



Food Safety Development in Lao PDR

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Coverage

- Quick digest
- Food safety movement in Laos
- Collaborations



Points to start





Definition

- Food safety is about...



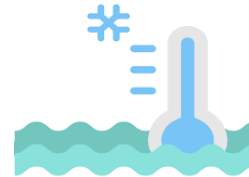
Producing (@farm)

GAP or organic farming +
certification



Handling

GMP, HACCP



Storing

ISO 9001:2015



Preparing

Health-conscious
consumption



Food safety movement in Laos

Overview

- Food production system has gradually shifted, following the country's economic reforms in 1986.
- A vast part of the country dominated by agriculture with smallholder farmers that practice traditional agricultural system
- Generally said 'organic by default' and now?

Food safety movement in Laos

- The informal food production (and marketing system) widely observed, presenting challenges for enforcement of food safety regulations. Food contamination can occur as a result.



- Value chains generally underdeveloped



Food safety movement in Laos

Year 2000s

Sustainable agriculture

- Food safety movement started 2 decades ago in Laos, following National Growth & Poverty Eradication Strategy
 - For food production, sustainable agriculture highlighted, and grading and certification introduced



Food safety movement in Laos

Sustainable agriculture

- In 2003, organic agricultural (OA) production started with support from donors/NGOs paving a way for the development of the country's first OA standards which took effect in 2005.
- Clean agriculture emerged in 2005 and today is a reference term for policy development on agriculture and forestry.
- Clean agriculture in the Lao context has 4 farming systems – organic agriculture, good agricultural practice, pesticide-free production, & integrated pest management.



Food safety movement in Laos

Some relevant support laws

- Law on Food (2004, amended in 2013)
- Law on Consumer Protection (2010)
- Law on Agriculture (1998)



Food safety movement in Laos

Some relevant support policies

- National Food Safety Policy (2009)
- 8th NSEDP emphasizes green development for Laos (2016)
- Strategic Plan for National Organic Agriculture Development (2016) towards 2025 and Vision 2030
 - By 2030 to target 2 percent of the total agriculture production area in the country as organic production area
- National Green Growth Strategy (2019)



Food safety movement in Laos

Institutional settings (some relevant actors)

- Dept. of Food and Drug, Min. of Public Health
- Dept. of Standard and Methodology, Min. of Science & Technology
- Dept. of Agriculture, Min. of Agriculture and Forestry
- Food and Drug Quality Control Center
- Bureau of Food and Drug Inspection
- National Food Safety Laboratory



Food safety movement in Laos

Tendency towards safe food consumption

- Gradual expansion of clean farms and organic markets (especially in big cities)
- Health-conscious consumers (those educated and high-income groups of people)



Food safety movement in Laos

Challenges

- Education on food safety an issue
- Access to information on food safety limited
- Safe food expensive, production costs high (due to inspection & certification costs)



Collaboration



@regional - ASEAN

AEC also a common market for goods

- Asean Standards for Organic Agriculture and GAP in place
- For trading agricultural food commodities within ASEAN, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) will be necessary in future



With Japan

- Lao Organic Agriculture Promotion Project (2013-2016)
- Organic Agriculture Development Project (ongoing)
 - Aims at building trust with consumers on food safety and quality management through a certification system and formulating a food value chain on clean agriculture products



Potential collaboration

Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry

- Enhancement of international competitiveness of ASEAN food and agricultural products / commodities
- Intensification of **cooperation** in production and processing technology development and transfer and enhancement of development, **harmonization and adoption** of quality standards for products.



‘Single’ Asian Food Quality and Safety Standard – possible?



Thank you!