



COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD SAFETY GUIDANCE MATERIALS FOR BEEF AND DAIRY SMES IN UGANDA

Documented by Mr. Bwambale Bernard | FoSCU Coordinator

February 6, 2025



The development of comprehensive food safety guidance materials for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) operating within Uganda's beef and bovine milk value chains has made significant progress through multi-stakeholder collaboration. This initiative addresses critical food safety concerns identified throughout these important agricultural sectors and aims to enhance safety standards across the production chain.

Project Overview and Partnerships

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in collaboration with Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (MAAIF), is implementing a targeted food safety project with financial support from the Swiss government. This project specifically focuses on developing comprehensive guidance materials tailored to the operational needs of SMEs in the beef and bovine milk value chains. The initiative responds directly to documented food safety concerns along these value chains and aims to establish standardized safety protocols accessible to smaller market participants.

Steering Committee Activities

A dedicated project steering committee has been established to oversee the development and eventual dissemination of these guidance materials. The committee comprises representatives from various stakeholder organizations, including the Food Safety Coalition Uganda (FoSCU). On January 15, 2025, committee members convened at the Fair Way Hotel in Kampala to deliberate on the structure and content of the guidance materials being developed. This meeting established the framework for subsequent review activities and content refinement.

Material Development and Review Process

Between February 2nd -5th, 2025, an intensive review session was conducted in Luwero to evaluate and refine the draft guidance materials. As the FoSCU coordinator, I participated actively in this process, providing technical input and ensuring alignment with national and international food safety objectives. The review process incorporated feedback from various stakeholders to ensure the materials address practical challenges faced by operators within these value chains.

Future Implementation Strategy

Upon completion of the guidance materials, a comprehensive training program will be implemented for SMEs and other target value chains actors. This training will cover good agricultural practices, good manufacturing practices, and the application of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles throughout the value chain. The ultimate goal is to guarantee the safety of beef and beef products, as well as bovine milk and milk products, throughout Uganda's food production systems.

Conclusion

This collaborative initiative represents a significant step towards enhancing food safety standards in Uganda's important animal protein sectors. By providing tailored guidance materials to SMEs, the project addresses a critical gap in the food safety ecosystem and supports smaller enterprises in meeting necessary safety standards. The multi-stakeholder approach ensures that the guidance materials will be both comprehensive and practical for implementation across diverse operational contexts.



info@foscu.org



<https://foscu.org/>