NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY POLICY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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DEFINITIONS

In this National Food Safety Policy the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

**Certification**
Means the issuance of a document by an authorized institution to attest, authenticate, or verify something.

**Certification bodies**
Means bodies or institutions authorized by legislation to issue certification documents.

**Codex Alimentarius**
Means the standards, codes of practice, guidelines and recommendations issued by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

**Coordination body**
Means the body designated and mandated by legislation or this policy to coordinate food safety activities in Ghana.

**Drugs**
Include a substance or mixture of substances prepared, sold or represented for use in (i) the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of disease, disorder or abnormal physical (or mental) state or the symptoms of it, in man or animal; or (ii) for restoring, correcting or modifying organic functions in man or animal; and (iii) nutritional supplements.

**Export**
Means to take out of the Republic of Ghana.

**Food**
Includes water, a food product, a live animal or a live plant, and includes:

(a) a substance or thing of a kind used, capable of being used or represented as being for use, for human or animal consumption, whether it is live, raw, prepared or partly prepared;

(b) a substance or thing of a kind used, capable of being used or represented as being for use, as an ingredient or additive in a substance or a thing referred to in paragraph (a)

(c) a substance used in preparing a substance of a thing referred to in paragraph (a);

(d) chewing gum or an ingredient or additive in chewing gum or a substance used in preparing chewing gum, and

(e) a substance or a thing declared by the Minister to be a food under section 146(3) of the Public Health Act.
Foodborne disease monitoring  Means the performance and analysis of routine measurements aimed at detecting changes in the environment or health status of populations.

Foodborne disease surveillance  Means the ongoing systematic collection, collation, analysis and interpretation of data followed by the dissemination of information to all those involved so that directed actions may be taken. The main objective of surveillance are outbreak detection, monitoring trends in endemic disease, evaluating interventions and monitoring programme performance and progress towards a predetermined control objective.

Health inspector  Means a person lawfully appointed to be a health inspector or a sanitary inspector under the Public Health Act.

Institutional mechanisms  Means methods, strategies or devices developed, introduced and backed by recognized institutions.

Inter-ministerial  Means between and among a number of ministries.

Intra-ministerial  Means within individual ministries.

Inter-agency  Means between and among a number of agencies.

Intra-agency  Means within individual agencies.

Import  Means to bring into the Republic of Ghana.

Insanitary conditions  Means conditions or circumstances which might contaminate a product regulated under the Public Health Act with dirt or filth or might render the article injurious or dangerous to health.

Manufacture  Includes the operations involved in the production, preparation, processing, compounding, formulating, filling, refining, transformation, packing, packaging, re-packaging and labeling of products.

Slaughter facility  Means a slaughterhouse, slaughter slab, abattoir and premises or a place habitually used for the slaughter of animals for human and animal consumption.
## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Act of Parliament</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFTAR</td>
<td>Africa Agriculture and Rural Development</td>
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<td>BNARI</td>
<td>Biotechnology and Nuclear Agricultural Institute</td>
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<td>CAC</td>
<td>Codex Alimentarius Commission</td>
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<td>CAG</td>
<td>Consumers Association of Ghana</td>
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<td>CCAFARICA</td>
<td>FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEPS</td>
<td>Customs Excise and Preventive Service</td>
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<td>CSIR</td>
<td>Council for Scientific and Industrial Research</td>
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<td>GAEC</td>
<td>Ghana Atomic Energy Commission</td>
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<td>GHS</td>
<td>Ghana Health Service</td>
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<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community for West African States</td>
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<td>EHO</td>
<td>Environmental Health Officers</td>
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<td>EIA</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Assessment</td>
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<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organisation</td>
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<td>FDA</td>
<td>Food and Drugs Authority</td>
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<td>FDB</td>
<td>Food and Drugs Board</td>
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<td>FSMS</td>
<td>Food Safety Management Systems</td>
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<td>GEPA</td>
<td>Ghana Export Promotion Authority</td>
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<td>GPRS</td>
<td>Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy</td>
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<td>GSA</td>
<td>Ghana Standards Authority</td>
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<td>GTA</td>
<td>Ghana Tourism Authority</td>
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<td>IPPC</td>
<td>International Plant Protection Convention</td>
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<td>ISO</td>
<td>International Organisation for Standardisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>IUCN</td>
<td>International Union for Conservation of Nature</td>
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<tr>
<td>KNUST</td>
<td>Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>L.I.</td>
<td>Legislative Instrument</td>
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<td>MDAs</td>
<td>Ministries, Departments and Agencies</td>
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<td>MEST</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment Science and Technology</td>
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<td>MLGRD</td>
<td>Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development</td>
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<td>MMMDAs</td>
<td>Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies</td>
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<td>MOE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
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<td>MOFA</td>
<td>Ministry of Food and Agriculture</td>
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<td>MOFEP</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning</td>
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<td>MOH</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
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<td>MOTI</td>
<td>Ministry of Trade and Industry</td>
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<td>NCCs</td>
<td>National Codex Committees</td>
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<td>NEP</td>
<td>National Enquiry Point</td>
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<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>New Partnership for African Development</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>NPPO</td>
<td>National Plant Protection Organisation</td>
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NRCD - National Redemption Council Decree
OIE - Office International des Epizoties (World Animal Health Organization)
PNDCL - Peoples National Defence Council Law
PPRSD - Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate
RPPO - Regional Plant Protection Organization
SPEG - Sea Freight Pineapple Exporters of Ghana
SPS - Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
UCC - University of Cape Coast
UDS - University of Development Studies
VSD - Veterinary Service Directorate
WHO - World Health Organisation
WIAD - Women in Agricultural Development
WTO - World Trade Organisation
FOREWORD

Food safety has been described as protecting the food supply from microbial, chemical and physical hazards that may occur during all stages of food production, including growing, harvesting, processing, transporting, retailing, distributing, preparing, storing and consumption. When food safety systems are well developed, they contribute to improved public health, increased access to food trade, reduction of poverty, increased food security and the protection of the environment.

There is increasing global interest in the safety of foods available for consumption. This interest is heightened when the food is intended for the market, both local and export. To address these concerns, national and international strategies have been put in place to provide the requisite information, standards and regulations to ensure that consumers get the best value for health and nutrition.

The Government of Ghana has not been left out of this increasing awareness, with the public and private sectors as well as international agencies showing support and commitment to improve the food safety situation in the country. There have been a multiplicity of programmes instituted by key actors and institutions who contribute to ensuring that the quality of foods consumed by Ghanaians are safe and contribute to health and nutrition. These programmes and actions are so far not driven by any uniform national food safety policy to allow effective coordination and evaluation through the value chain. It has therefore been realised that there is the urgent need to develop a national food safety policy for Ghana.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies (including the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Industries, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Education, National Development Planning Commission) and other partners have prepared this Food Safety Policy for Ghana with the ultimate aim of establishing and maintaining an integrated farm to fork food safety system that ensures consumer health and public safety.

The basis of this policy was a situation analysis report titled “Food Safety in Ghana – A Situational Analysis.” The specific objectives of the assessment were to analyze the food safety situation in Ghana and make recommendations for the development of a National Food Safety Policy taking into account current and previous initiatives and programmes. The Situational Analysis report was validated by stakeholders at a couple of workshops. The policy has also been produced through a consultative process which included a stakeholder policy formulation workshop.

The adoption and implementation of this National Food Safety Policy is expected to reduce the burden of food borne diseases in the country. The National Food Safety Policy will also provide a basis for the establishment of National Food Safety objectives, requirements and guidance for application to specific sectors of the food chain, that is, “from farm to fork.” Through the adoption and promulgation of this Policy, the Government of Ghana reaffirms its commitment to fulfilling the constitutional obligation of ensuring safer and better nutrition for its population.

MINISTER FOR HEALTH,
ACCRA, OCTOBER, 2012
AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Food Safety Policy document was made possible through the contributions and support of several institutions and individuals.

The Ministry acknowledges with gratitude the contribution of the Technical Task Team that worked with the Consultants to prepare the report titled “Food Safety in Ghana – A Situational Analysis”, which formed the basis for the preparation of this Food Safety Policy.

Gratitude and thanks go to the members of the National Food Safety Policy Drafting Committee that worked with Consultants in the preparation of this policy document. They included the following: Ms. Esi Amoaful, Chairperson (Nutrition Department of the Ghana Health Service); Mrs. Isabella Mansa Agra, Ms. Maria Lovelace-Johnson, Dr. M. Mohammed-Alfa, Mr. Benjamin Osei Tutu (Food and Drugs Authority under the Ministry of Health); Ms. Joyce Okoree, Mrs. Genevieve Baah-Mante (Ghana Standards Authority, Ministry of Trade and Industry); Dr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Environmental Protection Agency under the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology); Dr. Francis Kunadu-Ampratwum (Veterinary Services Directorate under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture); Dr. F. D. Tay (National Development Planning Commission); Ms. Akosua Kwakye (World Health Organisation Ghana office); Ms. Sophie Tadria (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation).

Special thanks also go to all those who reviewed and made comments during the drafting of the policy as well as those who participated in the various workshops to validate the findings of the Situational Analysis Report.

Sincere thanks are expressed to our development partners namely, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), whose technical and financial support has immensely contributed to the development of this document.

The Ministry is also grateful for the work of the Consultants who helped to put this document together including Mrs. Sheila Minkah-Premo, Mrs. Christine Dowuona-Hammond and Mr. Samuel Manteaw.

MINISTER FOR HEALTH
ACCRA, OCTOBER, 2012
1.0 INTRODUCTION

There is increasing global interest on the safety of foods available for home and institutional consumption. This interest is heightened when the food is intended for the market both local and export. To address these concerns national and international strategies have been put in place to provide information, standards and regulations to ensure that consumers get the best value for health and nutrition.

Food safety and its impact on food security of populations have been considered as important for all nations. When food safety systems are properly in place they contribute to improved public health, increased access to food trade, reduction of poverty, increased food security and the protection of the environment, enhanced productivity and above all national development.

Food safety involves systems to protect the food supply from microbial, chemical and physical hazards arising from production, harvesting, processing, storage, transportation and marketing activities. This has led to the farm-to-table approach to nutrition, food safety and consumer protection and the associated roles of operators of the food supply chain. In addition, the cooperation and coordination between the public and private sectors on the development of food standards and food safety controls are important. Important international standards have been set by the key standard setting bodies namely: Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), Office International des Epizoties (OIE) also known as World Animal Health Organisation, and the implementation body for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) as well as International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), to ensure food safety the world over. International bodies that have played a key part in developing these standards include the World Trade Organisation (WTO), World Health Organisation (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Ghana is a member of these international standard setting bodies and participates in the development of these standards on food safety, animal and plant health.

For the developing world, the incidence of food and water-related diseases such as diarrhea due to microbial contamination is high. In addition, limited capacity for food-borne disease surveillance, outdated and overlapping food legislation, limited human resources and inadequate education in food safety and the poor appreciation of the public health implications of unsafe food handling practices, exposure to mycotoxins and the lack of national policy on food safety have compounded the problem.

In Ghana, there are major concerns and gaps that currently exist with regard to national food safety and which call for the enactment of the National Food Safety Policy. There are food safety issues with regard to food production, handling, packaging, processing and transportation. There are biological, chemical and physical contaminants in the food chain. As Ghana seeks to improve her competitiveness on the global markets, there is the need to review how agri-business (from production to consumption) is conducted especially as it relates to quality and risk analysis in the country. Farmers and other business operators in the food chain need to have capacities to assure food quality and safety to the consumer. There are also multiplicities of regulators within the food value chain, whose activities are largely uncoordinated.
A multi-stakeholder task team was set up to help with the process of assessing the food safety situation in Ghana and Consultants were also engaged to undertake a situational analysis on food safety, which resulted in the report titled “Food Safety in Ghana – A Situational Analysis”. The report identified some of the major problems with regard to food safety in Ghana. Recommendations were made in this report for the preparation of a national policy on food safety. Following the validation of the report at two stakeholder meetings, consultants were engaged to prepare the National Food Safety Policy and a National Food Safety Policy Committee was set up to work with the consultants in the development of the policy.

The next section 2.0 outlines the problem statement for the policy and summarises some of the key findings from the situational analysis undertaken on food safety and is followed by a look at the policy context. The policy statement and guiding principles then follow in sections 3.0 and 4.0. The next section, 5.0, sets out the policy directions after which the policy measures follows in 6.0. This is followed by the implementation framework/strategy for the policy which is set out in section 7.0. Institutional mechanisms for achieving policy objectives are outlined afterwards in section 8.0. The monitoring and evaluation section then follows in section 9.0. The policy ends with a section 10.0 on funding mechanisms.

2.0 PROBLEM STATEMENT ON FOOD SAFETY IN GHANA

2.1 SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

An assessment of the food safety situation to inform the development of the National Food Safety Policy, which resulted in the report titled “Food Safety in Ghana – A Situational Analysis” identified some of the major problems with regard to food safety as follows:

(i) Food production and food safety - The major food safety challenges associated with food production include chemical and microbial contamination of foods; poor harvesting and drying systems for grains resulting in the production and accumulation of fungal toxins; poor handling and packaging of fresh produce at the farm level for foods destined especially for the local market. In addition the study further noted that Ghana, like other African countries, has a high incidence of food and water-related diseases such as diarrhea due to microbial contamination.

(ii) The food value chain - The food value chain consists of a sequence of activities including production, harvesting, handling, packaging, transportation, marketing, distribution, processing and consumption. The Ghanaian food value chain is dominated by the informal sector which plays a major role in food delivery to the various end users and are involved in activities in food production, food trade, food processing and food distribution and marketing. From available studies, some of the challenges faced by the informal sector include lack of potable water for street vending operations (leading to several infections like leptospirosis, clostridium perfringes gastroenteritis, cryptosporidiosis, diarrhea etc.), use of meat from unlicensed sources and the consumption of these uninspected meat or uncertified meat may expose the consumers to anthrax, bovine tuberculosis, trichinellosis and taeniasis. In addition, there are different types of markets in Ghana, the operations of which are controlled by local and
Municipal/Metropolitan Authorities (MMDAs). Agricultural marketing in Ghana includes sale at: farm-gates, roadside/open markets; purposively built-markets with stalls; container/kiosk selling points; table-top and itinerant retailers. They handle a wide range of food commodities in the form of raw, semi-processed and finished goods. For some commodities there is an intricate network of actors and activities which are generally not regulated and it is difficult to trace the source of material being offered for sale. Some activities at the market including unfavourable storage conditions; poor hygienic conditions for food marketing, processing and sale for consumption, can also be an important source of food contamination, which can compromise food safety, nutrition and health. Exposure of produce to unfavourable storage conditions; poor hygienic conditions for food marketing, processing and consumption can all contribute to challenges in food safety.

(iii) Imports and exports - There are also challenges with the safety and quality of food items imported and exported, food safety research, safety and control of genetically modified organisms and foods, inspection of food products and plants, all of which need to be addressed in a holistic manner.

(iv) Training and food safety management systems - Training in food safety for nutritionists and other food related professions are offered at some institutions including the Department of Nutrition and Food Science at the University of Ghana in collaboration with the Industry Council for Development who have set up a Food Safety and Nutrition Training Centre. The Food and Drug Authority and Ghana Standards Authority also run training programmes for stakeholders in the setting up and implementation of food safety management systems. With regards to accreditation of Food Safety Management Systems, Ghana Standards Authority is in the final stages of being accredited to ISO 22000:2005 Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) under its Systems Certification Programme and this will enable the Ghana Standards Authority to certify food establishments to ISO 22000:2005. However, there is no system for overall coordination to ensure that training in food safety and management systems are properly regulated.

(v) Consumer and public Education - Consumer and public education has been identified as being of paramount importance in the safe handling of food, whether processed or unprocessed. There are concerns with street vending of food in unsanitary conditions exposing consumers to food safety hazards with serious health implications. Various educational programmes are mounted by organisations (Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana Standards Authority, Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Food and Agriculture etc.) to educate consumers and operators, but there are still challenges in this area due to lack of coordination.

(vi) Laboratories and surveillance - With regard to food control laboratories and surveillance, it was noted that there are laboratories with the capacity to analyze foods and other products in support of a food safety system. Most of these are in the public sector institutions such as the Universities and research institutes. Specialized laboratories are present under the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, Veterinary Services Directorate, Food and Drugs Authority, Food Research Institute and Ghana Standards Authority. The Food Research Institute and Ghana Standards Authority have laboratories accredited to ISO 17025: General
requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. There are also private sector laboratories that are mostly concerned with health and medical laboratory services. Ghana however does not have a food-borne disease surveillance system that can effectively inform the managers of food safety. There is the need to develop the legal framework for surveillance and the development of human and infrastructural capacity. The role of the public universities and research institutions as well as public and private health laboratories must be fashioned out. The report notes that the mandatory certification processes and surveillance activities of the Food and Drugs Authority and Ghana Standards Authority contribute immensely towards national surveillance programmes. Surveillance is also dependent upon the records of physicians and clinical laboratories. Reports on diseases and specific diagnosed infections in hospitals and clinics all over the country also contribute to the surveillance programmes. Two key ministries with agencies or institutions directly involved in monitoring and surveillance of food-borne diseases are the Ministries of Health (MOH) and Food and Agriculture (MOFA). Under these two broad Ministries are a number of agencies that are responsible for legislative, technical and practical implementation of food safety programmes. Under the MOH is the Disease Surveillance Department of the Ghana Health Service and the National Disease Surveillance Unit that was set up under the Public Health Directorate of the Ghana Health Service to coordinate and implement integrated surveillance activities in the country. Under MOFA is the Veterinary Service Department. Institutions and industries involved in food safety (testing, processing, storage etc.) should ensure that they have calibration and traceability for their measuring instruments.

(vii) Bio-safety issues – Research in the area of food safety as it applies to the use of radiation technology is undertaken by the Biotechnology and Nuclear Agricultural Institute (BNARI) of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC). BNARI is a research and technology transfer institution that provides cutting edge solutions through the use of biotechnology and nuclear technologies for the development of elite crop varieties, production of healthy planting materials for farmers, protection of crops and livestock, reduction of post-harvest food losses, enhancement of the safety of foods and health-care delivery. The BNARI also carries out research on food safety issues. It was the lead institution that coordinated efforts for drafting the National Biosafety Framework, which provides for a domestic regulatory and management system with respect to modern biotechnology activities in Ghana. There is in place a National Biosafety Act, 2011 (Act 831), which seeks to regulate all activities in biotechnology including contained use, releases into the environment and placements in the market, export and import and transit of genetically modified organisms. The Act sets out a biosafety regulatory regime, which operates within a coordinated framework with a coordinating agency, the National Biosafety Authority. Monitoring and enforcement issues are however expected to be handled by the existing regulatory agencies.

(viii) Legislative framework on food safety - Ghana has several pieces of legislation on food safety including: legislation governing food and drugs; legislation governing standards; legislation governing health and safety of animals and animal products and legislation controlling pests affecting plants and plant products. There are also a number of bills and draft laws aimed at enacting new legislation with regard to some of the regulators and recommendations made to strengthen them.
The legislation supporting the various institutions involved in food safety and standards are reviewed in the next section to determine the level of compliance with the relevant international obligations and standards, conformity with the principles of modern food regulations and identifies how far roles interact with each other. The overview provides the highlights of the provisions of each statute, identifies the gaps and/or overlaps and makes recommendations for consideration.

(A) Legislative framework on food safety

The laws relevant for food safety includes the Food and Drugs Act, 1992 (P.N.D.C.L. 305B) as amended, the Tourism Act, 2011 (Act 817), the Local Government Act, 1993 (Act 462) and various Local Government (District/Municipal/Metropolitan Assembly).

(1) Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851)\(^1\)

The Part 7 of the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851), establishes the Food and Drugs Authority with the object of providing and enforcing standards for the sale of food, herbal medicinal products, cosmetics, drugs, medical devices and chemical substances. The Act empowers the Food and Drugs Authority, among others, to ensure adequate and effective standards for food, drugs, cosmetics, household chemicals and medical devices and to advise the Minister on measures for the protection of the health of consumers. To enable it to achieve its object section 82(b) gives the Food and Drugs Authority the power to “monitor through the District Assemblies and any other agency of State compliance with the provisions of this Part” (i.e. Public Health Act). Section 82(f) also gives it power to “perform any other functions that are ancillary to attaining the objects of the Authority.”

The Act provides that a person shall not manufacture, import, export, distribute, sell or supply food unless the Authority has registered the food. The Authority is authorized to register food if it is satisfied that the food complies with the prescribed standards and the manufacturing operations for the food complies with the prescribed codes of good manufacturing practices. Exporters and importers of food are also required to be registered by the Authority and to comply with its Regulations and Guidelines. Food shall be registered by the Authority if the Authority is satisfied that the composition of the food proposed to be exported or imported is not of a standard below the specifications prescribed under the Act; and the food and the practices related to the food do not contravene a provision of the Act. The Act makes it an offence to sell food that is adulterated, contains a harmful or poisonous substance; is injurious to health, unwholesome or unfit for human or animal consumption or contains any filthy, putrid, rotten, decomposed or diseased animal or vegetable substance.

The Act also regulates slaughter houses and forbids the use of any premises for the slaughter of animals with intent to sell or supply the meat for human or animal consumption, unless the premises are registered by the District Assembly. The Veterinary Services Department is required under the Act to collaborate with the Food and Drug Authority to carry out meat inspection in slaughter houses. The Act further regulates the transportation of meat for sale. Significantly, the Public Health Act gives the Food and Drugs Authority the power to prosecute any person who contravenes a provision of Part 7 of the Act, subject to section 56 of the

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\(^1\) The Public Health Act has replaced the Food and Drugs Act, 1992 (P.N.D.C.L. 305B) and Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1996 (Act 532).
(1) Criminal and Other Offences (Procedure) Act, 1960 (Act 30). The Act specifies the penalties for the various offences that may be committed under Part 7 of the Act or the Regulations.

(2) Tourism Act, 2011 (Act 817)
This new law supersedes the Tourist Board Decree, 1973 (N.R.C.D. 224) as amended. It establishes the Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA) to regulate the tourism industry. The Authority is tasked to: grant licenses for the tourism industry; regulate and supervise tourism enterprises; establish standards, guidelines and codes of practice for running a tourist enterprise and attractions; and regulate and monitor the activities of licensees. Before issuing a license the GTA is empowered to satisfy itself that proper provision has been made for sanitation in the premises, storage, preparation, cooking and serving of food and drink and that the premises conform to laws on sanitation and public health and safety. However this should be certified by competent authority in food safety. For the purpose of registration and licensing of tourism enterprises, the Authority is required to set up an inter-agency committee to review permits issued by other agencies including District Planning Authority of the area concerned; the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and the District/Municipal/Metropolitan Health Directorate. (See section 27 of Act 817). This inter-agency committee is expected to ensure integration to address overlaps in granting of licenses to operate restaurants under the mandates of Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies, EPA and Food and Drug Authority.

(3) Local Government Act, 1993 (Act 462) and Local Government (Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies) (Establishment) Instruments
Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies (MMDAs) are ultimately responsible for the development, improvement and management of human settlements and the environment in districts, municipalities, and metropolis. In particular, the Establishment Instruments of MMDAs make it the duty of MMDAs to provide for the inspection of all meat, fish, vegetables and all other foodstuffs and liquids of whatever kind or nature intended for human consumption whether exposed for sale or not. The MMDAs are also mandated under their Establishment Instruments to seize, destroy and otherwise deal with all such foodstuffs or liquids as are unfit for human consumption. Supervision and control of the manufacture of foodstuffs and liquids intended for human consumption are also entrusted to the MMDAs. The MMDAs are also mandated to: provide, maintain, supervise and control slaughter-houses; prevent and deal with the outbreak or the prevalence of any diseases; prohibit, restrict or regulate the hunting, capture, killing or sale of animals or birds; prohibit, restrict, regulate and license the manufacture, distillation, sale, transportation, distribution, supply, possession and consumption of akpeteshi, palmwine, and all kinds of description of fermented liquor usually made by citizens of Ghana or adjacent countries. As indicated above, under the Public Health Act, the Food and Drug Authority is to monitor through the District Assemblies among others, compliance with the provisions of this Part 7 of the Act that deals with Food and Drugs. There are shared responsibilities with regard to meat inspection mandates for MMDAs with that of the Veterinary Services Directorate (VSD), which have been clarified in section 108 of the Public Health Act that states that the MMDAs are responsible for registering slaughter houses whilst the VSD in collaboration with the Food and Drugs Authority carry out meat inspection in slaughter houses. There is also a draft Meat Inspection Bill that has been prepared but is yet to be finalised and which also seeks to address the shared responsibilities.
(B) Legislative Framework on Food Standards
The laws established for the promulgation of food standards include the Standards Authority Act, 1973 (N.R.C.D. 173) as amended and its subsidiary legislation as well as the Weights and Measures Decree, 1975 (N.R.C.D. 326).

Apart from the parent law indicated above the following subsidiary legislation are relevant for food standards: Ghana Standards (Certification Marks) Rules, 1970 (L.I. 662); Ghana Standards (Certification Marks) (Amendment Rules), 1970 (L.I. 664); Ghana Standards Board (Food, Drugs and Other Goods) General Labeling Rules, 1992 (L.I. 1541).
Ghana Standards Authority (in revised laws of Ghana) is established as a body corporate with perpetual succession with the following functions: Establish and promulgate standards with the object of ensuring high quality of goods produced in Ghana; Promote standardization in industry and commerce; Promote industrial efficiency and development; Promote public and industrial welfare, health and safety. "Goods" are defined as “any article, commodity or any other matter that may be prescribed”, thus covering food and food products. N.R.C.D. 173 gives the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) statutory functions in the area of sale, manufacture, exportation and importation of foods. A draft Standards Bill, 2000 is pending and is yet to be completed.

(2) Weights and Measures Decree, 1975 (N.R.C.D. 326) as amended by the Weights and Measures (Amendment) Law, 1992 (P.N.D.C.L. 301)
This law establishes the units of measurement to be used in Ghana as the International System of Units and states that no other units of measurement or their multiples shall be used. The Decree requires the Minister to cause to be prepared national prototype standards of mass and measure of the units of the International System of Units as set out in the Decree. These national prototype standards of mass and measure, upon being verified and certified shall constitute the Ghanaian Primary Standards of mass and measure and shall be verified at least once every 10 years at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

(C) Legislative framework on pests affecting plants and plant products
The relevant laws reviewed are: Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490) and the Plants and Fertilizers Act, 2010 (Act 803).

(1) Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490)
The Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490) consolidates the laws relating to environmental protection and pesticides control and regulation. It establishes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the overarching institution to perform several anti-environmental pollution and pest management functions including: prescription of standards and guidelines relating to the pollution of air, water, land and any other forms of environmental pollution including the discharge of waste and the control of toxic substances; acting in liaison and cooperation with government agencies, District Assemblies and other bodies and institutions to control pollution and generally protect the environment; regulating the import, export, manufacture, distribution, sale and use of pesticides.
Act 490 empowers the EPA to appoint environmental protection inspectors and empowers these persons to enter any premises for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Act. Protection inspectors and District Assemblies are also empowered to inspect equipments used or to be used in applying pesticides; inspect the storage or disposal facilities or areas used for the storage or disposition of pesticides; inspect land actually, or reported to be, exposed to pesticides; investigate complaints of injury to human beings and animals, or damage to land and pollution of water bodies resulting from the use of pesticides; take samples of pesticides applied or to be applied; monitor the sale and use of pesticides; and examine and take copies of a license or any other documents required by the Act or its Regulation.

The EPA Act also establishes the Hazardous Chemicals Committee with representation from institutions with functions which relate to food safety including GSA and the Veterinary Services Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The Committee monitors the use of hazardous chemicals by collecting information on the importation, exportation, manufacture, distribution, sale, use and disposal of those chemicals. The EPA addresses the potential threat posed by pesticides to food safety by subjecting the importation, export, manufacture, distribution, advertisement, sale, and use of pesticides in Ghana to a registration regime. There are overlaps between the role of EPA officers and that of MMDAs.

(2) Plants and Fertilizer Act, 2010 (Act 803)

The Act provides for the efficient conduct of plant protection, to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests, regulate the import and facilitate the export of plants and plant materials. The Act stipulates that a person shall not import a plant, plant material or conveyance without an import permit and a phytosanitary certificate. Any plant, plant material or other item that may contain plant pests shall on its importation into the country be subject to inspection in accordance with the procedures of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The Act provides that any plant, plant material or other item that may contain plant pests shall on its importation into the country be subject to inspection in accordance with the procedures of the IPPC. The Act establishes the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) of the Ministry to be responsible for: Crop pest and disease management; Plant quarantine; Pesticide management; Seed inspection and certification.

The statutory functions of the PPRSD include to: issue phytosanitary import permits for plants, plant products and other related articles; issue certificates for phytosanitary regulation of the import contracting party for the consignment of plants, plant products and other regulated articles; carry out surveillance of growing plants including areas under cultivation, fields, plantations, etc. particularly to report the occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests and the control of the pests; inspect consignments of plants and plant products and where appropriate other regulated articles to prevent the introduction and spread of pests; Carry out the disinfections or disinfection of consignments of plants and plant products and other regulated articles moving in international traffic and ensure that they meet phytosanitary requirements; and conduct pest risk analyses. There are overlaps with the work of the EPA in the regulation of the use of pesticides which must be addressed.

(D) Legislative framework on animals and animal products
The laws reviewed are as follows: Animals (Control of Importation) Ordinance (Cap 247); Diseases of Animals Act, 1961 (Act 83); Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1992, (P.N.D.C.L. 305C); Fisheries Act, 2003 (Act 625); Fisheries Regulations, 2010 (L.1. 1968). Furthermore the Local Government Act, 1992 (Act 462) is also applicable and there are overlapping roles with that of the Veterinary Service with regard to the control of animals. Below is a review of some of the major legislation.

(1) Animals (Control of Importation) Act, No. 36 of 1952:
Provides for the control of the importation of animals by among others: Empowering the Minister for Food and Agriculture to prohibit the importation of an animal into Ghana for the purposes of preventing the introduction of diseases into Ghana; Empowering veterinary inspectors, acting with the consent of the Director of Veterinary Services, to seize animals imported into Ghana in contravention of the Act; Empowering veterinary inspectors to cause to be slaughtered imported animals which are infected or suspected of being infected with diseases, or imported animals which have been in contact with diseased animals or have been otherwise exposed to the infection or contagion of a disease; Providing for the disposal of the carcasses of slaughtered animals and specifying the beneficiaries of the proceeds of sale of slaughtered animals; Making provision for the recovery, by the State from importers, of expenses incurred in the keep and treatment of the animal pending the examination. This law has some shortcomings and overlaps including: The Animals (Control of Importation) Act is an old and outdated colonial legislation which does not take account of modern international standards; Overlapping veterinary functions between the Veterinary Services Directorate and the MMDAs since the law is unclear as to who plays the lead role; Financial sanctions for contravention of the law have outlived their purpose and need to be updated. Veterinary Service should update all their laws to meet international standards.

(2) Diseases of Animals Act, 1961 (Act 83):
Provides for the prevention and control of the spread of infectious and contagious diseases among animals by empowering the Minister for Food and Agriculture to declare a district, area or place to be an infected area where a disease breaks out in that place. A declaration puts owners or persons having the charge of animals susceptible to the disease for which the area has been declared to be an infected area under obligation to: Personally register at the nearest agriculture office in the district or at the prescribed office; State the number of animals they own or have charge of, and the area where the animals feed; Register any variation in the number of animals or alteration of the area where they feed.

The Act empowers the veterinary authority to impose strict restrictions on the movement of registered animals in and out of infected areas. It also obliges owners and persons in charge of animals which have died of, or are suffering from a disease, or suspected to have died of, or to be suffering from a disease to notify the nearest veterinary authority. It also gives veterinary officers important investigative powers to prevent the outbreak or spread of disease. The Act further empowers veterinary officers to conduct autopsy on dead animals and to require an animal to be

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2 Other applicable laws which are very old and outdated and not reviewed in this section include: Infectious Disease Ordinance, 1908 (CAP 78); Quarantine Ordinance, 1915 (CAP 77); Vaccination Ordinance, 1920 (CAP 76); Tsetse Fly Control Ordinance, 1955 (CAP 1955); Animal (Artificial Insemination) Ordinance, 1955 (CAP 33).
examined, inoculated, sprayed, dipped, washed, or otherwise disinfected or to undergo a period of quarantine in order to prevent the outbreak or spread of disease.

Some of the shortcomings of the law include: absence of express provisions in the law empowering the Veterinary Services Directorate to conduct meat inspection or designating the Directorate as the lead/coordinating agency for meat inspection; overlapping veterinary functions between the Veterinary Services Directorate and MMDAs. It has also been indicated that the law needs to be revised to meet current challenges in animal disease control. The law is unclear as to who plays the lead role and this should be clarified in the proposed Meat Inspection Act.

(3) Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1992 (P.N.D.C.L. 305C)
This law establishes the Veterinary Council to regulate the affairs of veterinary surgeons. The Authority functions to: prescribe standards of professional conduct and ethics for practitioners; uphold and enforce professional standards by disciplinary powers conferred under this law; maintain and publish a register of practitioners; and do any other things that in the opinion of the Veterinary Authority Board are necessary or desirable for the proper regulation of the practice of veterinary surgery and the improvement of veterinary services.

(4) Fisheries Act, 2002 (Act 625) and Fisheries Regulations, 2010 (L.I. 1968)
The Act consolidates with amendments the law on fisheries, to provide for the regulation and management of fisheries, for the development of the fishing industry and the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources. It also sets up the Fisheries Commission. The Minister responsible for fisheries is given the power to enact regulations to implement the Act and enacted the Fisheries Regulations, 2010 (L.I. 1968). The Regulations provides among others for: prescribe measures for the conservation, management, development, licensing and regulation of fisheries or a particular fishery, including total allowable catch and quota system as the Minister considers appropriate; establish rules on catching, loading, landing, handling, transshipping, transporting, possession and disposal of fish; set rules on the importation, export, distribution and marketing of fish and fish products; prescribe standards relating to aquaculture, to recreational fishing or to canoe fishing including markings and identity of canoes; and prescribe rules relating to the control, inspection and conditions of operation of fish processing establishments.

With regard to fish exports to the European Union, the regulators of fisheries in Ghana appear not to play a key role. This is due to the fact that under European Commission protocol EC91/493EEC the GSA is the designated institution and ccompliance to requirements in directive 91/493/EEC is mandatory for all exporters of fishery products to the EU. Since 1998, GSA has been mandated according to the European Commission Decision 98/421/EC of June 1998 to be the Competent Authority in Ghana for Verifying and Certifying compliance of Fishery and Aquaculture products with the requirements of Directive 91/493/EEC. Capacity of Fisheries should be built to implement their roles effectively.

(v) Existing Guidelines and Policies touching on food safety – A number of national policies and programmes instituted by various sectors and agencies that touch on food and food safety were identified in the Report of the Situational Analysis as well as the gaps and challenges identified in them. These included the following:
(1) Environmental Sanitation Policy - An Environmental Sanitation Policy was put in place in 1999 by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) and revised in 2001. This policy takes a wide view of sanitation, covering solid waste disposal and food hygiene and takes a decentralized approach. Under this policy ensuring environmental sanitation is the responsibility of all citizens, communities, private sector enterprises, NGOs and institutions of government. The principal components of the Environmental Policy, which have a direct bearing on food safety are: Control of pests and vectors of disease; Food hygiene; Environmental sanitation education and inspection; Enforcement of sanitary regulations; Control of rearing and straying of animals; and Monitoring the observance of environmental standards. The MLGRD is the key implementer and coordinator of the policy. In addition, under the MLGRD, a National Environmental Sanitation Policy Coordination Council has been established. It is made up of representatives from relevant government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector groups. The Council is responsible for coordinating policy and ensuring effective communication and cooperation between the many different agencies involved in environmental sanitation within the context of a coherent national programme. Whilst the MLGRD provides the broad guidelines and policies, the implementation is mainly carried out by the MMDAs. The Environmental Sanitation Policy, 2001, spells out four (4) distinct functions to be performed by the MMDAs. One of the functions, which involves food safety and control activities is Public Health Management. This function is carried out by the Environmental Health and Management Department with private sector inputs where appropriate. The Environmental Sanitation Policy has made provision for the participation of the private sector in waste management services but not in food hygiene and inspection work. Environmental sanitation education can be undertaken by both the public and private (NGOs) sectors.

(2) Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS I) - The implementation of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS I) by the Government of Ghana over the period 2003-2005, resulted in stable macroeconomic environment with increased fiscal space. This was followed by the implementation of the national development policy framework - the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS II) - over the period 2006-2009. In addition to the implementation of policies addressing poverty under GPRS I and II, the Government of Ghana has adopted Modernized Agriculture Based on Rural Development as an objective which broadly entails: Reforming land acquisition; Catalyzing the private sector to increase the production of staples; Encouraging the production of cash crops such as cashew; Easing access to farming inputs; Supporting the private sector to add value to traditional crops such as cocoa; Developing marketing channels for agricultural produce.

(3) Ghana Shared Growth and development Agenda (GSGDA, 2010-2013) – This medium Term National Development Policy framework has a section dealing with health issues. It mentions persistent policy related issues that need to be addressed within the health sector. It proposes that the intervention with regard to healthcare legislation is to pass new and outstanding bills intended to meet current policy challenges of the health sector. The strategies proposed to address the challenges include improvement of
surveillance, epidemic preparedness and response to diseases like cholera. It also includes addressing issues of emerging and other zoonotic diseases (e.g. H1N1, anthrax, rabies, avian flu etc.). All these strategies are relevant in developing a National Food Safety Policy.

(4) **Ghana Trade Policy** - The Ghana Trade Policy published in December 2004, has seven thematic areas. The thematic area under which food safety falls is “Consumer Protection and Fair Trade”. The premise under which this policy was written is that “an environment that affords protection to consumers and promotes fair trade is important for the development of efficiently functioning markets and enhances consumer welfare” (MOTI, 2004). The Trade Policy supports the twin strategies - export-led industrialization and domestic-led industrialization based on import competition by first, promoting increased competitiveness of local producers in domestic and international markets based on fair and equal competition and secondly, by introducing an import and domestic trade regime which promotes and protects consumer interests. Health and Safety of consumers is one of the sub-policies under the Consumer Protection and Fair trade thematic area in the Ghana Trade Policy. The Ghana Standards Authority and Ghana Export Promotion Authority are institutions within MOTI which are expected to implement this policy which has a bearing on food safety.

(5) **Revised Food Safety Action Plan** – The Ministry of Food and Agriculture prepared a National Food Safety Action Plan, which is yet to be adopted. With support from the World Bank and Africa Agriculture and Rural Development (AFTAR) and working through a Food Safety Task Force, MOFA prepared a Revised Food Safety Action Plan in 2011. The plan among others, calls for the enhancement of the capacity of the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) to facilitate their work as the Competent Authority for plant health certification in accordance with international standards.

Other policies and guidelines exist in other sectors but none of them addresses the issue of food safety in a comprehensive manner and this calls for the development of a comprehensive National Food Safety Policy for Ghana.

(ix) **Institutions involved in food safety activities** - Institutions involved in food safety activities fall under the public sector, the private sector and public-private partnerships as follows:

(1) The public sector institutions take their authority from specific legislations and policies. They include relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies like: Ministry of Health and its agency the Food and Drugs Authority; Ministry of Trade and Industries works through its agency the Ghana Standards Authority; Ministry of Science and Technology and its agency the Environmental Protection Agency as well as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) including its Food Research Institute, Animal Research Institute and Crop Research Institute and the Water Resources Institute among others; Ministry of Agriculture and its agencies including Veterinary Services Directorate, Fisheries Department, the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, Women in Agricultural Development, Agricultural Extension; Ministry of Local Government and
Rural Development and the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies under it; Ministry of Works and Housing; Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning with its agency the Customs Excise and Preventive Service as well as the Ghana Export Promotion Council; Ministry of Interior with the Ghana Police Service under it; Ministry of Tourism; Ministry of Education including primary, technical and tertiary institutions including public Universities with research institutions like those at the University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), University of Cape Coast (UCC), University of Development Studies (UDS). It also includes independent commissions like the Water Resources Commission and the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission.

(2) The private sector institutions are industry and trade associations with strong interest in ensuring that science-based food safety principles are applied to their operations to ensure competitiveness. The Sea Freight Pineapple Exporters of Ghana (SPEG) is an example.

(3) The public-private partnerships such as the National Horticultural Task Force bring these two sectors together for the purpose of promoting an efficient food control system.

2.2 NEED FOR A NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY POLICY

While the situational analysis on food safety revealed fragmented and poorly coordinated institutions in respect of food safety activities, there is great potential to harness their collective skills and strength. It is recommended that a new organizational framework and relationships delineating core responsibilities be developed. This will require Ministries, Departments and Agencies and other public and private institutions to rethink their roles and allow the development of a system that will bring efficiency in the development of policy options, technical approaches and operational activities.

3.0 POLICY CONTEXT

This section highlights the international, regional and national legal framework for food safety in order to establish the scope and context of the policy. The goals and objectives of this policy are founded on the principles and standards enunciated in the national laws indicated above as well as the International and Regional Conventions and Instruments, which Ghana has ratified. The policy framework is therefore designed to fulfill the legal obligations and responsibilities imposed on the State at the national, regional and international levels, with respect to the promotion of food safety and the elimination of the risks of food-borne diseases and risks associated with poor food handling and other potential contaminants.

3.1 INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEGAL CONTEXT

The international standards referenced in the World Trade Organisation’s rules which Ghana has to comply with in terms of the scope and contents of its national food safety policy and legislative framework are: Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement); International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), World Animal Health
Organization, that is Office International de Epizooties (OIE), Codex Alimentarius Commission, which is a joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

3.1.1 Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement)

Ghana is required under the SPS Agreement, to participate fully, within the limits of its resources, in the activities of identified international organisations and their subsidiary bodies, in particular, the CAC, OIE and the international and regional organisations operating within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The WTO’s Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS) references the standards developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, OIE and IPPC in relation to Food Safety, Animal Health and Plant Health respectively as the source of international standards. This imposes an obligation on Ghana, as a member of the WTO, to progressively adopt these international standards on food safety as the basis of its national requirements, policies and regulations.

3.1.1.1 International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health agreement, established in 1952, that deals with plant health standards. It aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures is the governing body of the IPPC. The Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) is an inter-governmental organization functioning as a coordinating body for National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) on a regional level. The Government of Ghana, as a contracting party, is required to establish a national organisation for plant protection which will be responsible for: inspecting growing plants, areas under cultivation and their products as well as preventing the spread across national borders of pests and plant diseases. “Phytosanitary certificates” can also be issued by this national organisation. In Ghana, the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) is the national plant protection organisation that has been established in accordance with the provisions of the IPPC. In compliance with the IPPC, the PPRSD aims to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products and to promote appropriate measures for their control.

3.1.1.2 Office Internationale des Epizooties (OIE)

The OIE also known as World Organisation for Animal Health, created through the International Agreement signed on January 25, 1924, is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide and is recognised as a reference organisation by the World Trade Organization (WTO). The OIE is responsible for setting international animal health and welfare standards, which cover among others, disease diagnosis, reporting and management, health measures for international trade in animals and animal products and standards for the

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3 The Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures is an international treaty of the World Trade Organization, negotiated during the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and entered into force with the establishment of the WTO at the beginning of 1995.
humane transportation and slaughter of animals. Ghana actively participated in the development of these Codes and standards and is required to comply with them. These standards are designed to ensure the sanitary safety of international trade in animals and animal products by detailing the health measures to be used by the veterinary services of importing and exporting countries. The measures are also meant to avoid the transfer of pathogenic or zoonotic agents without imposing unjustified trade restrictions.

Under section 108 of the Public Health Act it is indicated that the Veterinary Service Department shall in collaboration with the FDA carry out meat inspection in slaughter houses. Regulations are to be enacted under the Act to provide further details on how they are to go about their work.

3.1.1.3 Codex Alimentarius Commission

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), established by FAO and WHO in 1963, is the foremost body recognised internationally for the development of food standards to ensure food safety. The Commission’s mandate is to develop harmonised international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair trade practices in the food trade. The Commission also promotes coordination of all work on food standards and food safety undertaken by international, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

In carrying out Codex work, the Commission has established a number of committees to work on general and specific aspects of Codex work. Codex Regional Coordinating Committees have been established to discuss regional food standards issues and work towards more effective utilization of Codex work in developing and developed countries. At the national levels, National Codex Committees (NCCs), pursue the objectives of the Commission and make inputs towards the work of the Commission.

(i) National Codex Committee (NCC): The National Codex Committee (NCC) is a consultative group to the Government of Ghana on food safety issues and matters related to CODEX. It was set up in Ghana about four (4) decades ago and re-established in February 2002, and has a multi-sectoral representation. The NCC provides a forum for discussions on food safety issues and for the formulation of the national position(s) and responses to proposals or policies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission among other functions. The membership of the NCC includes: representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General’s Department, Ghana Standards Authority, Food and Drugs Authority, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana Export Promotion Authority, Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, Fisheries Commission, Nutrition Department and Family Health Directorate of MOH, Ghana Cocoa Board, Food Research Institute (CSIR), Department of Nutrition and Food Science, University of Ghana, WHO Country Office for Ghana, Association of Ghana Industries, the Consumers’ Association of Ghana (CAG) and Food Safety Experts. The representatives of these organizations participate regularly in NCC meetings and Codex activities.
The NCC has established Codex Sub-Committees on subject matters that contribute to the preparation and formulation of national positions on draft Codex standards and related texts. The Codex Contact Point in Ghana is located in the Ghana Standards Authority, which is the Secretariat for the NCC. It coordinates the work of the NCC. Ghana was the Coordinator for the Codex Commission for Africa (CCAFRICA) for two consecutive occasions.

3.1.2 Regional legal context

Reference has already been made to the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA), which has been set up to define the needs of the region concerning food standards and food control. It recommends to the CAC the development of worldwide standards for products of interest to the Region. It develops regional standards for food products moving exclusively in intra regional trade and works towards more effective utilization of CODEX work within the region as well as the RPPO.

In addition as a member of the African Union, NEPAD and the Economic Community for West Africa (ECOWAS), Ghana has obligations to comply with food safety standards set by these organisations. The Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources is one of the key institutions within the region addressing food safety. The African Union Commission also makes directives on food safety from time to time. Another key instrument is Regulation C/REG.6/09, 2010 on the Harmonisation of the Structural framework and operational rules pertaining to the Health Safety of Plants, Animals and Foods in the ECOWAS Region. It seeks to set up a regional legal framework for harmonisation of national legislations in the area of phytosanitary, zoo sanitary and food safety, in line with international health requirements. This is to contribute to improved trading in animals and food commodities in the community as well as their regional international trade. This ECOWAS Regulation clearly specifies the lead role the Veterinary Services is to play in Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues.

3.2 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Ghana has a legislative and institutional framework on food safety and food standards. The policy seeks to stimulate the enactment, amendment and streamlining of existing legislation on food safety in areas of production, storage, handling, processing, preservation, trade, transportation and marketing.

The laws identified which have been discussed in the summary of the situational analysis on food safety in section 2 were categorised under the following headings: Legislative Framework on Food Safety; Legislative Framework on food Standards; Legislative Framework on Controlling Pests affecting Plants and Plant Products; and Legislative Framework on Health and Safety of Animals and Animal Products. Box 1 provides the list of laws relevant for food safety and standards. There is the need to address the gaps and overlaps identified in the laws reviewed.

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Box 1: List of laws and Regulations with a bearing on food safety and standards:

**Legislative framework on Food Safety**
- Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851)
- Tourism Act, 2011 (Act 817)
- Local Government Act, 1992 (Act 462) and Establishment Instruments for Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies

**Legislative framework on Food Standards**
- Standards Authority Act, 1973 (N.R.C.D 173)
- Ghana Standards (Certification Marks) Rules, 1970 (L.I. 662)
- Ghana Standards (Certification Marks) (Amendment Rules), 1970 (L.I. 664)
- Ghana Standards Board (Amendment) Decree, 1979 (A.F.R.C.D. 44)
- Ghana Standards Board (Food, Drugs and Other Goods) General Labeling Rules, 1992 (L.I. 1541)
- Weights and Measures Decree, 1975 (N.R.C.D. 326)
- Weights and Measures (Amendment) Law, 1992 (P.N.D.C.L. 301)

**Legislative Framework on Controlling Pests affecting Plants**
- Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490)
- Plants and Fertilizers Act, 2010 (Act 803)

**Legislative Framework on Health and Safety of Animals and Animal Products**
- Animals (Control of Importation) Act, No. 36 of 1952
- Diseases of Animals Act, 1961 (Act 83)
- Veterinary Surgeons Act, 1992, (P.N.D.C.L. 305C)
- Fisheries Act, 2003 (Act 625)
- Fisheries Regulations, 2010 (L.I. 1968)
- Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851)

### 3.3 EXISTING GUIDELINES AND POLICIES TOUCHING ON FOOD SAFETY

A number of national policies and programmes instituted by various sectors and agencies that touch on food and food safety were identified in the Report of the Situational Analysis as well as their gaps and challenges. Box 2 outlines a number of national policies that link with or impacts the National Food Safety Policy. Whilst the National Food Safety Policy will serve as the main driver of food safety interventions, it has not been designed and will not be implemented in a vacuum. The National Health Policy provides the overarching framework from which this National Food Safety Policy is drawn. Recognition is also made of the fact that many other national policies exist and are being implemented and some may help operationalise specific aspects of the National Food Safety Policy whilst others will compliment it by addressing other critical determinant factors.
Box 2: Policies and strategies that complement the National Food Safety Policy

- National Health Policy
- Food and Agriculture Sector development Policy II
- Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy
- Environmental Sanitation Policy
- Ghana Trade Policy
- Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda
- Revised Food Safety Action Plan
- National Nutrition Policy

4.0 NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

The National Food Safety Policy statement is indicated below.

4.1 VISION

The vision of the National Food Safety Policy is a well-coordinated and structured food safety system that clearly outlines the roles of all relevant stakeholders for the management and control of food safety.

4.2 GOAL

The goal of the National Food Safety Policy is to bring coordination into the regulation of food safety and define the role of stakeholders to ensure public health and trade in food.

4.3 POLICY OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the National Food Safety Policy are as follows:

1) To establish a mechanism for coordinating food safety related activities in Ghana by ensuring harmonisation and institutional cooperation among relevant stakeholders.

2) To continuously review or amend when necessary existing legislation and regulations on food safety to promote harmonization and synergy of legislation.

3) To enact new laws deemed necessary to promote food safety.

4) To strengthen the food borne diseases surveillance system including early warning and crises management mechanisms.

5) To coordinate and strengthen existing laboratories and establish new laboratories deemed necessary to ensure food safety.
6) To ensure the provision of appropriate facilities and infrastructure for effective food safety management.

7) To strengthen the mechanism for the provision of food safety information, education and communication.

8) To develop human capacity along the food safety value chain.

9) To encourage the use of Food Safety Management systems.

5.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The National Food Safety Policy covers the laws, institutions, systems, and organisations and how they interact to ensure national food safety. The policy also recognises the development objectives of Ghana as well as international guidelines and conventions which Ghana has ratified.

The following guiding principles underpin this National Food Safety Policy:

1) Inter-sectoral collaboration and coordination – There is the need for collaboration among the various sectors that have a role to play in food safety. The collaboration should be well coordinated to ensure efficiency

2) Stakeholder participation at all levels of the integrated “farm to table” context – The objective of reduced risk can be achieved most effectively by the principle of prevention throughout the production, processing and marketing chain. Food safety requires all players involved along the food chain to recognise their primary responsibility and share a common goal of assuring the safety of food along the food chain.

3) Equity and fairness at all levels of the value chain – There is the need for transparency in decision making processes in the food control system. Stakeholders need to be given the opportunity to make contributions.

4) Evidence based approach - Addressing food safety adequately requires the need for evidence based approach. There is the need for risk assessment to scientifically evaluate known or potential adverse health effects resulting from exposure to food-borne harzards. There are four components of risk assessment and these are hazard identification, hazard characterisation, exposure assessment and risk characterisation. There is also the need for the development of science based strategies.
5) Efficiency of systems – Systems put in place to ensure food safety should be efficient. An effective food control system will require that Ministries, Departments and Agencies will have to rethink their roles and allow the development of a system that will bring efficiency in the development of policy options, technical approaches and operational activities.

6) Ensuring traceability through effective surveillance – An efficient food safety system requires the implementation of surveillance for diseases of public health importance.

7) Precautionary principle.

6.0 POLICY MEASURES

The National Food Safety Policy provides policy directions and guidance on food safety. It will seek to promote and guide adequate research, training, monitoring and food borne disease surveillance activities of the sector. The focus areas that will direct the work of ensuring food safety are indicated below.

6.1 FOOD SAFETY RESEARCH

Demand driven research on food safety will be promoted. Coordination of research in various institutions will be encouraged to avoid duplication of research activities. In addition, a repository on food safety research and surveillance reports will be created and findings made readily available. A food safety research entity will be created to promote coordination and evaluation of food safety research.

6.2 FOOD-BORNE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance on food borne disease will be strengthened including laboratory capacities to detect, identify and analyse chemical and microbiological hazards. Food-borne disease outbreak investigation and response will also be strengthened including the establishment of early warning mechanisms to prevent outbreaks. Data storage analysis for risk trending will be established.

6.3 INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

The capacity for inspection and enforcement of food protection measures throughout the food chain will be strengthened.

6.4 FOOD SAFETY TRAINING

Training on food safety will be promoted at all levels of the food chain. This will include refresher courses on food safety to appropriate personnel. Guidelines will be developed to enhance knowledge and capacity building on food safety and a national accreditation system for
food safety trainers as well as certification system. Human resource development, which seeks to ensure that the requisite capacity (including adequate number of personnel) is built to carry out the essential functions of the sector.

6.5 FOOD SAFETY PUBLIC EDUCATION

There will be sustained dissemination of information on food safety to targeted individuals and the general public. Guidelines will be developed for the promotion of public education, information and communication on food safety. Food safety education will be incorporated into the formal education curricula from primary school through to university. The capacities of food control authorities in the area of risk communication will be strengthened by developing risk communication strategies and enhancing the expertise and skills of food safety professionals.

6.6 CONSUMER PROTECTION

Consumer associations have been set up in Ghana that are involved in advocacy on food safety. The role of consumer associations in ensuring accountability of industries with regard to food safety, the dissemination of information related to food safety and in the implementation of national food safety programmes will be promoted. Consumer complaints will be documented, mapped and feedback given.

6.7 REGULATORY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTROL OF FOOD SAFETY

The inadequate coordination and lack of formalised networking between the existing regulatory framework in relation to food safety will be addressed. Current laws and regulations pertinent to food safety will be reviewed, revised or updated and, where appropriate, new laws will be enacted to address emerging issues. The revised laws will be in conformity with national and international standards on food safety.

6.8 REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Ghana will continue to be a part of international initiatives on food safety by ensuring appropriate representation at all international fora and implementing agreed upon standards locally.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK/STRATEGY

The Government will implement the policy by developing a comprehensive national plan of action on food safety. Developing this plan will provide an important step towards ensuring that the actions outlined in the policy are addressed systematically and effectively.

The national plan of action on food safety will also embrace performance measures for the actions and initiatives outlined in this policy, which can then be used to gauge the overall progress towards an effective and efficient food safety management system in Ghana. The
development of the action plan will commence upon validation and adoption of the food safety policy.

Strategies by Government to achieve objectives of the National Food Safety Policy are indicated below:

**Policy objective 1: To establish a mechanism for coordinating food safety related activities in Ghana by ensuring harmonisation and institutional cooperation among relevant stakeholders.**

*Strategic actions:*

(i) Set up an effective inter-ministerial food safety coordinating committee at the FDA as a mechanism to coordinate and oversee all food safety and control activities in the country in collaboration with other stakeholders. This Committee will have the responsibility for coordinating all aspects of food safety including research, training/education/information, disease surveillance, meat inspection, inspection and licensing of food joints as well as markets among others.

(ii) Identify relevant private standards and where possible harmonise them with national standards to ensure that food from Ghana have access to the global market.

(iii) Establish a standard format for licences issued to food and meat handlers.

**Policy objective 2: To continuously review or amend when necessary existing legislation and regulations on food safety to promote harmonization and synergy of legislation.**

*Strategic actions:*

(i) Amend and harmonise the legislation of stakeholder institutions including those of Ministries, Departments and Agencies to ensure there are no overlaps of mandate and functions.

(ii) Review the legislation that deals with food safety to remove all overlaps and/or gaps.

(iii) Put in measures to improve enforcement of legislation and regulations on food safety.

(iv) Amend when necessary existing laws to be consistent with national and international standards.

(v) Ensure that a provision on food safety is inserted into the 1992 Constitution as part of the Constitutional review process.

**Policy objective 3: To enact new laws deemed necessary to promote food safety.**

*Strategic actions:*

(i) Enact legislation to ensure effective coordination of national food safety issues and repeal or amend existing legislation, like the laws on standards and food, to streamline the food control system.

(ii) Enact other legislation including appropriate Legislative Instruments or regulations deemed necessary to promote food safety control of street foods, regulation of pesticide management and primary production.

(iii) Complete the various draft laws on food safety to clearly spell out the roles of each institution and what collaborations need to be put in place.

(iv) Identify other priority areas for action and the drafting of the necessary implementing regulations.
Policy objective 4: To strengthen the food borne diseases surveillance system including early warning and crises management mechanisms.

Strategic actions:
(i) Strengthen the existing food-borne disease surveillance system including a legal framework to document, trace and share timely and effectively with stakeholders, problems arising from food safety issues\(^5\) and ensure that it is integrated into the existing national health surveillance system
(ii) Establish a food-borne disease surveillance network and early warning system which involves population-based active surveillance for laboratory confirmed infections.

Policy objective 5: To coordinate and strengthen existing laboratories to ensure food safety.

Strategic actions:
(i) Strengthen the capacity of existing laboratories as part of the food borne disease monitoring system.
(ii) Establish well equipped accredited laboratories as part of the food safety surveillance system.

Policy objective 6: To ensure the provision of appropriate infrastructure for effective food safety management.

Strategic actions:
(i) Establish a mechanism to ensure that new food facilities are established with the approval of appropriate institutions.
(ii) Ensure existing food facilities are brought into compliance with relevant standards set.
(iii) Ensure the provision of appropriate infrastructure, including clean water and sanitary facilities in areas such as food joints, markets, and singeing facilities etc.
(iv) Ensure the provision of appropriate means of transportation and storage along the food chain.
(v) Establish an effective monitoring system to ensure proper maintenance of the infrastructure.

Policy objective 7: To strengthen the mechanism for the provision of food safety information, education and communication.

Strategic actions:
(i) Promote, encourage and coordinate the education of consumers on food safety by key stakeholders.
(ii) Build partnerships and links with existing health education programmes including integration into nutrition and food security programmes.

\(^5\) This could be done by adopting the system of the United States of America where a legal framework exists for food surveillance which lies in the state public health epidemiology offices which then shares data with the Centre for Disease Control
(iii) Establish an effective consumer complaint handling system that keeps track of complaints and gives feedback.

Policy objective 8: To develop human capacity along the food safety value chain.

Strategic actions:
(i) Develop human capacity along the food safety value chain by encouraging training of food handlers and to ensure the continual upgrading of skills of food professionals through in-service training programmes.
(ii) Include food safety in the curricular of schools from primary to higher education.
(iii) Ensure a review of training institutions’ capacity in terms of training of key competencies required as well as review of curricula.
(iv) Encourage certification of trained personnel by relevant institutions.

Policy objective 9: To encourage the use of Food Safety Management systems

Strategic actions:
(i) Sensitize stakeholders on Food Safety Management Systems in Ghana like HACCP, GMP, GAP and ISO 22000.
(ii) Encourage the utilisation of Food Safety Management Systems.

8.0 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY

In designing the various strategies for implementation of the National Food Safety Policy, various stakeholders at different levels have to be involved in ensuring successful implementation.

The key stakeholders at the local level are the consumers of food made up of families and individuals of all sexes and ages in Ghana and consumers in countries to which food is exported from Ghana. At the community level it includes community leaders as well as community based organisations including farmer groups, transportation unions/organisations and other civil society organisations. It also includes private sector actors.

At the level of state institutions several Ministries Departments and Agencies which will be indicated below have a role to play as well as MMDAs, Parliament and the Judiciary. It also includes academia, research institutions and training institutions.

Stakeholders at the international level include development partners as well as international organisations, which have set standards on food safety that Ghana as a state party is required to comply with.

Food safety affects everyone and has implications for public health and the well being of individuals and groups. It also affects livelihoods and the productivity of the nation and therefore to respond effectively, it is important to bring all stakeholders on board to ensure that strategies have the designed effect through a coordinated approach.
8.1 NATIONAL COORDINATING BODY AND IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURES

Various sectors have a role to play in promoting food safety. Institutional structures must provide for effective inter-ministerial coordination to adequately provide support to the National Food Safety Policy. To ensure effective coordination of activities, structures are outlined for key stakeholders with regard to the coordination of food safety activities.

The lead agency for the coordination of food safety activities in Ghana is the Food and Drugs Authority under the Ministry of Health set up by the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851). Under Section 82 of the Public Health Act it has the responsibility to monitor other agencies of state to ensure compliance with provisions on food safety under the Public Health Act. Relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies and other stakeholders also have important roles to play in ensuring good food hygiene and safety practices to achieve the objectives of this policy. There is therefore the need for a mechanism to promote effective collaboration between them and the proper delineation of roles and responsibilities to ensure effective coordination. In addition, there is a need to ensure effective communication and cooperation between the numerous Ministries, Department and Agencies as well as other organisations involved in food safety within the context of a coherent national programme.

A National Food Safety Coordinating Committee will be set up at the Food and Drugs Authority to enable all relevant stakeholders listed in 8.2 below to collaborate in the implementation of the National Food Safety Policy.

8.2 ROLE OF VARIOUS SECTORS IN PROMOTING FOOD SAFETY

8.2.1. Public sector institutions including Ministries, Departments and Agencies

(i) Role of the Ministry of Health

• Coordinate implementation of National Food Safety Policy through the Food and Drug Authority.
• Adopt and elaborate national food safety strategies.
• Mobilize partners and resources to support activities related to research, advocacy, and coordination of food safety programmes.
• Through facilities under the Ghana Health Service’s National Disease Surveillance Unit (NDSU) contribute towards the early warning system for disease control.
• Develop communication and advocacy strategies for food safety.
• Leadership for integration of food safety in other health programs (HIV/AIDS, Maternal and child health etc.)
• Reinforce food-borne disease surveillance system in collaboration with other relevant ministries and agencies and contribute to an effective system under the National Food Safety Policy.
• Prepare drafting instructions for the enactment of Regulations under Part 7 of the Public Health Act.
• Ensure that agencies under the Ministry like the FDA provide technical support for the implementation of the National Food Safety Policy by monitoring the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, use and advertisement of foods among others.

(ii) **Role of Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI)**
• Collaborate with the coordination body for national food safety by ensuring quality standards in the exportation and importation of food.
• Through the GSA, promulgate standards with the objective of ensuring safe and quality food produced in Ghana and a good Food Safety Management System.
• Through the work of the Ghana Export Promotion Authority sensitise exporters on the National Food Safety Policy.
• Leadership in integration of food safety in existing programmes including the Ghana Trade Policy’s thematic area of Consumer Protection and Fair Trade.
• Contribute to the food-borne disease surveillance system under the National Food Safety Policy.

(iii) **Role of Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD)**
• Collaborate with the coordination body for national food safety by ensuring that MMDAs implement food control and safety standards under the National Food Safety Policy at the local level through their Environmental Health Officers.
• Leadership for integration of food safety in other programmes including environmental health.
• Leadership in integration of food safety in environmental sanitation programmes including the work of the National Environmental Sanitation Policy Coordination Council.
• Contribute to the food-borne disease surveillance system under the National Food Safety Policy.

(iv) **Role of Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA)**
• Contribute to the National Food Safety Policy by providing technical support for crop, pest and disease management.
• Be responsible for the work of the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate (PPRSD) to issue phytosanitary permits and certificates for plant imports.
• Fisheries Department should be responsible for monitoring activities related to the fisheries industry subject to existing protocols.
• Veterinary Services Department should be responsible for monitoring of foods of animal origin. They should be involved in controlling importation of animals and imposing restrictions on the movement of registered animals in and out of infected areas.
• Ensure that women involved in the food value chain are sensitized on the National Food Safety Policy through the Women in Agriculture Development (WIAD) programme.
• Be responsible for preventing and controlling the spread of infectious and contagious diseases among animals by declaring a district, area or place to be an infected area where a disease breaks out in an area.
• Leadership for integration of food safety in existing programmes including the Food Safety Action Plan with regard to plants and animals.
• Contribute to the food-borne disease surveillance system under the National Food Safety Policy.

(v) **Role of Ministry of Environment Science and Technology (MEST)**
• Monitor pesticide use and control in food production and environmental protection.
• Leadership for integration of food safety in other existing environmental programmes including the work of the Harzardous Chemicals Committee.
• Environmental Protection Inspectors at the EPA should undertake their mandates on environmental protection and pesticide control and regulation.
• CSIR should continue to undertake research on food related issues.
• Contribute to the food-borne disease surveillance system under the National Food Safety Policy.

(vi)**Role of Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP)**
• Make budgetary allocation to facilitate the work of the National Food Safety Authority.
• Provide other funds necessary to ensure the preparation and implementation of the action plan to implement the National Food Safety Policy.
• Customs Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS) under MOFEP should continue to monitor the export and import of foods.

(vii)**Role of Ministry of Education (MOE)**
• Include in curriculum for pupils and students education on food safety.
• Ensure that training facilities on food safety have programmes to educate trainees on the National Food Safety Policy.
• Comply with the certification systems in place.
• Contribute to the implementation of the information education and communication part of the National Food Safety Policy and action plan to implement it.

(viii) **Role of Ministry of Tourism**
• The Ghana Tourism Authority should integrate its programme with that of the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee to promote food safety within the tourism industry.
• Contribute to the food-borne disease surveillance system under the National Food Safety Policy by furnishing appropriate information.

(ix)**Role of Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare**
• Comply with the National Food Safety Policy by ensuring that workers seeking for employment within the food industry are trained and certified under the appropriate certification systems in place.

(x) **Role of Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources**
• Ensure compliance with the National Food Safety Policy by ensuring policies and programmes to ensure access to good drinking water for communities.
• Contribute to the food-borne disease surveillance system under the National Food Safety Policy by furnishing appropriate information.

(xi)**Role of Ministry of Interior**
• Ensure that its policies are in line with the National Food Safety Policy.
• Ensure that the Ghana Police Service helps in ensuring compliance with the work of agencies.
• Contribute to the food-borne disease surveillance system under the National Food Safety Policy by furnishing appropriate information.

(xii) Role of Ministry of Justice and Attorney Generals Department
• Prepare Legislative Instrument (Regulations) for Part 7 of the Public Health Act.
• Prepare other bills deemed necessary to ensure food safety.

(xiii) Role of Independent Commissions:
(a) Water Resources Commission
• Collaborate with the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee by ensuring compliance with its directives in issuing licenses for the use of water bodies.
• Contribute to the food-borne disease surveillance system under the National Food Safety Policy by furnishing appropriate information.
(b) National Development Planning Commission
• Formulate national development policies that take into consideration the National Food Safety Policy and issues arising from it.
(c) Ghana Atomic Energy Commission/BNARI
• Collaborate with the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee by undertaking research into food storage systems.

(xiv) Role of Research institutions
• Collaborate with the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee by furnishing it with results of research on food safety.
• Contribute to the food-borne disease surveillance system under the National Food Safety Policy by furnishing appropriate information.

8.2.2 Role of the Judiciary
• Ensure the enforcement of the Public Health Act and other laws relating to food safety when such cases are taken to court.
• Set up special courts to handle food safety related cases.

8.2.3 Role of Parliament
• Enact regulations to implement the Public Health Act.
• Enact other legislation deemed necessary to promote food safety in Ghana.
• Through its oversight role hold the Executive accountable for effective implementation of the National Food Safety Policy and programmes emanating from it.

8.2.4 Role of other Partners
(a) The private sector including industry and farmer based organisations:
• To support the work of the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee.
• To organise training programmes for its members on food safety.
• To report non-compliance with the National Food Safety Policy to relevant authorities.
(b) Consumers including consumer associations
• The consumers will be the eye and ears of the food-borne disease surveillance system under the National Food Safety Policy by furnishing appropriate information and complaints.

(c) Development partners
• To support the implementation of the National Food Safety Policy.
• To support the work of the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee.

(d) Civil society organisations
• To participate in the implementation of the National Food Safety Policy to ensure the promotion of food safety in the planting, transportation, marketing, export and consumption of food products.
• To comply with the directives of the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee.

8.2.5 Collaborating Agencies
The collaborating agencies shall be the key Ministries Departments and Agencies that have a key role to play in ensuring food safety as follows:
• Ministry of Health – FDA, Ghana Health Service
• Ministry of Trade and Industry – GSA, Ghana Export Promotion Authority (GEPA)
• Ministry of Food and Agriculture – PPRSD, Women in Agricultural Development (WIAD), Veterinary Service Department, Fisheries Department.
• Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) - MMDAs
• Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST) – EPA, CSIR
• Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP) - CEPS
• Ministry of Education – Universities, Secondary Schools, Polytechnics, Technical Schools
• Ministry of Tourism – Ghana Tourist Authority.
• Water Resources Commission
• Ghana Atomic Energy Commission - BNARI
• Other research institutions
• National Codex Committee

8.2.6 Ensuring institutional responsibility along the value chain
The role of various institutions along the value chain including – Production, Harvesting, Post harvest storage, Processing, Distribution, Storage, Marketing, Food service operation and consumption – are clearly identified as follows:

(i) Local Productions, Animals and Crops – MOFA Departments and Agencies; Input dealers-Agro-chemicals, Feed Millers; Directorates of MOFA including the Fisheries Commission; Imported Agro- Produce; Irrigation Development Authority, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology; GSA.

(ii) Harvesting – MOFA; GSA; Private sector (machinery operations and farmers).
(iii) Post Harvest Storage - Dry storage of agro products – MOFA; Cold storage facilities; GSA; FDA; Ghana Atomic Energy Commission; Private Sector (Farmers, Traders) etc.

(iv) Processing – MOH; MOFA- Grain, Root and Tubers; FDA; MOTI; GSA; Private sector; Universities; CSIR; Private laboratory services.

(v) Distribution /Transportation – MOFA; Ministry of Interior-Ghana Police Service; Ministry of Finance, Customs Excise and Preventive Service; GSA; Private Sector; Ministry of Roads and Transport.

(vi) Storage - Private Sector; Local Government; FDA; GSA; EPA, MOFA-pack houses.

(vii) Marketing – FDA; GSA; Local Government; Environmental Health Officers (EHO); marketing operations; MOFA- Veterinary Services, PPRSD.

(viii) Food Service Operations and Household Consumption – FDA; GSA; MLGRD-MMDAs; Private Sector; MOFA-Women in Agricultural Development; Ghana Tourism Authority.

(ix) Imported Food Products – Pre-packaged, FDA, GSA, CEPS, MOFA-PPRSD & Veterinary Services Directorate for poultry.

(x) Export of food products – GSA; FDA; CEPS; GEPA.

(xi) Meat inspection – Meat Inspectors of Veterinary Services Directorate of MOFA; Environmental Health Officers of MMDAs; GSA and FDA.

(xii) Standards for Food Safety – FDA, GSA together with relevant institutions.

(xiii) Science based Research in Food Safety – CSIR and Universities.

(xiv) Food-Borne Disease Surveillance – MOH, FDA, GHS; EPA and MOFA.

(xv) Consumer protection – Consumer protection groups and individual consumers.

(xvi) Information, Education, Communication – All relevant MDAs, MMDAs, training institutions and consumer protection groups.

All these stakeholders will be required to collaborate with the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee in their area of focus in promoting the National Food Safety Policy.

9.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation is an important part of policy formulation and implementation process. A Policy Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Sub-Committee of the National Food
Safety Coordinating Committee will be responsible for overall monitoring and evaluation of the Policy implementation. Periodic reports on programme implementation shall be published.

Mechanisms for assessing the effectiveness and performance of the Policy are:

(i) Development of agency-specific indicators.

(ii) Reports to be submitted to the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee on regular basis.

(iii) Access to information to all stakeholders.

All collaborating institutions will be expected to set up a monitoring and evaluation system for food safety in accordance with system prescribed by the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee.

10.0 FUNDING MECHANISM

Adequate budgetary allocation from government shall be made available for the implementation of the policy.