

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Friday, 4 June 2021 09:00 GMT +07:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	National Food Systems Dialogues: Food Safety and the Role of Private Sector
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	His Excellency Sok Silo, National Convenor and Secretary General, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development and Ms Claire Conan, Representative and Country Director, World Food Programme.
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20005/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/20005/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Member State
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Cambodia

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

# 1. PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

93

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

1 0-18      6 19-30      62 31-50      23 51-65      1 66-80      80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

67 Male      26 Female      Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

6	Agriculture/crops	8	Education	10	Health care
4	Fish and aquaculture	1	Communication	22	Nutrition
3	Livestock	5	Food processing	13	National or local government
2	Agro-forestry	1	Food retail, markets		Utilities
1	Environment and ecology	3	Food industry		Industrial
3	Trade and commerce		Financial Services	10	Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

10	Small/medium enterprise/artisan		Workers and trade union
	Large national business		Member of Parliament
2	Multi-national corporation	1	Local authority
4	Small-scale farmer	37	Government and national institution
	Medium-scale farmer		Regional economic community
	Large-scale farmer	9	United Nations
5	Local Non-Governmental Organization		International financial institution
11	International Non-Governmental Organization	1	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
1	Indigenous People	1	Consumer group
1	Science and academia	10	Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

### HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The dialogue was jointly convened by the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as part of a comprehensive National Food System Dialogue. A very diverse group of stakeholders joined the meeting, which also included small-scale farmers, consumer groups, and indigenous peoples who were invited to the dialogue and provided opportunities to express their opinions and thoughts that matter to them. Recognizing that food safety is a very complex, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder issue means that inclusiveness and respect for other opinions and concerns are important for dialogue.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Key players in food safety including the private sector, the regulatory bodies and government institutions, the development partners supporting the effort to improve food safety and other relevant stakeholders come together to discuss the issue. Representatives of all stakeholder groups were encouraged to participate and to express their views on strengthening food safety. This reflected the principles of inclusiveness and recognised the importance of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approaches.

### DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

In a complex, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder discussion, it is critically important to emphasize to the participants that there is no right or wrong answer or opinion and that everyone's voices and opinions count. This will ensure healthy discussion and richness of opinions and ideas. Be sure to give participants ample opportunities for questions and answers and make good use of the chat functions to provide opportunities for all participants to express their views.

# 3. METHOD

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The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

**DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?**

Yes

No

Welcoming remarks were provided to set the scene and to provide perspectives from the UN and Government. Two keynote presentations on the status of the food safety in Cambodia and the role of private sector were delivered to lay the ground for discussion. The presentations were followed by a panel discussion composing of panelists from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation, two private companies, and one Development Partner. Participants were invited to ask questions or to share their perspectives and the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Health as well as other key stakeholders provided their interventions and perspectives.

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

The dialogue brought together 93 participants from private sector, government, development partners, civil society, academia and research center, small-scale farmers, indigenous people who are involved either directly or indirectly in implementing or supporting the improvement of food system. The focus of the dialogue was to discuss the status of food safety in Cambodia and the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders, especially the private sector in improving food safety practices and ensuring that their foods are safe for consumption. The discussion covered the effort by relevant technical ministries in terms of regulatory frameworks, the importance of standards, the need for support to ensure effective implementation of the guidelines and standards, and compliance by the private sector with food safety guidelines. The discussion also covered strengthening the roles and responsibilities and contribution of stakeholders relevant to food safety. Perspectives from the private sector addressed the challenges and benefits of implementing international and national food safety management systems such as HACCP, ISO 22000, organic standards etc. The importance of understanding the behavior of the food consumer was also discussed. The results of the discussion will be important inputs to the development of Cambodia food systems roadmap toward 2030, the Cambodia SDGs agenda and to prepare for the upcoming global food systems summit in September 2021

### ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

- ✓ Finance
- ✓ Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- ✓ Policy
- ✓ Data & Evidence
- ✓ Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

Food safety is a very complex challenge which come from both the supply and demand sides. Dealing with unsafe foods requires a holistic approach that involves every stakeholder to address the issues in the supply side, demand side, and regulatory framework and official control. While food safety has steadily improved in Cambodia, more needs to be done. Food safety is vital for achieving many SDGs particularly SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 11 and closely linked to the achievement of positive nutrition outcomes. Food safety has profound impact on the effort to end poverty. The following are the main finding from the dialogue:

- 1) Food safety requires more attention, greater investment, and support in term of infrastructure and human capital, better regulatory frameworks, and measures that promote behavior change
- 2) Further need to strengthen the enforcement of regulations, define clearly the jurisdiction and responsibility of relevant technical ministry in implementing the guidelines, rules and regulation and the participation of all relevant stakeholders
- 3) Private sector is a key actor in driving and promoting food safety and needs further support, both in term of technical assistance, including capacity building for staff and management, and finance are needed to support them to implement food safety management system.
- 4) There are sound business cases for implementing a food safety management system. The benefits outweigh the cost of the implementation of such a system and have been further highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

### TOPIC 1. Status of food safety in Cambodia and the role of private sector

Thousands of people are affected by foodborne illnesses because of improper practices in food preparation such as the use of unsafe water or raw materials and cross-contamination. The burden of foodborne diseases to public health and welfare and to the economy is substantial. Consumer violations or misuses of chemicals and preservatives by food processors or retailers. The food safety issues have a negative impact on the nutritional outcome especially for vulnerable and marginalized population. The current food production systems in Cambodia are mainly relying on a multiplicity of micro- and small-scale producers, operators or businesses, make it challenging to assure the delivery of safe food. Uncontrolled use of pesticides and antibiotics, poor infrastructure such as cold chain and handling practices including hygiene and sanitation, inadequate value addition- packing, labelling etc. making the products non-competitive in markets. Poor food safety compliance is leading to poor market access. Poor handling, transportation and processing conditions lead to 15 to 25% of post-harvest losses. The current food safety policy and legislation are not fully risk-based and are fragmented - it is a multi-ministerial responsibility.

Food safety is a partnership endeavor and a shared responsibility between all stakeholders including the private sector, public institution, academia and consumers. The private sector needs to embrace a market-driven approach and improve their operating practices to improve their productivity, lowering the production cost through better management. The regulatory system needs to be fully risk-based in its operation. Coordination and linkages between relevant agencies and their capacity need to be strengthened. Universities have greater role in supporting both private sector and the regulating agencies. University-government-private sector linkages and collaboration can lead to innovative models and food safety solutions. Consumers and civil society have a very important role in contributing to food safety culture. Journalists and media can create greater awareness of the importance of food safety.

The private sector is a key player in ensuring food safety as it underlies the entire food system. The majority of foods are produced, handled, processed, distributed, and sold by private sector. The private sector has the responsibility to ensure their products are nutritious and safe for consumption. The implementation of food safety management systems brings lots of benefits to the private sector, including increased consumer and government confidence, ensuring safe food, reduced legal and insurance cost, reduction in production cost, improved product consistency, improved staff and management commitment to food safety, decreased business risk, and costs associated with due diligence defense in court.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

### TOPIC 2. Policy and legislation

Food safety and quality from farm to table are managed by 6 ministries namely Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation (MISTI), Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Tourism (MoT). The roles and responsibilities of each Ministry are defined in the inter-ministerial Prakas 868. A draft Food Safety Law is under review and long-awaited.

MAFF is responsible for all registration and/or permission to establish and operate food business at primary production and primary processing. MAFF has developed several voluntary standards such as CAM GAP, CAM Organic, Good Livestock Practices, Good Aquaculture Practices, and a Participatory Guarantee System. Any primary production or primary processing firms can apply for a certificate of compliance with the above standards by following these four steps: 1) registration; 2) audit/inspection by MAFF official; 3) Sample analysis; and 4) Issuance of certificate. MAFF also provides regulatory support, trade facilitation, facilitates contract farming, provides public services and goods and promotes agriculture modernization for primary production and primary processing. The Law on Sanitation and Phyto sanitation is also implemented by MAFF. MISTI is responsible for all registration and/or permission to establish and operate food business at secondary processing. The Institute of Standards of Cambodia (ISC) of MISTI has adopted and produced standards to support SMEs and industry so that they can produce safe, quality and environmentally friendly products that are good for humans and the environment. So far more than 300 standards related to food have been developed, both voluntary and mandatory. More than 900 standards in total were produced and adopted. Government policy is to promote quality and environmentally friendly products. Standards were developed with input from all stakeholders, including the private sector so they must be respected. Food must be safe to consume and improve quality of life and contribute to economic development.

The Directorate-General of Consumer Protection Competition and Fraud Repression of the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) is the responsible agency and lead for coordination in promoting effective and efficient implementation of market surveillance of businesses trading in the market. The Law on Food Safety first drafted in 2016 is expected to be enacted by the end of 2021. The development of the Law on Food Safety is spearheaded by MoC. Other regulations include the Consumer Protection Law, committee on consumer protection. The Competition Law to be enacted this year.

The MoT is responsible for all registration and/or permission to establish and operate food business at the tourist canteens and restaurants and inspection of compliance to the tourist standards and norms. The MoH is responsible for leading effective and efficient coordination in the implementation of the following tasks related to food safety in the consumer sector: 1) preparation of policy, legal framework on hygiene and sanitary standards; 2) providing input to standardization regarding consumer health perspective; 3) monitor and inspect hygiene and sanitation of food and food business dealing with consumers; 4) prepare and implement programs promoting compliance with hygiene and sanitation requirements; 5) implement verification programs and issue hygiene and sanitation assurance certificates for food business selling to consumers; 6) prepare and implement a general plan for crisis management and emergency response to address, minimize or to prevent risks predicted or arising at the final stage of consumption.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

### TOPIC 3. Challenges and benefits of implementation of food safety management system

There are both challenges and benefits in implementation of food safety management system including the HACCP, ISO 22000, and organic standards.

Practical challenges as shared by the private sector include: the lack of awareness, motivation and capacity by the management and staffs to implement the requirement of the standards; the cost of implementation which include the consultancies, trainings, modification of production process flows, building, new equipment, certification fee and additional staff cost; staff complaint (at the initial stage) of difficulties to implement; difficulties to maintain the standard throughout. The implementation of organic standards is challenging as it also needs to deal with farmers and small-scale producers. Lots of trainings and refresher trainings need to be conducted to raise awareness and build their capacities.

The implementation of the food safety management system offers lots of benefits in return such as: increase quality of the products, improve quality consistency and product shelf-life; improve productivity as staffs and workers fully understand their role and responsibility and reduction of the product defect; improve commitment of management and staffs on food safety; increase consumer and government confidence and support; build brand and reputation; gain trust and is the door to super market and export; reduce wastages; and reduce the production cost.

To successfully implement the food system management system, it is imperative that everyone at the company is sensitized to its benefits, understand what is required of them, and that everyone is on board with the system, including both existing and new staff and workers. Training should be provided to raise awareness and build capacity of the management, workers and staff and should be refreshed regularly. The successful implementation of the food safety management system is only possible with commitment, perseverance, patience and teamwork.

Despite the obvious benefits of the food safety management system, lots still remains to be done to scale up. Support is needed for both technical and financial assistance including capacity building for staffs and management. There are also needs for greater awareness among the consumers and general public on food safety and generate the demand for safe foods.

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

The food safety policy and legislation are a multi-ministerial responsibility and the control of food safety and quality falls under the jurisdiction of 6 ministries. The roles and responsibilities are still overlapping with each other. Clear roles and responsibilities and an excellent coordination mechanism are required.

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Presentation Mr Hak Sochea, WFP, SUN Business Network Coordinator**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Food-Safety-and-Role-of-PS\\_WFP.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Food-Safety-and-Role-of-PS_WFP.pdf)
- **Presentation Dr Shetty Thombathu, UNIDO**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Presentation-June-4-2021-food-safety\\_Shetty-UNIDO.pdf](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Presentation-June-4-2021-food-safety_Shetty-UNIDO.pdf)
- **MAFF Food Safety and the Private Sector**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/MAFF-Food-Safety-and-Private-Sector.pdf>
- **Remarks by Mr Antonio Schiavone, FAO a.i.**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Antonio-Schiavone-Food-safety.pdf>
- **Closing remarks by Ms Claire Conan, Representative and Country Director, WFP**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/WFP\\_closingremarks\\_FSDialogue\\_040621.docx](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/WFP_closingremarks_FSDialogue_040621.docx)
- **Opening remarks by HE Sok Silo (English)**  
[https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Speech\\_on\\_Food\\_Safety\\_and\\_role\\_of\\_private\\_sector\\_on\\_4\\_June\\_2021.docx](https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Speech_on_Food_Safety_and_role_of_private_sector_on_4_June_2021.docx)