



Policy issues on food safety and possible challenges in the Lancang Mekong region

Masami Takeuchi, PhD, Food Safety Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO's mandate: food security



Definition: “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to **sufficient**, **safe** and **nutritious** food”

[FAO World Food Summit, 1996]

Food safety and nutrition?



What is she making?



Mud cookies

Food scarcity can coerce populations to **consume whatever food is available**

Even if it can be **unsafe** and possibly **contaminated**



Changing global context

- Globalization
- Internationalization
- Increased movement of everything
- eCommerce



And evolving...

- New agricultural production and processing technologies
- Capacity gaps among countries
- Growing membership of international and regional bodies



Food safety: diverse challenges

Hazards/diseases with potential to move across sectors

A weak link – affects the entire food chain

New outbreaks, transboundary diseases

Trade requirements – SPS/TBT

Legal obligations of international agreements

Uncertainties associated with new tools and technologies

High cost of regulation and limited public resources



Assuring food safety – a holistic approach

- Effective food control management by the governments, setting and enforcing relevant legislation and regulations
- Food standard setting - harmonization with international standards
- Food inspection and effective monitoring with good capacity in food control laboratories for safety and quality assurance
- Risk communication and food safety information sharing, knowledge transfer
- “Food safety culture” for private sectors
- Research and development in academia and research sectors

Food safety situations in the region

Food safety related policies, legislations and regulations – put in place

Implementation – capacity levels vary, priority conflicts can happen

ASEAN framework – collaborative and mutual risk assessment efforts – more concrete commitments (financial and technical) are required

Simultaneous implementation of both top-down and bottom-up approaches: effective on technical know-how for SMEs, GHPs, GAP, GMP and HACCP

International recommendations and guidance –implemented in only few countries

Food safety requirements – administrative burdens? What are priorities?

Challenges of “Processed” food

Perception issues
in food safety and
quality



Merci
¡Gracias

Thank You

谢谢
Спасибо
شكرا

