

28th Session of the Committee for Agriculture

Item 2.2: FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31

The 27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) requested FAO to develop a new Food Safety Strategy to contribute to the 2030 Agenda. In doing so, the Committee requested that FAO collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure that their respective food safety strategies are aligned and mutually supportive.

Following the Committee’s request, FAO developed a set of Strategic Priorities for its work on food safety with the vision to provide “Safe food for all people at all times” and the mission “To support Members in continuing to improve food safety at all levels by providing scientific advice and strengthening their food safety capacities for MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems”.

These Priorities fit within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, where the Organization outlined Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), several of which are centred around or include important food safety activities such as PPA *better nutrition* “Safe food for everyone” (BN3), PPA *better nutrition* “Transparent markets and trade” (BN5), and PPA *better production* “One Health” (BP3).

An iterative consultative process led by FAO with its Members and international partner organizations, including WHO, resulted in the Strategic Priorities being articulated around four Strategic Outcomes, which act as an instrument to spur investments and secure adequate human and financial resources for FAO to successfully implement its food safety programme, and to provide international guidance, policy and advocacy for policymakers. These Strategic Priorities encourage a more consistent integration of food safety in the development of sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems, food security and nutrition policies, and agriculture development strategies.

During the development of both the *FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety* and the *WHO Global Food Safety Strategy* (adopted by the 75th World Health Assembly in May 2022), FAO and WHO maintained a standing and rigorous information sharing and discussion mechanism. Both Organizations have committed to planning the development of a joint framework for implementation, following the endorsement of the respective strategic directions.

The Committee is invited to:

- *recommend* the proposed “Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31” be submitted to the Council for consideration through the Programme Committee;
- *invite* FAO to continue to provide demand-driven policy and technical support to countries in their efforts to improve food safety, and to ensure the availability of resources for such support; and
- *encourage* FAO Members to partner and invest in food safety at national, regional and global level, through continuous improvement of their national food control systems, data collection and analysis and active participation in international food safety governance, as a key contribution to One Health, safe food trade, enabling the sustainable development of inclusive agrifood systems, and food security.

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