

# Summary of the proposed AUDA-NEPAD Food Safety Guidelines – Draft



Ms Kefilwe Fifie Moalosi: Senior Nutrition Programme Officer



# Building the Africa We Want – Agenda 2063

---



AUDA-NEPAD  
Guidelines for  
Harmonising Food  
Safety Standards and  
Legislations :

Technical Review Webinar Series



# Background

- In Africa, differences exist in the food safety control systems and regulatory approaches adopted by various countries.
- These differences have great influence on regional and international food trade.
- In some African countries, the existing food legislation is **outdated, inadequate, fragmented** and **can be found in various statutes and codes**
- This creates confusion among food control enforcement agents, producers and distributors.
- As a result, enforcement of food legislation becomes problematic, often resulting in insufficient consumer protection and products rejections

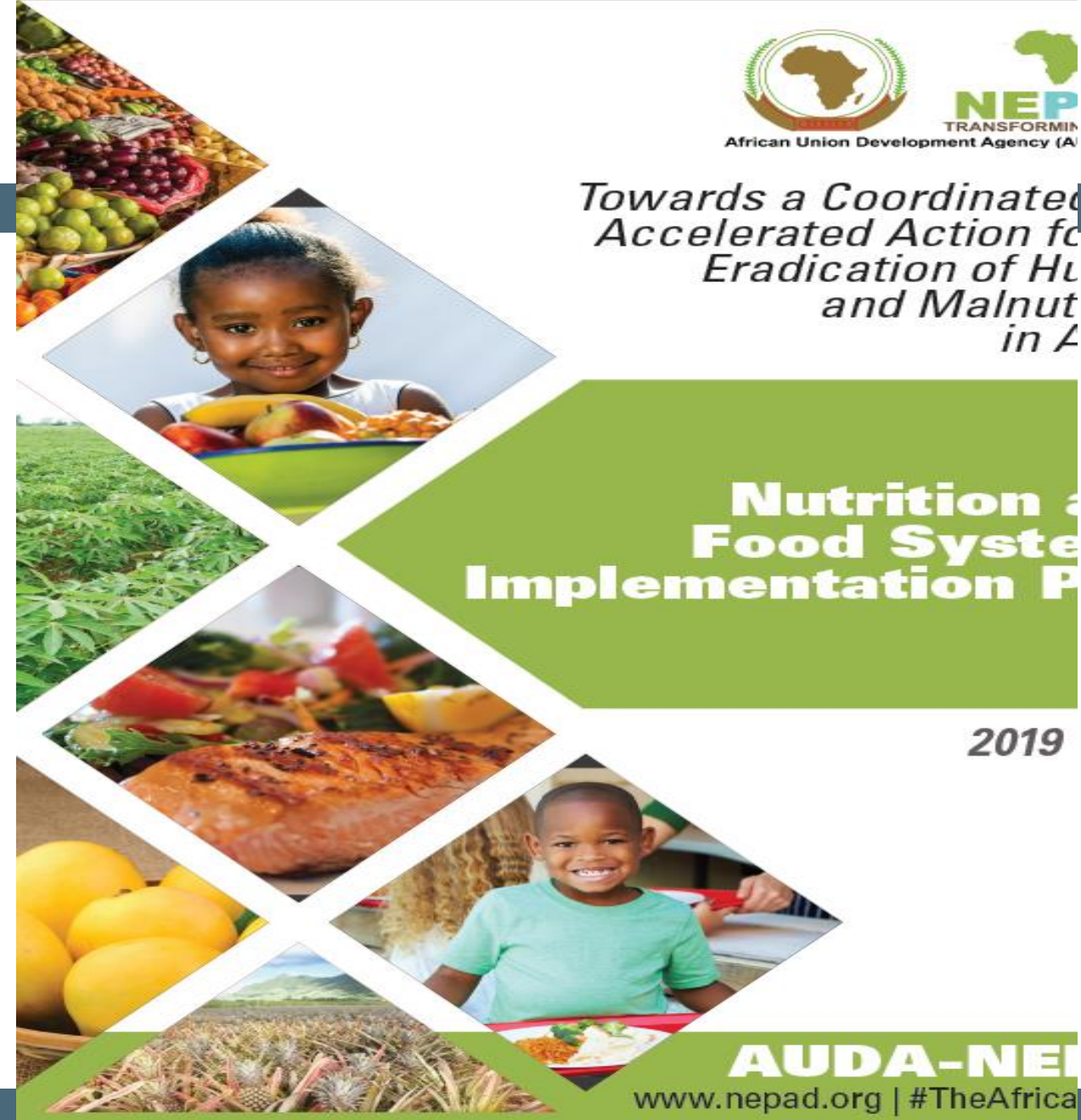
# Background...cont.

- Within the CAADP Result Area A (ii), AUDA-NEPAD is expected to
  - have an **oversight role and support countries** to initiate the development and harmonisation of food safety policies, guidelines and food laws at national and regional levels
  - this guideline was the result of **scoping missions to some RECs and Member States**, online surveys, food safety consultative workshops with stakeholders and review of documents, all of which were organised, facilitated and funded by African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).
- It is expected that harmonizing food safety standards and legislations will
  - **reduce the burden of food-borne illnesses and improve trade** and incomes in Africa Union (AU) Member States.
  - result in food safety prioritisation and improved institutional capacity to enforce food safety standards and legislations in the sub-regions





# AUDA-NEPAD Nutrition and Food Systems Implementation Plan 2019-2025



# Harmonisation of standards and legislations

- Harmonization seeks to “prevent or eliminate differences in the technical content of standards having the same scope”
- The intent of harmonization is to produce a common set of requirements for achieving food safety

**harmonisation = the establishment, recognition and application of common SPS measures by different countries**

# Why harmonise?

- ❑ Everyone has the right to the same standards of food safety and same degree of health protection
- ❑ Global harmonisation of food safety legislation will help -
  - ensure fair trade competition among countries and
  - provide the same degree of protection to all population
  - enable the removal of technical barriers to trade due to differences in standards and legislations.

# Global Efforts to harmonise

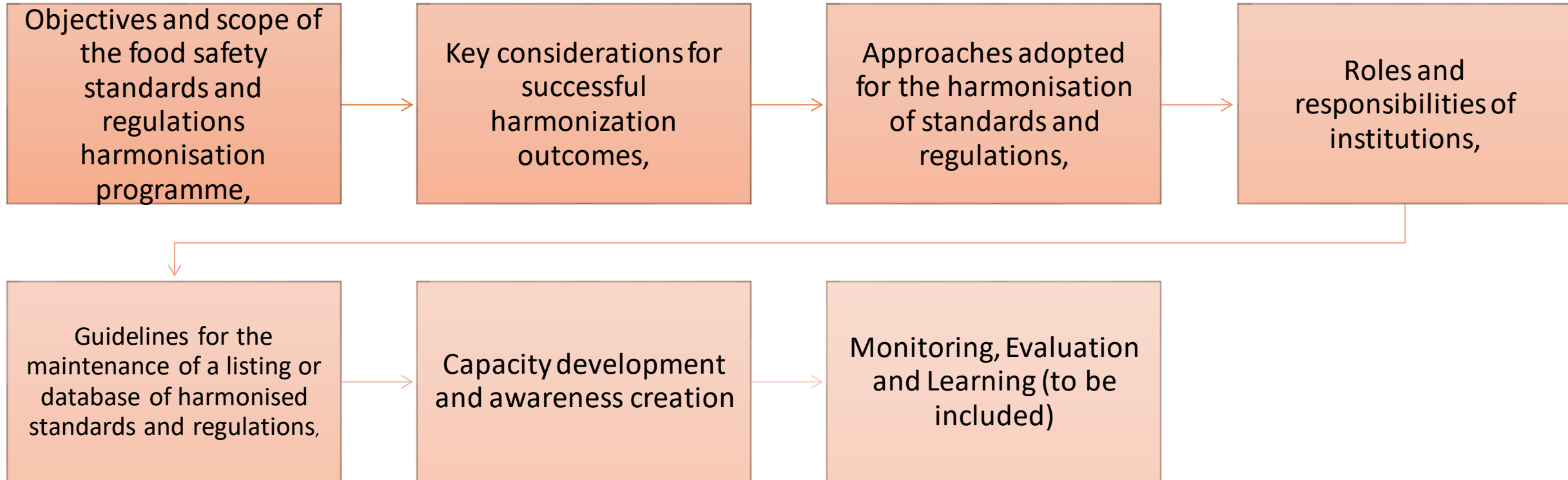
- ❑ The CAC has been trying to harmonize food safety requirements since its first meeting in 1963
- ❑ This was the idea for which WTO was established in 1995 to promote harmonisation of food safety standards and legislations
- ❑ WTO SPS Agreement has
  - helped bring countries legislations in line with Codex standards – harmonisation
  - Encouraged countries to actively participate in Codex activities



# Continental Efforts to harmonise

- Phytosanitary Convention for Africa, which focuses only on plant health was adopted in Kinshasa, DRC on September 13, 1967 by Members States of the Organisation of African Unity.
- **African Organization for Standardisation (ARSO)** established in 1977 to harmonise African standards and conformity assessment procedures in order to reduce technical barriers to trade and promote intra African and International trade
- The Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (**AfCFTA**) entered into force on May 30, 2019
  - As of October 2019, 54 countries (except Eritrea) have signed the Agreement,
  - It has also been ratified in 28 African countries
  - The AfCFTA treaty has recognized and integrated the WTO SPS and TBT measures into the Agreement

# Components of the guidelines



# 1. Objectives and Scope

## Scope

- The guidelines define a consistent, effective and sustainable programme to facilitate the prioritisation and integration of food safety issues in Africa
- They shall apply to all AU Member States and should be adopted by all countries.

## Objectives of the guidelines are to:

- Assure a high level of protection of human health
- Ensure the free movement of safe food within and across countries, regional and continentally
- Ensure the prioritisation of food safety as a major public health and trade concern
- Ensure that Member States do not use SPS issues as trade barriers to impede free movement of food within the region; and
- Improve collaboration and coordination among food safety institutions in the Member States

## 2. Key considerations for successful harmonisation outcomes

- Need to develop national food safety policies with action plans
- Need to harmonise scattered, related and overlapping food safety legislations into one Act
- Need for a continental food safety policy guidelines and action plan
- Need for effective coordination and synergy among relevant food safety institutions within and across Member States
- Consider languages differences and how it may impact the interpretation and implementation of certain standards and laws
- Consider social, cultural and economic differences
- Set criteria to determine standards, legislations or regulations that must be harmonised or updated
- Improve infrastructure (equipment, laboratories, hygiene and sanitation facilities etc.) to facilitate enforcement and compliance



# 3. Approaches for the harmonisation of standards & legislation

## Adoption of and alignment with existing continental and international standards and legal frameworks

- WTO Agreements SPS and TBT measures
- AfCFTA Agreement has adopted WTO SPS and TBT measures of the WTO Agreements for use by member states.
- ARSO standards and codes of practices that border on food safety.
  - ARSO need to review relevant standards and integrate food safety issues and requirements where applicable.
  - ARSO currently has membership from 39 out of 55 countries hence it is critical to encourage the remaining countries to also join ARSO to avoid differences in standards

## Development of Food Safety Regulations, Treaties or Agreements

- Need for a continental **Food Safety Regulation Agreement** (Treaty or Convention) and **Food Safety Mutual Recognition Agreements** to be signed among Member States for a joint food regulatory system.
- This Agreement will also provide the legal framework for other relevant regulations to be developed.

# 4. Roles and Responsibilities of Institutions

## Harmonization of Standards

- Should be led by ARSO and supported by ARSO and/or Consultative Committee established for this purpose
- Should be guided by the African Standards Harmonization Model (ASHAM) developed by ARSO
- National Standards Organisations, CCAFRICA, Codex Contact Points, AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, RECs and other relevant stakeholders shall participate in the harmonization process

## Harmonisation of legislations and regulations

- AUDA-NEPAD should take a lead role in the coordination of the continental harmonization of food safety legislations in collaboration with other partners and stakeholders such as AUC, RECs, Member States, Pan African Parliament and international technical partners.

National Stakeholders	Stakeholders from Sub-regional and International Organisations	Regional Level Stakeholders
<b>Ministries responsible for:</b> <b>Food safety authorities</b> <b>Agriculture</b> <b>Health</b> <b>Trade</b> <b>Education</b> <b>Science and Technology</b> <b>National Planning</b> <b>Finance</b> <b>Environment</b> <b>Water</b> <b>Local Government</b> <b>Corresponding implementing agencies</b> <b>Other national Stakeholders</b> <b>Private Sector (Industries)</b> <b>Academia</b> <b>Research</b> <b>Centres of excellence</b> <b>Civil society</b> <b>Parliament</b>	<p>Sub-regional Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RECs (specific departments or sectors- Industry, Agriculture, Science and Technology. It should be inclusive)</li> <li>• Institutions under RECs (East Africa Health Community- EAHC, ECSA, WAHO,</li> <li>• Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and Sub-Regional Research Organisations (CARDESA, NASRO, CORAF, ASARECA)</li> </ul> <p>International Organisations</p> <p>CGIAR Centres (IITA, ILRI)</p> <p>FAO</p> <p>WHO</p> <p>DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (JICA, USAID etc.)</p> <p>OIE, IPPC, CODEX, IAEA</p> <p>PARM- Risk Management</p> <p>COLEACP WTO-STDF</p>	<p>AUDA-NEPAD</p> <p>ARSO</p> <p>AU-PACA</p> <p>AU-IBAR</p> <p>African centre of Excellence for specific value chains</p> <p>CCAFRICA</p> <p>Pan African Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Proposed Continental Food Safety Agency</p> <p>RSOs</p> <p>ROPA</p> <p>CILSS</p> <p>ReSSAKS</p> <p>AU- HRST, Health, DREA</p>

## 5. Guidelines for the maintenance of a database of harmonised standards, legislations and regulations

- ❑ Establish and maintain an on-line register of all national, sub-regional and continental harmonised food safety standards, legislations and regulations.
  - The register shall be publicly accessible
  - The database should be hosted and maintained by the AUDA-NEPAD
- ❑ Harmonised regulations should be submitted for inclusion in the FAOLEX database



# Example of FAOLEX database



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

[العربية](#) [中文](#) [English](#) [Français](#) [Русский](#) [Español](#)

## FAOLEX Database

	<a href="#">Background</a>	<a href="#">Country Profiles</a>	<a href="#">Thematic Collections</a>	<a href="#">Associated Databases</a>	<a href="#">Highlights Archive</a>	<a href="#">Glossary</a>	<a href="#">COVID-19</a>	
--	----------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--

### Country Profiles

A

[Afghanistan](#)

[Albania](#)

E

[Ecuador](#)

[Egypt](#)

M

[Madagascar](#)

[Malawi](#)

S

[Saint Kitts and Nevis](#)

[Saint Lucia](#)

## 6. Capacity development and awareness creation

- Need for capacity development across board.
  - Conduct capacity needs assessment e.g. Ref FAO tool
- Access technical assistance and capacity building from the AfCFTA Secretariat and other organisations
- Conduct targeted training and awareness raising for different stakeholders e.g. WHO

# 7. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

There is a need to monitor actions and evaluate their successes

Through monitoring and evaluation, learning will take place

Lessons will inform the implementation of the guideline in subsequent years.

# In conclusion...

- To ensure that all countries have strong food safety control systems and institutions as well as adequate policies, standards and legal frameworks that are adequately harmonized.
- It is important that a quick reference guide is co-developed by Member States for use by countries and sub-regions to help them manage the process more efficiently.
- The guidelines will contribute to the realisation of the Agenda 2063, establishment on AfCFTA , Africa Food Safety Authority and others key initiatives in Africa.
- Subsequent technical webinars will be organised soon in collaboration with AUC, ARSO and other AU SPS Committee to validate the guidelines.



# THANK YOU....

---



AUDA-NEPAD  
Guidelines for  
Harmonising Food  
Safety Standards and  
Legislations :

Technical Review Webinar Series

