

FAEA-Kenya Food Safety Legislation Drafting and Review of Food Safety Policy

Progress report for November 2020

In the month of November, we focused on initiating the first task-force meeting on reviewing the draft food safety policy and bill, sensitizing key stakeholders on the progress and road map, and building consensus between agriculture and health ministries.

1. Meetings

- a. Virtual meeting with Ryan Scott, on 9 November 2020 to brief him on the assignment of drafting the Kenya food safety law. Progress and emerging issues were also discussed. Aspects that were noted as necessary for success included the need for commitment and stewardship from PS Boga, and the buy-in of CS for Agriculture. Ryan committed to get the ambassador appropriately briefed to get his assistance when need arises.
- b. Meeting with Evelyne Kamau, staff of Elanco to discuss multiple country labeling for Elanco products: the EAC secretariat was contacted to provide guidance on whether Elanco could submit their products in the pilot phase for consideration with regards to use of single label use for similar products within the EAC. The EAC confirmed that harmonized labeling was yet to be considered, but encouraged Elanco to submit their products if interest in the pilot phase. We agreed to also raise the matter with PS Boga.
- c. Planning meetings with PS Boga and secretariat: several virtual meetings were held to seek guidance and consensus on aspects for consideration in preparation for the taskforce meeting. Request to have technical experts was agreed upon, to add value to the process.
- d. Meeting with joint secretary of the task force from Health, Brenda Obura: The health joint secretary was updated on the role of FAEA and assured of the non-partisan approach to achieving desired outcomes. The upcoming taskforce meeting was discussed, in line with the expectations from the health team, including a suggestion to undertake a joint facilitative process. Possible areas that were likely to bring conflict and suspicion were discussed, with an aim of stemming conflict during the on-going process.
- e. Meeting with parliamentary Health Chair, Hon. Sabina Chege. The Chair was briefed on progress since the visit to the U.S. that was organized by the Food and Agriculture Export Alliance (FAEA). The Chair recommended that the PS Boga, urgently convenes a meeting to update chairs for health and agriculture in both parliament and senate, alongside the PSs.
- f. Meeting with Andrew Edewa of TradeMark East Africa: Andrew agreed to be a resource person for the planned retreat.

2. Deliverables

- a. I submitted revised budgets to FAEA for implementation of the task-force retreat
- b. I completed preparations for the retreat in Naivasha, including physical visits to the various hotels to check on facilities, and to discuss meetings' logistics.
- c. We completed the outline on the reforming/modernization of Kenya's food control system. We are currently drafting the paper.
- d. I identified potential speakers at the retreat, and submitted the names to the FAEA ED, for review and advice.

3. Challenges

- a. There is a budget deficit to complete the task of reviewing the food safety policy and drafting of bill, within the anticipated timelines.
- b. A divergence in the U.S. and Kenyan governments systems for per diem during meetings caused delays in finalizing plans for the meeting
- c. The private member sponsored KFDA bill is already at the second reading in Kenya's National Assembly, both PS Boga and the Chair of health committee consider its enactment a possible outcome, if the executive branch cannot deliver an alternative bill.

4. Way forward

- a. Complete preparations and oversee the roll out of the retreat
- b. Engage parliamentary and senate chairs to sensitize them on the on-going process
- c. Engage third party members to supplement the existing funds to complete current assignment.
- d. Continue regular engagements with the PS Boga's office to ensure smooth roll out of planned activities and timely resolution of any emerging challenges.
- e. Continue to look out for potential speakers to add value in the deliberations of the task force.
- f. Complete the draft paper on reforming Kenya's food control system

5. Other significant happenings:

- a. The Kenya-UK economic partnership agreement (EPA) was signed on 8th December 2020.