

Food Safety Policy Framework for Kenya

Lessons and Best Practices from the Vietnam Experience

KEY LESSONS FROM VIETNAM

- Vietnam & Kenya are middle income developing nations with rapidly urbanizing populations, fast growing middle-income classes with different food culinary preferences from those of older generations & agriculture sectors dominated by smallholder farmers.
- Vietnam National Government decided to reform & transform its food safety control system to reduce the burden of food-borne illnesses. This was informed by inadequate food safety control in the domestic market, trade losses in export markets & need to reduce the health budget.
- Kenya & Vietnam have comparable Food Safety Policy Frameworks. Vietnam has however implemented its framework more stringently & effectively.

THE VIETNAM APPROACH

Vietnam changed how food safety was being approached by: -



LEADERSHIP

Vietnam government prioritized food safety as an important contributor to achieving food security & health. Food safety was placed in the office of the Deputy Prime Minister for better resourcing & supervision.

NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONTROL SYSTEM

The country conducted an elaborate exercise to successfully establish a national framework for food safety management.



Policy & law: A National Food Safety Policy was developed delineating roles of various actors & formed an overarching agency, the Vietnam Food Authority (VFA) to coordinate food safety activities.

Institutions: The policy also created new institutions that allowed smooth implementation of the policy.

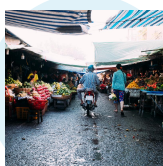
Lab & inspection services: Food production, supply & marketing chains were reorganized & regulated using standard operating procedures, uniform for management & third-party certifications.

Coordination: The Vietnam food authority & an inter-sector steering committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister were formed.

Development of food safety strategy.

Development of a surveillance system.

Establishment of food safety capacity building programs.



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