

FAEA Progress report for September 2020

The month marked the revival of the process of reviewing the Kenya food safety policy and drafting of the food safety bill. The engagements in the course of the month were witnessed by significant support and goodwill from GOK through the Agriculture PS's office. The following are key activities undertaken during the month.

1. Meetings within the month
 - a. Virtual call with Kennedy Gitonga, USDA-FAS-17 Sep 2020
 - i. Provided a background of FAS engagement with GOK in regards to progress made in developing food safety laws and regulations.
 - ii. Explained that the FAS's primary contact in GOK was the PS for Crops Development and Agricultural Research.
 - iii. Process to consider views of private sector and civil society in external consultations
 - iv. Process to take into consideration past initiatives in parliament and bring on board senate and national assembly committees on agriculture and health; and reflect the current national thinking on food safety.
 - b. Inception meeting with the PS, Crops Development and Agricultural Research-23 Sep 2020.
 - i. Members present included PS, the current Chairman of the TWG (Dr Wanga) and Lucy Njenga, Policy, Crops Directorate
 - ii. Introduction of the FAEA representative in Kenya and her role made.
 - iii. Agreed the PS Agriculture to notify PS for Livestock and Health of and reactivate process and re-appointment of team, to kick start TWG meetings.
 - iv. The Chair provided a brief of the remaining process. A roadmap and budget to be provided through him to guide further discussions-by 25 September 2020.
 - v. Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to share a reference document on the consultative process for development of Policy, Bill, and regulation.
 - c. Follow up meeting (Physical) with PS and Lucy Njenga-2 October 2020
 - i. Request made for the on-boarding of the Kenya Law Reform commission drafters from the onset. PS approved.
 - ii. PS requested a further review of budget and activities with his team in order for him to give approval
 - iii. Agriculture ministry proposed to include their legal person in the TWG.
 - iv. Ministry to share with FAEA to share food safety policy and bill drafts. While this was considered ok, it must be noted that these have not been discussed by the TWG and therefore may not be shared further at this point.

- d. Kennedy Gitonga-virtual meeting-2 October 2020
 - i. Concurred with the inclusion of a ministry of trade member in the TWG.
 - ii. Supported the addition of the legal drafters as part of the TWG.
 - iii. Suggested the need to develop a communication strategy to guide communication efforts around the program. E.g. Social media engagements, websites, etc. Charity to follow up with Kent on how best to address this.
 - iv. Need to indicate budget components that GOK will be supporting -Charity to follow up with the ministry to include this in the road map.
 - v. Consideration to be made in the process on views from special interest groups such as KEPSA, KAM, KENAP, the public participation process
 - vi. Need to clearly understand the anchoring of the public consultation process.
 - vii. Clarification to be sought on point of engagement of clerks to the committees of health and agriculture in parliament (consider early sensitization to ease follow up later).

2. Deliverables

- a. Based on the consultations held over the month, a draft road map and budget was provided by the chair for the TWG and discussed further. The attached roadmap is the outcome of the consultation process.
- b. Also attached are documents that will assist in understanding the remaining processes better.
 - i. Matrix on policy, bill and regulations development by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
 - ii. Draft Food Safety Policy (not discussed by TWG)
 - iii. Draft Food Safety Bill- not discussed by TWG; no input yet from drafters.

3. Challenges

- a. Some of the team members required to make input on the roadmap were not available in good time due to their involvement in other engagements.

4. Follow up from engagements

- a. Continue engagements with PS agriculture and chair of TWG
- b. Make contact with drafters in the coming week
- c. Embark on drafting a communication strategy for the remaining process.
- d. Finalize roadmap by incorporating pending issues and simultaneously embark on activities that can be under implementation.

5. Other happenings:

- a. Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) has a new CEO, Dr Esther Kimani, formerly of Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS).