



**REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF NATIONAL
CODEX COMMITTEE STAKEHOLDERS SENSITIZATION
SEMINAR AT GRAND REGENCY HOTEL, NAIROBI**

HELD ON 12TH JULY 2007

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PROGRAMME

Time	Activity	Responsibility
09.00 am - 09.15 am	Registration	KEBS PR Staff
09.15 am - 09.25 am	Introduction of participants	Gladys (KEPHIS)
09.25 am - 9.45 am	Welcome Remarks by the Chair, National Executive Codex Committee	Eng. Dr. Kioko Mang'eli - MD KEBS
9.45 am - 10.15 am	Opening Address by the Invited Guest	Mr. David Nalo, CBS PS, MOTI
10.15 am -10.35 am	Presentation on National Codex Committee	Alice Okello - KEBS
10.35 am - 11.00 am	Tea Break	
11.00 am - 11.15 am	Presentation on National Food Safety Coordinating Committee	Rosemary Ng'ang'a (KEPHIS)
11.15 am - 12.15 pm	Discussion Session	Lead Agencies (MOH -Public Health, KEPHIS, DVS, Fisheries Dept, KEBS, PCPB, HCDA
12.15 pm -12.30 pm	Remarks by Agricultural Counsellor, US Embassy, USG Interest & Collaboration	Agricultural Counsellor, US Embassy
12.30 pm -12.45 pm	Closing remarks	MOTI/KEBS
12.45 pm – 1.30 pm	Lunch and guests leave at their own pleasure	

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SL No	NAME	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION
1	Kaaria Joseph	Kenchick Ltd.	OM
2	Gladys Maina	KEPHIS	GM
3	Carol Kamau	US Embassy (USDA/FAS)	Agricultural Marketing Specialist
4	Martin Mwirigi	KARI	Research Officer
5	Edna Warentho	KNH	Deputy Chief Nutrition Officer
6	Rosemary Ng'ang'a	KEPHIS	Chief Analytical Chemist
7	Prof. Simon Muhoho	JKUAT	Ass Prof. of Food Sc and Tech
8	Dr. Jalango J. W	Vet Services	DDVS
9	Ruth Omuninga	Proctor & Allan	Quality Controller
10	Dorcas Wagechi	CIN	Programme Coordinator
11	Esther Ngari	KMC	QA Manager
12	Dr. Amugune. B	UON	Lecturer
13	Teresiah Njenga	Nakumatt Holdings	Purchasing Officer
14	Paul Ngamuya	PCPB	Senior Rep Officer
15	Dr. J.K Sehmir	UON	Senior Lecturer
16	Kevin Smith	US Embassy	Agricultural Counselor
17	Nahid Moosa	Maji ya Pepony	MD
18	James Ojiambo	Nestle Foods	RAM
19	Leonard Wayamba	W.E Tilley	Quality Officer
20	Joan Njoki	East FM	Reporter
21	Gerald Masila	KWAL	MD
22	Jane Omondi	Bidco Oil	Quality Officer
23	Joyce Njoya	Government Chemist's Dpt	Analyst
24	Charity Katago	Capital FM	Reporter
25	Charles Njeru	Africaonline	Journalist
26	Joshua Were	Ukwala Supermarkets Ltd.	GM
27	Fredrick Otswongo	KIPI	Patent Examiner
28	Wekesa Khisa	TBK	Marketing Officer
29	Godfrey Monor	Fisheries Department	Deputy Director
30	Ciira Kiiyukia	JKUAT	Senior Lecturer
31	J. A. Okando	Government Chemist's Dpt	GC
32	Vincent Onyango	Ukwala Supermarkets Ltd.	Administration
33	Cosmas Kyengo	FPEAK	Technical Manager
34	Jared Ochieng	CCN	PHO
35	Allan Muturi	KBC	Correspondent
36	Blanche Tumbo	MOH	Deputy Chief Public Health Officer
37	James Nyangah	KIRDI	Corporate Manager
38	Francis Warui	DET	STDO
39	David Nalo CBS	Ministry of Trade & Industry	PS – Ministry of Trade & Industry
40	Eng. Dr. Mang'eli	KEBS	MD - KEBS
41	Margaret Aleke	KEBS	CPSO
42	Peter Mutua	KEBS	SO

43	David Koech	KEBS	CPLA
44	David Kasyoki	KEBS	ED
45	Paul Kimeto	KEBS	SSO
46	Beatrice Opiyo	KEBS	HFSMS
47	Sammy Milgo	KEBS	SCPAO
48	Alice Okello	KEBS	SSO
49	Joseph Keeru	KEBS	GM – QA&I
50	Robert Gisemba	Standard Group	Reporter
51	March Glaotisia	Skywest Products	Producer
52	Geoffrey Kinuthia	Metro FM	Reporter
53	Tabitha Nganga	KBC	Reporter
54	Atambo John	Peoples Daily	Reporter
55	Dennis Marwanga	Kenya Times	Reporter
56	Lumiti Khabuchi	Kenya Times	Reporter
57	Terry Nzau	Mbaitu FM	Reporter
58	Emily Kimam	Kameme FM	Reporter
59	Boniface Mutakha	Citizen TV	Reporter
60	Steve Shitera	Citizen TV	Reporter
61	Joseph Bonyo	Nation Media Group	Reporter
62	Monis Aron	Business Daily (NMG)	Business Reporter
63	Edna Odera	Radio Waumini	Reporter
64	Simon Rugu	Radio Waumini	Reporter
65	Lucy Thuku	Hope FM	Reporter
66	John Kamau	EA Business Week	Reporter
67	Alfred Chombe	NTV	Cameraman
68	Steve Kimani	NTV	Reporter
69	Cecilia Mwendu	Biblia Husema Radio	Reporter
70	E. Muthoni	Business Daily (NMG)	Reporter

WELCOME REMARKS BY ENG. DR. KIOKO MANG'ELI, MANAGING DIRECTOR, KENYA BUREAU OF STANDARDS

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry,
The Agricultural Attaché, US Department of Agriculture,
Members of the National Executive Codex Committee,
Members of the National Codex Committee and
Members of the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee,
Chief Executives and Distinguished Participants,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honour and privilege to be with you at this important sensitization seminar on the contribution of the Codex Alimentarius in food trade. This seminar aims at creating awareness on the role of Codex Standards in protecting consumers' health by ensuring that food produced, distributed, marketed and consumed meets the required standards for food safety.

I wish to thank the US Department of Agriculture for sponsoring this sensitization meeting and other standardization and conformity assessment initiatives in the country. I also wish to thank the members of the National Codex Committee for achieving this milestone of bringing together all policy and regulatory agencies involved in food trade.

Members of the National Codex Committee include: Ministry of Agriculture (Agriculture Secretary), Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries (Director of Fisheries and Director of Livestock services), Ministry of Health (Director of Medical Services & Director of Public Health), Director of Government Chemist, Ministry of Trade & Industry (Director of Industries & Director of External Trade), Ministry of Local Government, PCPB, KEPHIS, KARI, KEBS and the National Science Council. The Chief Executives of these organizations form the National Executive Codex Committee.

We at KEBS, are happy to be a member of "The National Codex Committee and the host to the National Codex Contact Point in Kenya". The National Codex Committee

aims at developing a unified Kenyan voice and action point for handling the standardization and quality assurance of food products offered for trade.

KEBS is committed to playing its key role as the National Secretariat for development/harmonization of standards and conformity assessment activities. We will ensure that we engage members of the National Codex Committee in the standardization and conformity assessment process locally, regionally and internationally.

I congratulate the members of the National Executive Committee who have been instrumental in the planning for this seminar. This shows our commitment to the common goal of creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive and flourish in an environmentally sustainable manner, as well as ensuring that the health and safety of consumers is protected.

From a global perspective, world trade needs the use and implementation of worldwide standards. The World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO-TBT) agreements enshrines the rights of member states to take necessary measures to ensure the quality of products entering their territories and also recognizes the need to set up measures to ensure protection of the health, safety as well as the environment for its citizens.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO - SPS) recognizes the standards and guidelines established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX) as a reference in international food trade. Kenyan main exports i.e. fresh fruits and vegetable exports may be rejected or banned for failing to meet food safety standards.

KEBS is the National Codex focal point and has facilitated the establishment of an Executive Committee to coordinate policy dealing with food safety and control. We at KEBS therefore, are happy to coordinate the activities of this committee which will facilitate a common voice in Kenya for the handling of food trade and safety issues locally, regionally and internationally including finding ways to keep up with international trends and best practices.

The committee will put in place mechanisms to continuously adhere to food safety and quality standards as a means of boosting the competitiveness of food products and services. I challenge the members to devise national mechanisms to tackle (using scientific basis) emerging issues related to food safety and environment such as the carbon mines, pesticide residues, labour etc. that are threatening to bar trade of our food produce in certain markets. We must ensure that no technical barriers to trade are created for our products in these markets.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards is always ready to support the industry by providing standards, quality assurance services, technical advice and consultancy on standardization and conformity assessment. We welcome all enterprises to take full advantage of these services, as quality standards have to be observed in all food handling processes from the farm, manufacturing, production, preparation, storage and distribution of the end product. In other words, from farm to table/fork in the food and agro based industry.

I urge enterprises to implement food safety measures such as risk analysis (risk management), communication and risk assessment including ISO 22000:2005 Food Management Safety System, which has been adopted as a Kenya Standard. It details the accepted key aspects of food safety at all stages of the food chain from farm to fork including communication, system management, hazard control and continual improvement of the management system.

I also urge all enforcement agencies/bodies, local authorities and consumer organizations to take proactive steps to ensure that there is provision of safe foods in the market.

The eventual collaboration established by the National Codex Committee in facilitating trade in safe food products is a success for all of us.

Thank you.

SPEECH BY MR. DAVID NALO CBS, PS IN THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Members of the National Executive Codex Committee,
Members of the National Codex Committee and
Members of the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee,
Chief Executives and Distinguished Participants,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted to be here this morning to officially open this seminar organized to create awareness on the contribution of the Codex Alimentarius in food trade.

Allow me to thank our development partner US Department of Agriculture for sponsoring this seminar and for all the support you have given and continue to give development efforts in Kenya.

The Kenya Bureau of Standards continues to participate and coordinate the development of food standards that facilitate trade across borders by giving that harmonized common reference point for food quality encompassing its nutritive value and safety. The Government is committed to creating an enabling trade environment for businesses to thrive and flourish in an environmentally sustainable manner, as well as ensuring that the health and safety of consumers is protected.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

World trade needs the use and implementation of worldwide standards. The Codex system provides a global reference point for food trade that is recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO). It provides a guide and avenue for the implementation of good hygienic food processing practices, harmonization of food standards and benchmarks for the development of national measures and regulations to ensure compliance with WTO agreements for Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (WTO - SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO - TBT).

The agreements also recognize the need to set up conformity assessment activities such as testing, inspection, certification and accreditation to facilitate trade, bring equivalence of results and enable recognition of conformity assessment activities across borders, regionally and internationally.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I take note that a National Codex Contact point exists at KEBS and the relevant national structures – National Executive Codex Committee and National Codex Committee have been activated to facilitate the coordination of Codex activities in the country. The committee must acknowledge that:

- ✍ Consumers have a right to safe and quality food
- ✍ Poor quality food and outbreaks of food borne-illnesses damage trade, tourism and leads to loss of earnings, unemployment and litigation
- ✍ Poor quality food also destroys the commercial credibility of suppliers both nationally and internationally
- ✍ Food spoilage is wasteful, costly and has an adverse effect on trade and consumer confidence
- ✍ Countries have to effectively implement Codex Standards and recommendations to create confidence among consumers and be competitive in both the local and international markets

I am sure the consultative processes now established by the National Codex Committee will ensure increased consumer confidence and market access for our food products in the local and international markets. I challenge the Codex National Committee to tackle the following critical areas that keep on cropping up in the trade arena and continue to hinder market access for our products:

- ✍ Maximum residue limits for pesticides and veterinary drugs
- ✍ Food contaminants and toxins
- ✍ Food additives
- ✍ Hygienic practices within the food chain

- ✍ Labeling
- ✍ Food import and export inspection and certification
- ✍ Addition of essential nutrients to foods
- ✍ Conduct for microbiological risk assessment
- ✍ Risk analysis of foods derived from modern biotechnology

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The community of nations through the World Trade Organization is encouraging freer trade. Various Technical Barriers to Trade continue being invoked against developing countries using the clause of protecting the health and safety of citizens. Kenya and the rest of Africa must find ways and mechanisms of predicting and forestalling international trends that might be aimed at blocking our participation in global trade. Our economy relies on agriculture and food trade is very dear to us. We must therefore continuously adhere to quality standards as a means of boosting the competitiveness of our products and services.

The implementation of Codex Alimentarius principles within the country will ensure the involvement of all stakeholders in food industry in the consultative process for the development and adoption of Codex Standards and texts, and the uniform implementation of Codex Codes of Practice and guidelines for food safety and quality standards within the country. This process will involve consumers, agricultural production systems, processing industries, food control administrators/regulators and traders.

Implementing Codex Standards measures will create a favourable investment and trading environment for our enterprises. Developing a quality culture in our businesses and in our everyday lives will make it easier for Kenya to compete with products from other parts of the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Conformity assessment activities are instrumental in facilitating trade and affect all sectors of the economy including consumer confidence in food products. We need to put

in place a strong national conformity assessment infrastructure that includes accreditation. This will ensure that the quality and integrity of goods and services we offer for trade are hard to question. Conformity assessment addresses a key principle of WTO/TBT, which underlines equivalence of results of conformity assessment across member states and even regions.

Since its inception over 30 years ago, the Kenya Bureau of Standards has strived to ensure that the standards of Kenyan goods and services meet and even exceed the quality expectations of consumers around the world. The Codex contact point aims to facilitate this in the food sector. Having credible standards will help boost our national economy and be the sole driver for achieving our national vision of being an industrialized nation by the year 2030.

The introduction of information technology is important to trade. The Kenya Bureau of Standards plays host to World Trade Organization - Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO-TBT) National Enquiry Point (NEP) in Kenya. This service is available to all who are interested in getting standards related information about Kenya and other WTO member states. This electronic based system is designed to make the sharing of global standardization information effective and efficient.

The Government recognizes that conformity assessment and accreditation have become important components of world trade. To facilitate trade and assure that Kenyan goods and services are at par with those in the thriving global economies, the Government established the Kenya National Accreditation Service (KENAS) in March 2005 and the KEBS Pre-export Verification of Conformity to standards (PVOC) programme that took effect on 1st July 2005.

The Government is committed to making KENAS fully operational and independent. The Ministry has thus mandated KEBS to nurture KENAS as it evolves. KEBS has established an interim Accreditation Committee to oversee and fast track the building of the necessary capacity in terms of provision of resources, improvement of its legal framework among other activities that will enable the full operationalization of KENAS.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I urge the industrial and trade sector to take full advantage of the capacity of the institutions in the National Codex Committee to ensure that quality standards are observed in all processes from manufacturing, production, preparation and distribution of food products.

Our goal is to have a sustained and effective food safety and control system free of food-borne illnesses that will provide safe quality food products for trade. This is the prerequisite for consumer confidence and market access for agricultural commodities and food produce as well as sustaining Kenya's tourism.

I wish to thank members of the National Executive Codex Committee, for taking the initiative to create awareness on the contribution of Codex Alimentarius in food trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is now my pleasure to declare this seminar aimed at creating awareness on the contribution of the Codex Alimentarius in food trade officially open.

Thank you for your attention.

REACTIONS AND QUESTIONS TO PS SPEECH

Question 1: A participant from Ukwala Supermarkets sought to know what the ministry was doing in sensitizing the public on the menace of plastic bags to the environment

Answer: The PS noted that the consumers do not have a strong voice on this issue. He emphasized that the government's stand is to educate the public on the importance of standards and then work together with the private sector and professionals in specific issues like the plastic menace. He added that there is also need for the establishment of a strong consumer organization system in the market to make it easier for the implementation of the same.

Eng. Dr. Mang'eli (KEBS – MD) also responded to this question by noting that there is need for a scientific approach for maximum capacity for plastics for example exploring the recycling process and its application in the market.

Question 2: A participant questioned the current position of the country in the implementation of Codex Requirements/Standards

Answer: The PS began by recalling the ban of exporting Kenyan fish to EU market in the recent past and the effect it had to Kenyan manufacturers and traders and to country's economy. This, he emphasized brought the need to implement Codex Standards at national level and thus KEBS has been setting Codex Standards according to the international system and also made strides towards the implementation of the same by the KEBS quality inspection and testing division. This has ensured that the manufactured produce meets the specifications set in the Codex Standards. He added that this system has reduced barriers to trade and ensured fair trade and non existence of substandard foods.

The MD Kenya Wine Agencies Limited (KWAL) Mr. Gerald Masila commended the PS on the role the ministry was playing in setting a system for regulating, confirming and tracking levels in the food industry/market. He added that this was an important concern by the manufacturers and KWAL welcomes this move.

In his response, the PS welcomed and appreciated this comment from KWAL and encouraged all players towards this system.

PRESENTATIONS

FIRST PRESENTATION: FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION BY ALICE OKELLO (KEBS)

1.1 History of Codex Alimentarius

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was established by FAO and WHO in 1961 to:

- ? Develop international food standards, guidelines, codes and recommendations
- ? Protect the health of consumer and to ensure fair practices in the food trade

CAC-Which is the collection of food standards, has become the global reference point of consumers, food procedures and processors, national control food agencies and the international trade.

Codex Alimentarius is mandated to develop international food standards such as food additives, veterinary drug, pesticide residues, and contaminants among others.

These standards are science-based and are elaborate taking into consideration the expert advice provided by joint expert committees established by FAO/WHO.

The Experts of FAO/WHO are Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), Joint Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues (JEMPR) and Joint Expert Committee on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA).

1.2 Member Countries

- ? Codex, as of 2006, consist of 177 member countries and there are 200 countries involved in Codex
- ? Kenya is one of the Codex member country and has been participating in codex meetings since late 1960s.

1.3 Importance of Codex and why be involved

- ? Growth in world food trade
- ? Increase in food trade among nations

- ? Important to develop appropriate standards to protect the health of the consumer
- ? Provides a forum for exchange of information (opportunity to exchange information)
- ? Status of Codex Standards under World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement – has increased Codex Standards
- ? Obligation of WTO member countries to participate fully as possible, within the limits of their resources in the standard setting work of Codex
- ? WTO members are signatories to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barrier
- ? Trade (TBT) agreements who are also expected to participate in Codex Standard setting work

1.4 National Codex Committee (NCC) members' mandate

The National Codex Committee was formed to:

- ? Facilitate the exchange of information and the promotion of a country's position on key issues
- ? Opens the door to technical expertise that can be tapped to keep and develop national food control system

1.5 Members of NCC

- ✍ Kenya Bureau of Standards - Codex Contact Point (CCP)
- ✍ Ministry of Agriculture
- ✍ Ministry of Health
- ✍ Department of Veterinary Services
- ✍ Fisheries Department
- ✍ Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
- ✍ Ministry of Trade and Industry
- ✍ National Council for Science and Technology
- ✍ Government Chemist's Department
- ✍ Pest Control Products Board
- ✍ WHO - Country rep.
- ✍ FAO - Country rep.

1.6 Codex Profile in Kenya

Codex Contact Point - KEBS, is responsible for coordination of the Codex activities

- ? Open and has kept constant communication with industry, lead institutions and consumer groups
- ? Lead institutions have been identified by NCC to facilitate participation in different International Codex meetings

1.7 General subject committees

- ? Codex committee on food additives
- ? Codex committee on food contaminants
- ? Codex committee on food hygiene
- ? Codex committee on methods of analysis and sampling
- ? Codex committee on pesticide residues in food

1.8 Codex commodity committees

- ? Codex committee on milk and milk products
- ? Codex committee on processed fruits and vegetables
- ? Codex committee on fish and fisheries products
- ? Codex committee on fresh fruits and vegetables
- ? Codex committee on fats and oil

1.9 Ad hoc intergovernmental task force

These are committees formed to work on certain commodities for a specific period of time to finalize the task given then adjourned

- ? Fruit and vegetable juices
- ? Food derived from biotechnology
- ? Anti-microbial resistance

1.10 FAO/WHO coordinating committees

Each continent Codex has a coordinating committee to deal with food safety and quality.

The current coordinator for Africa is Ghana while that of Near East is Jordan, among others.

1.11 Conclusion

- ? Codex is the reference point for standards pertaining to food safety
- ? Codex is the reference point for harmonizing national standards
- ? Therefore Kenya is benefiting economically by adopting and adapting most of these standards to facilitate trade and to protect consumer

1.12 Recommendation

All ministries that have a constitutional responsibility for food safety or food standards should be involved in the decision making process for the benefit of the country.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN REGARD TO THIS PRESENTATION

Q1. Participants questioned the membership of the National Codex Committee (NCC) because they felt manufacturers and other major players are not included.

Answer:

- A. Gladys (KEPHIS) responding to this informed the participants that the NCC is an intergovernmental policy committee and therefore the private sector does not qualify to sit in this committee. She emphasized that the private sector (manufacturers) and the research institutions will be involved at the technical sub committee (product committees) where the relevant industries will be nominated to sit in committees dealing with products relevant to them.
- B. Eng. Dr. Mang'eli (KEBS MD) further informed the participants that the National Executive Codex Committee is comprised of Chief Executives of the national institutions as the steering committee of National Codex on policy issues, while operating committees comprised of technical persons both in government as well as the private sector are involved in developing the national positions on various Codex Standards. This level is an all inclusive including the consumers and the local authorities.

Q2. Participants sought to know why the consumers are not represented at the National Codex Committee.

Answer: Eng. Dr. Mang'eli (KEBS MD) appreciated the role of the consumers however he pointed that currently there is no proper system of consumers representation with the few NGOs purporting to represent consumers are biased and influenced by their donors. This therefore has made it impossible for consumers being represented in the NCC. He expressed the need to develop a proper independent consumer organization whose primary objective would be to serve the Kenyan needs including helping in writing standards relevant to Kenyans.

Q3. Participants sought to know why the umbrella body of the manufacturers (Kenya Association of Manufacturers) is not a member of the NECC.

Answer: Eng. Dr. Mang'eli (KEBS MD) said this question was related to the first question. He added that his experience with KAM is that they are interested only with business (profits) of their members while the primary objective of the NCC is the interest of the country in health and safety. He however pointed that KAM and its members will be represented at the technical levels (in the subcommittees).

Q4. Participants wanted a comment(s) on the legislation governing the NCC and whether they are obligated to participate or it is on a good will basis.

Answer: Gladys (KEPHIS) informed the members that the trend in modern society is moving from compelling one in any task to volunteer and sense of duty. She further said that there is duplication in the various Acts governing the different lead organizations and that the committee agreed to be based on the mandates as spelled out in the various charters of the lead organizations. She further indicated that at a later date, legislation will be sought to enforce the performance of the NCC system.

Q5. Participants asked whether the NCC system is in line with or part of the country's 2030 vision launched recently.

Answer:

- A. Gladys (KEPHIS) giving a quick answer confirmed that NCC system is an integral part of the vision given that it is aimed at standardization of products and systems. She further indicated plans are underway to increase the awareness of the importance of standards to the general population.
- B. Eng. Dr. Mang'eli (KEBS MD) informed participants that KEBS understands the importance of standards for social and economic growth in any country. It is in

this background that KEBS is involved and participating in Small and Micro enterprises (SMEs) which are the key for the realization of vision 2030. He added that in line with this, KEBS is currently training players in SMEs in Coast and Nairobi provinces on the importance of producing better products based on standards both for the national and international markets. He said that this training will in future be spread in all the provincial headquarters. In view of this, Dr. Mang'eli said the NCC system will go along way in helping realize this noble goal.

SECOND PRESENTATION: THE NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY COORDINATION COMMITTEE (NFSCC)

BY ROSEMARY N. NG'ANG'A (KEPHIS)

2.1 What is National Food Safety Coordination Committee?

It is an umbrella committee comprising of government organs involved in food safety activities.

The chairmanship is held on rotational basis currently being held by the Ministry of Agriculture. The secretariat is usually the Ministry of Health.

2.1 Current membership of NFSCC

- Departments of
 - Vet. Services
 - Livestock Production
 - Fisheries
- Kenya Bureau of Standards
- KEPHIS
- National Public Health Labs
- Government Chemist
- KEMRI
- Nairobi University
- Tea Board of Kenya
- Coffee Board of Kenya
- KARI
- Kenya Dairy Board
- Pest Control Products Board
- City council of Nairobi
- Co-opted members
 - FAO
 - WHO

2.3 Vision and Mission

2.3.1 Vision

To protect consumer health by ensuring that food produced, distributed marketed and consumed meets food safety standards.

2.3.2 Mission

To be the credible Kenya food safety coordinating body.

2.4 NFSCC Objectives

The objectives of NFSCC includes ;

- Coordinate formulation of food safety policy and supportive legal framework
- Harmonize and coordinate the implementation of food control activities including food and feed analysis, inspection and enforcement.
- Promote linkages with national and international bodies on issues related to food safety
- Institutionalize emergency preparedness strategies for national food safety
- Promote wide ownership of the national food safety system among stake holders

2.5 Core Values of NFSCC

The core values of the committee include;

- Consumer focus
- Holistic and inclusive approach
- Transparency
- Benefit sharing
- Integrity
- Ethical business practice
- Sector wide approach partnership.

2.6 The genesis of the NFSCC

- Proposed in 2005 due prevailing issues including:
 - Worst case of aflatoxicosis in 2004 with over 300 deaths which caught international attention and incidents reported in 2005

- Other food safety challenges including:
 - Rift valley fever
 - Cholera
 - Illicit brews
- Consideration of the Codex Alimentarius Commission's Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food
 - Article 7 of the code places the responsibility for implementation on governments of all countries who should provide adequate food legislation and food control infrastructures including certification and inspection systems
 - Requirements of the EU Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 of April 2004 on official controls
 - Became effective in January 2006
 - The recommendation is that trading partners have a single focal point for food safety for ease of trade enquiries
 - Kenya meets the requirements but in a fragmented and uncoordinated manner
- Committee was officially constituted in Feb. 2006
- Launched on 20th June 2006

2.7 What is Food Safety?

- Condition and practices that preserve the quality of food to prevent contamination and food borne diseases.
- Scope includes
 - Food and feed safety
 - Animal health and welfare
 - Plant health inspection
 - Consumer protection aspects including labeling, additives, irradiation and genetic modification

2.8 Effects of unsafe food

- Negative impact on food security
- Escalated national health bill
- Loss of working hours due to illness
- Negative impact on national and international trade
- Reduced gains in tourism

2.9 Current food safety control in control in Kenya

- Sector segmented spreading across Ministries, Departments and Regulatory Agencies
- 22 legislations cutting across sectors
- Uncoordinated system
- No inclusive rapid response system in place

2.10 Draft National Food Safety Policy by NFSCC

- Highlights include
 - The need to assess risks along the food chain
 - Manage the risks through regulation enforcement
 - Education for consumers
 - Creation of a Food Safety Authority
 - Adoption/Adaptation of International Best Practices
- Incorporation of International Framework by borrowing from
 - WTO/SPS
 - WHO
 - FAO
 - OIE
- Address human capacity needs
 - Coordinate food safety management
 - Already in place for fish and horticulture export sectors
 - No traceability for locally consumed foods
 - Improve surveillance

- Study outbreak patterns
- Document surveillance data for use in interventions and risk management
- Upgrade laboratory systems
 - Scope of testing
 - Equipment
 - Personnel training
 - Benchmarking
 - Accreditation
- Surveillance
 - Study outbreak patterns
 - Document data for use in interventions and risk management

2.11 Policy Objectives

- Broad
 - Protect the public in a manner consistent with WTO/SPS and other International Standards
 - Harmonize interagency efforts without conflicts and overlaps
- Specific
 - Update existing legislations
 - Enhance Risk Analysis Capacity

2.12 Recommendations

- Establish a Food Safety Authority
- Establish national traceability systems for food to ensure
 - Public safety
 - Effective participation in global trade.
- Prioritize training in food safety and integrate the same in the national curricula at all levels of education
- Establish an early warning system for food borne disease outbreaks and hazards
- Facilitate the formation of a National Conformity Assessment system.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN REGARD TO THIS PRESENTATION

Comment: Gladys (KEPHIS) informed the participants that the difference between NCC and NFSCC is that the prior is a standards setting committee which is usually the executive while NFSCC is working under NCC to help in the implementation of the standards to ensure food safety.

Q1. Consumer Information Network asked how the consumers are fitting into NFSCC since there is no representation of the civil society in the committee.

Answer: Participants were informed that consumer views will be included during the development of the standards where their views will be incorporated. Participants were informed that the challenge that is being experienced currently is that the existing consumer movements are donor driven and have deviated from the core values of addressing the core issues of the Kenyan consumers as well as empowering the consumers to make the right choice.

Q2. The University of Nairobi proposed that it is important to define the term food with a view of controlling the food supplements which have in the recent past been evading regulations due to its amorphous nature in both food and drugs.

Answer: It was appreciated that there is need to reign on these products. However the forum was informed that it has been difficult to define what food is with a view of incorporating all food products. This is also a challenge at the Codex level since member countries have not yet fully defined what food is. The forum was informed that plans are being put in place to control the trade of the food supplements.

Q3. Participants raised the concern of the traceability of national standards and the many cross references the standards make within the text.

Answer: Participants were informed that the format of the standards is the current practice internationally where a standard may refer to other standards normatively or informatively. However, the basic principle of the standard is to make it simple and easy to use. In line with this, KEBS MD challenged the technical committee members to make the standards simple to use. He informed the participants that KEBS is currently training

technical persons in the industry on standard writing with a view of encouraging the writing of simple (in terms of understanding and use) and relevant standards.

Q4. Borrowing from their experience of products claimed to be genetically modified, some participants sought to understand whether these products were up to any standards because according to them they were testing different from the conventional products.

Answer: Eng. Dr. Mang'eli (KEBS MD) informed the forum though he was not aware of GM oranges and bananas, the expression of the person asking the question could be subjective. He informed the forum that the NCC system will be key in solving the issues related to GMO since it will be based on standards developed with all the scientific knowledge available. He said KEBS is in a process of putting mechanisms in place to carry out GMDNA tests with a view of regulating the industry. He further emphasized that the need for policy/legislation in regard to GMO where the consumers will be fully informed and then the market forces will be left to play where the population will be left to a decision of whether to go for GMO or not.

He however cautioned members that this forum was not called to discuss the contentious issue of the GMO and so the meeting should not divert to discuss this as a better forum may be called if need be.

REMARKS BY AGRICULTURAL COUNSELLOR, US EMBASSY, USG INTEREST AND COLLABORATION

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proud to be part of this Kenya initiative. It is excited that the participants are drawn from various institutions with the main purpose to have proper coordination and involvement of all interested parties. Kenya being a key player in the East Africa region, its neighbours would most likely follow the good example already set by having an effective system geared towards the harmonization of regulations which will ultimately facilitate trade both at the regional level as well as the international market.

USDA is particularly keen on the National Codex office because:

- ? It wants to have the regulation between the two countries harmonized so as to boost trade between the two countries such as the growing business of coffee export from Kenya to the USA;
- ? Need to protect the consumers with science based background as opposed to a situation where decisions are based on fear of the unknown as expressed in the GMO earlier on in the meeting;
- ? Would like to see the increased confidence and trust by consumers in the regulatory agencies of the government; and
- ? Improving the partnership of the USDA and the regulatory agencies especially on sharing information to avoid a situation where a lot of resources will be allocated for research in areas where the USDA had already done conclusive studies on the subject.

USDA commits itself to continue supporting this initiative and promised to be a partner and participate in the official launch of the National Codex Committee later in the year.

CLOSING REMARKS (ENG. DR. MANG'ELI, MD — KEBS)

I would like to thank all participants in this forum for finding time to be part of this stake holders' sensitization seminar for the National Codex Committee and request you to effectively be involved in the future event organized by the National Codex Committee.

I would like to express my appreciation to USDA for their continued partnership and accepting to fund and being part of this day's event.

Finally I would like to invite you for lunch after which you may leave at your own pleasure.

Thank you.