



**A Situation Analysis of
the Food Control Systems in
Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
Countries**

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International Organizations Involved in Food Safety and Quality



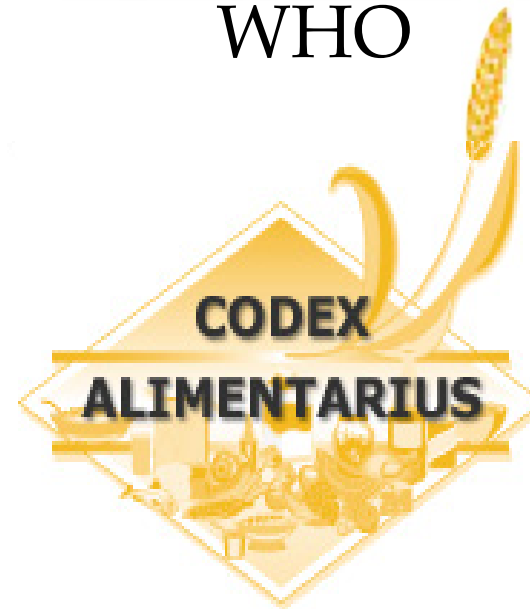
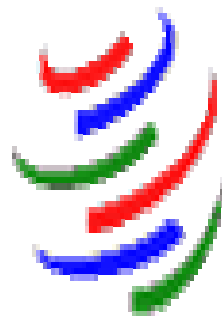
FAO



WHO

WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

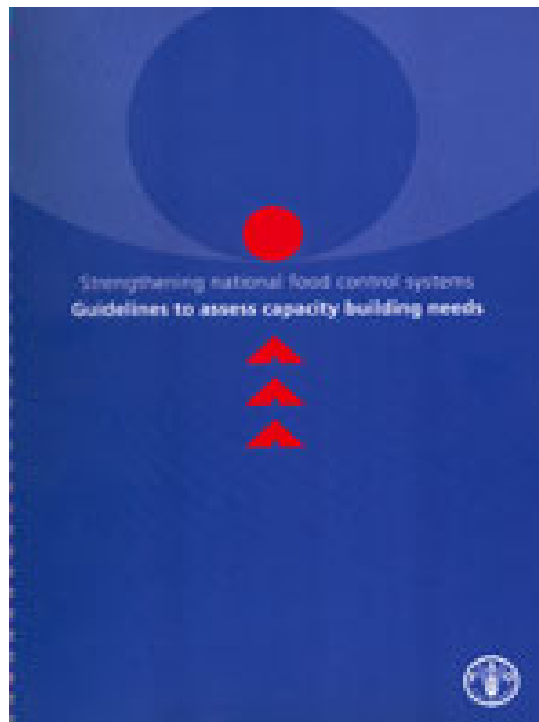
WTO



Codex
Alimentarius
Commission

International Organizations Involved in Food Safety and Quality

Strengthening National Food Control Systems Guidelines to Assess Capacity Building Needs





Elements of a National Food Control System

- Food control management
- Food legislation
- Food inspection
- Official food control laboratories
- Food safety and quality information, education and communication (IEC)

GCC COUNTRIES

- Bahrain
- Kuwait
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates





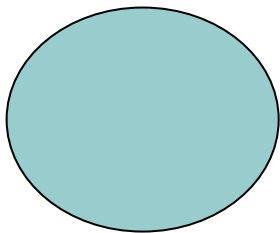
Food Safety Threats in the GCC

- GCC suspended imports of olive oil that have already been placed on the market *due to high level of carcinogenic substance (benzopyrene)* *ArabiaLink, 2001*
- GCC countries imposed a temporary ban on imports of beef following *detection of BSE in a dairy cow.* *USDA, 2005*
- 379 tons of imported foods confiscated in Bahrain - *contaminated with lead, mercury, cadmium, pathogenic microorganisms*
FAO/WHO regional meeting on food safety for the Near East, 2005
- Poultry imports banned in Qatar *due to high and low pathogenic avian influenza in an imported flock of chickens*
United States Trade Representative report , 2007
- Imported rice products in Gulf countries contaminated with *unauthorized GMO rice variety.* *Gulf Times, 2008*

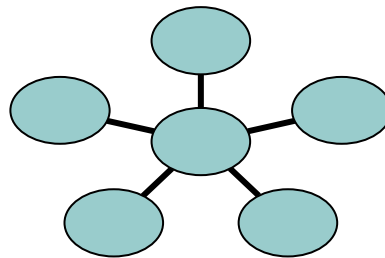
Food Control Management



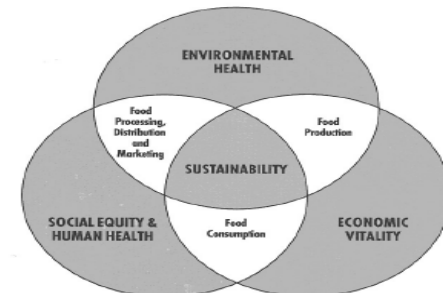
Single agency system



Multiple agency system



Integrated system





Food Control Management

- **Kuwait:** Kuwaiti Municipality, Ministry of Health (MOH), Public Authority for Industry (PAI), Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fisheries Resources (PAAFR), Ministry of Commerce (MOC).
- **Qatar:** National Health Authority (NHA) Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, Ministry of Economy and Commerce (MOEC).
- **Oman:** Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources (MRMEWR), Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCAI).



Food Control Management: Continued

- **UAE:** Public Health Departments of Municipalities, National Food Safety Committee (Public Health Departments of Municipalities, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (Agriculture Section), Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economy & Planning, the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA), the Secretary General of the GSM).



Food Control Management: Continued

- **Bahrain:** Ministry of Health (MOH) - Public Health Directorate (PHD), has the main responsibility for food safety and quality through the food and water hygiene section and laboratory.



Food Control Management: Continued

Saudi Arabia:

Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA)

Chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister;

Board of Directors consisting of eight ministers:

- Municipality & Rural Affairs, Defense, Interior, Health, Commerce and Industry, Agriculture, Water & Electricity, Finance, Economic & Planning
- The SFDA Executive Director General,
- Representation from other organizations such as the Saudi Arabian Standards Organization (SASO), the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce & Industry, and Saudi food and drugs experts.



Food Legislation

- **GCC Customs Union**

(Unified customs tariff of five percent on almost all imported foods - January 2003)

- **Food Import Procedures**

(Unified guide for controls on imported food - adopted 2007)

Food Legislation: Continued

- Harmonization
 - Gulf Standards Organization (GSO)
- GCC countries are members of CAC & WTO
 - Food shelf life standards
 - Labeling standards
 - food additive standards

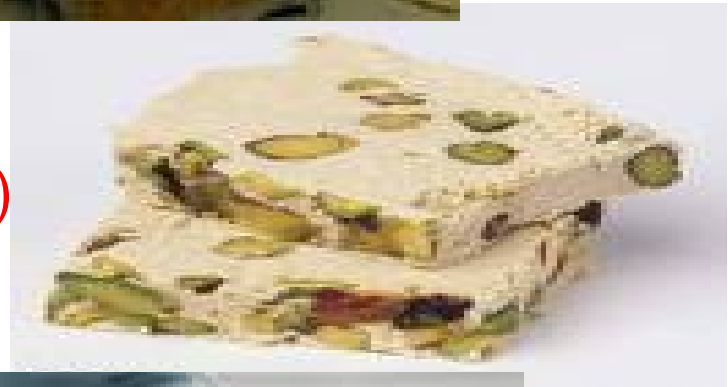


Standards for Traditional Foods

- Camel Milk



- Halawa Tahinia
(Sesame processed into a dessert)



- Ajinat Eltamur
(Paste made from dates)



Food Inspection

- Inspection of Imported Foods
- Inspection of locally produced foods and food premises



Food Inspection: Continued

Food inspectors at the ports





UAE Risk based Inspections

A
100-90%

B
89-75%

C
74-60%

D
59-45%

E
44-30%



UAE Risk based Inspections: Continued

GRADE	HIGH RISK	Medium RISK	LOW RISK
E	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	4 Weeks
D	4 Weeks	6 Weeks	8 Weeks
C	6 Weeks	12 Weeks	16 Weeks
B	12 Weeks	16 Weeks	18 Weeks
A	16 Weeks	20 Weeks	26 Weeks

Food Inspection: Continued

Local inspection



Official Food Control Laboratories

- Basic analytical equipment available in official food control laboratories
- Modern analytical techniques and quality assurance?
- Accreditation
 - GCC Standard Organization scheme for accreditation of food laboratories
 - Dubai Municipality Accreditation Department





Food Safety and Quality Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

- Ignorance on sound handling, preparation and storage of foods:
 - improper thawing of frozen foods,
 - inadequate cooking,
 - keeping cooked food at room temperature for several hours,
 - bad personal hygiene

Food Safety and Quality Information, Education and Communication (IEC)



Cooperation and Coordination



Thank You

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