

## **1<sup>st</sup> AUDA-NEPAD Food Safety and Quality Community of Practice Webinar**

**23 July 2021 - 12:00 13:30 CAT/SAST**

### **1. Introduction and background**

The Nutrition and Food Systems Strategic Programme (2018-2025) of AUDA-NEPAD Agency recognises that standards with adequate supportive policies and enabling environment offer systematic preventive approaches to food safety that aim to protect public health and improve access to nutritious and safe foods and competitive markets. Hence, food safety and quality management are one of the seven flagship programmes that have been identified as strategic focus areas in the Nutrition and Food Systems Strategic Programme. The strategy, among others, makes provision for addressing food safety issues through promoting better standards and legislation and building capacity to generate, monitor and enforce legal frameworks. Furthermore, AUDA-NEPAD will support countries build on well-established international codes and standards developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other allied food safety concepts as well as enable countries to adopt food safety and quality management frameworks that combat food safety hazards that cause adverse health outcomes.

Within the CAADP Result Area A (ii), AUDA-NEPAD is expected to have an oversight role and seek for countries to initiate the development and review of national and regional food safety policies, guidelines, food laws and SPS measures, and promote best practices for tracking and monitoring processes, including traceability systems. The goal is to enhance the safety, quality and quantum of food traded within and among African countries and enhance public health, nutrition, and food security. To demonstrate the commitments of the AU Commission in ensuring food safety, the Commission has since 2019 institutionalized food safety tracking in AU Member States through the Biennial Review Mechanism. In strengthening this aspect and food safety systems, AUDA-NEPAD recently developed the Guideline on the harmonisation of food safety standards, legislations, and regulations. The guideline defines a consistent, effective, and sustainable programme for harmonisation of food safety standards and legislations on the African continent. It is meant to facilitate the prioritisation and integration of food safety issues in relevant harmonised regional, sub-regional and national standards, legislations, and regulations to promote fair trade practices and consumer protection.

### **2. Justification**

Importantly, the WHO estimated that foodborne diseases caused 600 million illnesses and 420,000 premature deaths in 2010; other estimates have produced even higher figures. The recent report from United Nations Food Systems Summit on Action Track 1 underscored that addressing food safety issues in the low- and middle-income countries that suffer the highest burdens requires focusing on many aspects such as food production and agro-processing. Moreover, it is critical to create an enabling policy and regulatory ecosystem that provides the right incentives and support for actors to adopt improved practices, and foster consumer demand for food safety. Furthermore, multi-sectorial and multistakeholder approaches are

required to effectively address food safety in the continent. Recognising the uneven spread of various food safety skills and expertise within the continent there is a need to create a platform that brings together stakeholders to facilitate knowledge, information and experience sharing and learning.

### 3.Meeting purpose:

The purpose of the meeting is to support the establishment of the AUDA-NEPAD Food Safety Community of Practice community charter to reinforce the national food control systems and food safety issues by providing expertise and technical advice to the African Union Member States.

#### 3.1 The meeting aims to:

1. Establish the AUDA-NEPAD Food Safety and Quality Community of Practice to provide technical support to African Member States on food safety
2. Provide an open platform to share and exchange food safety related information, knowledge tools available and best practices in Africa
3. Explore key issues (challenges, opportunities) on food safety from regional and national levels to advance the food safety agenda in the continent
4. Integrate food safety with the UN Food Systems Summit National Dialogues outcomes particularly to Action Track 1 on ensure access to safe and nutritious food to all and build on the post summit implementation.

### 4.Tentative Programme

Time (CAT)	Item	
12:00 - 12:10	<b>Session 1: Opening Session</b>	
	<i>Session Moderator: AUDA-NEPAD</i>	
12:10 - 12:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Call meeting to order / Announcements</li> <li>▪ Opening Remarks</li> <li>▪ Meeting Objectives/Purpose</li> <li>▪ Agenda review and Meeting Purpose</li> </ul>	
	<b>Session 2: The Context</b>	
		<i>Session Moderator: Dr Rose Omari</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Presentation 1:</b> <i>AUDA-NEPAD food safety context: National, Regional and Continental thrust and Alignment – AUDA-NEPAD Ms Kefilwe Moalosi</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Presentation 2:</b> <i>Leveraging the UN Food Systems Summit and Post Summit: What are the linkages / what is different this time and why – Dr Covic Namukolo, Contributions from AT 1 /AT 2 from the Africa Perspective</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Presentation 3:</b> <i>Food Safety Emerging Issues, Tools and Priorities: FAORAF -Dr Blaise Ouattara</i></li> </ul>		
☞ Open/moderated conversation		

12:50- 13:20	<b>Session 3: Establishment of Food Safety &amp; Quality Community of Practice Discussions</b>	<i>Session Moderator: AUC/PACA (tbc)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Open/moderated conversation</li> </ul>	
13:20-	<b>Session 4: Conclusion</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Session Moderator: Mr Ernest Aubee-ECOWAS</b></span>	
13:30	4.1 Recap of key Messages	<i>Mr Femi Stephen, Food Safety Expert MoH, Nigeria</i>
	4.2 Next steps and closing	<b>AUDA-NEPAD</b>