



FOSCU TAKES TO THE AIRWAVES: AMPLIFYING FOOD SAFETY AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY IN UGANDA

Documented by Bwambale Bernard | Coordinator FoSCU

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Food safety remains a significant public health challenge in Uganda, with approximately 1.3 million citizens experiencing foodborne illnesses annually. Compelling evidence gathered by the Food Safety Coalition of Uganda (FoSCU) and other researchers underscores the persistent risk of food contamination at various stages of the food value chain. Physical, biological, and chemical hazards have been consistently identified as threats within Uganda's food system, necessitating urgent and comprehensive interventions.

FoSCU's Multifaceted Approach to Food Safety

In response to these critical food safety challenges, FoSCU has developed and implemented a range of tailored interventions as part of its programmatic activities. These interventions encompass:

➤ Food Safety Research and Innovation:

Conducting scientific investigations to identify emerging food safety risks and develop innovative solutions.

➤ Food Safety Awareness Campaigns:

Implementing public awareness initiatives to educate consumers about safe food handling practices.

➤ Capacity Building of Stakeholders:

Providing training and resources to empower farmers, processors, and other actors in the food system to adopt best food safety practices.

➤ Food Safety Advocacy Campaigns:

Engaging with policymakers and other stakeholders to advocate for stronger food safety regulations and policies.

Reaching the Masses: FoSCU's Television Outreach

As part of its broader awareness, capacity-building, and advocacy efforts, FoSCU strategically utilized television platforms to disseminate critical food safety information. During the first quarter of 2025, FoSCU conducted four television shows on prominent networks, including Church of Uganda Family TV, Uganda Catholic TV, and Gugudde TV.

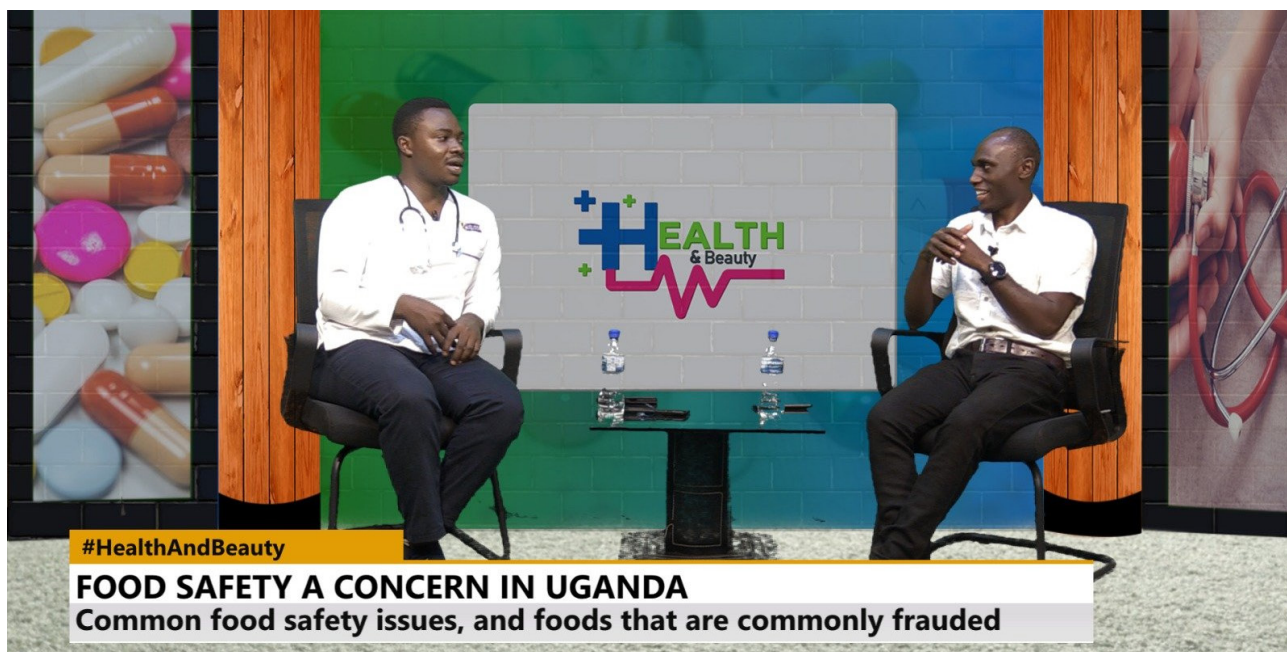
These television programs were carefully designed to:

➤ **Highlight Food Safety Hazards:** Clearly articulate the various food safety hazards present in Uganda and their detrimental impacts on public health and socioeconomic development.

➤ **Disseminate the Food Safety Report:** Share the findings of FoSCU's comprehensive "Food Safety-Crop Protection Nexus: Insights from Uganda's Agricultural sector" report, published in December 2024.

➤ **Address Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs):** Disseminate information on the importation, use, and negative impacts of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in Uganda, emphasizing the risks of human, animal, and environmental exposure.





- **Advocate for Responsible Practices:** Promote the responsible use of safer agrochemicals, advocate for the banning of HHP importation, effectively regulate agrochemicals, and encourage the adoption of healthier pest and disease management practices.

Impact and Key Messages

The television shows served as an instrumental tool for reaching a wide audience with accurate and actionable information on various aspects of food safety. The programs effectively communicated the need for:

- **Strict Regulation of HHPs:** Emphasizing the importance of stringent regulations governing the use and importation of highly hazardous pesticides.
- **Investment in Food Safety Infrastructure:** Advocating for increased investments in essential food safety infrastructure, including laboratories and monitoring systems.

- **Enforcement of Legal and Regulatory Frameworks:** Stressing the need for rigorous enforcement of existing food safety laws and regulations.
- **Capacity Building for Food System Actors:** Highlighting the importance of ongoing training and capacity building for all stakeholders involved in the food system.

A Collective Responsibility

While FoSCU's efforts have made significant strides in raising awareness and promoting food safety in Uganda, it is clear that more collective action is needed. Achieving food safety requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, and individual consumers. By working together, Uganda can create a food system that is safe, sustainable, and beneficial for all its citizens.