



Ministry of Agriculture,
Livestock, Fisheries and
Co-operatives



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WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY 2021

Theme: Safe Food Now for a Healthy Tomorrow



Government keen to ensure everyone enjoys safe, nutritious, sufficient food

Minimising disruptions in the food supply chains remains one of the highest priorities of all governments, as consumers must have reliable access to non-toxic food

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On December 20, 2018, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a World Food Safety Day (WFSD) to be commemorated annually on June 7. It is my pleasure to join Kenyans in celebrating this year's World Food Safety Day.

As we mark this day, it is worthwhile to note that food trade is worth billions of dollars annually, with tonnes of food are produced, marketed and transported around the world.

Food, though necessary for human survival, can also play a big role in negatively affecting human health if its safety is compromised. The safety of food impacts on food trade. It is said that one in 10 people in the world fall ill after eating contaminated food.

This year's WFSD theme of "Safe Food Today for a Healthy Tomorrow" stresses that production and consumption of safe food has immediate and long-term benefits for people, the planet and the economy.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives is committed to ensure that everyone has the right to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.

In line with this year's WFSD theme, the Ministry is keen to monitor food safety from farm to fork, recognising that food safety matters start right at the farm during production, through to the value chain, and on to the consumption table.

Food is fundamental to life. It is also of cultural and economic issue. However, if it is not safe, it is not food.

WFSD aims to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and sustainable development.

"Food Safety is Everyone's Business" is the slogan for WFSD. We all have a stake in contributing to food safety.

The agriculture sector in Kenya is a major source of income for a majority of its people, with agricultural produce (beef, tea, coffee, horticulture, fish and sugar) accounting for nearly two thirds of the total exports.

The sector has made appreciable steps towards enhancing market access through strengthening of food safety infrastructure as exemplified by the development and adoption of various Codex Standards.

The World Food Safety Day has five calls



to action. "Ensure it is Safe" is an urge to governments to ensure that food is safe and nutritious food for all. The second call – "Grow it Safe", invites food producers to adopt good practices. "Keep it Safe", yet another call to action, requires business operators to make sure food is safe. "Know What's Safe" advises consumers to learn about safe and healthy foods. Lastly, but not the least, "Team up for Food Safety" demands that we all work together for safe food and good health for all now and in future.

The continuing Covid-19 pandemic,

though not known to be transmitted by food, has sharpened the focus on food safety-related issues, such as hygiene, antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic diseases, climate change, food fraud and the potential benefits of digitalising food systems. It has also identified weaknesses or vulnerabilities in food production and control systems.

For the immediate future, minimising disruptions in the food supply chains remains one of the highest priorities of all governments, as consumers must have reliable access to safe food. Governments need to collaborate to keep global agriculture and food trade open and well-functioning.

We are in the middle of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, whose main message is that everyone has the right to have access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food. By helping to keep food safe, you contribute to improved nutrition and to the health of all.

The importance of the global food trade and its contribution to food security puts an obligation on all counties to put in place systems to appropriately protect human, animal and plant health, while facilitating trade.

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the issue of paperless trading is becoming increasingly important. This it thanks to the online Kenya Trade Network (KEN-TRADE) platform, which as a Ministry we are using in the certification and clearing agricultural products.

The continuing call for action is for:

1. Government to focus its attention and

resources on the public health and ensure the production of safe and nutritious food for all its citizenry. This is achieved by promoting sustainable agriculture and food systems, fostering multi-sectoral collaboration among public health, animal health, agriculture and other sectors. Ensuring people have access to safe food takes sustained investment in stronger regulations, laboratories, surveillance and risk-based monitoring of food safety measures. The government should continue building the capacity of food producers, food business operators and consumers on the importance of food safety and their role in the same.

2. Food producers should adopt good agriculture practices to ensure a sufficient supply of safe food at all levels of the food production.
3. Food business operators to make sure food is safe by ensuring compliance with food safety and quality management programmes that identifies, evaluates and controls hazards which are significant for food safety from primary production to final consumption. They must also adopt good processing, storage and preservation practices that will retain the nutritional value of food as well as reduce post-harvest losses.
4. The empowerment of consumers to make healthy food choices for themselves and practice good hygienic food handling to support sustainable food systems for the country.
5. All stakeholders along the food chain, including trade organisations, consumer and producer groups, academic and research institutions and private sector entities working together on issues that affect food safety locally and internationally.



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