Food safety and good agricultural practices: A way forward for the Arab region

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Origins

- Globalization (food from everywhere)
- Food security: nutrition & health
- Consumer demand (quality/safety, labeling, etc.)
- Food fraud (China-milk, EU-horsemeat)
- Farmers and workers health
- Conserve and protect the natural resource base

=> Greater need for good practices & adaption as increasingly requested before export
518 cases of food borne diseases recorded in Dubai

Sajila Saseendran
Filed on January 31, 2014

There was not a single death due to food-poisoning in 2013 although there were sporadic instances of outbreaks which totaled about five last year.
Food safety issues rising

147 sick; Salmonella seemingly everywhere in North Jordan restaurant

(from ProMed)

The results of the examination of samples from cases of foodborne illness caused by salmonellosis were linked to consumption of chickpeas (garbanzo beans) in a local restaurant, according to an article [in Al Rai, a Jordan newspaper]. The Director of Health, Dr Haider Otoum Irbi, stated that the results of laboratory tests of samples processed by the laboratories of the Ministry of Health Foundation Food and Drug Administration revealed _Salmonella_ in the chickpeas had caused illness that affected 147 people in the town.

Dr Otoum revealed also that the water...
Food safety issues rising

The recent increase in the number of food poisoning cases in Jeddah is cause for alarm, said Sami Badawood, Jeddah Health Affairs director.
Food safety issues rising
Food safety issues rising

MERS cases linked to camel milk – WHO

By Joe Whitworth+ 2
20-Oct-2014
Last updated on 20-Oct-2014 at 14:00 GMT

Camels are suspected as the virus source but the routes of transmission remain unknown.

Related tags: MERS-CoV, Saudi Arabia, WHO, Camel milk, World Health Organization, Coronavirus, Zoonotic

Four cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) have been
Food safety issues rising

Lebanon health minister dishes up more food-safety violators
Food safety issues rising

Hundreds hospitalized in Egypt in suspected contamination
Caveats

- Often mild symptoms: usually not reported
- Concerns arise when/following:
  - Dramatic events such contamination (dairy, meats, processed), fraud (no or past expiry dates), animal diseases (brucellosis/salmonella)
  - Following education or awareness campaign
- No systematic follow through
- Largest culprits: leafy vegetables
What are GAPs?

- GAPs = Economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound practices resulting in safe and healthy food
- Entry point for safety & quality in the food chain (responsibility, partnerships, etc.)
- Advocates prevention rather than correction
- Includes: private (certification & standards), public (legislation & policies) and civil society (equity, environmental)
Where found in the food supply chain?

1st line of defense:
- GAPs
- GDPs

Production: GHPs
Transport: GHPs, GDPs
Handling/Storage: GHPs, GSPs
Processing: GMPs, ISO, HACCP
Retail: GHPs, GRPs, ISO, HACCP
Where found in the food supply chain?

Other (medical field):
- GDP: Good Distribution Practices
- GTP: Good Transportation Practices
- GSP: Good Storage Practices
- GLP: Good Laboratory Practices
- GCP: Good Clinical Practices
- GDP/GDocP: Good Documentation Practices
- GPvP: Good Pharmacovigilance Practices

Government: Enabling conditions & enforcement (if required)
- National Regulatory Agencies
- Ministries
- Other agencies

Private Sector & Voluntary Standards

Scheduled and unscheduled visits
Where found in the food supply chain?

1st line of defense: GAPs, GDPs, GHPs, GSPs, GMPs, ISO, HACCP, GDPs, GHPs, GRPs, ISO, HACCP

Other (medical field):
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Government: Enabling conditions & enforcement (if required)
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Private Sector & Voluntary Standards

Scheduled and unscheduled visits

HACCP, GDPs
## What schemes are out there?

- Standard (S)
- Code (C)
- Guidelines (G)
- Label (L)
- Certification Scheme (SC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schemes</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Food safety/quality</th>
<th>Animal health</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Social/ethical</th>
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GAPs: Elements in the framework?

- Site & soil management, fertilization
- Water, irrigation
- Crop: production, protection, seeds, etc.
- Animal: feed, production, health and welfare
- Harvest and on-farm processing & storage
- Energy & waste management, sanitation
- Human welfare, health and safety
- Environment: wildlife & landscape
What sector covered?
What kind of membership?

- Retailers
- Suppliers
- Range of other members with various roles in the food supply chain (middlemen, transporters, processors, etc.)
- Associate members: consumer groups, concerned NGOs, etc.
- Government representatives
What governance at regional?

Certifiers must be accredited by recognized bodies

Experts? Develop/update standards (F&V, livestock, aquaculture, etc.)

Members

Board

Secretariat

National GAPs Representatives, Regional Groups, Government Reps

National level (LebanonGAP, EgyptGAP, etc.)

Technical Committees

Certification Committee

Monitoring, Evaluation & Surveillance

National GAPs

Develop/update standards (F&V, livestock, aquaculture, etc.)
What governance at national?

Members

Board

Secretariat

- Training
- Outreach
- Monitoring, Evaluation & Surveillance
- Auditors/Certifiers

Equal number: Producers, Retailers & Others

Producers, Retailers, Consumer Groups, Government Reps
What processes?

- Guidelines/checklist & adjustment as necessary
- Registration & cost: who, what, where, amount
- Inspections: how often, scheduled/unscheduled
- Certification validity: 6, 12, 18 or 24 months
- Compliance: how many major musts, minor musts, recommended
- Timeline for Arab-GAP: progressively strengthened (over 5, 10 or 20 years)?
- Etc.
Role of ESCWA & Partners

- Provide information
- Build capacity
- Raise awareness
- Facilitation: public-private
- Policy coordination
- Advisory services
- Regional cooperation and coordination
- Assistance for fundraising
What has been achieved so far?

- AOAD’s ArabGAP framework (needs update)
- Training (some organized)
- No operational modality
- Consultant: drafting potential institutional frame & outline of an operational modality
- 1st EGM: Harness ideas & potential to evolve into an advisory board
Project

- Financed by Sida
- Larger project with 4 components:
  1. Impact: changing water availability on crops
  2. Coordination: water & food sectors
  3. Safe & quality food production
  4. Assessing food security
- Limited budget
## Implementation plan

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<th>Activities</th>
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THANK YOU