

COUNTRY Food Safety Framework Profile – Lao PDR

Country Overview

Area	236,800 Km2
Population	5,6 million (2006)
% of population working in agriculture	80%
Average income	331 US\$
Main food products	Rice
Main food exports	Coffee and coffee product, tea and tea product, peanut, vegetable and fruits and processed product: Canned food , jam and juice product
Main food imports	Processed food: Seasoning food, milk product and supplementary food, sea food..

National Food Safety plans include the involvement of a number of government agencies working on particular aspects of Food Safety and how cooperation and management of the plan operates.

The key elements of a Food Safety Plan are:

Sector	Agency	Food Safety Responsibilities	Notes
Legislation	Ministry of Agriculture	Responsible for Primary production: formulate guidance related to SPS measures and develop decree, regulation on agriculture practice, pesticide and livestock management.	Existing law and regulation from MAF -Agriculture law (1998) -Decree on livestock management (1993) -Reg on seed and plant for cultivation(97) -Reg on fertilization management (2000) -Reg on management and use of pesticide (2000) -Reg on livestock management (1997)
	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Science and Technology Agency and Ministry of Health (Food and Drug Department- Hygiene and Prevention Department)	Responsible for the processing, importation, exportation and distribution: develop necessary regulation such as: food Importation- Exportation, processing of food safety, regulation of bottle drinking water and others regulation related to food additive, inspection, hygiene and some code of practice.	Existing law and regulation : -Food law (2004) -Hygiene law (2002) -Processing Industry law
Laboratories	National Food and Drug	Responsible for physical, chemical and	This is the main laboratory to issue

	Quality Center	microbiological analysis of food samples.	certificates of analysis for food processors and conduct quality assessment for the FDD
	Animal Health Center- Lab of Livestock and Fishery Depart. (MAF)	carry out animal parasite and diseases analysis and certify a sanitary of meat products.	
Monitoring and surveillance	National Epidemiology Institute – Hygiene and Prevention Department	conduct the clinical analys and surveillane for food borne illness	Weekly report of food borne illness has been collected at Hygiene and prevention Department
	FDD-FDQC (MOH)	study on food contaminants Monitor on high risk food of imported food and locally manufactured food product	
	Animal Health Center- Lab of Livestock and Fishery Depart. (MAF)	monitoring and surveillane food borne disease and animal disease	
Implementation of food safety systems	MOH by coordinating with MAF and other related agencies	-promote the implementation of GHP, GMP, GAP, and HACCP application at farmers, food premises/food factories/processing plants and Improve of using botanical pesticide.	National HACCP Committee and HACCP certification body are not in place
Food inspection and certification	FDD (MOH) DOA-DOLF (MAF)	-strengthening the control capability at borders/International check points -supervise the implementation of inspection in the central and provincial level	
Education and training	FDD (MOH)	Train food inspectors and food handlers on food safety	
	DOA-DOLF (MAF)	Establish group of agriculture producer and farms	
Information sharing	FDD (MOH), DOA- DOLF (MAF), MOC	-Publish and inform regulations related to crop production such as: seed/planting materials, fertilizers, pesticide and rearing pathogen and natural enemy for controlling pest -Disseminate Codex, ASEAN, WTO document related to food safety	
Research and Development	FDD-FDQC	-Undertake a study of food contaminants to provide information for risk manager	
	University of Agriculture- DOA (MAF)	-Study specific crop to develop a formulation of botanical pesticide	
International participation	MOH by coordinating with MAF and other related agencies	- Effective participation on Codex - strong network in ASEAN - participate in ASEAN Codex Task Force as	

		ASEAN Expert group - Training in database imported inspection	
Consumer participation in food safety	No consumer association		Lao Women Union, Youth Union has been considered as consumer
Food Safety Control System	Integrated of Multisectoral system Primary production – MAF Processed product – MOIH, MOC, MOH, STEA Finished product – MOH (FDD, H&PD)		

Food Safety Councils/Committees (e.g. CODEX Committee)

Name of the Council/ Committee	Member Organisations of the Council/ Committee	Chair of the Council/ Committee	Council/ Committee responsibilities	Council/ Committee programs
Food and Drug Administration Committee	7 ministries: -Min. of Health – Focal point office -Science and Technology Environment Agency -Min. of Agriculture and Forestry -Min. of Commerce -Min. of Industry & Handicraft -Min. of Finance -Min. of security	Minister of Ministry of Health – chairperson	-Consider law, decree, regulation of the food safety control that produce, locally distribute, export and import -Consider the complaint or proposal of the population relating to the food quality, standard and food activity management and inspection -Exchange lesson and experience on Science and technology and coordinate with the concerned sectors in food management and inspection in order to effectively realize the implement law and	-consider the draft of food regulation -consider the draft of food safety policy and plan of action

			regulation	
National Codex committee	5 ministries: -Min. of Health – Focal point office -Science and Technology Environment Agency -Min. of Agriculture and Forestry -Min. of Commerce -Min. of Industry & Handicraft	Science and Technology – Chair person	-responsible for the implications of various standardization of food and food control issues of the international agencies and the region.	-Technical cooperation related to food quality control with Codex and other related organization in Lao PDR -circulate Codex document related to concerned member committee. -consider Codex document and make comments -participate in the Codex meeting (supported from Codex Trust fund)