NATIONAL POLICY ON FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY

and its

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2023



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For further information on the policy, please contact:

Food Safety and Quality Programme,
Food & Drug Services Department,
Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare,
Federal Secretariat, Phase III, Abuja, Nigeria.
E-mail: foodsafety.fmoh@hotmail.com

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FOREWORD

Advancing food safety in Nigeria requires a comprehensive and sustainable system with coherent national food safety policies and strategic action plans.

Food safety is critical to safeguarding public health and ensuring fair practices in food trade. Although the government of Nigeria has over the years been intensifying efforts to improve the standard of food safety practices across the food supply chain is yet to meet the recommended global best practices and standards.

Based on the government's determination to modernize and strengthen its national food safety control and management system in line with global best practices and standards, the Federal Ministry of Health & Social Welfare and its partners have reviewed the existing National Food Safety Policy document to have a robust and functional food safety policy that address the gaps inherent in the earlier version, to update and reflect any changes in laws and regulations to meet the current national and global standards to minimize the rejection of food commodities in the international markets.

Foodborne pathogens remain an important threat to food safety and public health in Nigeria. A high percentage of urban dwellers eat out of their homes, consume ready-to-eat food from street food vendors, and in most cases receive their entire daily meal through this channel.

Food Safety is crucial to protect consumers from health risks related to common allergens and foodborne illnesses. Food safety involves not only the avoidance of foodborne pathogens, chemical toxicants, and physical hazards, but also nutrition, food quality, labelling, and education. The foundation of food safety is built upon a quality-safety culture, compliance with food laws, regulations, and policies, traceability and food safety management systems encompassing documentation, training, auditing, reporting, and corrective action.

The globalization of food trade, a growing world population, climate change and rapidly changing food systems have an impact on the safety of food. Recently, most Nigerian food products have continued to face low competitiveness or outright rejection in local, regional, and international markets.

Food safety concerns in Nigeria include biological, physical, and chemical contamination, adulteration, misbranding, aflatoxin contamination, illegal food trading, and weak control over imported and exported foods.

This version of the National Policy on Food Safety and Quality, and its Implementation Plan will provide the framework for upgrading national capacity to develop and operate an integrated food safety control system and to achieve more effective collaboration and coordination between agencies responsible for food safety and quality control systems in line with global best practices and standards. It also incorporates key components like clear communication and implementation of safety standards and regular monitoring and audits for compliance.

Additionally, a monitoring system should be in place to track critical control points throughout the production process to assess compliance, and addressing any deviations promptly helps ensure high food safety levels.

Consensus on the content of the National Policy on Food Safety and Quality, and its Implementation Plan was reached through extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders including development partners with responsibilities in the management of food safety. This policy is therefore based on general principles of preventive, integrated, and collaborative multi-agency approach.

By adopting these strategies, a food safety policy can successfully protect public health and promote consumer confidence. Concerted efforts must be put into ensuring safe food through strategic implementation and enforcement within the value chain by all stakeholders including policymakers (government), food vendors, farmers, researchers, industry, etc.

Additionally, there is a need for this policy to be widely circulated and disseminated to ensure a robust and harmonized approach to food safety issues at all levels.

A periodic review of this document to ensure compliance and relevance is also imperative.

The concerted effort of all stakeholders for the effective implementation of this policy cannot be over-emphasized, therefore all hands must be on deck to ensure we derive the maximum benefit envisaged for the review and formulation of this Policy.

Prof. Muhammed Ali Pate
Coordinating Minister
Federal Ministry of Health & Social Welfare
2023

PREFACE

Food Safety refers to practices and conditions that preserve the safety and quality of food to prevent contamination and foodborne diseases along the entire food supply chain such as preparation, handling, storage, and distribution. Food Safety assures that food will not cause harm to the consumer when it is prepared and/or eaten according to its intended use. With the new developments globally in the Food Safety and Quality sub sector, the Federal Government took a bold step to review, update and strengthen the deficiencies and fill the gaps inherent in the earlier version of the policy that was implemented since 2015.

This policy document states the Vision, Mission, Scope, Intentions, and Roles, and Responsibilities of MDAs, Food Business Operators (FBOs), and other stakeholders. It also addresses specific areas of interventions such as; legislation, stakeholder coordination, food trade, food traceability, risk analysis, aquaculture, disease surveillance, laboratory, distribution, importation/exportation, response and management to emergencies, awareness & education, research, and development, and ensuring healthy and nutritious foods.

For the Implementation Plan, the policy has six (6) goals with their respective objectives, strategic approach, key activities, performance indicators, and responsible organisation. The implementation plan, which is designed for 5 years implementation, shall be robustly monitored, and evaluated using a set format and checklist guided by the outlined key activities and monitored periodically by the National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC).

As the FMHSW is poised to provide effective coordination for the implementation of the policy, I enjoin all stakeholders to play their respective roles to achieve the overall success envisioned for this crucial document.



Daju, Kachollom S. mni
Permanent Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This revised National Policy on Food Safety and Quality, and its Implementation Plan is a product of the combined efforts of the Food Safety and Quality Programme of the Food and Drug Services Department of the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, National Food Safety Management Committee and other stakeholders in the last two years to see that the country has an updated policy that meets the emerging food safety and quality needs and the recommended global best practices and standards. The Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is appreciative of their individual and collective inputs.

We are particularly grateful to the following Ministries and their respective Agencies for their immense contribution to this policy; The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; Federal Ministry of Environment; Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology; Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment; as well as the Organised Private Sector, Academia, and Civil Society Organisations.

We appreciate our several strategic and esteemed partners who provided their technical and financial support in revising this policy until this final product evolved. These partners include; the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL), Network for Health Equity and Development (NHED), Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI), Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA), World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and many more.

We also commend the work of the policy Consultant, Mr John F. Tehinse for his commitment and selfless efforts to ensure the policy meets all areas of need.

Finally, I must appreciate the leadership of the Food Safety and Quality Programme, under the Food and Drug Services Department – Mr Atanda O. John and his team of dedicated staff for their commitment and tenacity towards moving the Food Safety system and structure in Nigeria to the next level.

We would continue to count on the support of all stakeholders and partners in the overall implementation of this policy to achieve its intended purpose.

Pharm. (Mrs.) Olubunmi Aribeana
Director, Food and Drug Services Department.
Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
2023

ACRONYMS

AFAN	All Farmers Association of Nigeria
AFBTE	Association of Food Beverage & Tobacco Employers
AFVN	Association of Food Vendors in Nigeria
AMR	Anti-Microbial Resistance
ARSO	African Organisation for Standardization
BOI	Bank of Industry
CA	Competent Authority
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CDC	United States Center for Disease Control
CMHSW	Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
FDVPCS	Federal Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EHCON	Environmental Health Council of Nigeria
EHOs	Environmental Health Officers
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FBD	Foodborne Disease
FBOs	Food Business Operators
FCCPC	Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
FCDO	UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (formally DFID)
FCTA	Federal Capital Territory Administration
FDA	Federal Department of Agriculture
FDF	Federal Department of Fisheries
FEC	Federal Executive Council
FMAFS	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
FMEdu	Federal Ministry of Education
FMEnv	Federal Ministry of Environment
FMF	Federal Ministry of Finance
FMIST	Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology
FMITI	Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment
FMHSW	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
FSAN	Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Directorate, NAFDAC
FSQP	Food Safety and Quality Programme, FMHSW
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GEP	Good Environment Practices
GHP	Good Hygienic Practices
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GMF	Genetically Modified Food
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
GSP	Good Storage Practices
IDSR	Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IMCFS	Inter-Ministerial Committee on Food Safety
IPAN	Institute of Public Analysts of Nigeria

IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IPPO	International Plant Protection Organization
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
LGAs	Local Government Areas
MAN	Manufacturers Association of Nigeria
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MLSCN	Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria
NABDA	National Biotechnology Development Agency
NAFDAC	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
NAQS	Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service
NASC	National Agricultural Seed Council
NASME	Nigeria Association of Small & Medium Enterprises
NASS	National Assembly
NASSI	Nigerian Association of Small-Scale Industrialists
NBMA	National Biosafety Management Agency
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NBTE	National Board of Technical Education
NCCE	National Commission for Colleges of Education
NCDC	Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
NCFN	National Committee for Food and Nutrition
NCH	National Council of Health
NCS	Nigeria Customs Service
NEPC	National Export Promotion Council
NESREA	National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency
NFSMC	National Food Safety Management Committee
NFSS	National Food Safety System
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NHMIS	National Health Management Information System
NIAS	Nigeria Institute of Animal Science
NiCFoST	Nigerian Council of Food Science and Technology
NICOP	GIZ – Nigeria Competitive Project
NIFST	Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology
NIMR	Nigerian Institute of Medical Research
NIPC	Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission
NMSMEs	Nano, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NOTAP	National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion
NPFSIS	National Policy on Food Safety and Implementation Strategy
NPHCDA	National Primary Health Care Development Agency
NSC	Nigerian Seed Council
NUC	National Universities Commission
NUT	Nigeria Union of Teachers
OPS	Organised Private Sector
OTACCWA	Organization for Technology Advancement of Cold Chain in West Africa
QA	Quality Assurance
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMEDAN	Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria
SMOA	State Ministry of Agriculture
SMOH	State Ministry of Health
SON	Standards Organisation of Nigeria
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure

SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Fund
TBT	Technical Barrier to Trade
TFA	Trans Fatty Acids
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCN	Veterinary Council of Nigeria
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health
WTO	World Trade Organisation

CHAPTER 1 – BACKGROUND

Food Safety pertains to the prevention, reduction, or elimination of the risk of ill health or death, arising from the consumption of foods, either fresh or processed, obtained through the domestic market, or international trade. Agriculture plays a significant role in the socio-economic life of Nigeria and its citizenry and serves as the employer of a large segment of Nigerian labour. Typically, the Nigerian food system is characterized by a small number of Large-scale and modern Multinational Food Establishments, and several Small and Cottage-scale counterparts having limited resources (finance, knowledge, and skills) to adopt and implement global best food safety practices and standards. For example, nearly 70% of Nigeria's population live in rural areas and conduct their livelihood as smallholder farmers, artisanal food processors, and related non-farm activities. Similarly, the rural communities where most of the local food production takes place, lack adequate infrastructures such as safe water supply, electricity, cold storage facilities, poor transport, and road networks. The key agricultural commodities produced locally include cassava, maize, yams, millet, sorghum, cowpea, onions, tomatoes, ginger, carrots, potatoes, rice, fish, livestock, and fishery products, while the commodities commonly exported include cocoa beans, sesame seed, palm kernel cake, cashew nuts, fish, and fishery products.

In Nigeria, small-scale and artisanal production and distribution of food are widespread. They include smallholder farmers, street food vendors, and traditional food markets, whose activities are generally regarded as informal sector activities, however, they constitute a significant component of the national food supply chain. Thus, the Nigerian food supply chain faces peculiar food safety challenges. The foods are often exposed to unhygienic and unsanitary conditions, while passing across the food supply chain, leading to elevated levels of postharvest losses and contaminated foods. Incidences and outbreaks of foodborne diseases are rising, while biological hazards and, chemical contaminants such as pesticide residues, microbial toxins, microplastics, allergens, and veterinary drug residues in foods are also on the rise. Food fraud and adulteration, antimicrobial resistance, and zoonotic diseases are also increasingly becoming significant food safety concerns. The excessive consumption of red meat, salt, saturated fat, and refined sugars in foods and drinks, and the sub-optimal consumption of fibre and micronutrients have increasingly affected health sector indices and as such becomes a food safety concern.

Food safety is critical to safeguarding public health and ensuring fair practices in food trade. Although the government of Nigeria has over the years been intensifying efforts to improve the standard of food safety, food safety practices across each sector of the food supply chain are yet to meet the recommended global best practices and standards. Incidences and outbreaks of foodborne illnesses with devastating socioeconomic consequences are widespread across the entire country. For example, despite the non-availability of reliable and accurate data, over 200,000 people including under-five children reportedly die annually from the consumption of contaminated foods. Similarly, most Nigerian food products have continued to face low competitiveness or outright rejection in local, regional, and international markets.

The current food safety control system in Nigeria is both sectoral and fragmented between various government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), and between regulatory bodies operating at national and sub-national levels. To mitigate these challenges, the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Health and its Partners launched the National

Policy on Food Safety and its Implementation Strategy (NPFSIS) in 2015. The overarching objective of this Policy was to provide a framework for modernizing the Nigerian Food Safety Control and Management System in line with global best practices and standards. This was closely followed by the development and validation by stakeholders of the "Food Safety and Quality Bill (2019)", a single unified national food safety legislation. This legislation has been endorsed by the government to the National Assembly (NASS).

Based on the government's determination to modernize and strengthen its national food safety control and management system in line with global best practices and standards, the FMHSW and its Partners have reviewed the existing National Food Safety Policy document, identified inherent deficiencies and gaps, and have formulated this National Policy on Food Safety and Quality, which has been designed to strengthen the deficiencies and fill the gaps inherent in the earlier version. This version will provide the framework for upgrading national capacity to develop and operate an integrated food safety control system and to achieve more effective collaboration and coordination between agencies responsible for food safety and quality control systems in line with global best practices and standards.

CHAPTER 2 – SITUATION ANALYSIS

2.1 STATUS OF THE NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

Food safety control is a mandatory regulatory activity enforced by governments to provide consumer protection and ensure that all foods during production, handling, storage, processing, and distribution are safe, wholesome, and fit for human consumption; conform to safety and quality requirements; and are honestly and accurately labelled as prescribed by law. The history of the Nigerian national food control system dates back to 1917, when the first legislation, the Public Health Ordinance, was enacted. The national food control system has since undergone significant legal and institutional reforms and improvements since its emergence in 1917. The scope of The Nigerian food safety control system covers the entire food supply chain, i.e., food production, preparation, processing, storage, transportation, distribution and trade, importation and exportation of food, and its main objectives are to protect public health by reducing foodborne illnesses; protect consumers from unsanitary, contaminated, unwholesome, mislabelled, or adulterated food and to maintain consumer confidence in the food system.

To achieve these stated objectives and in line with its commitment to improving the food control system, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) in January 2015, in partnership with critical stakeholders in the food chain, launched the National Policy on Food Safety and its Implementation Strategy (NPFSIS), which provides the government with the needed framework to minimize the incidence of risks associated with physical, chemical and biological hazards in foods and water; and to modernise the national food safety control system in line with international standards. Nigeria is a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) which compels Nigeria to apply Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures to protect human, animal, and plant health.

2.2 FOOD SAFETY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES.

2.2.1 Burden of Foodborne Disease in Nigeria

Unsafe food and water, cause 600 million cases of foodborne diseases each year and 420,000 preventable deaths worldwide (WHO, 2015). In Nigeria, research has shown that over 200,000 reportedly die from food poisoning and contamination annually. Although Nigeria does not have an official foodborne disease surveillance system, foodborne infection is endemic and its direct cost is estimated at $3 billion, accounting for 17–25% of the estimated cost of all illnesses. The local government health system profile in Nigeria revealed food-borne illnesses as the leading cause of death, accounting for 25% of mortality. The types of Food Borne Diseases (FBDs) commonly reported included but are not limited to diarrhoea diseases; Foodborne cholera; chemical poisons, and cases of food-related Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) such as kidney and liver failures, brain and neurological disorders, and cancer are on the rise.

The priority food hazards in Nigeria include:

i. Biological Hazards: *Salmonella* spp., *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Vibrio* species (*V. cholerae* and *V. parahaemolyticus*), *Shigella*, *Escherichia. coli* O157:H7, Enterohaemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC), *Clostridium botulinum*, *Bacillus cereus, Clostridium perfringens*, Viruses, and Parasites.
ii. Chemical Toxins: Naturally occurring chemicals (Glucosides, Mycotoxins, and Marine biotoxins), Heavy metals (Lead, Cadmium, and Mercury), Allergens, Dioxins, and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Antibiotics/Antimicrobial Residues.
iii. Physical hazards: Illness or Injury can result from the presence of hard foreign objects such as stones, broken bottles or glass, metal, bone, wood, etc. in foods.

2.2.2 Food Safety Risk Factors.

The issue of risks to food safety across the food chain from the Farm-to-Table continuum in Nigeria has been professionally researched and documented. The issues and challenges are summarized as follows:

i. Poor food handling practices are a typical behavioural pattern of stakeholders involved in the production, processing, handling, storage, distribution, and sale of food at traditional marketplaces.
ii. Incidences and outbreaks of foodborne diseases arising from ingestion of contaminated foods with bacterial pathogens, viruses, and chemical toxins including mycotoxins are widespread.
iii. Poor knowledge of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Hygiene Practices (GHP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP), Good Storage Practices (GSP), Good Distribution Practices (GDP), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), and the inadequate capacity or willingness by operators of Nano, Micro, Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (NMSMEs) across the food value chain, and the traditional food market vendors to adopt and implement basic safe food practices.
iv. Widespread abuse and/or misuse of agrochemicals, preservatives, antibiotics, and chemical additives in the production, processing, and storage of foods.
v. Misuse of approved pesticides and use of unapproved and cheap toxic pesticides on stored food commodities such as ginger, dried tomato, grains, etc. to prevent insect infestation and or fungal growth or mouldiness.
vi. Poor regulation monitoring and enforcement of extant food safety legislation by regulatory agencies.
vii. Poor disposal of wastes within and outside food establishments, markets, and household environments.
viii. Increasing proliferation of Genetically Modified (GM) foods/products in the marketplace
ix. Inadequate attention to the presence of toxic metals and/or other contaminants in urban and rural water supply systems.
x. Absence of commensurate sanctions/liability on producers, promoters, and sponsors of adulterated/defective food and food products/inputs and related unfair food trade practices.

2.2.3 Unsafe Practices that Accentuate Food Contamination

Food Safety risk factors that tend to escalate the existing rising incidence of foodborne disease burden in Nigeria have been adequately studied and documented. These factors include but are not limited to the following:

i. Widespread poverty and illiteracy of food handlers and food business owners in rural, semi-urban, and urban communities.
ii. Poor monitoring and control of street food vending and related informal trading activities. Over 60% of Nigerians depend on these sources for their daily food needs.
iii. Widespread fungi contamination of food crops due to poor postharvest handling practices
iv. Poor public awareness of the significance of food safety and its principles
v. Uncoordinated approach to enforcement of food safety laws and regulations
vi. Inadequate laws and regulations on the use of agrochemicals, preservatives, and chemical additives in the production, processing, and storage of foods including their monitoring and enforcement.
vii. Poor water supply system and inadequate attention to the presence of toxic metals and/or other contaminants in urban and rural water supply systems
viii. Poor knowledge, attitude, and practice of food handlers regarding food safety, and their unwillingness to adopt and implement basic principles of GHP, GMP, cGMP, and GAP.
ix. Poor consumer food safety knowledge and concerns as it relates to human health and food trade.
x. Lack of implementation of food standards and Code of Practice prescribed by Nigeria to regulate manufacture, transportation, and packaging.

2.3 Institutional Arrangement to Implement and Enforce Legislations Relating to Food Safety in Nigeria

Nigeria is currently operating a multiple-agency food control system, which is sectoral and fragmented, with roles and responsibilities shared among different Competent Authorities (CAs) in government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) at the National, State, and LGAs, as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

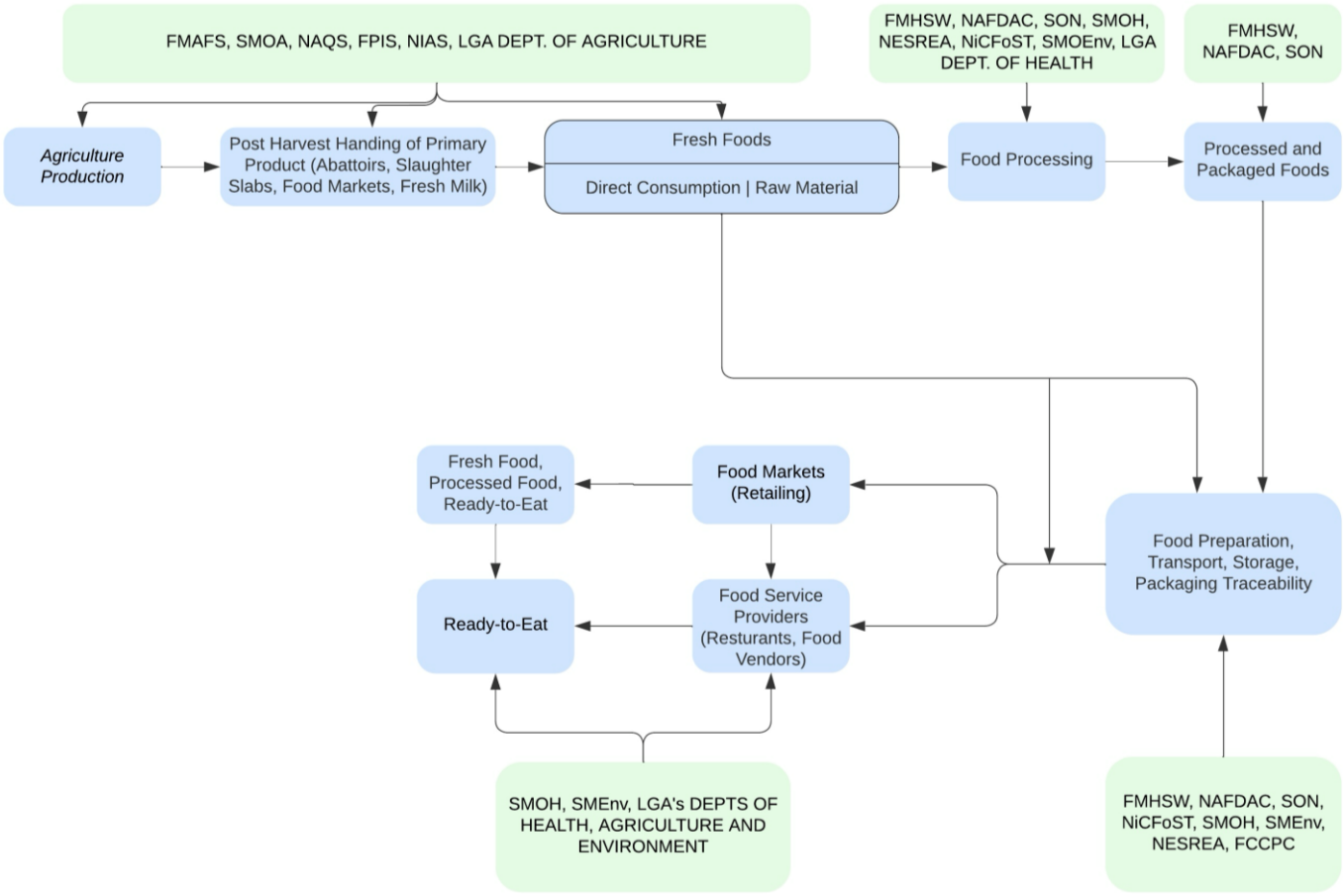


Figure 1: MDAs Responsible for Food Safety and Quality Control in Nigeria

2.3.1 The Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMHSW)

The Ministry derives its legal mandate in food safety under the Constitution and various laws such as the National Health Act 2014, the Food and Drug Act 1974, and others. The Ministry implements this Act, through the design of policies, programs, and strategies on food safety at all stages of the food supply chain. Presently, the Ministry chairs the National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC) while it chairs the National Codex Committee (NCC) on a rotational basis with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. The regulatory/implementation arms of the Ministry whose roles and responsibilities related to food safety include:

i. Department of Food and Drug Services
ii. Department of Public Health
iii. Department of Nutrition
iv. National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
v. National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA)
vi. Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC)
vii. Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria (ICCON)
viii. Institute of Public Analyst of Nigeria (IPAN)

NAFDAC was restructured in April 2013, creating the Directorate of Food Safety & Applied Nutrition to further strengthen the capacity for food control activities and enhance professionalism. The Ministry is also responsible for water and chemical safety.

2.3.2 Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS)

The FMAFS is mandated under the Nigerian constitution to establish and implement policies, programs, and strategies for the general development of Agriculture including livestock, plant crops, and fisheries. The regulatory/implementing arm of the Ministry with responsibilities relating to Food Safety include:

i. Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA)
ii. Federal Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services (DVPCS)
iii. Federal Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
iv. Federal Department of Strategic Food Reserve
v. Federal Department of Animal Husbandry Services
vi. Federal Department of Extension Services (DES)
vii. Department of Nutrition and Food Safety (DNFS)
viii. Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS)
ix. Nigeria Institute of Animal Science (NIAS)
x. National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI)
xi. National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC)
xii. Agriculture Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN)

In the agricultural sector, food safety control is concerned with regulating and control of agricultural inputs to farmers including the attitudes and practices of farmers. The specific areas of concern include but are not limited to the use of pesticides, fertilizers, veterinary drugs, animal feedstuff, animal and plant diseases, disease-causing pests, and related agents in both plants and animals. It is also required to provide a regulatory framework and control measures for the transportation of agricultural produce, storage, handling of vegetables, ripening of fruits, slaughtering, and handling of animals at abattoirs, milk production on farms, preservation of fish and aquatic products, and issuance of import and export certifications of plant and animal commodities.

2.3.3 The Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI)

The Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment was restructured in 2011 with the responsibility of facilitating food trade, stimulating domestic investment, attracting foreign direct investment, and industrial development. The Ministry is also expected to establish and implement trade policies that maximise the benefits of international trade and accelerate the growth of the industrial sector for enhanced productivity that will boost the development of Nano, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (NMSME) for economic growth.

Nigeria is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Ministry is the focal point for WTO in Nigeria as well as Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures (SPS). The SPS measures are to be applied only to the extent of protecting human, animal, and plant health. SPS standards are preventive control measures necessary to protect the life and health of persons, animals, and plants. For Nigeria to become fully integrated into the global market economies, it needs to

satisfy international standards and requirements for agricultural and food products, especially for export and import. The regulatory/implementing arm of the Ministry concerning food safety includes:

i. Department of International Trade,
ii. Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON),
iii. Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC),
iv. Federal Produce Inspection Service (FPIS),
v. Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC).

2.3.4 Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology

The Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (FMIST) is tasked with facilitating the development and deployment of science and technology to accelerate Nigeria's development. Within the Ministry, the Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences coordinates and monitors research and development policies, programs, and linkages in agriculture and other critical sectors. Among the departments and agencies that are active in some aspects of food safety are:

i. Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences
ii. Federal Institute of Industrial Research Oshodi (FIIRO),
iii. National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA),
iv. Raw Materials Development and Research Council (RMRDC),
v. Sheda Science and Technology Complex (SHESTCO),
vi. Nigerian Council of Food Science and Technology (NiCFoST),
vii. National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI).

The FMIST also provides scientific research and developmental support to food safety policy and programs in the country and the development of innovative technologies to enhance food processing and handling.

2.3.5 Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv)

The Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv) was established in June 1999 to ensure effective coordination of all environmental matters that were hitherto fragmented in different line Ministries. The creation was intended to ensure that environmental matters are adequately mainstreamed into all development activities. FMEnv is also focused on evolving innovations with an emphasis on the use of environmental re-engineering as a tool for ensuring food security as a way of sustainable economic development for Nigerians.

The relevant departments and agencies for food safety are:

i. Department of Pollution Control and Environmental Health
ii. National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)
iii. Environmental Health Council of Nigeria (EHCON).
iv. National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA).

2.3.6 The Federal Ministry of Education (FMEdu)

The Federal Ministry of Education (FMEdu) is the Government institution responsible for fostering and maintaining uniform standards of education throughout the Country. FMEdu is responsible for developing curricula and syllabuses at the National Level including controlling and monitoring the quality of education across the Country and harmonizing educational policies and procedures in all the States of the Federation. The relevant agencies for food safety include but are not limited to:

i. National Universities Commission
ii. National Board of Technical Education
iii. National Teachers Institute
iv. Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council

2.3.7 The Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation (FMINO)

The Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation (FMINO) is responsible for the dissemination of essential and vital information that can enhance and facilitate the democratic governance of Nigeria as a Federal Republic. FMINO provides Nigerian citizens with credible and timely information on Federal Government activities, programmes, and initiatives including creating an enabling environment for Nigeria's economic development.

The relevant agencies for food safety include but are not limited to:

i. National Orientation Agency (NOA)
ii. Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN)
iii. Nigeria Television Authority (NTA)
iv. News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)
v. Voice of Nigeria (VON)

2.3.8 Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation (FMWR&S)

The mandate of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation (FMWR&S) is to develop and implement policies, projects, and programs that will enable access to quality and sufficient water to meet the cultural, social, environmental, and economic development needs of all Nigerians. The relevant agencies for food safety include but are not limited to:

i. River Basin Operations and Inspection,
ii. Water Quality Control and Sanitation,
iii. Water Resources Planning and Technical Support Services.

2.3.9 States and Local Government Area (LGA)

The Local Government Area (LGA) in Nigeria is the third tier of Government representing the interest of citizens at the grassroots. Each LGA is administered by a Local Government Council consisting of a chairperson who is the Chief Executive, and other elected members who are referred to as Councillors. They have various functions including:

i. Control and regulation of outdoor advertising, movement, and keeping of pets of all descriptions.

ii. Inspection and monitoring of shops and kiosks, restaurants, and other places where food is offered for sale.
iii. Control of street food vending/vendors, rural catering and restaurant establishments, abattoirs, and traditional markets.

2.3.10 Private Sector Organizations with Responsibilities for Food Safety

The Nigerian food industry is characterised by both large-scale and nano, micro, small and medium-scale (NMSME) food establishments. While large-scale food establishments are few and generally located in cities and towns; the Food NMSME counterparts are widespread and mostly located in rural or peri-urban centres. As in most developing countries, the food NMSMEs are not well organized, and the products are mostly characterized by food safety concerns. However, the outlook of NMSMEs in the food industry sector is bright, with enormous growth potential.

There are many private-led Food Business Operators (FBOs) that have organized themselves into Umbrella Associations that include:

Organized Private Sector (OPS):

i. Association of Food, Beverage, and Tobacco Employers AFBTE),
ii. Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN),
iii. All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN),
iv. Relevant Professional Bodies, (e.g., the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology, Nutrition Society of Nigeria, Institute of Packaging Nigeria, Mycotoxicology Society of Nigeria)
v. Nigeria National Accreditation System (NiNAS)
vi. Nigeria Association of Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (NASME) and
vii. Nigerian Association of Small-Scale Industrialists (NASSI).
viii. Organization for Technology Advancement of Cold Chain in West Africa (OTACCWA)
ix. Association of Food and Agro Processors (AFAP)

Informal Sector Operators:

i. Street Food Vendors
ii. Smallholder farmers,
iii. Informal food traders,
iv. Cottage-level food processors,
v. Traditional food markets,
vi. Consumers, etc.

2.4 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The current Nigeria food safety control system is governed by nearly 43 principal and subsidiary laws that relate to food safety at the national level. These laws are developed and implemented independently by the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMHSW), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv), Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (FMIST), Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI), and their State counterpart Ministries and relevant Departments at the

LGAs. The Nigerian government has been developing and implementing legislation to protect the health of consumers and safeguard public health since 1917. However, a national food safety legislation, the "National Food Safety and Quality (NFSQ) Bill", 2023 (HB. 2176) endorsed by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) and forwarded to the National Assembly (NASS) for further legislative processes is yet to be accented to by Mr. President. When passed into law, it will provide the required legal framework.

2.5 Status of the Implementation of the National Policy on Food Safety and its Implementation Strategy (NPFSIS)

The NPFSIS was developed in 2014 but became operational in 2015. It was designed to provide a framework for the identification of national food safety objectives and the formulation of suitable laws, regulations, and guidelines aimed at achieving international best practices in all sectors of the food supply chain. It is also intended to establish an effective early warning system that can detect, trace, and prevent outbreaks of foodborne illnesses before they spread. A review and analysis of the existing NPFSIS 2014 identified the following key deficiencies and/or gaps:

i. The policy framework did not address food safety concerns associated with informal actors (smallholder farmers, food vendors, traditional food market operators, slaughter slab operators, butchers, etc.) relating to safe production, packaging, storage, transport, handling, and retail of foods). Over 60% of Nigerians source their daily food needs from the informal sector).
ii. The statutory mandates of Competent Authorities (CAs) and other bodies provide an incoherent approach to the management of the implementation of the policy objectives, and activities across the entire food chain, from farm to table continuum.
iii. The inability of the policy to address food safety concerns associated with Food Business Operators in the informal sector such as operators of street food vending, traditional food markets, slaughter slabs, butcheries, etc.
iv. The extant regulatory framework fails to provide written principles, procedures, and guidelines for future improvements/upgrades to the extant food safety policy.
v. Lack of communication system/Channel in place between Competent Authorities (CAs), and other stakeholders along the food supply chain for the exchange of data/information relating to risks associated with human, animal, and plant health, respectively.
vi. The extant regulatory framework and mandates for CAs do not provide clear guidelines on achieving coordination between and among themselves that can enable CAs to develop a common vision of food control facilitate multi-sectoral planning and implementation of food control measures and promote communication.
vii. Failure of governments and CAs, especially at the States and Local Government levels, to adopt and implement guidelines on food safety as clearly provided in the NPFSIS document.
viii. Absence of a regulatory mechanism that mandates governments, CAs, and other bodies to ensure the provision of adequate resources (finance, infrastructure, workforce, logistics, etc.) to implement the food safety policy strategic objectives and plans at all levels of government and to respond promptly to food safety emergencies.

ix. Nigeria is yet to have a single integrated National Food Safety legislation, to provide an effective framework for the implementation of the existing food safety policy and achieve effective collaboration and coordination between agencies across the farm-to-table continuum in line with the strategic objectives of the existing NPFSIS document.

2.6 RECOMMENDATIONS

An assessment of the strategy and its implementation plan for the existing NPFSIS identified key deficiencies and gaps, which the new Policy on food and feed safety should address. These deficiencies and gaps include provisions to:

i. Expansion of the scope of the existing policy framework to include:
   a. Strategies for achieving best food safety and quality practices in the manufacture, storage, distribution, and sale of poultry, animal, and fish feeds.
   b. Strategies that address the quality component of food in line with Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
   c. Strengthen the capacity of relevant CAs for Certifications of products to access niche export markets and for local consumption (HACCP, ISO, ORGANIC, etc).
   d. Strengthen the capacity and resources of CAs and other implementing bodies to operationalize the early warning system strategy at National, States, and Local Government levels.

ii. Restoring hygiene and sanitary inspection systems to strengthen the existing inspection of street food vending establishments, traditional food markets, primary food production centres, household hygiene and sanitation, and other related establishments in the LGAs.

iii. Ensuring the assent by the President, of the National Food Safety and Quality (NFS&Q) Bill, 2023 into an Act of Parliament to provide the legal framework for the implementation of the National Policy on Food Safety and to:
   a. Streamline the roles and responsibilities provided by the statutory mandates of CAs and minimize overlaps and multiple jurisdictions to the barest minimum.
   b. Adopting an integrated food control system in replacement of the current multiple agency systems in line with international best practices and standards.

iv. Developing and implementing new strategies to minimise the incidence of risks to human, animal, and plant health, respectively.

v. Developing and implementing strategies to effectively manage the value chain of dairy and dairy products, micro-livestock, and honey products.

vi. Greater attention by governments to developing/strengthening the food safety knowledge and skill capacity of smallholder farmers, street food vendors, traditional food market operators, slaughter slab operators, butchers, etc. to enable them to adopt and maintain global best practices and standards.

vii. Strengthen the capacity of NBMA and other relevant Agencies to assure the safety of Genetically Modified (GM) Foods and Food Products and the application of GMO Technology.

viii. Creation of an effective food safety public awareness structure through the establishment of a National Information and Communication System dedicated to Food Safety programs and activities.

ix. Creating an enabling environment to enable Nigeria's greater participation in international food trade.

x. Strengthen the capacity and resources of relevant Competent Authorities (CAs) to develop and implement strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change on food safety at the National, State, and Local Government levels.

xi. Ensure mandatory strategies to implement the Nigerian Industrial Standards for Food Products to achieve the best food safety and quality practices in the manufacture, storage, distribution, and sale of food and feed.

CHAPTER 3 – THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

3.1 POLICY VISION

Ensuring that food safety and quality is a public health priority and an essential step to achieving food security and improved trade.

3.2 POLICY MISSION

To safeguard human, animal, plant, and environmental health and facilitate trade through the application of science-based principles using an integrated institutional framework, effective inter-agency collaboration, appropriate legislation, as well as a strengthened public-private sector partnership.

3.3 RATIONALE

Access to an adequate supply of safe, wholesome, and nutritious food is key to the sustenance of life and the promotion of good health. Unsafe food containing harmful bacteria, viruses, or chemical toxins causes over 200 types of foodborne diseases ranging from diarrhoea to cancer. Similarly, to participate effectively in today's global food trade market, Governments are obligated with the responsibility of ensuring that locally produced foods or those imported into their countries are safe for consumption. It is therefore imperative that the National Policy on Food Safety and its Implementation Plan be reviewed, and adequate and comprehensive food safety programmes be developed and implemented at all levels to protect consumers' health and enhance food trade.

The food supply chain in Nigeria faces several challenges arising from diversities in culture, lifestyles, agricultural practices, mode of food production, handling, storage, preparation, transportation, and eating habits. The current food safety control and management system in Nigeria is yet to develop the capacity and capability to guarantee the safety of food along its food supply chain, from Farm to Table, leading to rising incidences and outbreaks of foodborne illnesses in the country. Other critical issues and challenges include:

i. Resource constraints (financial, human, and material) in all tiers of government limit the ability of regulatory agencies to carry out regular and effective inspections across each sector of the food supply chain.
ii. Inadequate knowledge of food safety among key operators in the food supply chain including marketers and consumers, which contribute significantly to the threat posed by food-borne contaminants.
iii. Poor communication and coordination mechanisms as well as inter-agency cooperation for the enforcement of their laws and regulations. There is a lack of proper definitions of roles and responsibilities, which leads to overlap and implementation problems.

The National Policy on food safety shall provide the framework for assuring the public health and well-being of the citizenry, and the development of a more desirable level of competitiveness for Nigerian food and food products at domestic, regional, and international markets.

3.4 JUSTIFICATION

The justification for this policy is premised on the following:

i. A constant and adequate supply of safe and nutritious food to the population is a major component of a nation's health policy. Every citizen has the right to safe food. This Policy would assure safer foods across the entire food supply, facilitate food trade, and contribute to national economic development while ensuring a healthier population.

ii. Food is not only a biological need but an economic and political tool for all countries of the world. An effective national food safety system will not only improve food security but enhance the nation's economy through increased and sustainable import and export food trade.

iii. Improved food hygiene and sanitation standards will help to reduce the incidence of foodborne diseases. This will lower morbidity and mortality rates, especially among vulnerable groups in the population. Public health maintenance costs will also be reduced, and sustainable expansion of the food and Agro-based industries will be enhanced leading to a significant reduction in the unemployment rate.

iv. Unified strategies for the promotion of the consumption of healthy and nutritious diets in addition to reducing the disease burden in the country.

v. In Nigeria, responsibilities for food safety control are fragmented between different regulatory agencies within the different tiers of government. Consequently, the implementation of food safety measures suffers a lot of challenges and setbacks due to poor overall communication, coordination, and deficient performance of regulatory bodies including frequent confusion over jurisdiction.

vi. The food Nano, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (NMSMEs) have enormous potential to create employment and wealth for the rural and urban poor. This potential can be harnessed with improved hygienic practices and adequate infrastructure. The food chain is characterised by poor agricultural handling and storage practices resulting in elevated levels of contaminants in raw materials and processed food products. This affects tourism, foreign investment, and trade. The proposed food safety control system will engage the private sector stakeholders to take responsibility for food safety and promote consumer confidence.

vii. Federal and State Governments including Local Governments have a moral and statutory responsibility to protect the public against disease, disability, and death arising from the consumption of unwholesome food and contaminated water. This Policy has been formulated with a focus on the prevention of the sale and distribution of unwholesome foods and contaminated water; as well as promoting food security and enhancing tourism.

viii. This Policy will enhance Nigeria's commitment to meeting its obligation to international agreements on food trade for which the country is a signatory, and improve its competitiveness at local, regional, and international markets.

3.5 SCOPE

The National Policy on Food Safety and Quality shall provide the framework for the identification of national food safety objectives, and formulation of suitable laws, regulations, standards, and guidelines aimed at achieving international best practices across all sectors of the food supply chain including food operations in the informal sector, such as smallholder farmers, food vendors, traditional food market operators, slaughter slab operators, butchers, etc. It is also intended to provide a framework for producing quality and nutritious foods and to establish an effective surveillance system that can detect, trace, prevent, and respond to outbreaks of foodborne illnesses before they spread.

3.6 POLICY INTENTIONS

The Policy intends to:

i. Ensure the effectiveness of the independent National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC) and a single Food Safety and Quality legislation.
ii. Minimise the incidence of food safety risks associated with Human, Animal, Plant, and Environmental sources.
iii. Enhance institutional and human capacity for food safety and quality.
iv. Establish effective nationwide information and communication systems for food safety and quality.
v. Promote International trade in Food and Feed.
vi. Ensure allocation, timely release, and utilisation of adequate resources for food safety and quality programmes.

3.7 ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

i. Development and implementation of programmes and activities to ensure compliance with the Policy and quality in line with the relevant regulations.
ii. Ensure food consumed locally or traded at regional or internationally is safe, wholesome, and suitable for human consumption.
iii. Develop and maintain a system for integrated foodborne disease surveillance, response, and control.
iv. Developing and implementing systems that facilitate compliance with bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.
v. Active participation in the development of national, regional, and international food safety-related standards and guidelines.
vi. Allocation of adequate resources (finance, workforce, and infrastructure) to develop, implement, and sustain an effective national food safety and control system.
vii. Supports the application of research benchmark for evidence-based national food safety systems.
viii. Developing and implementing relevant public awareness and education programmes that give consumers access to information on best food hygiene practices.
ix. Developing appropriate programmes to achieve acceptable baseline data for food hygiene standards aimed at protecting the most vulnerable segments of society.

x. Developing and maintaining a national food safety information system.
xi. Developing systems to ensure that foods available in times of emergencies and disasters are safe, wholesome, and of desirable quality.
xii. Developing systems to ensure that all foods procured for public consumption and institutional feeding in the country are safe, wholesome, and of desirable quality.
xiii. Develop and maintain an effective food hazard alert system.

3.8 Role of Food Business Operators (FBOs)

It shall be the responsibility of FBOs to ensure that:

i. Foods and beverages including primary agricultural products produced, packaged, transported, and marketed for humans, and feeds for animals including fisheries are safe, wholesome, and of desirable quality.
ii. Where the product is found to be unsafe and or substandard, the FBO shall be liable, and shall immediately initiate recall procedures and inform the relevant competent authority thereof.
iii. Develop and maintain a product traceability system.
iv. Familiarise themselves with regulatory requirements (GAP, GMP, cGMP, GHP, HACCP, Food Standards) and ensure compliance.
v. Maintain a functional consumer complaint process and keep records.

3.9 Guiding Principles for the Policy

The principles guiding the policy are:

i. Access to safe food is of public health significance and a fundamental right of all citizens.
ii. Application of sound scientific knowledge of principles of risk analysis.
iii. Adoption of an effective traceability system.
iv. Adoption of precautionary principles.
v. Transparency in the implementation and enforcement of food safety legislation
vi. Food safety is a shared responsibility of governments (National, State, and LGAs), and the food industry including farming, food transporters, food warehouse operators, food retailers, and consumers.
vii. Adoption of an integrated farm-to-table approach, resulting in more effective cooperation, collaboration, and coordination of all stakeholders across the entire food supply chain, as well as their active participation in food safety programs and activities.
viii. Promoting food safety awareness through primary, secondary, and tertiary school outreaches.
ix. Recognition of food safety as a tool to safeguard public health, and not a revenue-generating activity for government or its Agencies, but only subject to cost recovery principles for sustainability.
x. Food Safety programmes and activities shall be developed and implemented in alignment with the frameworks of Nigeria's One Health Strategic Plan, Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), African Organization for Standardization (ARSO), World Organisation for Animal Health

(WOAH), International Plant Protection Convention(IPPC), International Health Regulation (IHR), requirements and Standards, as well as the Africa Quality Policy that was endorsed by the Africa Union (AU), relevant provisions on food safety in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) agreement and WTO principles and regulations on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade requirements and Standards.

xi. Food safety activities shall be based on a continuous research programme to promote sustainable linkages between food production, nutrition, health, and food trade.

xii. Relevant Regulatory Agencies shall ensure that food and food products comply with Global GAP, SQF, and GFSI Standards before being imported into or exported out of the country.

xiii. Improved competitiveness of Nigerian food and food products in domestic and international markets.

xiv. Adoption of a system for healthy food procurement.

3.10 Issues Addressed by the Policy

This Policy has been formulated to address the deficiencies and gaps inherent in the previous version. The following key action points have been formulated to address the deficiencies and gaps identified:

3.10.1 National Food Safety Legislations

The current legislations relating to food safety and quality in Nigeria are administered by various Government Regulatory Agencies. This system however faces several challenges and drawbacks, such as poor overall coordination at the national level, and overlapping functions leading to confusion over jurisdiction, which are common features. Thus, the existing policy framework lacks the capacity to checkmate the rising incidence of foodborne diseases and the poor consumer confidence in locally produced foods. This new Policy shall therefore provide for:

i. Adoption and implementation of the single integrated Food Safety and Quality Bill by all tiers of government.

ii. Governments (National, State, and LGA) shall review existing food safety and quality regulations and establish a modern food safety institutional framework in keeping with international standards and best practices.

iii. National and State Governments shall review existing food safety and quality regulations and institute more stringent penalties for repeated cases of non-compliance.

iv. States and LGAs are encouraged to adopt and implement this policy to ensure synergy and effective coordination of food safety in the country.

3.10.2 Coordination of the Implementation of Food Safety Programmes and Activities

Presently, responsibility for food safety is shared among several bodies and Agencies of Government at National and Sub-national levels. The fragmented nature of the function posed difficulties for coordination and streamlining food safety programs and activities, resulting in overlaps and gaps in the Nation's food safety system. Although the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Food Safety (IMCFS) and the National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC) are

entities to coordinate food safety programs and activities, incidences, and outbreaks of foodborne diseases continue to rise, while locally produced foods continue to attract poor consumer perception or outright rejection in local and international markets. This Policy, therefore, provides for:

i. The establishment of a National Food Safety Council (NFSC) and the strengthening of the National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC) which will have exclusive overall responsibility for ensuring the delivery of effective and efficient regulatory control of the safety and quality of food and animal feeds. It will also ensure the development and application of science-based regulations relating to food safety at all stages of production and marketing (from farm to fork) based on risk analysis in line with global best practices and standards.
ii. The State Governments shall establish State Food Safety Management Committees (SFSMC) comprising Senior Officers (Not below Directorate level) from Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Environment, Industry and Commerce, Finance and Budget, key Regulatory Agencies, Academia, Industry, Nigeria Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST), Nigerian Council of Food Science and Technology (NiCFoST), and the Office of the Attorney General.
iii. The SFSMC will also have the mandate to establish a system for the protection of consumer rights and formalize through appropriate legislation street food vending in line with the Codex food safety Regulations and guidelines.
iv. The NFSMC and State Food Safety Management Committee (SFSMC) shall have access to adequate funds, workforce, and logistics to enable them to perform their roles and responsibilities effectively.

3.10.3 Food Trade

The Government of Nigeria is an active member of the WTO and CAC, it is obligated under the terms of the agreement for members, to ensure compliance with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures of the WTO. Nigeria is yet to develop the needed capacity and capability to meet SPS requirements, which has hitherto hampered effective participation in regional and international food trade. This Policy shall mandate National and State governments to, where applicable, develop and/or strengthen the existing framework for food safety and quality by developing/upgrading modalities for understanding and complying with the requirements of Nigeria's international food trading partners.

3.10.4 Traceability

The current traceability systems to assure the origin, effect recalls, and removal of unsafe and substandard food products from distribution and retail outlets are weak, inadequate, and fall below international best practices. Subsequently, Governments at all levels shall:

i. Facilitate the establishment of a product traceability system from 'farm to table.'
ii. Establish procedures for the traceability of food from animal and plant origin, Agro chemicals, livestock, and fish feeds including their ingredients, Dairy and dairy products, Honey and other bee products, and micro-livestock.
iii. Ensure that the traceability activities are implemented by relevant CAs and FBOs.

iv. Develop/strengthen a traceability system to address the challenge posed by the movement of animals from all holdings to regulated slaughtering facilities.

3.10.5 Risk Analysis

Risk analysis is an integral part of all modern food safety systems and involves risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication. The capability and capacity of some CAs and FBOs to conduct appropriate risk analysis fall below the standards required under the WTO SPS agreements, to which Nigeria is a signatory. Based on this, the Government shall build the technical capacity of Inspectors, FBOs, and other key stakeholders for risk analysis not only to satisfy WTO requirements, but also to enhance evidence-based policy decisions, especially relating to food safety, animal health, plant health, and international trade.

3.10.6 Aquaculture

Aquaculture practices in Nigeria have increased dramatically in the recent past, in response to the need for a cheap but rich source of protein, and the inability of traditional fishing activities to meet domestic demand. However, there is a scarcity of information on food safety concerns with aquaculture. Foodborne diseases associated with pathogenic bacteria, and viruses, residues of veterinary drugs, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), microplastics, and heavy metal contamination have all been fingered as potential hazards. To safeguard public health and harness the high socioeconomic potential of this emerging industry, national and subnational governments shall:

i. Establish a mechanism to identify, collate, and review available information on food safety issues associated with aquaculture.
ii. Conduct a risk profiling of identified hazards and produce priority lists including their significance and the severity of the risks posed.
iii. Implement the National Aquatic Animal Health Strategy for Nigeria (2023-2027) to prevent, eliminate, or reduce food safety risks associated with aquaculture.
iv. Promote good aquaculture practices to enhance the safety of fish and fish products.

3.10.7 Surveillance/Epidemiology

Currently, there is a significant amount of underreporting and information sharing of foodborne-related illnesses and intoxication in the country. Thus, accurate data on foodborne diseases are scarce, while response mechanism to emergencies and disaster, whenever and wherever it occurs, is poor and inadequate. Similarly, the National Early Warning System is yet to have the capacity to initiate or institute preventative measures for foodborne-related illnesses. There is a need to strengthen the existing mechanism and develop an integrated One Health approach to collect, collate, analyse, and disseminate information/data on incidences and outbreaks of foodborne diseases nationwide. Thus, Governments shall establish mechanisms to:

i. Implement the National Integrated Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Surveillance and Response System and create a more comprehensive database for foodborne-related illnesses.
ii. Develop a comprehensive early warning system for food safety.
iii. Strengthen the national animal health and plant health surveillance systems.

iv. Play a more active role in creating consumer awareness of the prevalence of foodborne and zoonotic diseases in Nigeria, the socioeconomic impact, and mitigation strategies.

3.10.8 Accredited Laboratories for Food Safety Analysis

It is both a national and international requirement that laboratories used for food safety analysis and testing be accredited by an approved body. Although some laboratories are currently in the process of seeking accreditation, the inadequacy of accredited laboratories operating in the country poses tremendous challenges for Nigeria's food export trade. Government should therefore:

i. Provide a more effective enabling environment for government and private laboratories operating in the country to meet required standards for accreditation for food safety analysis and testing.
ii. Develop a network of accredited public and private food, human, animal, and environmental health testing laboratories across the country for FBD surveillance.
iii. Develop integrated food, human, animal, and environmental health data collation, analysis, and dissemination using a One Health approach.

3.10.9 Monitoring of Food Safety at Production, Manufacturing, and Distribution Sectors

Food production, processing, and distribution systems for local consumption are not adequately monitored for pesticide and anti-microbial residues, adulteration, and contaminants (biological, chemical, and physical). The inadequacy of these controls impacts negatively on the competitiveness and/or acceptance of food and food products at local and international markets. The current system does not allow for adequate traceability, speedy food safety risk assessment, and implementation of corrective measures. The government shall establish and implement:

i. Food safety systems that place the responsibility for producing and distributing safe foods at all critical stages of the food chain on FBOs. Relevant Regulatory Agencies/CAs can adopt the use of Mobile Food Laboratories to enhance coverage.
ii. A national cold-chain distribution system for animal and plant-derived foods.
iii. A residue monitoring plan for foods of animal origin and plant-derived foods.
iv. Enhance collaboration on anti-microbial resistance (AMR).

3.10.10 Foods and Feeds imported to Nigeria for human and animal consumption.

Regular and effective post-marketing monitoring and surveillance programmes for the safety and quality of food and/or feed in the market shall be implemented by the appropriate regulatory agencies using risk-based inspection strategies to identify food contaminants, particularly related to biological pathogens and toxic chemicals. Regular enforcement of requirements for safe foods as prescribed in national legislations, regulations, and/or standards and international standard bodies shall be maintained.

3.10.11 Foods and Feeds produced locally for domestic consumption and exports.

Nearly 70% of Nigeria's population live in rural areas and conduct their livelihood in activities generally regarded as informal activities, smallholder farming, street food vending, artisanal food

processing, and traditional food market operations. However, these informal sector activities constitute a significant component of the national food supply chain. Due to the poor rural infrastructures, the Nigerian food supply chain faces peculiar food safety challenges. Foods are often exposed to unhygienic and unsanitary conditions, while passing across the food supply chain, leading to elevated levels of postharvest losses and contamination with biological pathogens, elevated levels of pesticides and antimicrobial residues, and other related toxic chemicals. National and State governments shall, therefore:

i. Establish a framework to achieve the best food safety and quality practices for smallholder farmers, street food vendors, butchers, artisanal food processors, and traditional food markets, operating in rural and semi-urban communities nationwide.
ii. Ensure all foods (Fresh, Ready-to-Eat Snacks and processed), whether packaged or not, that are offered for public consumption are safe, wholesome, of prescribed quality standards, and are presented in a manner as not to be susceptible to contamination from their immediate environment.
iii. Strengthen existing Product Certification Programs (HACCP, ISO, ORGANIC, etc.) to enhance access to export markets and for local consumption.
iv. Provide a legislative framework that mandates government, CAs and other implementing bodies secure adequate resources to ensure good personal hygiene and food hygiene and sanitation of food establishments including food markets in line with global best practices and standards.
v. Provide a legislative framework for the Production, handling, and processing of vegetables and fruits ripening.
vi. Restore hygiene and sanitary inspection system in the LGAs and build the capacity of extension workers to implement Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in crop and Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP), Dairy and dairy products, Honey and other bee products, micro-livestock, in line with global best practices and standards.
vii. Provide Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities for public use and at slaughterhouses and meat handling facilities.

3.10.12 National Food Safety Emergency Response and Management System

Food safety risks tend to be greater in times of disasters and emergencies. Similarly, the safety, wholesomeness, and quality of food donated to the victims as palliative measures sometimes constitute serious food safety concerns and may result in incidences and outbreaks of foodborne diseases. Thus, the Government shall:

i. Provide modalities for collaboration in addressing food safety issues and challenges in times of disasters and emergencies.
ii. Provide modalities for monitoring food safety standards by applying suitable risk assessment measures.
iii. Develop a system for the response and management of food safety crises.
iv. Provide the needed resources (funds, workforce, and infrastructure) to address food safety requirements during disasters/emergencies.

3.10.13 Food Safety Awareness, Education, and Professionalism

Lack of sufficient knowledge of basic concepts and the significance of food safety by policymakers, consumers, and food business owners, including their employees right across the food supply chain, from farm to table, is a major concern facing the effective implementation of food safety programs and activities in Nigeria. Therefore, a low level of responsibility and commitment to food safety issues are generally exhibited by these stakeholders. Currently, there are no structured public awareness and education programmes and activities that are dedicated to food safety issues. Thus, the government shall:

i. Develop and implement adequate public awareness and education programmes for food safety that covers the entire food supply chain in the country.
ii. Include the subject of food safety in the curriculum of primary and secondary educational institutions.
iii. Establish a system for achieving and sustaining professionalism in the field of food safety and quality.

3.10.14 Healthy and nutritious foods

The need for healthy and nutritious foods has become a growing issue within the country. The increasing consumption of processed foods high in salt, sugar, and trans-fats and the harmful consumption of alcoholic beverages has led to a surge in the incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among the populace. To reduce the consumption of these foods, especially in foods targeted at vulnerable populations, the government shall:

i. Develop and implement a national strategic plan for the reduction/reformulation of sugar in packaged and processed foods as well as spices,
ii. Develop and implement a national strategic plan for reducing/reformulating salt, including setting mandatory salt targets, for packaged and processed foods as well as spices,
iii. Enforcement the 2% TFA in fats, oils or food containing fats and oils regulation while developing a national roadmap for the long-term ban of PHOs in foods regulated at all levels,
iv. Establish and implement protocols for the sale, advertisement, and marketing of alcoholic beverages across the country,
v. Develop a national framework in public procurement of healthy foods and foods for school feeding and other special uses,
vi. Provide a framework for assuring that all fortified foods are safe and of desirable quality for human consumption.

3.10.15 Research, Development, and Training

Research and Training are critical to the development and maintenance of food safety global best practices and standards on a sustainable basis. There is a need therefore for greater collaboration among research and training institutions in food safety research. Policy decisions on food safety matters, should where necessary, be guided by adequate research. Government shall:

i. Establish an evidence-based regulatory framework for food safety in all tiers of government.
ii. Create a framework that enables partnerships between the scientific community and key stakeholders in the areas of food safety research and training.
iii. Use research findings to benchmark development/formulation of policies relating to innovations in the production, processing, storage, transportation and marketing of food and food products.
iv. Create a framework for the upgrading of food safety awareness and training of vendors and farmers involved in rearing animals (terrestrial, fisheries, and aquatic), especially concerning the safety of animals and feeds.
v. Allocate adequate resources for applied or adaptive research with local and international partners, where relevant and practical.

CHAPTER 4 – INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS

4.1 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The National Food Safety System (NFSS) requires an institutional arrangement that is effective, efficient, and result-oriented. To achieve this objective, the Inter-Ministerial Committee of Food Safety (IMCFS) and the National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC) were established to coordinate the implementation of food safety programs and activities, as well as interface with various government bodies at the various levels of government in the country to achieve policy goals and its strategic objectives. However, assessment and evaluation of this approach, have shown that this approach has yet to produce the desired result, requiring a fundamental revision of this component of the National Policy on Food Safety and its Implementation Strategy 2014 document.

4.1.1 National Food Safety Council (NFSC)

The NFSC shall be established with the responsibility for:

i. Considering and approving recommendations on food safety and quality matters from the National Food Safety Management Committee;
ii. Ensuring the provision of sustainable financial support for the Food Safety Management Committee and its programmes;
iii. Authorising the processes for collaboration, coordination, and partnership between stakeholders that will ensure food safety, address public health and barriers to trade;
iv. Deciding on the specific allocation of mandates between relevant Competent Authorities of the Federal Government;
v. Providing financial and technical support to accomplish an effective food safety management system;
vi. Appointing the Chair and Co-chair for the National Food Safety Management Committee (either of whom should come from the public and private sector respectively). Both of these individuals should have track record of administrative and leadership qualities not below the level of a Director in the public service or its equivalent in the private sector;
vii. Conducting regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the National Food Safety System; and
viii. Giving other directives as may be necessary to advance an effective Food Safety System in Nigeria.

Composition of the NFSC

The Council shall comprise of:

i. the Vice President who shall be chairperson
ii. the Ministers of the Federal Ministries are responsible for the:
    a. Health and Social Welfare,
    b. Industry, Trade, and Investment,

c. Agriculture and Food Security,
d. Innovation, Science, and Technology, and
e. Environment,

iii. a representative of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN); and
iv. a representative of the Consumer Coalition Group of Nigeria (CCGN).

The NFSC shall hold annual meetings and its secretariat shall be domiciled in the FMHSW.

4.1.2 National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC)

The NFSMC shall have exclusive nationwide responsibility for:

i. Ensuring the delivery of effective and efficient regulatory control of the safety of food and animal feeds.
ii. Ensuring the application of science-based regulations concerning food safety at all stages of production, manufacturing, storage, transportation, and marketing (from farm to table).
iii. Establish mechanisms to achieve collaboration, coordination, and partnerships with stakeholders to enhance public health and mitigate trade barriers.

Composition of NFSMC

Membership of this body shall include**:**

i. Representatives of the relevant departments of the Federal Ministries of Health and Social Welfare (FMHSW); Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS); Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI); Environment (FMEnv); Innovation, Science and Technology, and Innovation (FMIST); Finance (FMF); Justice (FMoJ); Information and National Orientation (FMINO), Education (FMEdu), Water Resources and Sanitation (FMWR&S).
ii. Representative of NAFDAC
iii. Representative of SON
iv. Representative of NPHCDA
v. Representative of NCDC
vi. Representative of ICCON
vii. Representative of NAQS
viii. Representative of NIAS
ix. Representative of NBMA
x. Representative of RMRDC
xi. Representative of IPAN
xii. Representative of NCX
xiii. Representatives of the Food Industry
xiv. Representative of ARCN
xv. Representative of the Nigerian Council of Food Science and Technology
xvi. Representative of FCCPC
xvii. Representative of FPIS
xviii. Representative of NESREA

xix. Representatives of Food NMSMEs, Association of Farmers, Manufacturers, Caterers and Restaurant Operators, Service Providers, Food Traders
xx. Representative of Nigeria Governors' Forum
xxi. Representative of OTACCWA
xxii. Representative of Relevant Professional Bodies
xxiii. Representative of Consumer Groups/Association

The NFSMC shall hold quarterly meetings and its secretariat shall be domiciled in NAFDAC.

4.1.3 Technical Committees

There shall be Technical Committees to provide expert advice to NFSMC in the following thematic areas: Agriculture, Health, Trade, Environment, Science, Technology, and Research. The members of the Technical Committees shall be appointed by NFSMC with their roles and activities specified. Members shall be made up of qualified individuals selected from the public, private sector, and Academia.

Each technical committee may have sub-committees with defined roles and responsibilities. The Technical Committees shall be chaired by officers from the directorate cadre or its equivalent in the private sector.

4.1.4 International and Regional Standard Bodies (CAC, ISO, ECOSHAM, ARSO, WOAH, IPPC & WTO)

The existing relationship between the regional or international standard bodies and the Federal Government and its regulatory agencies will continue to subsist. Participation of Nigerian delegations and production of country position papers at CAC, ISO, ECOSHAM, ARSO, WOAH, IPPC & WTO meetings shall be intensified.

4.1.5 Integrated Food Safety Control System

In line with the desire and determination of the government to achieve comprehensive, effective collaboration and coordination of food safety practices from farm-to-table nationwide, the Government shall adopt the Integrated Food Safety Management System approach. However, under this system, responsibility for food safety control will still be shared by relevant MDAs operating at the National, State, and LGAs, respectively. Each relevant MDAs at the National, State, and LGAs will continue to carry out their day-to-day responsibilities as prescribed by their statutory instruments that established them, as coordinated by the NFSMC.

4.2 Legislative Framework

The Nigerian government has been developing and implementing legislation to protect and safeguard public health since 1917. The current Nigerian food safety control system is governed by a total of 43 principal and subsidiary laws relating to food safety. These laws are developed and implemented independently by the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMHSW), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv), Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (FMIST), Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI), their State counterpart Ministries

and relevant Departments at the LGAs. This policy therefore seeks to harmonise all the existing legislative frameworks and their implementation.

CHAPTER 5 – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

5.1 POLICY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Goals and Strategic Objectives are described in Table 1 below:

Table 1 - Policy Goals and Objectives

S/N	GOALS	OBJECTIVES
1	Strengthen the National Food Safety and Quality system & structure	1. Establish the National Food Safety Council and strengthen the National Food Safety Management Committee 2. Develop/Update laws, standards, regulations, and codes of practice associated with food safety and quality.
2	Minimise the incidence of food safety risks associated with Human, Animal, Plant, and the Environment.	1. Establish and implement protocols to minimize risks to human health in foods, feed, and water. 2. Identify high-risk foods, their priority contaminants, and measures to minimize risk to human health. 3. Establish a national integrated foodborne disease surveillance and response system. 4. Strengthen the capacity of regulatory inspectors, laboratory analysts, auditors, and related compliance bodies
3	Strengthen institutional capacity for food safety and quality	1. Strengthen existing food production, processing, storage, transportation, and marketing systems. 2. Upgrade existing infrastructure for inspection and monitoring Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health systems System. 3. Strengthen the capacity of CAs to implement the Zero Food Rejection Initiative of the Federal Government 4. Develop an effective traceability system for food and feed. 5. Provide sustainable and adequate funding for Food Safety Programmes 6. Provide adequate and suitable resources (Manpower, Infrastructure, Finance, etc) for the Inspection and monitoring of Food Safety programs and activities
4	Establish an Effective Information, Education, Communication, Training, and Research Mechanism for Food Safety and Quality	1. Promote the attitude of communication, cooperation, partnerships, research, transparency, and effective teamwork among stakeholders in the food supply chain. 2. Create public awareness of food safety practices and its effect on public health and the national economy.
5	Promote the consumption of healthy and nutritious foods	1. Ensure prioritization for healthy and nutritious foods.
6	Promote international trade in Food and Feed.	1. Promote the attitude of participating in global food trade among stakeholders. 2. Build the capacity of Stakeholders to comply with international requirements and standards for food safety and quality.

CHAPTER 6 – FUNDING MECHANISM

In line with the intentions of this policy to save Nigerians, foreigners, and tourists coming into the country from foodborne illnesses and to promote food trade, it shall be the responsibility of the Federal, State, and Local Governments to provide adequate budgetary allocation for relevant MDAs for effective implementation of this policy and in line with Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) standards and International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacity requirements.

In addition, this Policy implementation shall also be financed by:

i. Cost recovery mechanisms,
ii. Public Private Partnerships,
iii. Donor Support funding, and
iv. Other funding mechanisms

CHAPTER 7 – MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of this Policy shall be the responsibility of the National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC). It is anticipated that this policy will require a full review within 5 years of its adoption to ensure progress with local and international developments.

To ensure the proper monitoring and evaluation of this policy, the following shall be done:

i. The key activities as outlined in the action plan shall be identified, and a format and checklist that can be used for the evaluation of the performance of these activities in the action plan shall be developed by the FMHSW and approved by the NFSMC.
ii. A mechanism for the periodic monitoring of the realisation of specific indicators of the activities shall be developed by the FMHSW and approved by the NFSMC.
iii. The reports of such periodic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) shall be properly documented and reviewed annually by the NFSMC.
iv. A meeting of the key MDAs and other stakeholders shall be convened by the FMHSW from time to time for a broad review of the M&E reports.
v. A mid-term evaluation of the policy implementation shall be conducted by the NFSMC. Such meetings shall focus on the success of the implementation plans, highlight priority areas for immediate attention, indicate possible improvements of the M&E system, and articulate plans for the sustenance of achieved goals. The challenges shall be discussed with the hope of proffering immediate solutions for the realisation of the stated goals.

CHAPTER 8 – GLOSSARY

AUDIT	A systematic examination to determine whether what is happening complies with documented procedures.
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION	The Codex Alimentarius Commission is a subsidiary body of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the World Health Organisation. The Commission is entrusted with the elaboration of international standards of food to protect the health of consumers and to ensure fair practices in the food trade.
CRITICAL CONTROL POINT	A step at which control is essential to prevent or eliminate a food safety hazard or reduce it to an acceptable level.
FARM-TO-TABLE	Includes all steps involved in the production, storage, handling, distribution and preparation of a food product.
FOOD	Food means any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended for human consumption, and includes drink, chewing gum and any substance which has been used in the manufacture, preparation or treatment of "food" but does not include cosmetics or tobacco or substances used only as drugs.
FOOD-BORNE DISEASES	Are diseases caused by the consumption of contaminated food or drink. The symptoms and severity of food-borne illnesses vary depending on the causative agent(s) and can vary from mild disturbances to death of victim
FOOD CONTAMINANT	Any biological, chemical agent, foreign matter, or other substance that may be intentionally or unintentionally added to food which may compromise food safety or suitability.
FOOD CONTROL	A mandatory regulatory activity of enforcement by national or local authorities to provide consumer protection and ensure that all foods during production, handling, storage, processing and distribution are safe, wholesome and fit for human consumption; conform to quality and safety requirements; and are honestly and accurately labelled as prescribed by law.
FOOD HANDLER	Any person working in food premises who at any time is involved in the manufacture, preparation, distribution and transportation of food intended for sale and meant for human consumption.
FOOD HYGIENE	Food hygiene comprises conditions and measures necessary to ensure the safety, wholesomeness and suitability of food at all stages of the food chain.
FOOD INSPECTION	The examination, by an agency empowered to perform regulatory and/or enforcement functions, of food products or systems for the control of raw materials, processing, and

	distribution. This includes in-process and finished product testing to verify that they conform to regulatory requirements.
FOOD PROCESSING	Processing of food refers to any activity that significantly affects a product either by heating, smoking, salting, maturing, drying, extraction, radiation, freezing or the blend of any of these processes.
FOOD SAFETY	Is the holistic means of ensuring that production preparation, handling, transportation, distribution, marketing, storage and every chain food passes to get to us is safe. According to World Health Organization (WHO) Food safety has to do with all measures taken to protect human health from harm, arising from the consumption of food when it is prepared and/or eaten according to its intended use.
FOOD SAFETY EMERGENCY	A situation, whether accidental or intentional, that is identified, by a competent authority as constituting a serious, and as yet uncontrolled, foodborne risk to public health that requires urgent action
FOOD SCIENTIST	Is a person with a recognised qualification and experience in the science and technology of food operations.
FOOD SURVEILLANCE	The continuous monitoring of the food supply to ensure consumers are not exposed to components in foods, such as chemical contaminants or biological hazards, which pose a risk to health.
FOOD TRADE	Is a diverse and complex operation and one in which most countries strive to take part in exchange of their food products.
GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (GAP)	Practices of primary food producers (such as farmers and fishermen) that are necessary to produce safe and wholesome agricultural food products conforming to food laws and regulations.
GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICES (GMP)	Conformance with codes of practice, industry standards, regulations and laws concerning production, processing, handling, labelling and sale of foods decreed by industry, local, state, national and international bodies with the intention of protecting the public from illness, product adulteration and fraud.
GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS (GMF)	Genetically Modified Foods are those derived from organisms that have had specific foreign genes introduced into their genetic material (DNA) in a way that does not occur naturally.
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms are those whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques.

HACCP PLAN	A document prepared in accordance with the principles of HACCP to ensure control of hazards which are significant for food safety in the segment of the food chain under consideration.
HACCP SYSTEM	The Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system is a scientific and systematic way of enhancing the safety of foods from primary production to final consumption through the identification and evaluation of specific hazards and measures for their control to ensure the safety of food. HACCP is a tool to assess hazards and establish control systems that focus on prevention rather than relying mainly on end-product testing.
HAZARD	A biological, chemical, or physical agent in, or condition of, food with the potential to cause harm.
HAZARD ANALYSIS	The process of collecting and interpreting information on hazards and conditions leading to their presence to decide which are significant for food safety and therefore should be addressed in the HACCP plan.
MONITORING	In a HACCP plan, the act of conducting a planned sequence of observations or measurements of control parameters to assess whether a critical control point is under control.
NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEES	A committee established by the approval of the Federal Executive Council to synthesise Nigeria's positions to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) meetings.
READY-TO-EAT FOOD	Ready-to-eat food includes any food (including beverages) which is normally consumed in its raw state or any food handled, processed, mixed, cooked, or otherwise prepared into a form in which is normally consumed without further processing.
RISK ANALYSIS	A process consisting of three components: risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.
RISK ASSESSMENT	A scientifically based process consisting of the following steps: hazard identification, hazard characterisation, exposure assessment, and risk characterisation.
RISK COMMUNICATION	The interactive exchange of information and opinions concerning risks among risk assessors, risk managers, consumers, and other interested parties.
RISK MANAGEMENT	The process of weighing policy alternatives in the light of results of risk assessment, and, if required, selecting and implementing appropriate control options, including regulatory measures.
SALE OF FOOD	Any process relating to production, processing and distribution of food that involves offering of food as a reward or for promotion of any trade or business, either for profit or not and either in public or private.

SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
STREET FOOD	Means any food sold by a street retailer on the side-work or roadside usually in a temporary kiosk/stand.
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
UNWHOLESOME FOOD	Refers to food not fit for consumption and would be harmful to the health if eaten.
WTO	The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the international organisation that establishes the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business.

CHAPTER 9 – NATIONAL POLICY ON FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY ACTION PLAN (2024 – 2028)

Goal 1 - Strengthen the National Food Safety and Quality System & Structure						
Objective 1.1 - Establish the National Food Safety Council and strengthen the National Food Safety Management Committee						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Establish the National Food Safety Council	Pass the current National Food Safety and Quality Bill (NFS&Q) Bill and provide the legislative framework to correct existing overlaps and multiple jurisdictions of regulatory agencies.	1. Bill assented to by Mr President. 2. Gazette and awareness 3. Constitution of the National Food Safety Council.	The Presidency, NFSMC, FMHSW, FMoJ,	2024	
2	Adopt a National Integrated Food Safety Control System.	Ensure States and LGAs in the country adopt and implement the National FS&Q Policy.	No of States and LGAs that adopt the National FS&Q Policy	NFSMC, States, LGAs	2024	
		Develop/Upgrade existing laws/regulations, code of practices and guidelines to enhance the implementation and enforcement of NFS&Q Act	1.No of laws. 2. Percentage of compliance to the laws	NFSMC	2024	
		Establish Food Safety Management Committees in all 36 States and the FCT to achieve effective coordination, collaboration, and integration.	1. No of states and LGAs management committees established.	NFSMC, States, LGAs	2024	

		Ensure each sector of the food supply chain across the country adopts and implement an integrated approach to food safety.	1. Percentage of food supply chain that adopts and implements the integrated approach	NFSMC, States, LGAs	2024	
3	Re-introduce Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) in each LGAs	Re-introduce EHOs cadre with responsibility for inspection and monitoring of Hygienic and Sanitary conditions of food establishments and food markets in LGAs.	1. No of EHOs introduced. 2. Level of compliance to hygiene and sanitary conditions	States, LGAs	2024-2025	
		Develop/Strengthen Extension Workers System to provide Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to stakeholders involved in crop, livestock, fishery, and aquaculture production.	1. No of Extension workers strengthened to ensure GAP.	NFSMC, States, LGAs	2024-2025	
Objective 1.2 - Develop/Update laws, standards, regulation, and codes of practice associated with food safety and quality						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Update extant laws, regulations and standards associated with Food Safety and Quality	Assess the existing food legislations at the state and local government levels and identify weakness and gaps.	1. No of State and LGAs legislations assessed. 2. No of weaknesses and gaps identified.	States, LGAs and NFSMC	2024-2025	
		Update the food safety legislations to align with that of the National Legislation	1. Percentage of regulatory agencies that have defined roles and responsibilities in line with the provisions of the National Policy on Food Safety and Quality Act	NFSMC	2024-2025	

		Define roles and responsibilities of the regulatory agencies operating at the State and Local government levels in line with the provisions of the Food Safety and Quality Act and National Policy on Food Safety and Quality	1. Percentage of roles and responsibilities of the regulatory agencies operating at the State and Local government levels in line with the provisions of the Food Safety and Quality Act and National Policy on Food Safety and Quality	NFSMC, States and LGAs	2024-2025	
		Develop and implement a charter for competent authorities on food control that defines their specific roles and responsibilities across the food supply chain.	1. Compliance rate with the charter for competent authorities on food control.	NFSMC, States and LGAs	2024-2025	

Goal 2 - Minimise the incidence of food safety risks associated with Human, Animal, Plant and Environment.						
Objective 2.1 - Establish and implement protocols to minimize risks to human health in foods, feed, and water						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks / Comments**
1	Assess Nigeria's food consumption pattern to identify top 10 high-risk foods.	Conduct an assessment study of food consumption patterns in Nigeria and identify 10 priority Nigerian staple foods.	1. Percentage of the population consuming the identified staple foods. number of identified stapled foods.	FMHSW	2024-2025	
		Identify hazards commonly associated with each of the identified products with the potential to pose danger to health of the consumer of such products.	1. Number of hazards identified	FMHSW	2024-2025	
		Develop and implement a plan to mitigate the identified risks	1. Availability of plans to mitigate the identified risks	FMHSW	2024-2025	
2	Establish a unified national framework and/or approach to address food handling and sale.	Develop a unified national guideline and/or requirement for food handlers' test.	1. National guideline developed for implementation.	FMHSW	2024-2025	
		Develop national guidelines for the display, sale, transport, and marketing of food for traditional market and street vended foods that ensure safe food practices.	1. Number of guidelines and developed and implemented.	FMHSW	2024-2026	

3	Establish suitable protocols for handling and usage of food additives, processing aids such as refining and storage aids, Agro-chemicals, and veterinary drugs.	Update and disseminate approved list and dosage of food additives, processing aids, Agro-chemicals, and veterinary drugs.	1. Percentage of relevant stakeholders who have received the updated list and dosage	VCN, NAFDAC, AMR CC.	2024	
		Register and license distributors and retailers of food additives, processing aids, Agro-chemicals, feeds, and veterinary drugs.	1. Increase in the number of registered and licensed distributors and retailers	NAFDAC, VCN	2024-2025	
		Develop appropriate training manuals and train distributors and end-users on how these chemicals can be properly applied.	1. No of training manuals developed. 2. No of training conducted. 3. No of trained distributors. 4. Increase in compliance with safe application practices:	FMAFS, SMOA	2024-2026	
		Promote proper storage practices for food additives, processing aids, Agro-chemical, feeds and veterinary drugs as indicated by the manufacturers and supervised by a professional.	1. Reduction in incidents of mishandling and degradation	FMAFS, SMOA, VCN, NAFDAC	2024-2025	
Objective 2.2 - Identify high-risk foods, their priority contaminants, and measures to minimize risk to human health						
S/N	Strategic Approach	Key Activities	Key Performance Indicator	Responsible Organisation	Timeline	Remarks/Comments
1	Conduct a workshop to identify the top high-risk foods in Nigeria.	Plan and conduct a national workshop to identify High-Risk Foods (HRFs) in Nigeria.	1. Number of high-risk Foods identified. 2. Number of workshops conducted.	FMHSW	2024	

		Conduct risk profiling of the identified HRFs and disseminate to stakeholders.	1. Number of stakeholders reached. Number of conducted risk profile.	FMHSW	2024	
		Develop a plan to mitigate the identified risks	1. The plan develop to mitigate the risks.	FMHSW	2024-2025	
2	Ensure that all imported, and locally produced food and feed products comply with national and international standards and requirements	Review, update and streamline existing import-export requirements in line with global best practices and standards.	1. Percentage increase in the number of imports and exports that meet global best practices and standards, compared to the previous year.	NFSMC	2024	
		Establish mechanisms for the identification of countries and food products that regularly fail to comply with Nigerian food safety laws and regulations.	1. Number of established mechanisms for the identification of countries and food products. 2. Number of established mechanisms for the identification of countries and food products that are regularly complied.	NFSMC	2024	
		Establish a mechanism for the identification of countries and food products that regularly comply with Nigerian food safety laws and regulations.	1. Percentage increase in the number of countries and food products identified as compliant with Nigerian food safety laws and regulations, based on regular monitoring and assessment	NFSMC	2024	
		Build human capacity of key conformity assessment bodies (inspection, laboratory analysis, etc) to perform their roles and responsibilities in line with global best practices and standards.	1. Number of persons trained to perform their roles and responsibility in line with global best practices and standards.	NFSMC	2024-2025	

		Facilitate the certification and accreditation of relevant operators and facilities involved in conformity assessment activities.	1. Number of relevant operators and facilities that have been certified and accredited for conformity assessment activities, compared to the target number set for the reporting period.	NFSMC	2024-2025	
3	Develop/strengthen the National Food Defence System	Develop and implement the processes and procedures for traceability and recall.	1. No of processes and procedures developed for traceability and recall. 2. Percentage of food products that have been successfully traced and recalled in the event of a food safety incident or contamination outbreak.	NFSMC, STATES, and LGAs	2024-2025	

Objective 2.3 - Establish a national integrated foodborne disease surveillance and response system						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1.	Establish sustained mechanisms for surveillance and management of foodborne diseases that is in line with One Health.	Implement the provisions of the National Integrated Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Surveillance and Response System to monitor trends and detect foodborne events and incorporate within the national disease surveillance structure.	1. Number of foodborne outbreaks detected and investigated through the implemented surveillance guideline.	Guided by the roles and responsibilities in the national guideline	2024	
		Develop SOPs and training manuals for the detection of foodborne events and implement indicator-/event-based disease surveillance	1. Number of developed training manuals. 2. Percentage of public health facilities and laboratories equipped with the necessary guidelines and SOPs for detecting foodborne events and implementing indicator-/event-based disease surveillance.	FMHSW, FMENV, FMAFS	2024-2025	
		Develop and disseminate a training package on these guidelines and SOPs.	1. Number of individuals trained on the guidelines and SOPs	FMHSW, FMENV, FMAFS	2024-2025	
		Implement laboratory protocol(s) for the investigation of foodborne diseases and food contamination.	1. Number of laboratory protocols developed and disseminated to relevant stakeholders within a specified timeframe.	NVRI, NAFDAC, FMEnv, NCDC	2024-2025	

		Conduct training for staff on developed laboratory protocols	1. Percentage of laboratory staff trained on the laboratory protocols for the investigation of foodborne diseases and food contamination.	NVRI, NAFDAC, FMEnv, NCDC	2024-2025	
		Provide laboratory logistics in designated laboratories.	1. No. of laboratory logistics provided	NVRI, NAFDAC, FMEnv, NCDC	2024-2025	
		Conduct risk assessments of acute foodborne events (chemical and microbiological) and publish a periodic epidemiological report/bulletin.	1. Number of risk assessments conducted 2. Number of periodic epidemiological reports/bulletins published per year.	FMHSW	2024-2027	
		Periodically review, update, and publish surveillance, response, and management plan for food safety events.	1. Percentage of food safety events for which the response and management plan was implemented within the specified timeframe	FMHSW	2024-2027	
2	Strengthen the National Food Risk Assessment Coordinating Centre.	Evaluate the existing risk assessment systems to identify weaknesses and gaps.	1. No of reviewed risk assessment	FMHSW	2024-2025	
		Develop and implement national plans to coordinate and streamline all activities regarding food safety risk assessment across the entire food supply chain.	1. No of plans developed and implemented.	FMHSW	2025-2026	
		Create a centralised electronic database of DNA fingerprint patterns or similar scientific protocols for foodborne illness-causing pathogens.	1. No of identified foodborne illnesses that have been captured on the database	NCDC, NAFDAC, NVRI, FMEnv	2024-2025	

		Carry out risk profiling of identified priority foodborne hazards in States including the FCT and disseminate findings to key stakeholders nationwide.	1. No of findings disseminated nationwide. 2. No of risks profiled for the identified foodborne hazards nationwide	NFSMC, STATES AND LGAs	2024-2025	
Objective 2.4 - Strengthen the capacity of regulatory inspectors, laboratory analysts, auditors, and related compliance bodies						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Establish robust inspection and auditing mechanisms for all food business operators.	Undertake an in-depth assessment of the existing inspection systems and identify weaknesses and gaps.	1. Number of weaknesses and gaps identified in the existing inspection systems.	NFSMC, STATES AND LGAs	2024-2025	
		Review existing inspection tools (SOPs, checklists, and guidelines)	1. Number or percentage of inspection tools reviewed and updated to align with national and international standards and best practices.	NFSMC, STATES AND LGAs	2024-2025	
		Provide adequate and appropriate human and material resources to ensure regular and effective inspection.	1. Percentage increase in the number of trained inspection personnel and availability of necessary equipment and materials over a specific period (e.g., quarterly, biannually, or annually).	NFSMC, STATES AND LGAs	2024-2026	
		Streamline the existing procedures for registration and licensing of food establishments and process and /or packaged foods.	1. Reduce the time taken to complete the registration and licensing process for food establishments and processed and/or packaged foods by 30%.	NFSMC, STATES AND LGAs	2024-2026	

2	Restore the old hygiene and sanitary inspection system in LGAs.	Restore the system of hygiene and sanitary inspection to achieve significant improvements on the existing status of hygiene and sanitary conditions of households, street food vending establishments, traditional food markets, primary food production centres, bakeries, water manufacturing establishments and other related establishments in LGAs.	1. Percentage increase in the number of food establishments and production centres that meet the required hygiene and sanitary standards, as assessed by regular inspections conducted by competent authorities.	NFSMC, FMEnv, EHCON	2024-2025	
		Build the capacity of inspectors to implement and enforce hygiene and sanitary standards in line with global best practices.	1. Number of inspectors trained on hygiene and sanitary standards	NFSMC, FMEnv, EHCON	2024-2027	

Goal 3 - Strengthen institutional capacity for food safety and quality						
Objective 3.1 - Strengthen existing food production, processing, storage, transportation, and marketing systems						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1.	Develop guidelines and training manuals for food inspectors	Develop suitable guidelines and manuals in appropriate languages for different stakeholders.	1. No of developed guidelines and manuals. 2. Percentage of stakeholders (e.g., food establishments, farmers, consumers) who report understanding and utilizing the guidelines and manuals provided.	NFSMC	2024-2025	
		Promote continuing education for existing food safety handlers and other stakeholders.	1. No of food safety handlers who participate in continuing education programs.	NFSMC	2024-2027	
		Build the capacity of MDAs and Organised Private Sectors (OPS) on the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of food safety programmes.	1. Number of MDAs and OPS trained on monitoring and evaluation of food safety programmes.	NFSMC	2024-2027	
		Build capacity of institutions that are involved in the training of Environmental Health Officers (EHOs).	1. Number of institutions involved in the capacity building. 2. Number of trainings of EHOs carried out by these institutions.	FMEnv, EHCON	2024-2027	

		Build capacity of meat inspectors, Agricultural Extension workers and other relevant stakeholders involved in the inspection and enforcement of Food Safety laws, regulations, and guidelines.	1. Number of meat inspectors, AEWs and other relevant stakeholders involved in the capacity building. 2. Percentage number of inspectors, and AEWs who report understanding of these food safety laws.	FMAFS	2024-2027	
		Build the capacity of Agricultural extension workers (AEWs) to train and sensitize farmers and traders against indiscriminate use of agrochemicals in production, post-harvest handling and storage of agricultural commodities.	1. Number of AEWs and other relevant stakeholders involved in the capacity building.	FMAFS	2024-2027	
		Conduct workshops and other relevant programmes to improve skills of relevant private stakeholders involved in farming, processing, packaging, storage, transportation, distribution etc. of food and food products.	1. No of workshops conducted.	NFSMC	2024-2027	
		Develop a model for registration and categorisation of informal food business operators.	1. No of models developed for the registration and categorisation. 2. No of registered informal food business operators.	SMOH, SMOA	2024	
2	Develop partnerships with training institutions, professional bodies,	List relevant training institutions, professional bodies and skill acquisition centres and establish a system for partnering.	1. Number of relevant training institutions, professional bodies and skill acquisition centres listed. 2. No of partnerships established between these relevant institutions.	FMEdu	2024-2025	

	and skill acquisition centres	Develop relevant/suitable curriculum on food safety and integrate it with the existing primary and secondary school programmes.	1. No of developed food safety curriculums for primary and secondary schools. 2. No of and types of curriculums integrated with existing food programmes	FMEdu	2024-2026	
		Promote the establishment of a Food Safety Programme in Nigerian Universities for Master of Science or higher programmes.	1. No of institutions empowered to offer master's programmes in Food safety	FMEdu	2024-2026	

Objective 3.2 - Upgrade existing infrastructure for inspection and monitoring of Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health systems System						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Develop a sustained sub-national regulatory system.	Establish a functional Food Safety desk at relevant MDAs in all states and FCT with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.	1. Number of established functional food safety desks in all states and the FCT	FMHSW, FMAFS, FMEnv	2024	
		Establish a functional Food Safety Committee in all States and FCT in the Federation with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.	1. Number of functional Food Safety Committee in all States and FCT in the Federation with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.	NFSMC	2024-2025	
		Develop a support structure for primary producers to meet regulatory needs.	1. The number of primary producers who can meet regulatory needs after accessing the support structure.	NFSMC	2024-2027	
Objective 3.3 - Strengthen the capacity of CAs to implement the Zero Food Rejection Initiative of the Federal Government						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Ensure capacity building of competent authorities on zero food rejection initiatives	Build the human capacity of key stakeholders on awareness of quality produce and standards to avoid trade rejection.	1. No of trained personnel on awareness on quality produce and standards to avoid trade rejection.	NFSMC	2024-2027	

2	Develop and implement policy and regulatory framework to support zero food rejection initiatives	Create standards for aflatoxins and pesticide residue detection.	1. No of standards created for aflatoxins and pesticide residues detection.	NFSMC	2024-2025	
		Establish inspection and enforcement mechanisms and developing sanctions for non-compliance.	1. Increased rate of surveillance and inspection. 2. Percentage reduction in the number of rejected produce from Nigeria.	NFSMC	2024-2025	
		Development of residue monitoring plan.	Plan developed and integrated into the policy M&E framework.	NFSMC	2024-2025	
Objective 3.4 - Develop an effective traceability system for food and feed						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Develop and implement a product traceability system	Develop foundation for a Digital Traceability Platform	Digital platform launched and functional.	NAFDAC	2024-2025	
		Develop a mechanism for collaboration with private sector food processors for traceability.	Collaborative mechanism with private sector on traceability developed.	NAFDAC	2024	

Objective 3.5 - Provide sustainable and adequate funding for Food Safety Programmes						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Statutory arrangement to provide adequate resources for food safety MDAs, and the food industry	All relevant Federal and State MDAs to create a budget line with adequate funds to implement food safety programs and activities.	1. No of Federal and State MDAs with budget lines for food safety implementation. 2. Percentage increase in the budget allocation for food safety programs and activities in relevant Federal and State MDAs compared to the previous fiscal year.	NFSMC, FMF	2024	
		All food and Agro industries to create a budget line with adequate funds for food safety activities.	1. No of Federal and Agro industries with budget lines for food safety implementation.	NFSMC	2024	
		Relevant CAs and NGOs to develop and maintain partnerships with international development partners for support to implement food safety programs and activities.	1. No of partnerships developed	NFSMC	2024	

Objective 3.6 - Provide adequate and suitable resources (Manpower, Infrastructure, Finance, etc) for Inspection and monitoring of Food Safety programs and activities.						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Establish and implement a national "Farm-to-Table" monitoring and evaluation system and create a mechanism for periodic audit and mapping.	Develop tools for collection and dissemination of relevant data in the States and LGAs.	1. No of relevant data tools collected and disseminated in the states and LGA.	NFSMC	2024	
		Collect, collate, analyse, and create a national database for food safety outcomes.	1. Number of food safety outcomes collected, collated, analysed, and included in the national database.	NFSMC	2024-2025	
		Establish self-checking mechanism on food safety management system for all categories of food business operators to address issues of food safety, food fraud, food adulteration, and food defence.	1. No of self-checking mechanisms were established for the various categories of food business operators to address issues of food safety. 2. Percentage of food business operators who have reported successes in the use of these self-checking mechanisms to address issues of food safety, food fraud, and food adulteration.	NFSMC	2024-2026	
2	Build the capacity of Conformity Assessment Bodies	Conduct internal assessment of the capacity of Inspectors, public and private laboratories involved investigation of the	1. No of trained inspectors who have undergone capacity assessment. 2. No of private and public	NFSMC	2024-2025	

		safety and quality of foods and identify their needs.	laboratories are involved. 3. No of needs identified.			
		Establish a network of accredited private & public laboratories in food testing across the country that feeds the national reference laboratory system.	1. Number of accredited public and private laboratories assessed for their capacity to investigate the safety and quality of food. 2. Percentage of identified needs of the laboratories addressed within a given timeframe.	NFSMC	2024-2025	
		Establish a network of accredited private & public laboratories in animal health testing across the country that feeds the national reference laboratory system.	1. Number of accredited public and private laboratories assessed for their capacity to test for animal health. 2. Percentage of identified needs of the laboratories addressed within a given timeframe.	NFSMC	2024-2026	
		Laboratories and regulatory agencies participating in food safety conformity assessment activities are internationally accredited.	1. Percentage increase in the number of accredited laboratories and accredited regulatory bodies.	NFSMC	2024-2027	

		Facilitate partnership cooperation between private and public laboratories.	1. Number of successful partnerships formed between private and public laboratories for collaboration on food safety-related testing and analysis, as documented in quarterly or annual reports.	NFSMC	2024-2025	

Goal 4 - Establish an Effective Information, Education, Communication, Training and Research Mechanism for Food Safety and Quality.						
Objective 4.1 - Promote the attitude of communication, cooperation, partnerships, research, transparency, and effective teamwork among stakeholders in the food supply chain.						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Develop and implement public food safety awareness campaign.	Develop an effective food safety campaign material.	1. No of food safety campaign materials developed.	NFSMC	2024	
		Identify and train the trainers at State and Local Government levels.	1. No of trainer trained at state and LGA levels	NFSMC	2024	
		Conduct a nationwide workshop to develop an effective educational campaign for food operators along the food supply chain.	1. No of workshops conducted. 2. Percentage of food operators who have reported a successful understanding of the educational campaigns.	NFSMC	2024	
		Develop food safety campaign materials in local languages.	1. No of food safety campaign materials developed.	NFSMC	2024	
2	Develop an effective, information and communication system	Identify and build capacity in Food Safety skills of local language speakers to use them for food safety communications.	1. No of local language speakers identified and trained on food safety.	FMHSW	2024	

		Design an interactive web portal for information exchange among relevant groups and promote understanding of priority issues including Pesticide Residue, Anti-Microbial Resistance, Mycotoxin, and Microplastic contamination.	1. Interactive web portal designed. 2. Percentage increase in the number of relevant groups who report better understanding of priority issues.	FMHSW	2024	
		Develop a format for press releases and other information and communication materials on food safety.	1. Percentage of food safety stakeholders who can use the developed format for press releases and other information and communication materials on food safety.	FMHSW	2024	
3	Develop a plan for emergency response to outbreaks and recalls.	Develop a plan for emergency response to outbreaks and recalls.	1. Number of emergency response plans developed and implemented in a timely manner in response to food safety outbreaks or recalls.	FMHSW	2024	
		Identify social media network channels and Short Message Services to be used for public enlightenment, enquires and complaints.	1. Increase in the number of social media followers/subscribers and SMS subscribers who receive food safety information, make enquiries, and file complaints.	FMHSW	2024	

		Improve the existing health-reporting system and train health workers on information gathering, collation and dissemination related to food-borne illnesses.	1. Percentage of improved existing health reporting systems 2. No of health workers trained in information gathering collation and dissemination related to foodborne illnesses.	FMHSW	2024	
		Review existing protocols for documenting and disseminating information on the management of crises arising from outbreaks.	1. No of existing protocols reviewed for documenting and disseminating information on the management of crises arising from outbreaks.	FMHSW	2024	
4	Develop and sustain collaboration between regulators and research institutions	Develop a national plan for targeted research in food safety and quality.	1. National plan developed.	FMHSW	2024	
		Develop a national plan for food industry participation in agricultural research.	1. National plan developed.	FMAFS	2024	
		All relevant MDAs, research institutions, and food industries to create a budget line with adequate funds for food safety research.	1. Percentage increase in the budget allocation for food safety research by relevant MDAs, research institutions, and food industries.	All Research Institutions	2024	

Objective 4.2 - Create public awareness on food safety practices, its effect on public health and national economy.						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Carry out advocacy and sensitisation on the National Food Safety Policy.	Undertake advocacy/sensitisation visit to policy makers, opinion leaders, food handlers, health workers, consumers, religious groups, traditional rulers, market leaders, and owners of food industries	1. No of advocacy visits/sensitisation visits to policymakers, LGAs, development partners, religious organisations, traditional heads etc. 2. No of policymakers, LGAs, development partners, religious organisations, or traditional heads who report increased awareness of food safety practices.	Refer to NFS&Q Bill	2024	
2	Promote food safety education and awareness on safe and healthy food habits at all levels of Governance.	Strengthen relevant/appropriate curriculum and activities on food safety at primary and secondary institutions.	1. No of strengthened relevant/ appropriate curriculum	FMEdu	2024-2025	
		Create, test, and disseminate Information, Education and Communication IEC advisory materials for safe food practices at homes, schools, hospitals etc.	1. No of IEC materials that have been created, tested, and disseminated.	NFSMC	2024-2025	
		Establish platforms for consultation with public on food safety agenda.	1. No of platforms established on consultation with public on food safety	FMHSW	2024-2025	

Goal 5 - Promote the consumption of healthy and nutritious foods.						
Objective 5.1 - Ensure prioritization for healthy and nutritious foods.						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Develop national strategies for the consumption of healthy and nutritious foods	Develop and implement a national strategic plan/guideline for the reduction/reformulation of sugar in packaged and processed foods as well as spices.	1. Strategic and implementation plan developed on reduction/reformulation of sugar in processed foods and spices. 2. Percentage of processed food categories with reduced sugar levels.	FMHSW, NAFDAC, SON	2023 - 2027	
		Develop and implement a national guideline for sodium reduction that includes setting mandatory salt targets, for packaged and processed foods as well as spices sold, marketed, or consumed in Nigeria	1. A functional Technical Working Group (TWG) established with the mandate to develop a National strategic roadmap for sodium, that includes setting mandatory salt targets to reduce sodium in foods at all levels of governance. 2. An up-to-date National strategic roadmap developed for sodium reduction including strategies to reduce sodium in processed and packaged foods as well as spices. 3. National strategic Guideline developed to set mandatory salt targets to reduce sodium in processed, packaged foods.	FMHSW, NAFDAC, SON, SMOH	2023 - 2027	

			4. Health promotion interventions to educate the public on sodium reduction; 5. Implementation of global best practice for front-of-package warning labels to alert consumers about foods high in sodium, sugar, and saturated fats. 6. Relevant legislations, regulations, standards and/or guidelines that apply to all categories of processed and packaged foods & spices are updated to meet global, regional, and national salt target requirements. 7. Percentage of processed and packaged food categories that meet set salt targets in packaged and processed foods as well as spices.			
		Develop and implement a national strategic roadmap aimed at the elimination of trans-fats from processed, packaged, or ready-to-consume foods, fats and oil items sold, marketed, or consumed in Nigeria.	1. Implement the 2% TFA in fats, oils or food containing fats and oils 2. Strategic and implementation plan developed on long-term ban of PHOs in foods. 3. Reduction in the amount of trans-fats in processed foods, fats, and oil.	FMHSW, NAFDAC, SON	2023 - 2027	

		Establish and implement protocols for the sale, advertisement, and marketing of alcoholic beverages across the country.	1. No of established and implemented protocols. 2. Compliance rate with established protocols for the sale, advertisement, and marketing of alcoholic beverages.	FMHSW, NAFDAC, SON	2023 - 2027	
		Develop a national framework to guide the procurement, service, and sale of healthy or nutritious food items by governmental entities, intended for public consumption or specialized purposes.	1. National framework developed	FMHSW, FMB&EP, NAFDAC, SON	2023 - 2027	
		Establish a framework ensuring safety and quality of fortified foods for human consumption	1. National framework developed	FMHSW	2023 - 2027	
2	Establish a framework for ensuring safety and quality of fortified and modified foods for human consumption	Develop and implement a framework on fortified foods that includes monitoring of food fortification in factory, market, and household levels.	1. Percentage of fortified foods that meet safety and quality standards. 2. No. of visits on quarterly basis	FMHSW	2023 - 2027	
		Develop and implement a framework on Genetically Modified (GM) foods.	1. Percentage of GM foods that are safe and of desirable quality for human consumption.	FMHSW	2023 - 2027	

Goal 6 - Promote international trade in food and feeds.						
Objective 6.1 - Promote the attitude of participating in global food trade among stakeholders.						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Enhance the system for the harmonisation of National Food Standards with Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for public health and food trade.	Update and harmonise protocols to ensure conformity of imported food to national food regulation and standards.	1. No of updated and harmonised protocols.	SON	2023 - 2027	
		Update and harmonise protocols to ensure conformity of imported live food animals to national food regulation and standards.	1. No of updated protocols on ensuring conformity of imported live food animals	SON	2023 - 2027	
2	Establish a framework for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures that facilitate food trade across Africa and global market.	Conduct regulatory impact assessment for SPS issues.	Number of regulatory impact assessment conducted.	FMITI, FMAFS, NAQS, SON, NAFDAC	2023 - 2027	
		Develop and implement SPS coordination mechanism for trade facilitation in view of AfCFTA.	Coordination mechanisms established to facilitate trade at the continental and global levels.	FMITI, FMAFS, NAQS, SON, NAFDAC	2023 - 2027	

Objective 6.2 - Build the capacity of Stakeholders to comply with international requirements and standards for food safety and quality						
S/N	**Strategic Approach**	**Key Activities**	**Key Performance Indicator**	**Responsible Organisation**	**Timeline**	**Remarks/Comments**
1	Align the National Food Safety systems with regional and international standards.	Participate in the work of Codex Alimentarius Commission and other relevant regional and international bodies	1.No of adopted Codex standards in national food safety regulations 2. No of meetings attended	SON, NAFDAC, NCC	2023 - 2027	
		Participate in information exchange with international networks such as INFOSAN	1. No of meetings between Emergency Contact Points and Focal points. 2. Increased access to up-to-date food safety information.	FMHSW, FMAFS, NAFDAC, IHR-NFP	2023 - 2027	

ANNEX 1 – REFERENCES

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ANNEX 2 – LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

NAME	ORGANISATION
Pharm. (Mrs.) Olubunmi Aribeana	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Mrs. Olufowobi-Yusuf	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Mr. Olugbemiga John Atanda	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Mr. Paul Okhaku	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Mr. Fatai Olanrewaju	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Oluwafemi Stephen	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Odunayo Iperepolu	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Joyce Kpaku	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Chichi Ann Iweka	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Isah Samaila	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Osuagwu Victor. I.	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Onyebuchi Uzomah	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Philomina Nwobosi	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Magayaki Joshua	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Ekaete Johnson	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Boniface Okoye	Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Mrs Sugra Mahmood	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Dr Salome Bawa	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Nuhu A. Kilishi	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Hafsat O. Abdullahi	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Adanlawo Julius	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Ikawu John I.	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Shuaibu Muhammad Osu	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Sadiq Umar Tambuwal	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Ezeudegbunam Eucharia	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Gbagidi Faith	Federal Ministry of Environment
Okotete John	Federal Ministry of Environment
Walter Ifeoma Nancy	Federal Ministry of Environment
Nwanbuonwor Ngozi Eziele	Federal Ministry of Environment
Okoro Nkechiyere	Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology
Dafang I. Sule	Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment
Rotimi Ayo	Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment
Bamisaiye Babajide S.	Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment
Dr. (Mrs.) Amina Adetunji	Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment
M. A. Muazu	Federal Ministry of Justice
Adebusuyi Olamide	Federal Ministry of Justice
Eva Edwards	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
Ummul-khari Bobboi	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
Anyanwu Felicitas	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
Adenike Adegbenro	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
Joy Hanya	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
Abubakar Tavimu Umar	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
Nsikak Inam	Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
Rosemary Uche-Oguneme	Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Services
Adeh Grace	Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Services
Mairo Mohammed	Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Services
Amina Haliru	Standards Organisation of Nigeria
Iveren Eno	Standards Organisation of Nigeria
Raqiba Haske Sadiq	Standards Organisation of Nigeria
Musa Hadizah	Standards Organisation of Nigeria
Aisha Sanusi Gumbi	Standards Organisation of Nigeria
Dr. Khadijat Abdulaziz	Nigeria Commodity Exchange

Dr. Nkechi Mba	Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
Onosanya O. Adenike	Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
Olaniyi Ibrahim	Nigeria Export Promotion Council
Ogwu Joy Uyo	Nigeria Council of Food Science and Technology
Ituma Jeffrey	Nigeria Council of Food Science and Technology
Dr Ikejwu Onyekachi John	Nigeria Council of Food Science and Technology
Walter Okoye	National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency
Ajadi Oluwashola	National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency
Ushie Ebenyiw Alibi	National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency
Chinaza Peter-Chinweuba	National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency
Effiong, Victoria (Engr)	National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency
Josephine Osagie	National Biosafety Management Agency
Kio Isaac J.	Environmental Health Council of Nigeria
Dr. A. Negedu	Raw Materials Research and Development Council
Dr. Mohammed Lawal Buga	Institute of Public Analysts of Nigeria
Fajemilehin Joke	Institute of Public Analysts of Nigeria
Njoagwuani Ifeanyi	Nigeria Institute for Animal Science
Fred Chiazor	Association of Food, Beverage, and Tobacco Employers
Chief Daniel Okafor	All Farmers Association of Nigeria
Chris Onweka	All Farmers Association of Nigeria
Dr Henry Emejuo	National Association of Small-Scale Industrialists of Nigeria
Lukman Kura	National Association of Small-Scale Industrialists of Nigeria
Yirenkyi Paulina F.	National Association of Small-Scale Industrialists of Nigeria
Noah Oladoja	National Association of Small-Scale Industrialists of Nigeria
Oleka Sunday	Agrolog
Tijani Musa	National Association of Small-Scale Industrialists of Nigeria
Alexander Isong	Organization for Technology Advancement of Cold Chain in West Africa
Suleiman M. Dikwa	Green Sahara
Mr John F. Tehinse	Funta Services
Sarah Mangesha	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Legborsi Nwiabu Esq	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Isiaka Ibrahim	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Dr Pinda Wakawa	World Health Organization
Nanlop Ogbureke	Resolve to Save Lives
Nicole Ide	Resolve to Save Lives
Okeoma Erojikwe	Resolve to Save Lives
Dr. Maryam Al-Mansar	Resolve to Save Lives
Batet Musa	Resolve to Save Lives
Emem Udoh	Resolve to Save Lives
Celestina Obiekea	Resolve to Save Lives
Dr Jerome Mafeni	Network for Health Equity and Development
Omole Ukwedeh	Network for Health Equity and Development
Oluwatoyin Adeomi	Network for Health Equity and Development
Tessy-N Maina	Network for Health Equity and Development
Emmanuel Ukaegbu	Network for Health Equity and Development
Abayomi Sarumi	Corporate Accountability and Public Participation for Africa
Bukola Olukemi Odele	Corporate Accountability and Public Participation for Africa
Chidinma Eferebo	Corporate Accountability and Public Participation for Africa
Michael Daniel Eveshoyan	USAID – Advancing Nutrition
Olena Oliynyk–Dunn	US Embassy
Dr Augustine Okoruwa	GAIN – EATSAFE Project
Onyedikachi Elvis	Nigeria Health Watch
Rof Lateef Sanni	IITA Abuja station
Nsikan Essien	Nigeria Economic Summit Group
Rofiat Lawal	Nigeria Economic Summit Group



