations on food product import at checkpoints
- enhance the efficiency of management and control of pesticide and chemical use in agriculture
- encourage and promote the use of quality and safety-certified logos to aid in consumers' decision-making

- promote food chain certification system
- conduct risk assessment for food safety
- support food safety management by locals at both the provincial and community scale
- expand consumer education through the media to improve their understanding and confidence on safe food.

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
Each implementation department has its own monitoring method. The assessment is presently performed routinely at the grassroots food distributors by using test kits for chemical and microbial analyses in street food, restaurants and school canteens. The assessment plan is normally set up at the provincial level. The Bureau of Food Safety Extension and Support has assessed the impact of all activities by joint key performance indicators through the food chain continuum. However, the effectiveness of the food safety policy has been evaluated only once, in 2007.

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on the future strategic direction for food safety decision in your country?
Not applicable because there are food safety policies at many levels in Thailand.

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
Theme 1: Food security
The principle of the first theme is ensuring a sustainable food security and effective management of food production resources by active stakeholders' participation. There are three areas of concern: The first is the natural and agricultural resources concerning the land and water management and reforming, balancing the food, feed and fuel. The second is developing innovation and technology, young farmer capacity building and developing careers. The third area is enhancing food supply and access at the household and community levels and also improving the logistics for the food supply.

Other strategies to ensure these achievements: establish crisis management systems, conduct research and development along the food chain and encourage stakeholders' participation.

Theme 2: Food quality and safety
The principle in this theme is the ensuring of high-quality and safe food to protect consumer health and to facilitate domestic and also international trade. This theme will strengthen food production from the supply side at the community and industry levels to promote high-quality, safety and nutritious Thai food.

The strategies for this theme are:
- For fresh produce, we will do more research and development, such as animal and plant breeding, disease control and nutrient requirements, and promote good agricultural practice in farming systems to ensure high-quality, safety and nutritious fresh food.
- For food production at the community level, we support the forming of clusters for capacity building in production to generate new value-added products and to reduce food loss.
- At the industry level, we promote production of value-added products by supporting research both from government and the private sector We will continually enhance industry to implement production practices (such as good manufacturing practice, HACCP and ISO) to meet the requirements of international trade.

- The key issues for this theme are establishing harmonized food standards and law enforcement integration among related agencies; strengthening food quality and safety assurance systems throughout the food chain, including imported food; and the promotion of trading and marketing to raise consumers' confidence in Thai food from all production levels.

Theme 3: Food education
- The key principles of food education are R&D and knowledge use by engaging stakeholders in the sustainable and effective use of food production resources along the food chain and also strengthening desirable consumption behaviour for well-being.
- The food education focuses on R&D topics, such as land use, water management, biodiversity (phenotype and genotype), plant and animal nutrition, prevention and disease control. These are leading to good practices. The consumer can access nutritious and safe food at all points of the food chain from farm to table.
- It also includes various procedures for knowledge use and practice, knowledge dissemination, knowledge integration, research and knowledge development to obtain nutritious and safe food. It also focuses on knowledge use to R&D for awareness and proper eating habits.
- If we are given good and safe food, we can focus more on our food education and it is very important to have a basic understanding in nutrition and an educated generation for the future of the country.

Theme 4: Food management
The key principle is to systematically improve national food management at every step of the food production process, as appropriate, as well as strengthen the operations of every agency to cope with globalization and manage threats efficiently as well as food safety incident management.

There are three strategies:
1. Improve and strengthen the structure of involved organizations at all levels; integrate operations for consumer protection to eliminate gaps, to identify capacity building, budgeting and human resources development, and develop systematically an evaluation system, including the indicators to improve policies and operating plans appropriately.

2. Develop and improve laws related to the food production chain that are up to date and in accordance with international regulations; monitor and evaluate difficulties in law enforcement to improve them according to current situations.

3. Improve databases and management to cooperate and collaborate with food safety information networks at the national and regional levels to develop and implement food safety alert system, INFOSAN and other networks.

7. Background to the development of the policy
7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
1. serve as a guideline for involved agencies to create their workplans
2. encourage inter-sector participation
3. provide a framework for integrating operations
4. undertake a risk assessment
5. be scientifically and academically sound
6. promote sustainable benefits for the country.

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?

Yes, good agriculture practices were identified by using the focus group discussion method. A SWOT analysis was conducted; data sources and rapid risk assessment were obtained through epidemiological surveillance data from the Department of Disease Control and chemical contamination data through the Office of Public Health Provincial surveillance reports and the 12 mobile units as well as food safety risk assessment research.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?
- limited knowledge of small and medium-sized food producers and distributors
- unawareness of consumers on their right to safe foods
- lack of coordination among stakeholders
- limited funds for improvement.

8. Indicators for food safety

8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?

Goals: Ensuring the production of safe and high-quality food and have sustainable food security and human well-being for the people of Thailand and the world.

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.
1. The percentage of contaminated food has decreased.
2. The number of Thai consumers who can access safe food.
3. The number of Thai people who have improved knowledge of food safety, especially the five key rules.
4. Restaurants and street food vendors have reached the minimum requirement standard.
5. A single food safety standard for food that is consumed locally and exported.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country
- The trend of food-borne and water-borne diseases and non-communicable diseases from chemical hazards residue in food will be decreasing.
- A good food safety control system in the country.
- Food production is of high quality and safe for all consumers, both domestically and internationally.
- The effectiveness of national and provincial mechanisms to respond to food safety emergency incidence.

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?
- epidemiology and toxicology
- capacity building to provincial health personnel on food safety risk analysis in communities
- developing the Food Safety Basic Law.

XIII. VIET NAM

1. Is there any food safety policy at present, either independent or part of other policies?
The food safety policy at present is independent and sometimes is a part of a related field policy.

1.1 If so, the department that has issued it?
The Viet Nam Food Administration (VFA), of the Ministry of Health is the country's coordinator in issuing the food safety policies and regulations.

1.2 Which departments were involved in the development?
The National Institute for Food Control (NIFC) has an important role in technical support for developing food safety policies and regulations for the VFA.

1.3 What points are covered in the policy?
The food safety policy mentioned in Article 4 of the Food Safety Law: Article 4. State's Policy on Food Safety.

Responsibility of the Ministry of Health is mentioned in item 1 of Article 20 in Decree No. 38/ND-CP – detail regulating some articles of the Food Safety Law; the Ministry of Health is responsible with the Government in harmonizing state management of food safety.

1.4 How long did it take to develop the policy?
It took two years to develop the Food Safety Law and one to two years to develop the accompanying decrees and circulars.

1.5 At what level has the policy been endorsed?
The Food Safety Law and Decree Guidance on Food Safety Law Implementation were submitted by the Ministry of Health and issued by the Government. Circulars were issued by related ministries (especially the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Trade and Industry).

1.6 What year was it issued?
The Food Safety Law was issued in 2010 and its effective date was July 2011. The Decree was issued in April 2012 and took effect in November 2012.

1.7 Does the food safety policy explicitly refer to any other policies in the country, such as food safety, food and nutrition, trade, consumer protection?
Yes, food hygiene and safety ordinance in the Good Quality Law, in the Standards and Technical Regulation Law and in the Food Trade and Consumer Protection, Arbitration Law.

2. Is there any reference to food safety in the national or sector development plans, country programming framework (CPF) or national or sector programmes on food security (NPSF/SPSF)?
- Vietnam Food Administration of the Ministry of Health
- National Institute for Food Control of the Ministry of Health
- National Agro-forestry–Fisheries Quality Assurance Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Science and Technology Department of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

3. Is there an action plan for implementation of the policy?
For food safety, we had a national objective programme from 2006 to 2010 and one ongoing (2011–2015). For nutrition, we have the national strategy on nutrition improvement.

4. Who monitors the implementation of the policy?
The Ministry of Health monitors the national objective on food hygiene and safety programme and national strategy on nutrition improvement

5. If there is no policy, are there any plans to develop the same and details of these or a "vision" on the future strategic direction for food safety decision in your country?
Not applicable

6. What is the scope or planned scope of the food safety policy in your country, such as food safety, food safety and food security, food and nutrition?
- Food safety and nutrition are monitored by the Ministry of Health.
- Food security is mainly assured by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and some aspects are monitored by the Ministry of Health.

7. Background to the development of the policy
7.1 What were the key drivers for developing the food safety policy in your country?
The Ministry of Health is leading in developing and running the food safety policy.

7.2 What data and data sources were considered in developing the policy – were any gaps identified?
The sources of data were from the food contamination exposure assessment, regular and irregular food quality monitoring and a food safety study.

7.3 What challenges or difficult issues were encountered in developing the food safety policy?
We have issued numerous legal regulations and laws relating to food safety. However, the problems of safety are complex and systemic, especially for a developing country like Viet Nam. We are facing much difficulty in developing the food policy. We are an agricultural country with small and old production technology. It is very difficult to apply an effective quality management method.

The food safety management is divided into three ministries (the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development and the Ministry of Trade and Industry); there are overlapping roles and others are not defined clearly. The capacity of the food testing laboratory is still limited.

8. Indicators for food safety
8.1 What food safety goals are stated in the policy and what indicators are used to measure the achievement of them?
The food safety goals are stated in the policy mentioned in the Food Safety Law:
1. Develop strategy and plan to ensure food safety and food production area for safety in the food supply chain is identified as a key task priority.
2. Use of state resources and other resources investment in scientific research and technological applications for risk analysis for food safety; building new and upgrading a number of laboratory to meeting regional and international standards; improve existing laboratory analysis; support construction material production areas of food safety, wholesale markets for agricultural products and animal slaughter of industrial-scale poultry.
3. Encourage the production facility and food business technology innovation to expand production scale; produce high-quality safe food; supplement essential micronutrients in food; build branding and development of systems to provide safe food.

4. Establish a legal framework and implementation road map for a mandatory system of good manufacturing practices (GMP), good agricultural practices (GAP), good hygiene practices (GHP), risk analysis and critical control point (HACCP) advanced food safety management systems in food processing and food business.
5. Expand international cooperation, promote the conclusion of conventions and international agreements on recognition and mutual recognition in the field of food.
6. Timely reward to organizations and individuals who produce and trade safety food.
7. Encourage and create favourable conditions for societies, associations, organizations, individuals, foreign investment, participate in standards development activities, technical regulation and food safety testing.
8. Increased investment, a variety of forms and methods of communication and education to raise consumer awareness about food safety, a sense of responsibility and business ethics of organizations and individuals producing and trading safe food.

Indicator to measure achievement of these:
- Reduce by 25 percent the number of poisoning cases, with greater than or equal to 30 persons of 2010.
- The number of people infected with an acute poisoning level per 100 000 in the case of food poisoning are recorded as less than or equal to 8.
- Samples exceeding the permissible level per total number of samples for testing food safety are less than 6 percent of the food safety monitoring programme countries on agricultural products and 4 percent in the national surveillance programme for fisheries.
- All provinces and cities have market models to ensure food safety.

8.2 List five indicators important for determining food safety in a country.
See the above indicators.

9. Impact of food safety policies: Describe the impact of the food safety policy in your country
Food safety management has improved much since 1999 when the Vietnam Food Administration was established within the Ministry of Health – the first specific authority office on food safety management in the country. From that, the food safety management system was established progressively from the national to the local levels. The organization and legal documents on food safety were completed step by step. Within a somewhat short time, we issued the Food Safety and Hygiene Ordinance (2003) and the Food Safety Law (2010) and various legal documents for implementing them. In addition, many other relating laws (Standard and Technical Regulation Law, Goods Quality Law, revised Inspection Law); and food standards and food safety technical regulations have been studied.

10. Capacity strengthening needed to implement the food safety policy: Any special skills needed?
- evaluate the characteristics of the organization
- develop a food safety programme to control hazards
- implement the food safety programme
- participate in food safety audit
- evaluate and revise the food safety programme

Decree No. 38/2012/ND-CP detailing some articles of the Food Safety Law

Decree No. 38/2012/ND-CP dated 25/4/2012 detailing some articles of the Food Safety Law clearly states the procedures of conformity publication and ones of publications in accordance with food safety regulations for food products, food additives, food-processing support material, packaging materials and food containers as well as regulations on food labelling, food safety for genetically modified organisms and responsibilities in managing food safety of the State. This Decree takes effect from the date of 11 June 2012.

1. About the publication record

This Decree separates clearly and guides specifically for each type of publication record, as follows:

- Record of conformity publication for products with existing technical standard, based on the conformity certification results of the indicated certification organization (third party)
- Record of conformity publication for products with existing technical standard, based on the self-assessment of organizations/individuals of food manufacturing and business (first party)
- Record of publication in accordance with food safety regulations with no technical standard for imported products (excluding supplements food and food of fortification with micronutrients)
- Record of publication in accordance with food safety regulations for domestic products with no technical standard (excluding supplements food and food of fortification with micronutrients)
- Record of publication in accordance with food safety regulations with no technical standard for supplements food and micronutrients fortification food. Documents released in accordance with food safety regulations for products with no technical regulations.

2. State agencies have the competence of receiving the publication record

- The Ministry of Health is responsible for food supplements; food additives; food processing support material; the imported instant food, packaging tools materials and food containers.
- The Department of Health is responsible for domestic product of manufacturing and trading organizations and individuals in the area, except those received under the Ministry of Health.

3. Product labelling

The Decree states that the font size of the product name must be the largest, most visible and at least three times more than the font size of the other letters on the label.

4. State checking for food safety

The Decree stipulates that "All foods, food ingredients, food additives, processing aids, packaging tools and materials, food containers when imported into Vietnam must be checked at the state inspection agencies", except for six cases:

- food brought to the immigration for private consumption in norms exempted from import duties
- food in diplomatic bags, consular bags
- food in transit and transhipment
- food that is bonded in warehouses
- food that is the sample of a test or research
- food for display sample at fairs or exhibitions.

Working Session 1 – Responses by Groups
Session 1: Driver/Factors Influencing Development of Food Safety Policy

Task

- Identify five major drivers or factors in relation to the groups' areas of interest.
- Discuss the importance, and implications of each on food safety policies, including both positive and negative factors.

Major Drivers Influencing Policy Development	Implications (positive and negative)
Group 1 Health	
1. Political and stakeholder commitment	• Consistent budget, capacity building, human resources
2. Public health concern	• Reduce budget and poverty, productivity and damage reputation of country
3. Facilities and laboratories	• Food safety data, risk assessment, surveillance, food IT
4. Food legislation	• Fundamental policy, transparency, fairness
5. Food control system	• Integration, implementation, enforcement, collaboration and cooperation, information exchange
Group 2: Agriculture	
1. Safety and demand for primary production	• Increase population and demands, excessive use of pesticides and chemicals
2. International trade issues	• SPS to control competiveness, strict import/export controls
3. Participation in international forums	• Align expectations with safety system
4. Outbreaks of illness and food contamination	• Compliance with international standards (health)
5. Trade infrastructure	• Basic requirements for sustainable agriculture industry value adding
Group 3: Trade and commerce	
1. Commitment to SPS agreement	• International standards, risk assessment and market access
2. Commitment of senior levels of government	• Establish mandates, provide ongoing directions at the highest level of political commitment
3. Enhanced growth in tourism	• Safe destination, safe food and economic growth of related industries
4. Enhance capacity of small and medium (SMEs) enterprises	• Bring technology/know-how to the SMEs, improve competiveness, provide innovative systems and facilitate economic status
Attraction of foreign investment	• Assure stable policy environment, promote marketability
Group 4: NGOs, academia and industry	
1. Trade and domestic food production	• Standards, such as GAP, GHP, information share, traceability and contaminants
2. Coordination in food safety policies	• Interagency stakeholder coordination, surveillance, linkages and accreditation
3. Food-borne illness outbreaks	• Poor linkages, lack of data, emergency response, lessons learned
4. Consumer information and education	• New technology, education of small and medium-sized producers, innovation, communication
5. Risk assessment, management and communication	• Infrastructure development, capacity building, ethical • issues (GMO), lessons learned and communication

Working Group Session 2 – Responses by Group
Session 2 Indicators/Outcomes Of food Safety

Task

- Identify five key indicators to measure food safety.
- Identify systems of surveillance – existing, new or ones that need to be strengthened to measure the desired indicators and outcomes.

Group 1: Health	
Indicators/outcomes to measure food safety	**Systems of surveillance**
1. Food-borne illness surveillance	Number of cases, hospital admissions and the socio-economic burden
2. Compliance to standards and regulations	Number of recalls, recall efficiency and import rejections Number of penalties
3. Consumer confidence	Number of consumer complaints and survey of consumer confidence
4. Policies and legislation developed	Number of policies and legislation developed, harmonization between all stakeholders, local governments and harmonization to national policies
5. Capacity of food safety controls	Number of food establishments applying control systems, such as GMP, GHP, HACCP, etc.
Group 2: Agriculture	
Indicators/outcomes to measure food safety	**Systems of surveillance**
1. On-farm production of safe food	Number of recalls and quarantines, data and surveillance systems
2. Acceptance of country's food safety	Consumer and country (domestic and international) acceptance of safe agricultural food products Number of countries accepting products, increasing volumes of produced and exported foods
3. Implementation of quality assurance	Number of producers achieving registration and certification for control programmes and systems, such as GAP, GMP and HACCP
4. National monitoring system	Annual monitoring reports/records, records of hazardous residues and contaminants
5. Increase and sustain farmer income	Survey of farmer income, agriculture term of trade
Group 3: Trade and commerce	
Indicators/outcomes to measure food safety	**Systems of surveillance**
1. Legislation	Number of regulations in place, scope of coverage, risk-based regulation, food safety control framework, number of standards aligned with Codex standards
2. Enforcement of regulations	Number of recalls (domestic), number of penalties/prosecutions

	Number of rejections and alerts from trading partners Number of registered premises
3. Infrastructure	Number of functional and accredited labs, number of inspectors, frequency of inspection, LAN networking in and outside of country, cold supply chain
4. Information, communication, education and training	Number of food handlers and managers trained and certified, consumer and industry awareness SMEs, particularly research supporting safety-related issues, inspector and lab staff training
5. Outcome indicators (health related)	Number of food safety incidents reported, level of contaminants in food, morbidity and mortality related to food consumption (need surveillance systems)
Group 4: NGOs, academia and industry	
Indicators/outcomes to measure food safety	**Systems of surveillance**
1. Data on food-borne diseases	Number of complaints (received and nature of complaint) and records Number of causes, course of treatment (costs, economic loss, expertise required)
2. Access to information	Number of information portals, platform, hotlines Number and types of stakeholders using information
3. Consumption or use of synthetic, chemical products, additives, preservatives, rejected commodities or food products	Daily food intake, types of highly consumed products, consumer trends and preferences, trends in production to keep pace with increased demands for certain products
4. Media reporting	Coverage of food-borne illness outbreaks, cases, use of media to promote food safety and hygienic practices, ongoing communication with media
5. Social responsibility – incentives for companies, producers and consumers	incentives, such as premium prices, tax incentives, farms and companies with certifications, such as GAP, GMP, ISO and HACCP to promote safe food

NOTE: Group four identified 14 key indicators. Only five are included here, as was requested for the assignment.

Working group session 3 – Responses by groups

Session 3: Issues and priority areas in food safety policy development

Task
- Identify the five most important areas to be addressed.
- What are the issues and approaches to address the five priorities?
- What are the roles of related departments and stakeholders?
- What coordination is needed?

Group 1 - Health

	Issues and Priority Areas	Approaches to Address Priorities	Departments/ Stakeholders & Their Roles	Coordination Needed
1.	• Food-borne illness control	• Surveillance and monitoring of outbreaks • Food incident Management • Food crisis response	• Health • Health • All relevant agencies	• Local, private and public • Interagency Communication (Health, Agriculture, Industry) • Info sharing and communication (all relevant agencies and international)
2.	• Integrated food safety system	• Risk analysis from farm to table • Food regulation and Policy • Participation by stakeholders, including Government • Optimization of resources	• All relevant agencies • health and agriculture • All relevant agencies and stakeholders • All relevant agencies	• Access to data and capacity analysed (all relevant agencies & international) • Interagency collaboration (all relevant agencies • Multisector networking (all relevant agencies and stakeholders) • Sharing of lab and capacities (all relevant agencies)
3.	• Inspection and certification system • Certification of food safety assurance system	• Domestic and imported foods • Certification of food safety assurance system	• All relevant ministries • Food authorities	• Accessibility to data (all relevant agencies) • Interagency communication (local authorities)
4.	• Communication	• Consumer awareness and information • Transparency • Interactive communication • among all partners	• All relevant agencies	• Coordination with media and stakeholders (all relevant agencies)
5.	• Capacity building	• Training and education for all stakeholders, e.g. government, industry, consumers, laboratories	• All relevant agencies	• Information sharing and accessibility to data • Collaboration between all relevant agencies

Group 2: Agriculture

	Issues and Priority Areas	Approaches to Address Priorities	Departments/ Stakeholders & Their Roles	Coordination Needed
1.	• Sustainable production and supply of safe food	• Empowering and education of farmers	• Government primary production departments • Regulation, education and promotion of NGOs, associations, retailers and conformity assessment bodies	• Inter and intra departments in primary production sector • Collaboration with international organizations • Cooperation among industry associations and stakeholders • Links between farmers and departments
2.	• Small-scale producers	• Inclusion of small scale producers and empowering farmers and private sector in partnership to comply with standards and regulations • Agriculture is characterized by small holdings and associated limitations	• Same as above	• Same as above
3.	• Monitoring and control of food safety policies	• Food safety assessment system • Enforcement policies and establish monitoring system in central, provincial and district levels	• Same as above • Same as above	
4.	• Develop, improve and strengthen infrastructure	• Strengthen the necessary infrastructures, e.g. labs, certification bodies, inspections	• Same as above • Same as above	
5.	• Market access	• Improve marketing facilities, including information and credit schemes • Incentives (including bank interest rate, certification facility) • Promotion and international trade negotiation in various forums, trade mission etc. • Partnership of farmer and processors, traders and exporters	• Same as above	• Same as above

Group 3: Trade and commerce

	Issues and Priority Areas	Approaches to Address Priorities	Departments/ Stakeholders & Their Roles	Coordination Needed
1.	• Entire food chain – farm to fork – must be addressed	• Develop clear mandates and road map for related agencies as well as between all levels of government and their departments	• All related agencies and stakeholders, including unorganized and informal sectors, such as small farmers, retailers, micro-enterprises	• Inter and intra departments in all sectors • Collaboration with international organizations • Cooperation among industry associations and stakeholders
2.	• Risk-based legislation and inspection system	• Establish risk analysis technical working group (RA TWG) • Strengthen RA TWG through close cooperation and coordination • Build capacity of RA TWG to assess, manage and communicate risks, including during emergencies and crises	• Scientists and experts from universities and research institutes • All relevant agencies • All relevant agencies	• Inter and intra departments in all sectors • Collaboration with international organizations • Cooperation among industry associations and stakeholders
3.	• Move towards international standards	• Build capacity of all sectors in applying best practices, e.g. GAP, GHP, GMP, HACCP, GDP • Strengthen quality control programs that support importance off standards • Active networking with international bodies	• All relevant agencies and stakeholders • Laboratories, certification and accreditation bodies • Relevant agencies with FAO, WHO, Codex and IPPC	• Collaboration between all partners
4.	• Empower stakeholders on 5As (awareness, acceptance, action, advocacy and accountability)	• Strengthen ability of all stakeholders to participate in food safety system • Identify all key players	• All agencies, industry and consumers	• Collaboration between all partners
5.	• Building capacity of all stakeholders	• Strengthen human resources/competencies (government and private sectors) through education, training, and other means • Secure funding to support capacity building and increase food prevention activities and inspections	• All agencies, and stakeholders	• Secure support of highest levels of government • Collaboration between all partners

Group 4: NGOs, academia and industry

	Issues and Priority Areas	Approaches to Address Priorities	Departments/ Stakeholders & Their Roles	Coordination Needed
1.	• Consumer protection	• Recognize consumer right to safe food supply • Consumers responsible to eat responsibly and report violations, illness and seek appropriate care • Laws to protect consumer rights • Produce food safety information for consumers • Educate and provide information to consumers to empower them to protect themselves • Easy to read/understand food labels	• Government, industry, producers and consumers	• Collaboration between all stakeholders
2.	• Research and development	• Increase capacity/numbers of risk assessors, microbiologists, laboratories, chemists, databases, national consumption data • R&D should be more consumer/ social driven • Government should invest in more R&D and knowledge translation of scientific findings to consumers • Risk assessments must be independent, transparent and scientifically sound	• Ministry of science, public health, agriculture	• Collaboration between all stakeholders
3.	• Links between stakeholders	• Link farmers to consumers and other stakeholders • Links between all departments and ministries • Linkage to international bodies, e.g. FAO, WHO, Codex to mutually support each other • Development of international alert system	• Government, industry, consumers, international organizations	• Coordination between all stakeholders
4.	• Public communication and education	• Education programmes for whole food chain • Patient/doctor communication and records • Create links between doctors and epidemiologists (health departments) • Develop advocacy campaigns and incentives for small scale producers	• Include related ministries of consumer affairs, education, trade, public affairs	• Coordination between all stakeholders
5.	• Formulation of necessary guidelines	• Develop consumer-based food safety and nutrition guidelines • Develop nutrition guideline for healthy eating • Develop dietary guidelines reflecting country's culture and food preferences	• Ministries of education, health, IT, consumer affairs	• Coordination between all stakeholders

Working group session 4 – Responses by countries

Session 4 – Capacity development needs to support development and implementation of national food safety policies

Task

- Identify five priority areas.
- Identify the challenges to the development and implementation of each priority.
- What actions are needed to support development and implementation?
- Identify three areas required to support development and implementation.

1. Bangladesh

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	• Producers and processors, including farmers	• Insufficient information and awareness • Insufficient skills • Inadequate links with regulatory bodies	• Provide IEC by government and private sectors including civil society and consumer groups • Training producers and processors on certification programmes, e.g. GAP, GHP, GMP and HACCP • Government-developed meetings, workshops, etc. to exchange information	• Development of IEC materials • Develop, update, customizeguidelines
2.	• Institutional capacity building, particularly regulatory bodies	• Inadequate infrastructure • Insufficient human resources; number and competence • Inadequacies of procedures and protocols • Absence of networks, collaboration and referral services	• Develop/strengthen infrastructure for labs, monitoring and surveillance • Placement of sufficient and skilled human resources • Develop/update procedures and protocols • Develop networks in and outside the country	• Both internal and external supports needed
3.	• Data generation, management and communication	• Inadequate reliable data • Inadequate capacity in data generation, management and communication	• Capacity development for data generation and management • Establishment and use of different forums and ICT	• Both internal and external required
4.	• Risk analysis	• Inadequate institutional capacity, human and financial resources • Lack resources for emergency management	• Strengthen institutional capacity • Placement of skilled human resources • Provision of adequate and timely financial support	• Both internal and external required
5.	• Consumer participation	• Consumer awareness on food safety and their rights • Inadequate communication with consumers • Inadequate response from consumers (complaints, etc.)	• Sensitization of consumers • Use of the media and ICT with information/data • Establish and strengthen mechanisms to respond to complaints and enquiries	• Both internal and external required

2. Bhutan

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	• Decision on whether food safety is stand alone or integrated with other programmes	• Buy-in of other sectors since draft policy is in advanced stages • Requires additional resources – financial and human • Limited knowledge on food safety issues	• Review of draft FNSP • Consultation with stakeholders • Forward recommendations to NFQSC • Implement decisions of commission	• Food safety expert to review draft FNSP • Support of relevant stakeholders • New financial resources • Technical assistance for developing companion policy and by-laws
2.	• Promote a risk-based approach	• Lack internal capacities • Inadequate data and information • Challenges in collecting and compiling data	• Capacity building on risk assessment • Create mechanisms for information management and sharing • Risk assessment training for stakeholders	• Technical assistance to conduct risk assessments • Training of local authorities • Training of data managers, field staff and media personnel
3.	• Strengthening research capacity	• Inadequacies in infrastructure and research personnel • Networking in and outside laboratories • Dissemination of research results	• Upgrading of laboratory facilities • Specialized training in applied research • Links between researchers and media houses	• Funding for upgraded labs • Training for lab personnel • Regional workshops for information sharing and networking
4.	• Institutional development in specialized fields	• Strengthen BAFRA as secretariat to NFSQC • Convince potential entrepreneurs to establish processing units • Overriding religious sentiments • Limited awareness of production units and distribution on food handling	• Promote food safety as national priority • Engage religious groups in food safety • Effectively monitor compliance with standards • Train food handlers	• Technical assistance to conduct cost benefit analysis of benefits/ importance of food safety • Gain support of religious bodies on food safety issues
5.	• Information and communication	• Limited information on food safety • No communication strategy to promote food safety • Resistance to change from established groups • Gain support from commercial media houses	• Create mechanisms for information generation and management • Develop appropriate communication strategies • Convince media to incorporate food safety messaging	• Information management expert on food safety • Financial resources to develop communications strategy on food safety • Resources to disseminate food safety messaging

3. Cambodia

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	• Production of safe food • Public health prevention of food-borne disease and outbreaks • Integrated and coordinated food safety system • Compliance with SPS and international requirements • Capacity building for all key stakeholders	• Political commitment, lack of legislation • Lack of expertise and budget funding • Lack of infrastructure • Lack of food quality assurance systems (GMP, GAP, HACCP, etc.) • Risk-based approach • Coordination issues	• Formulation of technical working groups • Build consultation and consensus among stakeholders • Development of road map/action plan map/action plan • Development of food safety policies • Time frame under discussion • Seek financial support	• International and national expert consultants • Financial support • Effective implementation of food safety policies

NOTE: Cambodia presented the challenges, actions and supports as a listing of considerations that could apply to all the priorities.

4. India

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	• Whole chain approach	• Number of ministries involved – lack of coordination	• Creation of a national platform for development, maintenance and oversight of National Food Safety Policy (NFSP) to be formed at high level • Authorizing FSSAI to be the secretariat of NFSP • Defined time frame for development • Once developed, clearly define roles of departments	• Internal: lab upgrades both equipment and manpower • Upgrades of human resources responsible for inspections, including GMP, GHP and HACCP
2.	• Define regulations for each sector and develop voluntary standards where regulation not practicable	• Majority of industry and farmers have very small holdings and located in remote locations, which make regulation a challenge to enforce		• Human resources to assist micro industry • Concepts, such as cluster approach, to reduce costs • External: training in risk analyses, create pool of expertise • Creation of certified reference materials providers(CRM) • Establish accreditation programme for CRM producers in NABL • Creation of proficiency testing providers in food sector

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
3.	• Sensitize stakeholders particularly political class and bureaucracy to importance of food safety		• None identified	
4.	• Encourage and reward voluntary action where regulation not sufficient	• Lack of trust in private sector	• None identified	• Incentives for those implementing good practices
5.	• Empowering all stakeholders, including consumers and implementers	• Cultural and linguistic diversity • Large population, spread far and wide • Access an issue in empowerment	• Underpin other policies, such as the National Nutrition Policy	

5. Indonesia (identified only four priorities)

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	• Legislation	• Political commitment • Insufficient links between stakeholders • Regulatory impact statement	• Regulatory assessment to determine clear mandate and authorization	• Application of good regulatory practices
2.	• Risk-based approach in developing food safety policies	• Limited activity on risk assessment, management and communication	• Move from prescriptive legislation to risk-based approach focusing on prevention (GAP, GHP, GMP and HACCP)	• Training for risk manager, assessor and communicator
3.	• Food safety control management, including quality infrastructure, inspection, certification and accreditation	• Inadequate coordination among stakeholders • Limited quality infrastructure	• Empowering National Integrated Food Safety Committee (NIFSC) • Improving capacity of quality infrastructure	• Political support to empower NIFSC • Donor agency and technical assistance from international body (FAO, WHO)
4.	• Communication, education and training	• Limited media for communication • Limited support to address consumer concerns	• Enhanced Web-based communication • Competency-based training programme to support implementation of food safety programs	• Public – private sector partnership (corporate social responsibility, etc.)

6. Japan

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	• Effective implementation of risk analysis	• Risk management and assessment • Promotion of regulatory research • Quality assurance of laboratories	• Enhanced training programme on analysis, biochemistry, microbiology, toxicology, chemistry and statistics • Establish and improve mid-term plan for surveillance and research programmes	• Increased financial commitment
2.	• Effective implementation of risk analysis	• Risk communication • Effective coordination between related ministries and agencies	• Improvement of communication methodologies • Improvement of communication tools, such as websites, newsletters, meetings • Enhancement of the Consumer Affairs Agency	• Capacity building of communicators • Increased financial commitment
3.	• Strengthen cooperation and coordination between stakeholders	• Effective coordination between related ministries and agencies	• Information sharing and exchange of opinions • Encouragement of communication by stakeholders • Common understanding of roles responsibilities of stakeholders • Coordination for effective implementation – encouragement of corporate social responsibility	• Increased financial commitment
4.	• Enhancement of food chain approach	• Effective coordination between related ministries and agencies • Promotion of GAP, GMP and HACCP	• Develop guidelines for each step of food chain • Strengthen incentives for operators, particularly SMEs • Promotion of regulatory research on mitigation and prevention measures • Review of regulations to ensure their appropriateness for all levels of the food chain	• Increased financial commitment
5.	• First priority to protect consumer health	• Enhanced cooperation between food safety authorities and consumer authorities • Development and implementation of measures to prevent crises or accidents from occurring	• Harmonization between mid-term programmes for food safety and consumer protection • Effective implementation of risk management with SOP • Implementation of appropriate actions in food safety emergencies	• Increased financial commitment

7. Republic of Korea

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	• Risk communication	• Low consumer confidence • Non-scientific information	• Press releases, SNS • Various programmes • Consumer participation	• Collaboration with stakeholders • Customized strategy
2.	• Risk analysis	• Advent of unidentified hazard factors • Borderless trade	• National Food Safety Evaluation Institute	• Risk profile • Coordination with international standards
3.	• Risk management in primary production sector	• Small-scale producers and businesses lack trust of government • Contaminants in primary production	• Capacity building guidelines and education • Risk analysis of contaminants in primary production	• Financial and technical support • Interagency cooperation
4.	• Strengthening quarantine and inspection of imported food	• Food supply is highly dependent on imports • Low consumer confidence	• Safety assurance system in country of origin • Strengthen importer's responsibilities • Strengthen quarantine and inspection of imported foods	• Interagency cooperation (MOU)
5.	• Enlarge scope of food safety policies	• Nutritional imbalance • Increased interest in health	• Dietary education • Health claims	• Data collection • Interagency cooperation

8. Lao PDR

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	• Promotion of clean agricultural production	• Inadequacy of human and financial resources	• Educate farmers, producers, operators regarding clean and safe methodologies • Disseminate and increase knowledge about GAP, GMP and HACCP	• International support needed, including strengthening food, feed, additives analysis and capacities
2.	• Strengthen food safety management system	• Difficulty in practical mechanisms for cooperation of inter-sector, national, regional and international	• Create/improve regulations and measures to assure food safety in food chain and protect consumer health and facilitate trade • Clearly define respective roles and responsibilities of all agencies • Establish criteria and monitoring systems for safety of raw materials • limited tool and facilities for food control activities	• Review of current food safety control system for improvement • Develop appropriate manuals, guidelines, SOP in food safety control • Develop monitoring and evaluation programme for food safety control • Improve the inspection and certification system for food import export and registration • Training, both overseas and on-the-job training • Establish food laboratory with suitable facilities and equipment for food testing • Vehicles to support food control activities, including the monitoring aspects

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
3.	• Capacity building, including human resources, labs and facilities	• Weakness of capacities for food safety control • Capacity of food inspectors is limited • Lack of expertise in analytical and technical capacity	• Training on food safety for regulators, inspectors and other sectors • Develop food inspection tool kits • Improve facilities for analysis, certification and registration to meet regional and international standards	• Increase the capabilities of farmers, producers and operators to implement GHP, GAP, GMP and HACCP • Internal and external support for increasing food inspection and food analysis capacities • Strengthening capacity for food contaminant testing • Short- and long-term trainings and scholarship on food safety for food safety control staff
4.	• Risk analysis and communication	• Insufficient laboratory facilities and equipment • Lack of national baseline data on food contaminants	• Use risk analysis to link food hazards with human health • Use of communication to foster scientific evaluation and increase stakeholder participation, transparency of process and consistent treatment of hazards	• Information sharing and study tours • Establishing a data collection system • Contaminants study on pesticides residues and salmonella for vegetables and meat
5.	• Information, education and public awareness	• Low awareness of producers and consumers about food-borne disease and contaminants	• Disseminate information and promote production and consumption of safe, hygienic and nutritious food • Establish consumer protection associations to improve food safety awareness and participation of consumers	• Review of existing food safety policies, strategies and action plans to integrate with regional and international standards • Develop food safety posters or other means, such as food safety newsletters, for communicating food safety messages • Develop public warning system for emergency cases on food safety

9. Malaysia (identified three priorities)

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	• Communication and capacity building • Access to right information • Linking to the source of information • Sensitize the public • Collaboration with relevant agencies, local authorities	• Multiple jurisdictions • Human capacity and capability	• Clear SOP • More channels of communication • Consumer-based approach to sensitize food safety issues	• Development of best practices

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
2.	• Food safety assurance for imported and local food products • Visible and identifiable marks and logos • Labelling minimum requirements, especially for cottage industries	• Enforcement • SMEs (traceability and food safety a low priority) • Lack of effort from industry to come forward	• Increase surveillance and monitoring • More outreach, spread over all levels, e.g. communities, local, district and state	• Interagency and multi-stakeholder coordination and support (financial and human resources) • Top-down approach (programme and finance)
3.	• Analytical and technical capacity and facilities • New technologies • Sophisticated consumer demands • New approaches to food safety	• Lack of expertise • Lack of efficient, well-equipped facilities • Baseline data on consumer demands	• Periodic surveys, assessment and monitoring	• Specific budgetary allocations • External expertise • Academic institutions

10. Mongolia

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	• Food safety assurance throughout the food chain (farm to table)	• Introduction of process approach • Development of standards • Strengthen accreditation systems	• Regulation framework for obligatory GAP, GMP, GHP and voluntary HACCP ISO 9001, etc. • Government incentives for implementation of food safety systems	• Increase commitment and participation from private sector • Funding projects to implement control systems for high-risk products, e.g. eggs, dairy, baby food
2.	• Risk-based approach in food control system	• Infrastructure of the food control system • Capacity of food inspectors • Capacity of national reference laboratory • Implementation of risk analysis	• Restructuring of inspection agency, clarify mandates • Create network of labs • Strengthen national capacity for risk analysis • Enforcement of research supporting food safety	• Technical assistance from FAO and WHO • International cooperation on risk analysis • Human resources and training • Improve lab capacities
3.	• Food safety information database and access	• No link between labs and capacity development for food analyses • Communication and surveillance data for food-borne diseases	• Create national database on food safety system • Improve cooperation between agencies • Identify food safety indicators and • Provide accurate and appropriate information	• Implement IT projects and share information • Improve participation in risk assessment communication • Emergency preparedness support

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
4.	• Support small-scale farmers and primary production	• Infrastructure • Climate • Finance • Bureaucracy	• Improve capacity for food safety management system resource • Implement actions for new food safety law enforcement • Increase transparency of government agencies	• Food safety law advocacy • Implement projects for improving food safety capacity for small-scale farmers and herders • Increase government budget for supporting incentives for food safety initiatives
5.	• Food safety training and education (capacity building)	• Recognition of lack of food safety and sanitation knowledge • Prioritizing protection of consumer health • Consumer confidence in the food safety system	• Standardized knowledge • Targeted training • Awareness of food label requirements	• International and regional IEC projects • Supporting community projects to improve food safety education • Include food safety as subject of study in school programme

11. Philippines

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	• Policy clarification on structure of organization and roles/responsibilities of all agencies	• Passing Bill in parliament not easy • Balancing industry needs • No policy on fiscal autonomy to assist government to sustain work	• Championship of legislators and executive branch • Engagement of other stakeholders, e.g. local government • Application of international health regulations	• Post passage of Bill, need collaboration to implement rules and regulations • External expertise required for the above
2.	• Laboratory capacity building	• Physical infrastructure and human resources proficiency needs • SMEs may not be able to pay user or certification fees	• Rationalization of human and financial resources to operate and manage instruments	• Internal: funding from Government • User fees to support costs • External: funding for food safety labs in the country
3.	• Capacity building on risk assessment	• Coordinating data collection, sharing and analysis across agencies • How to use information technology and knowledge management for the above	• Coordinated training and protocol creation and development • Create research agenda across all agencies and other stakeholders	• Internal funding • Horizontal manager to manage process • External: technical assistance and expertise needed

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
4.	● Formulation of safety standards and enforcement capacity	● Quality and quantity of personnel currently inadequat	● Training of government officers to formulate standards and enforce the rules ● Delineation of functions between standard setting and implementing groups	● Internal and external funding for development of training materials, application and use
5.	● Food assurance safety system	● Industry mandate and stewardship ● Government validates compliance with GMP ● Participation of other stakeholders (industry and consumers)	● Creation of platform to engage, train, communicate and assist in compliance ● Development of food safety culture in basic and undergraduate education ● Consumer education programmes	● Joint funding undertaking ● Training and advocacy materials ● Technical assistance for stakeholder adoption of best practices

12. Thailand

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	● Coordination among ministries	● Jurisdictional authority ● Import/export control: gaps, overlaps and responsibilities unclear	● Reconstruction of food authority	● Government support ● Expert advice from various agencies
2.	● Education, training and consultation	● Multiple stakeholders along the food chain ● Consumer rights	● Education programme for primary and secondary education in Ministry of Education ● Other stakeholders	● Government support ● Expert advice from various agencies
3.	● Food safety control system at provincial and local levels ● Food safety and assurance system in primary production (strengthen GAP, GMP, primary processing)	● Develop mandatory standards appropriate to small producers	● Reconstruction of food authority ● Coordination among stakeholders ● Guidelines and SOP	● Food safety emergency response ● Government support

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
4.	• Risk analysis	• Risk assessment, management and communication among all agencies	• Capacity building: assessors, technology independent agency separate from risk management	• Internal: government support on establishment of risk assessment agency • External: capacity building of risk assessment personnel • Expert advice
4.	• Risk analysis	• Risk assessment, management and communication among all agencies	• Capacity building: assessors, technology independent agency separate from risk management	• Internal: government support on establishment of risk assessment agency • External: capacity building of risk assessment personnel • Expert advice on risk assessment technology
5.	• National information and data system	• Epidemiology, outbreaks, toxicology, consumption data, surveillance over physical, biological, chemical and toxins • Imported and exported foods • Food production data	• Develop system for data networking centre	• Internal: government support • External: information technology from other countries and FAO

13. Viet Nam

	Priority Areas	Challenges to Development and Implementation	Actions Needed	Supports Needed (internal and external)
1.	• Legislation system	• Harmonize to international regulation	• Risk assessment • Update to international regulation • Set up new regulations • Review regulations	• Participate in international events (FAO, WHO, SPS) • Sharing international experience • International technical support
2.	• Strengthen food safety management system capacity	• Quality human resource • Lack of inspectors • Cooperation mechanism	• Set up guidelines • Training courses/workshops • Review status of cooperation activities	• International: technical support, training courses, study tours
3.	• Surveillance system	• Data and information exchange • Laboratory capacity • Lack of inspectors	• National monitoring programme • Enhance lab capacity and equip • Application of GAP, GMP, etc.	• Government budget • Training • International experience
4.	• Food value chain control	• Lack of connection among producers, distributors and consumers	• Vertical and horizontal integration	• Set up cooperatives • International experience • Training
5.	• Enhanced participation of associations and private sector	• Lack of participation of associations	• Set up cooperative mechanisms • Access to information	• Budget • Training