

TURNING EVALUATION

INTO STRENGTH: EGYPT'S

JOURNEY WITH FAO/WHO

FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

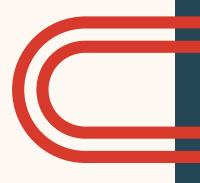
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FAO/WHO ASSESSMENT TOOL - BASIC FEATURES

- Based on Codex Principles and guidelines
- Looks at the overall food control system
- Measures performance of the system





SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE FCS ASSESSMENT IN EGYPT

To provide:

- An analysis of the performance of the food control system (FCS)
 measured against Codex and international best practice using the
 FAO FCS Assessment Tool
- Identification of key priorities for improvement of the FCS
- A baseline to direct and measure progress of improvements
- A strategic action plan to guide government / competent authorities (CAs) resource/investment needs and assistance from partners



1

AGREEMENT BY GOVERNMENT

TRAINING FOCAL POINTS

3

NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION

EXTERNAL DATA

REVIEW, INTEGRATION

5

CONCLUSION & WAY FORWARD

ASSESSMENT" WAY

FOUNDATIONS FOR FAO/WHO TOOL: 4 DIMENSIONS

A. Input and Resources

C. Interactions with Stakeholders

B. Control Functions

D.
Science/Knowledge
Base & Continuous
Improvement





What input and resources are available and are they adequate?

How well do food controls function?

Dimension A: Inputs and resources

Dimension B: Control functions

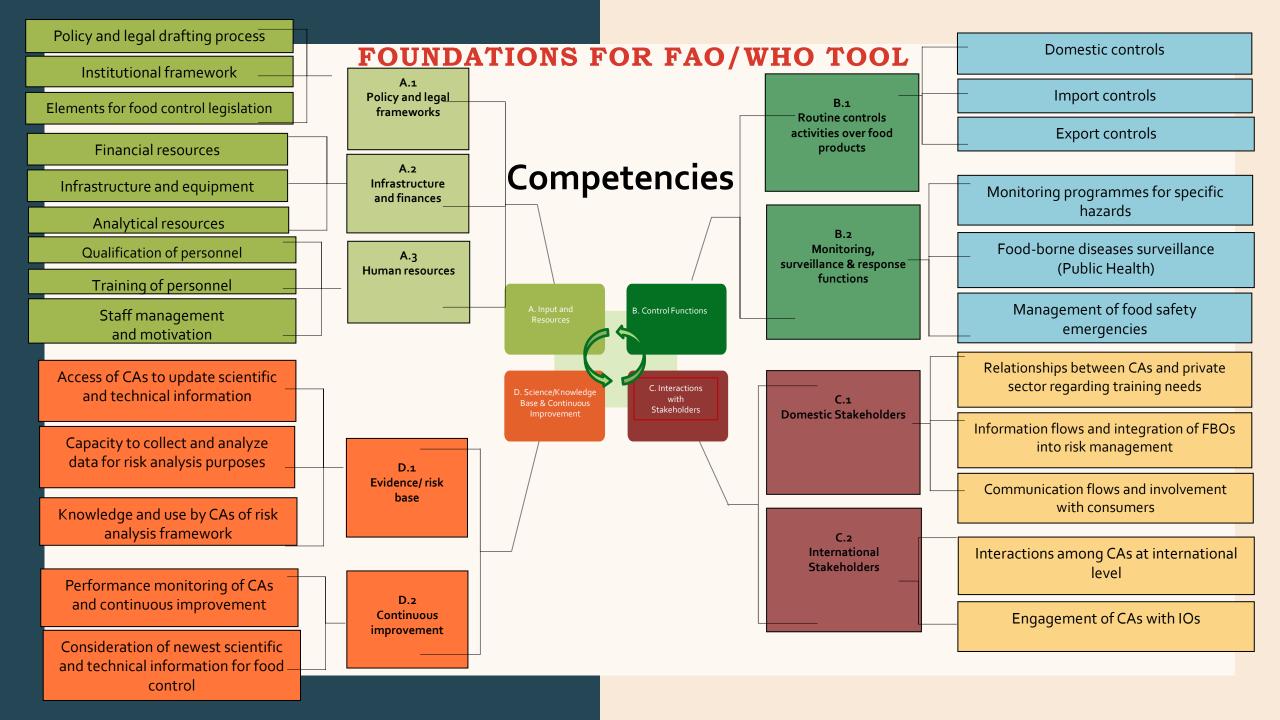
25 competencies criteria 25 assessment criteria 162 assessment criteria

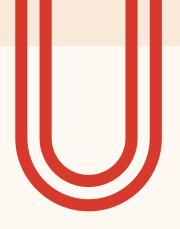
Is the system risk-based and does it facilitate continuous improvement?

Dimension D: Science and evidence base/ continuous improvement

Dimension C: Interaction with stakeholders

> How well does the system interact with stakeholders?





DEFINITIONS

FOOD CONTROL

A regulatory activities of compliance and enforcement by national or local authorities (competent authorities - CAs) to provide consumer protection and ensure that all food during production, handling, storage, processing and distribution are safe, wholesome and fit for human consumption; conform to food safety and quality requirements; and are honestly and accurately labelled as prescribed by the law.

NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

The integration of regulatory activities across all responsible CAs to achieve the key objectives of food control (including preventive, educational and non-regulatory) strategies that protect the whole food chain

STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS



- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
- General Organization of Veterinary Services (GOVs)
- Animal Health Research Institute (AHRI)
- Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (CAPQ)
- The Central Laboratory for analysis of pesticide residues and heavy metals in food (QCAP)
- Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)
- Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality (EOS)
- General Organization for Control on Exports and Imports (GOEIC)
- Foreign Trade Agreements Sector (TAS)

Ministry of Health (MoH)

- **40 focal points**
- Central Public Health Laboratories
- Preventive Sector (Food Control Department)
- Ministry of Tourism (Mot)
- Ministry Of Environment (MoE)
- Ministry of Finance
- Egyptian Customs Authority (ECA)
- National Food Safety Authority (NFSA)
- Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade
- Consumer Protection Agency (CPA)
- Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Authority
- Egyptian Chamber of Food Industries (CFI)
- Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce



16 strategic stakeholders

INCEPTION & TRAINING WORKSHOP (FEBRUARY 2024)

- Training workshop (February 25 to 29, 2024) details of the assessment approach and training focal points in CAs
- Gain commitment of decision makers anchored on a good knowledge of the process and outputs
- 40 Focal points from 16 relevant CAs, were trained on the tool content and type of data and evidences to be collected between February and April 2024.



DATA COLLECTION BY FOCAL POINTS

				room manny	
A.1.1.2.	Food control strategic	GOVS	GOVS -Setting the national veterinary services plan.	The veterinary law is a part of the agricultural law	Does GO
	plans are prepared by		Setting the general plan for protecting animal health from epidemic and infectious diseases	(No. 53/1966).	operation
	Competent Authorities		- prepared Food control strategic plans in exporting and importing for food products from animal origin accor	GOVS is established after the issuing of the stial decree (No. 187/1984). Oreos Of Chairman of the Board of Street Chairman of the Board of Street Chairman of the Board of Street Chairman of the Board of Indiana o	nationa
	(CAs) and translate into		requirements Participation in the feasibility and economic studies committees at the ministry of Agricultu	rtial decree (No. 187/1984).	the plan
	action the overarching		animal production and animal products processing plants.	Chairman of the Board of	and indi
	objectives set out in the		- Setting the national plans and its executive machinery for reproductive care and artificial insemination.	.605	address
	food safety and quality			17 of 1986	at what
	policy.			i depri entric	
				Many es lat	te
				all that related for	-
				food of animal origin.	
		NFSA	NFSA committed to the application of best food regulatory practices, is currently developing a strategic plan for 2023-2026,	REGULATION NO 269 (2022) A-1.1	Very go
			which will guide food regulatory control, strengthen planning and effective implementation of food control programs. The	7	publishe
			strategic plan will be further supported by an operational plan that will be updated periodically and based on several themes	BOD NO (4) 2020- A-1.1.2 – NFSA	CAs?
			and objectives as follows: Strategic Goal 1: Promote the Culture of Compliance Operators. To this end, NFSA has developed SMEs on food safety regulatory measures to promote good practices consistent Operators tailored good practices Strategic St		Yes, of o
			Strategic Goal 1: Promote the Culture of Compliance Practices by Egyptian Food Producers and	BOD NO (5) 2023	withoth
			Operators. To this end, NFSA has developed SMEs on food safety regulatory measures to	A-1.1.2 – NFSA	Custom
			promote good practices consistent achieve this goal,		the accr
	مواسر		NFSA develops tailored and the second of the	BOD NO (6) 2020- A-1.1.2 – NFSA	addition
			safety practices	BOD NO (7) 2020- A-1.1.2 – NFSA	stakeho
	-(• ••		Strates: and Operationalize Relevant Supporting Regulatory Frameworks. In		Federat
			ti C S or the Decision No. (4) of 2020 and issued The Decision of NFSA Board of		Federat
	-		Dir authorized for use in food. NFSA also activated the risk-based approach to control food		plan 20
			impc	ΓΩ Γ).	NFSA w
			Decision 2022 was issued by the Chairman of the Board of Directors on the reduction of the withdrawal of samples		and aut
			of food production supplies from food production establishments enlisted on the White List of the establishments engaged in		been in
			production or service activity within the limits of its imports.		strategi
			NFSA has also amended its legislation to include the penalties' system and support its promulgation and adoption by the		
			Egyptian Parliament in order to introduce the relevant amendments with the incorporation of provisions related to penalties		
			associated with food safety infractions that are designed as a deterrent to such infractions, and in a manner that is		
			commensurate with the possible impacts on public health and risks to the reputation of the Egyptian food and agrifood		

INTERNATIONAL VALIDATION MISSION (23 JUNE-11JULY 2024)

 International team met all CAs and other stakeholders for discussion/ validation of evidence provided

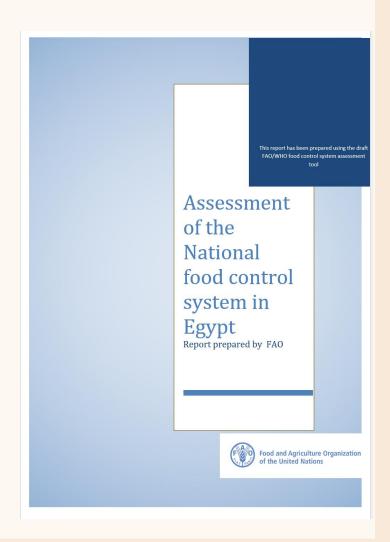
 National and county governments authorities, several food production facilities, FBOs, and consumer stakeholders

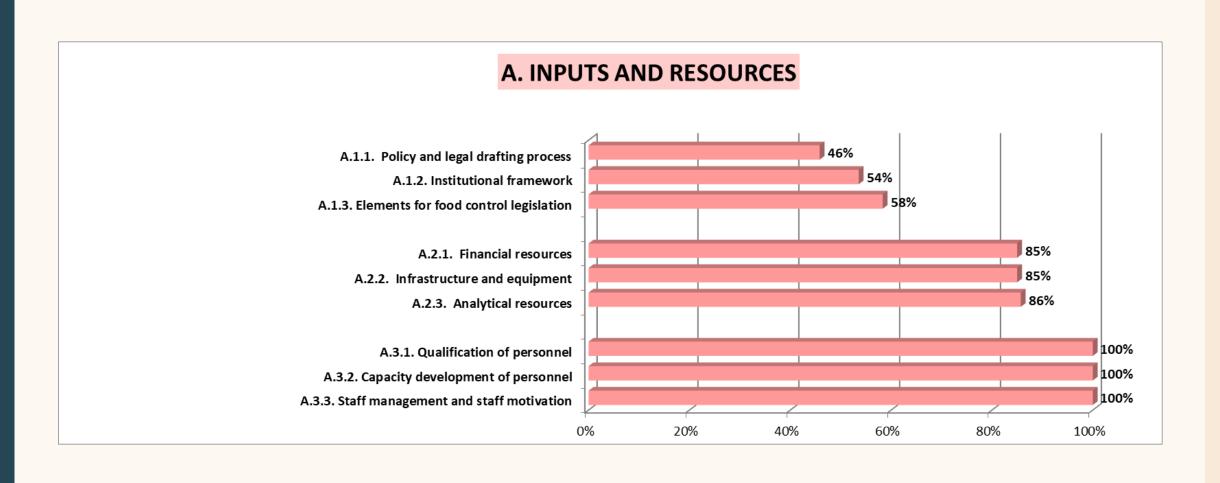


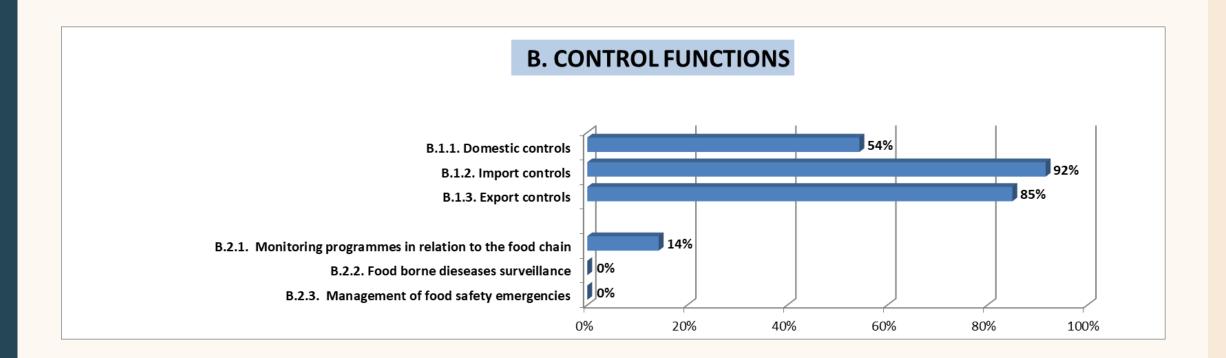
ASSESSMENT REPORT (AUGUST 2024)

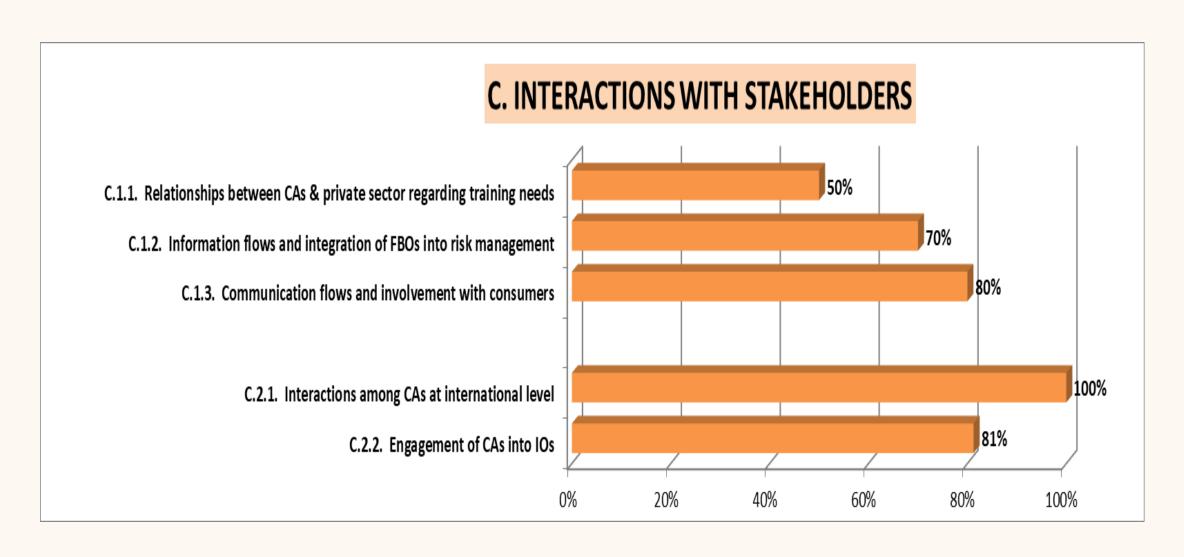


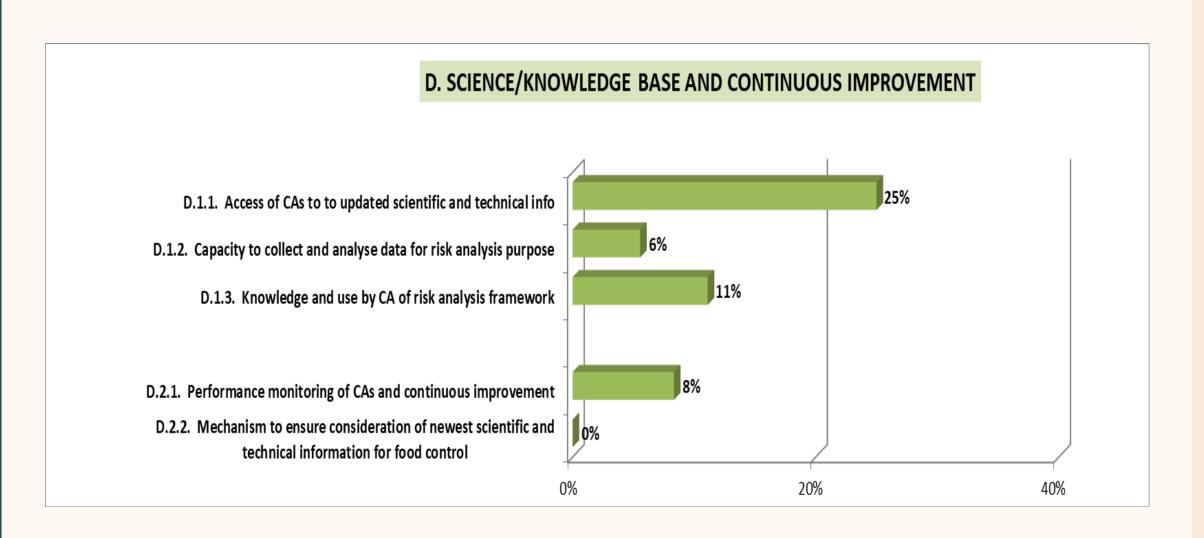
- Following the validation mission the data was integrated and assessed using Tool methodology
- Assessment report was shared in mid-August 2024 with all CAs for their review
- 26 Recommendations were identified











RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIMENSION A



Recommendation A.1.1.1:

One key step for strengthening the food control system in Egypt is to develop a Food Safety and **Quality Policy**. This policy should be endorsed by the Government so that it is recognized and carries weight to ensure that the key principles, policy and strategic objectives/ plans are harmonized and agreed amongst the different Ministries, reflecting their current mandates and the provisions of the new Law nº1/2017. The policy should include a clear definition and listing of the steps for the transition of the mandates and the roles and responsibilities of all competent authorities engaged in the food control system.

Recommendation A.1.3.7:

CAs should promote a simplification of the several schemes for registration, authorization, approval, and licencing foreseen in the legislation, and implement formal provisions or mechanisms for sharing information regarding licenced establishments to enable CAs to exercise the regulatory oversight of food production chain through knowledge of the universe of FBOs.

26 recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIMENSION B



Recommendation B.1.1.4:

CAs with a mandate in food inspection should develop annual official unified control programme (Inspection programme), which include a risk categorization framework, as a start, for the different food businesses. During the inspection planning stage, priority should be given to principal and "high risk" FBO and available resources deployed on a logical basis to have the greatest impact in terms of consumer protection, including joined up interventions along the food production chain as an additional way of increasing effectiveness and efficiency.

For the consistent implementation of control activities, unified documented procedures for performing inspections should be developed, including checklists that mirror the legal requirements and incorporating the risk-based approach. The check lists may be made publicly available to help the FBOs to respond positively to the needs of the CAs.

Administrative procedures should be in place to centralize record of the findings and results of inspections to help the development of annual reports by each CA and a joint annual national report to support internal and system performance monitoring, trend analysis and improvement and to inform monitoring programmes in relation to food safety and FBOs training needs assessment.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIMENSION C



Recommendation C.1.1.1:

To better target training requirements of FBOs, FBO training and educational needs should be actively assessed for different categories of FBOs (e.g., by step of the food chain, value chain or sector, size, recurring food safety requirement non-compliance, or specific new regulations that apply). CAs can use FBO training needs assessments to tailor and implement FBO training in good practices, including requirements essential to comply with the new legal requirements

Recommendation C.2

CAs should make use of the considerable amount of analysis performed by the several accredited food Laboratories in the Country to summary and report monitoring and surveillance data to be communicated to the expert bodies that are providing scientific advice to Codex (JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR, JEMNU, ad hoc expert consultations) to improve the international and national value of the international risk assessments

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIMENSION D



Recommendation D.2.2.1.

CAs should work with and establish Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Egyptian and other universities for cooperation in training, joint or sponsored research, and technical assistance to benefit from their expertise. The CAs and academia should team up to tap opportunities for joint projects to enhance knowledge, research and training in food safety and agri-food systems to have access to reliable scientific information and rationales for decision-making.

STRATEGIC OUTPUT/RECOMMENDATION

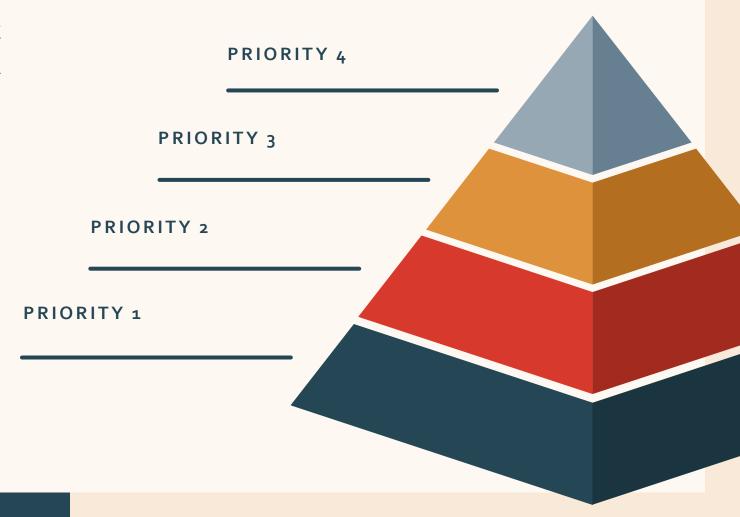


Strategic output/recommendation	Recommendations	Activi	ities
SO 1 - Update Food Safety regulatory framework to drive CAs' Courses of action, contributing to the national outcomes of the FCS.	Recommendation A.1.1.1: One key step for strengthening the food control system in Egypt is to develop a Food Safety and Quality Policy . This policy should be endorsed by the Government so that it is recognized and carries weight to ensure that the key principles, policy and strategic objectives/ plans are harmonized and agreed amongst the different Ministries, reflecting their current mandates and the provisions of the new Law nº1/2017. The policy should include a clear definition and listing of the steps for the transition of the mandates and the roles and responsibilities of all competent authorities engaged in the food control system.	1.1	Establish a formal steering committee under board of directors (composed of legal and technical experts from relevant CAs) to draft a proposal for a food safety policy framework for the food control system in Egypt, which includes clearly articulated food safety and quality national goals, objectives, priorities, and responsibilities covering the entire food chain to be implemented through strategic plans of CAs Analysis of different legislation to identify cutlines among CAs, and determine gaps, overlaps, and duplication of functions.
	Recommendation A.1.1.4: To ensure the Egyptian food control system and its legislation is clear and unambiguous to all stakeholders, a Guide to Food Control Legislation in Egypt should be compiled and published to facilitate understanding of food safety and quality requirements, including the relationship between the various pieces of the national food legislation along the food chain for the information of both domestic and international food businesses.	1.3	Propose measures to overcome the legal framework obstacles that hinder each CA anf FBOs from performing its responsibilities and to ensure the involvement of stakeholders in the development process of the food safety and quality policy.
	Recommendation A.1.1.5: The competent authorities responsible for the food control system in Egypt should take advantage of the moment, while the revision of the Law nº1/2017 is underway, to conduct a thorough review of the entire structure of the food control legislation. Particular attention should be given to explicitly repealing any legislation which is conflicting, repeated, or where gaps exist in food control requirements. This will enhance the precision, accuracy, and clarity of legislative drafting and facilitate understanding and implementation of all relevant laws addressing CA mandates and the rights and obligations of stakeholders, as well as the technical requirements applicable to the production, processing, and marketing of food. Legislative review will also ensure enforcement in cases of non-compliance to the new technical		Identify and articulate the expected outcomes.

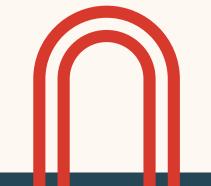
10 priorities

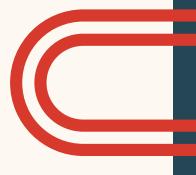
STRENGTHENING NFSA SYSTEMS: ACTIONS ON ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Following the assessment recommendations, NFSA implemented action and targeted measures to address identified points, to strengthen its food control system by reinforcing processes and compliance mechanisms, to ensure sustained improvement
- These steps aimed to close PRIORITY 1 performance gaps, reinforce accountability, and drive continuous progress toward achieving food security objectives



SUCCESS STRATEGY





NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY POLICY

IMPORTANCE OF THE FOOD SAFETY POLICY

- A national or regional policy, can be seen as a set of interrelated decisions and commitments adopted by a government/s under a united vision aimed at achieving a particular and stated quality competitiveness and public protection outcome.
- It starts with the examination of an underlying need and establishes if there is a rationale for changing existing policy or even establishing a new policy. If the proposal for policy change or new policy creation is subsequently agreed and sanctioned, a well defined, inclusive and consultative process follows, leading to eventual promulgation, implementation and sustainable benefits.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Coherence

Ownership

Inclusiveness

Sustainability

Optimization

NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY POLICY

- Participation in capacity building programs
- Dimensions addressed by Food Safety Policy
- Support and funding for Food Safety Policy
- Government/political endorsement for Food Safety Policy
- Stakeholder involvement of Food Safety Policy
- Consideration of diversity in Food Safety Policy
- implementation plan for Food Safety Policy
- Monitoring and evaluation for Food Safety Policy
- Reviewing and updating for Food Safety Policy

REGISTRATIONS

OBJECTIVE

- Shifting from paper and postal registration procedures, which lead to the dispersion of the registration and data process between different departments, to a unified electronic system to ensure that data is largely unified across different departments in one place at the Authority level.
- Preventing duplicate registration if an establishment is registered with an administration not concerned with the error
- Facilitating the registration process and preventing congestion, as was the case in the case of paper registration, so registration became at any time and from anywhere.
- Prevent loss of facility data over time, as was the case with email, due to storage capacity or by mistake
- The employee's ability to track the status of the facility, whether new registration, waiting for files from the facility, waiting for payment, or completed registration

PROCEDURES

- Collecting registration forms from different departments and converting them into a unified form, with some minor differences in registration data that may differ from one department to another
- Converting this model into a complete electronic system and testing its validity with various departments
- Regular maintenance of the application to ensure its continuity as required



Special foods dept.



Slaughterhouse control dept.



Factories control dept.



Fish control dept.



Standard form



Unified registration portal

12 departments are on the current system



KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN LOCAL MARKET OVERSIGHT

August 2024 – December 8, 2025

- Data received from the Ministry of Health Department and other Ministries and entities to initiate oversight
 - Collaboration with international expert to design a regulatory framework
- Food establishments classified into 6 risk categories, with inspection frequency based on risk level
- Simplified inspection checklist reduced to 12 core items to encourage gradual compliance
- m Pilot phase launched in Port Said Governorate, then expanded to other governorates
- Workshops held with Chambers of Commerce in most governorates to explain jurisdiction transfer to the National Food Safety Authority

IMPLEMENTATION

- Training programs for new inspectors on inspection & control techniques
- Establishing branch locations across the governorates to ensure wide coverage and enable rapid response during emergencies. Efforts are currently underway to expand the number of headquarters in several governorates.
- Online meetings with branch managers/inspectors to standardize facility evaluation & coding.
- Governorates divided into monitored regions for better oversight
- Introduction of color-coded stickers to mark facility cooperation levels
- Weekly follow-up meetings with branch managers to address challenges
- Inspections conducted in central kitchens, schools, university cities, and food facilities

54,047 facilities inspected

Outcomes and Results

23,389 high-risk facilities identified

12 tons + 262 kg of unsafe food destroyed

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGS

- New Cairo Technological University
- Alexandria University
- Agricultural Research Center

THANK YOU