

MAY 2024



DIRECTOR'S DESK

In May, we were excited to join the global community in preparation for celebrating UN World Food Safety Day on June 7th. This year's theme, "Prepare for the Unexpected," resonates deeply with our mission at the Food and Agriculture Export Alliance (FAEA). Ensuring food safety is at the core of what we do, and this day provides a vital opportunity to raise awareness, advocate for stronger food safety measures, and highlight the importance of maintaining high standards across the food supply chain. Join us as we reflect on our collective progress and renew our commitment to securing safe, nutritious and sustainable food for all. Next month we will highlight FAEA's workshop in Nigeria, which was held the week of the UN World Food Safety Day.

FAEA MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

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World Food Safety Day: Emphasizing Global Preparedness

World Food Safety Day, celebrated this year on June 7, 2024, is a vital occasion to draw global attention to the critical importance of food safety. This year's theme underscores the need for preparedness in managing food safety incidents, regardless of their severity. These incidents, which may arise from accidents, inadequate controls, food fraud, or natural events, pose potential or confirmed health risks associated with food consumption. Ensuring food safety requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including policymakers, food safety authorities, farmers, food business operators, and consumers.

At the Food and Agriculture Export Alliance (FAEA), we recognize that food safety is a collective responsibility. Our mission is to proactively identify and comprehend the considerations of foreign nations and officials regarding the establishment, revision, and enforcement of food/feed safety and animal health/production laws and regulations. By strategically intervening before potential trade-restrictive barriers are enacted, we aim to ensure smoother market access for U.S. agricultural products.

In line with the theme of World Food Safety Day, FAEA is committed to fostering a collaborative approach to food safety, bringing together government regulators, policymakers, food and feed manufacturers, food retailers and consumers. Our efforts span various target markets, addressing unique challenges and promoting robust food safety practices. By aligning food and feed safety regulations in these target markets with international standards, FAEA can address the primary barriers that currently limit market access for U.S. products. Enhanced and transparent safety regulations and policies ensure that U.S. agricultural exports meet the requirements of these markets, fostering trust, and acceptance among consumers and regulatory bodies.

Food and feed safety regulations evolve differently around the world as countries respond to food safety crises and emerging risks. These regulations are shaped by countries' experiences with food safety, the inherent risk levels in their food supply, their ability and willingness to allocate resources to control these risks, and differences in consumers' food safety perceptions and preferences. These regulatory differences can lead to international trade conflicts, ultimately affecting global food demand patterns and reducing trade.

Addressing and harmonizing these regulatory differences is essential. Enhanced safety regulations protect public health by ensuring all products meet high safety standards, thereby preventing foodborne illnesses and contamination. Well-established safety regulations improve the overall quality and competitiveness of U.S. products in these markets. When the target markets recognize U.S. agricultural goods for their safety and quality, it becomes easier to negotiate market access and reduce trade barriers.

Aligning the target markets' regulations with international standards can stimulate economic growth in those countries by providing them with access to high-quality, safe, and affordable food and feed products. This, in turn, can lead to increased demand and consumption, further expanding export opportunities for U.S. producers. By investing in the improvement of food and feed safety regulations in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kenya, and Nigeria, we not only enhance the safety and quality of their food supplies but also create a win-win situation that benefits both the U.S. and these target markets economically.

On World Food Safety Day, we are reminded that food safety is a collective responsibility. Every stakeholder, from producers to consumers, must play their part to ensure that the food on our plates is safe. However, we must also acknowledge that exceptional situations can arise where, despite our best efforts, the unexpected intervenes and food safety is compromised. Preparedness for such incidents is crucial, and it is this preparedness that FAEA strives to instill in its target markets.

Through our proactive approach, we aim to build resilient food safety systems that can withstand and effectively manage unforeseen challenges. By working together, we can create a world where food safety is a guaranteed standard, not just an ideal.

As we celebrate World Food Safety Day, let us renew our commitment to food safety and continue to work collaboratively to ensure that every meal we consume is safe and nourishing.

Register Now! Member Webinar on FAEA Programs

Join us for an informative webinar designed for FAEA members interested in learning about the latest programs being implemented and their current status. Please register at the link below and share with anyone within your organizations you feel might be interested.

DATE: June 17, 2024

TIME: 12:00-1:30 PM Eastern Time

REGISTER HERE

ED MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

In May, FAEA focused on several critical initiatives that will pave the way for significant advancements in our mission. The primary task for the month was finalizing our 2025 funding proposal. Simultaneously, we worked closely with our partners to prepare for the launch of technical working groups in Nigeria, scheduled for June. This collaborative effort involves the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the University of Missouri's Africa Food Safety Initiative. In conjunction with this launch, FAS will pilot its Good Regulatory Practices toolkit, aiming to enhance food safety standards and regulatory frameworks in Nigeria. The collaboration highlights our commitment to leveraging expertise and resources to drive impactful changes in food safety practices across the continent.

Additionally, we initiated programming for the upcoming in-person workshop in Cambodia, set for July. This workshop will convene both public and private sector stakeholders for a strategic planning session. The goal is to develop a comprehensive roadmap outlining the initiatives and responsibilities necessary to implement new food safety laws. This effort is crucial for the modernization of Cambodia's food safety system, and we are excited about the potential outcomes of this collaborative engagement.



FAEA BOARD MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, July 9th

TIME: 8:00-11:30 a.m. Eastern

LOCATION: AFIA Office

2101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 810
Arlington, VA 22201

-Gina Tumbarello