

**CAREC Learning Opportunity: Modernizing Sanitary  
and Phytosanitary Measures to Expand Trade and  
Ensure Food Safety—Sharing the Baltic Experience  
(CAREC SPS Learning Opportunity)**

6-8 October 2014

Mongolia

---

**FAO and Food Safety**

# FAO Vision

---

- **Achieving food security for all** is at the heart of FAO's efforts – to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

**Food security:** all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. [World Food Summit, 1996]

# FAO Activities on food safety

- **Consumers have the right** to expect that the food available on domestic markets is safe & of the expected quality. FAO works with governmental authorities, with local industry & other relevant stakeholders to ensure that this expectation is met
- **Overall goal** - To improve systems of food safety & QM, based on scientific principles, that lead to reduced foodborne illness & support fair & transparent trade thereby contributing to economic development, improved livelihoods & food security

# Food Safety Approaches

---



❑ **Food chain approach** – hazards may arise at different stages of the food supply

❑ **Preventative risk-based approach** is followed rather than a reactive one based on sampling & testing (GAP, GMP, HACCP)

❑ **Sound national food control & regulatory** systems essential – standards & implementation

❑ **Roles and responsibilities** for food safety - all actors in the food chain namely- farmer or producer, processor, handlers, government, consumer

# FAO's Regional Food safety & Quality Programme

- Around **15 - 20 projects/ programmes** on food safety & quality (national/ regional) & tools & GL developed
- Broadly cover:
  - **Food safety policies, legislation, governance** (including coordination mechanisms)
  - **SPS/standards & norms/ Codex** related activities
  - **Enforcement/surveillance**-inspection, testing etc.
  - Food safety in various agro food supply chains (including street foods/ retail); linkage to **primary production**
  - Food safety **emergency** management/ recall systems
  - **Certifications and accreditation**
  - **Trainings/ awareness/ education**

# Some Current Projects in the Region

---

## Regional projects:

- **ASEAN** - Support to Certification Bodies & Implementation of International **Food Safety Standards** in ASEAN Countries” (*WS, training course, case studies, guidance documents*)
- **Greater Mekong Subregion** - Promotion of rural development through development of **Geographical indications** at regional level in Asia
- **SAARC - Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) Standards & Certification Scheme**

# Some Recent & Ongoing Projects in Asia ...2

- **Country Projects:**

- Improving food safety in **Bangladesh**
- Enhancing SPS Capacity of Ginger Exports through PPP and Policy assistance for **bio-secure** agro-food supply chain(**Nepal**)
- Developing food law (**Laos**)
- Strengthening of Food Safety and Standards (**Bhutan**)
- Strengthening of National Codex Capacity (**Mongolia**)
- CB to improve market access for fish & fishery products (**Myn**)
- Strengthening SPS capacity for trade – improving safety & Q of fresh vegetables through value chain approach (**Vietnam**)
- Institutional Strengthening on Food Safety & QC in Supply Chain Management of Livestock Products & **INFOSAN (Thailand)**
- Strengthening **the food safety information, education, communication capacity** to implement Food Safety Law and National Strategy (**Vietnam**)

# Food Safety Challenges in Asia

- **Low importance** to food safety by government/other stakeholders - FS incidents often unreported so impact of FS not well recognized - measurement of FS status poor
- Food safety is a **cross cutting area** across sectors –multiple agencies & coordination important
- Legislation/National food control system **outdated**
- **Lack of data** – foodborne diseases surveillance, food monitoring (risk-based standards and monitoring)
- **Linking b/w PP & processing** – Traceability– food chain
- Lack of clear role of **regulatory/ voluntary/ private standards**
- Lack of suitable **infrastructure & resources** (financial/ personnel)
- **Regional trade** important – but levels of food safety differs
- Lack of clarity in application of a **preventative risk-based approach** across entire food chain
- **Awareness at different levels** and roles of stakeholders



# Some Important Focus Areas...1/3

---

- ❑ **Food Safety Policy** dialogue/ development
- ❑ Strengthening **coordinated actions/ mechanisms** through multidisciplinary approaches and partnerships
- ❑ Sound **evidence base** through the generation and access to data and information, indicators
- ❑ **Standards** and agreements (SPS/TBT)
  - Harmonization
  - Strengthening participation in international standards setting
  - Strengthening role of **voluntary/ private standards** for regulatory purposes – certifications/ accreditations
  - Trade facilitation support – equivalence/ recognitions

# Some Important Focus Areas...2/3

- ❑ **Risk based approaches** – risk analysis (RA, RM and RC)
- ❑ **Strengthening preventative approaches (GAP/GMP/HACCP)** : developing schemes & certification systems, strengthening SMEs, **food retail** (street foods/ organised retail/ catering)
- ❑ **Strengthening food control systems** – domestic, import, risk categorization
- ❑ **Food safety emergencies - recall & traceability** –support for application in National FS Control
- ❑ **Institutional capacity and infrastructure** (testing, storage, transportation)

# Some Important Focus Areas...3/3

- ❑ **Branding** – in agriculture e.g Geographical Indications
- ❑ **PPPs** for strengthening food safety
- ❑ Intra-regional trade : increased collaboration and communication for use of **regional expertise & knowledge** – information exchange, RA, lab facilities
- ❑ **Other challenging issues** – GMOs, nanotechnology, new detection/ test methods
- ❑ Food safety platforms/ databases – GM Platform, INFOSAN, safety for food retail
- ❑ Food safety intelligence and foresight

# FAO Support in Mongolia

---

## FAO Technical Cooperation Project on : **Strengthening Capacity of Mongolia to Implement Codex**

The main goal of the project is to strengthen the National Codex by capacity building in order to improve food safety at national level, improve national standards in line with international trade requirements and increase opportunity of domestically produced food product to access to international markets.

### Outputs:

- National Policy & Strategy for Codex implementation developed
- Institutional capacity for Codex improved
- Technical capacity of NCC members improved
- Importance of Codex standards for stakeholders improved

# Achievements

---

- Situational analysis of Codex activities in Mongolia is conducted;
- NCC and Secretariat and its working procedures have been established;
- NCC's website is developed;
- National Policy & Strategy for Codex implementation Working group established;
- National Policy & Strategy for Codex implementation draft has been prepared;
- Forty seven priority Codex Standards for adoption at national level have been identified and translated into Mongolian language
- Several ToTs on Codex functions and activities have been organized

# What food safety system for Mongolia?

---

FAO mission in 2013: The Ministry of Industry and Agriculture requested FAO assistance in reviewing the current situation of the food safety system in the country and provide advice on the way forward with regard to the establishment of an FDA-like structure, and steps required to achieve it.

# Food Safety Management in Mongolia - Current arrangement

---

- Established under Food Safety Law 2013
- Major players:
  - MoIA
  - MoH
  - GASI
  - MAS&M
  - Animal production and health
  - Plant protection and quarantine
  - Public Health
  - Local Administration

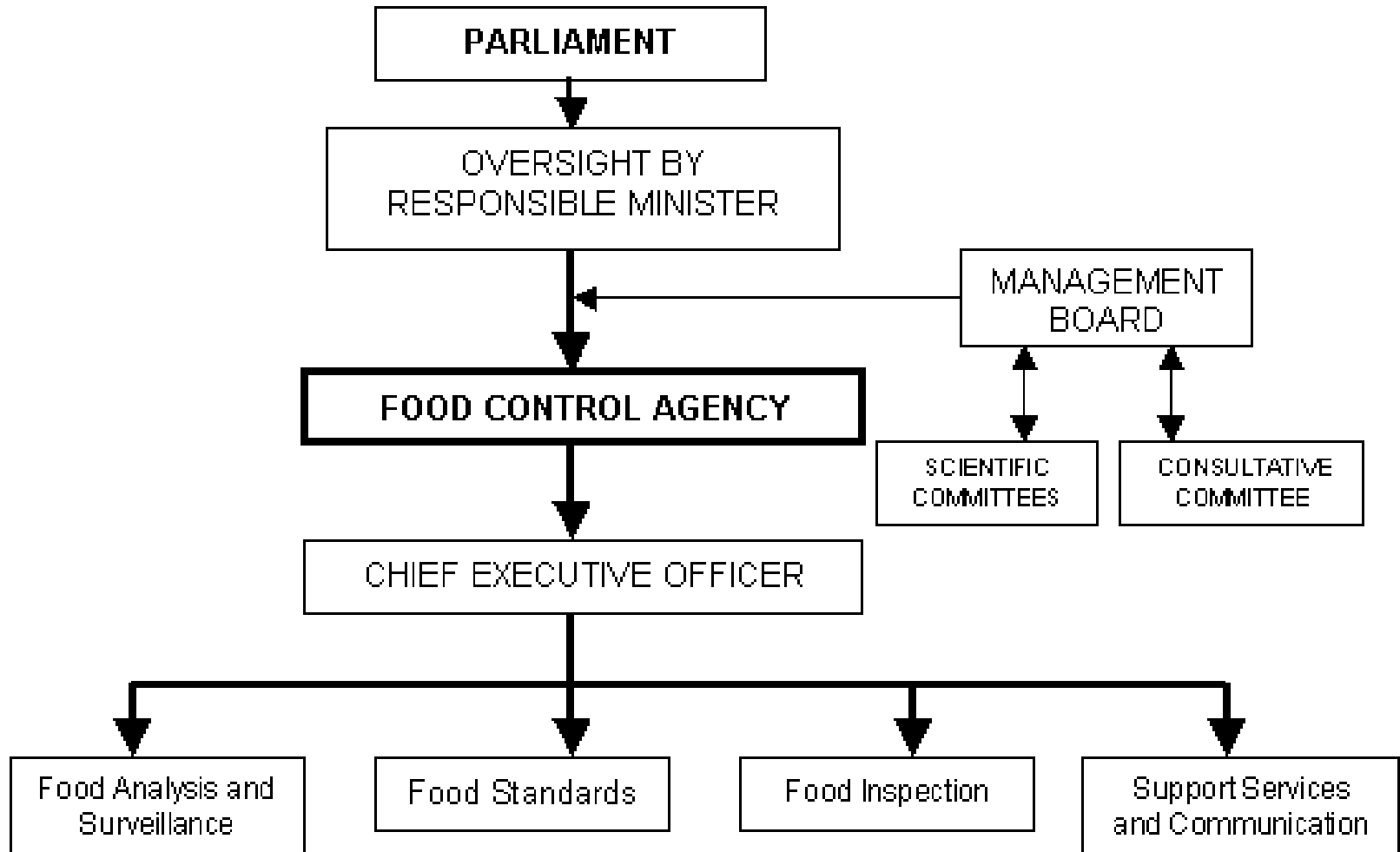
---

## Option 1:

- Adoption of the Integrated system → **National Food Safety Authority/Agency (NFSA)** responsible for Levels 1 and 2 activities, namely:
  - Formulation of policy, risk assessment and management, and development of food legislation
  - Coordination of food control activity, monitoring, and auditing.
- Redefining of the role of each one of the Ministries/ institutions involved in food control (MoIA, MoH, GASI, MASM, etc...) to ensure consistency and complementarity



# Option 1: Food Control Agency (attached to one single Ministry)

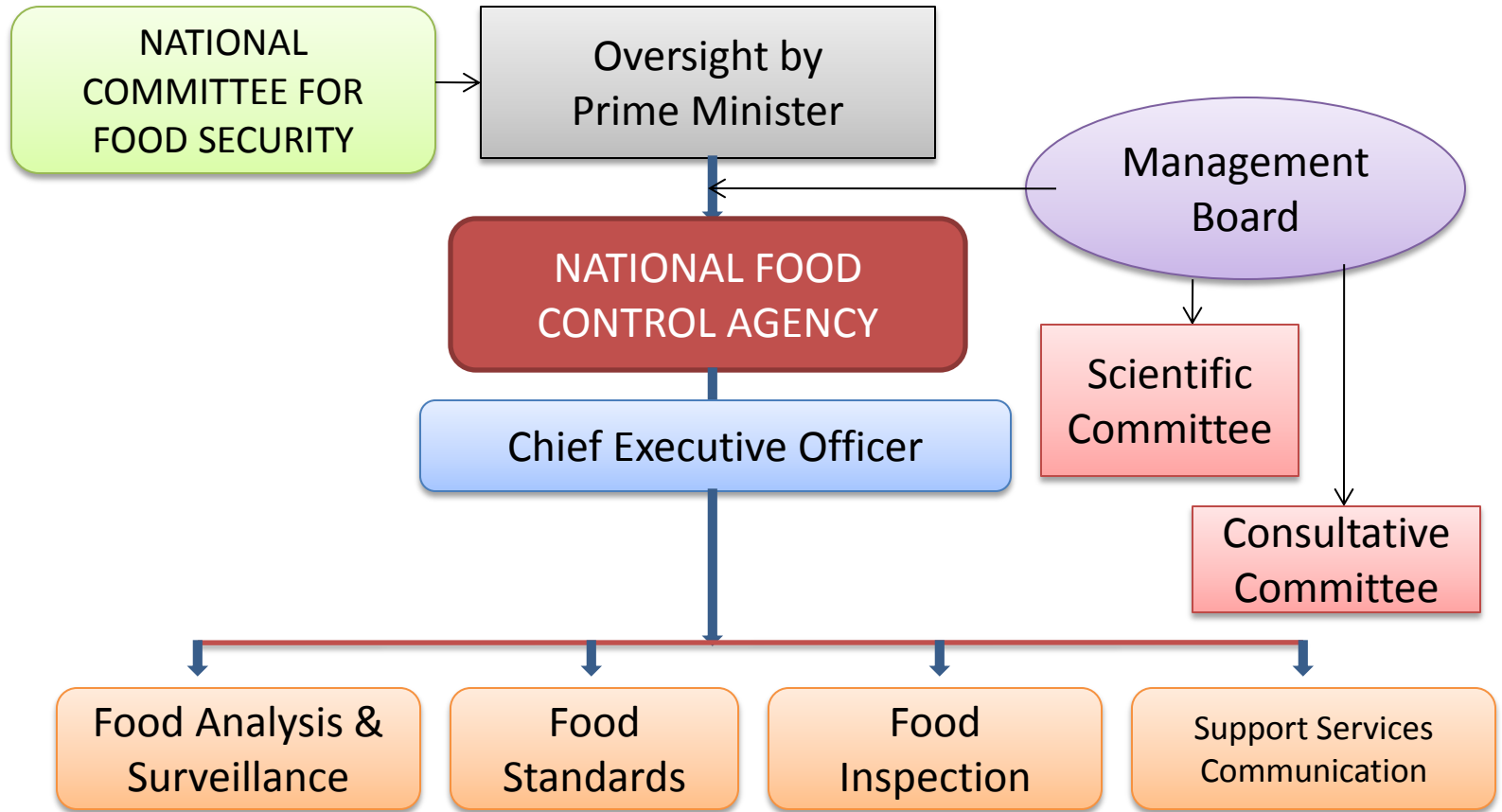


## **Option2: National Food Control Agency (attached to the Prime Minister's Office)**

---

- Structure: Similar to that in Option 1 except that the Prime Minister, Chair of the National Food Security Committee, provides oversight to the National Food Control Agency.
- Advantages: Provides more visibility to the agency, and ensures better coordination among various actors.

# Option2



## **Option 3: Food and Drug Administration of Mongolia**

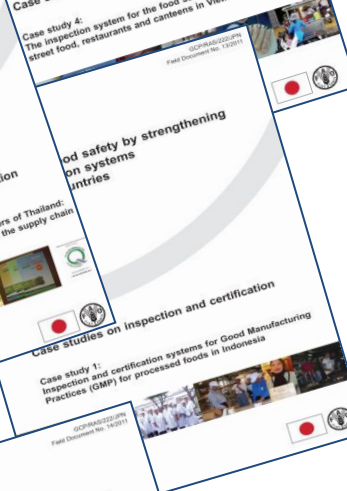
---

- Covers both food and drug control
- Implements the modern approaches to food safety with emphasis on prevention of food contamination/adulteration throughout the food chain (from farm to fork);
- Emphasis on making all stakeholders responsible for the safety of the food through the application of good practices at all stages of the food chain;
- Gradual introduction of third party certification by accredited bodies at every stage of the food chain: from primary production to retail market.

# Information Exchange Mechanisms

- FAO Food Safety and quality home page  
<http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/home-page/en/>
- Web page on Vet & Public Health, Feed & Food Safety;  
[www.fao.org/ag/AGInfo/programmes/en/A6.html](http://www.fao.org/ag/AGInfo/programmes/en/A6.html)
- Emergency prevention & early warning in area of food safety ([EMPRES Food Safety](mailto:EMPRES-FS@fao.org)): [EMPRES-FS@fao.org](mailto:EMPRES-FS@fao.org)
- INFOSAN – International food safety authorities network – for dissemination of important global food safety information – INFOSAN Community Network  
<https://extranet.who.int/infosan/>
- \*FAO Regional office for Asia and the Pacific  
<http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/rap/home/en/>
- \*Capacity Building and implementation of international food safety standards in ASEAN countries  
<http://foodsafetyasiapacific.net/>

# Some regional publications on food safety



Workshop reports

Guidance documents

Case studies

# THANK YOU

---

