

Charting a Course for Food Safety in Zambia

Context

Capacity-building needs assessments are an essential first step in addressing a country's needs.

The Global Food Safety Partnership's (GFSP) first capacity building needs assessment was undertaken in Zambia, with support from the Zambian Government and the FAO. The needs assessment sought to: pinpoint precise needs, document baseline food safety capacity across the system, and identify and harness the interest of local stakeholders. Besides informing the Zambian government's food safety capacity strategy, the exercise also helped test and refine GFSP's needs assessment approach.



Strategy

Partnering to Build on Existing Resources

The Zambian National Food Safety Capacity Development Needs Assessment included an FAO-led assessment of the National Food Control System. This collaboration produced Zambian Food Control System assessments to help authorities identify weaknesses and select areas of the food control system to improve.

Analyzing Needs and Recommending Actions

The GFSP also commissioned a study focusing on value-chains and industry structure, since the overall assessment's goal was to integrate regulatory and value-chain assessments. The study analyzed the food safety issues faced by various value-chain

participants, and recommended actions to improve the food safety performance of the value chains.

Results

GFSP's activities in Zambia have led to an outline of the state of the food safety system in Zambia and information and recommendations for the country's capacity building needs.

In early 2015, a joint GFSP/FAO team will consult with local stakeholders and analyze the recommendations of both studies to develop an action plan. Based on this, the Zambian government will identify priority actions, including budget requirements. Partners will be identified to finance or assist in carrying out selected actions.

GFSP's activities aim at better access to markets and improved public health outcomes for Zambia.