HIGHLIGHTS

Food safety: a critical part of the food system in Africa

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The 52nd Brussels Development Briefing – part of a series of bi-monthly Development Briefings on ACP-EU rural and agricultural issues, was held on 19th September 2018 . Around 140 participants gathered in Brussels to discuss the growing importance of food safety within Africa, sharing challenges faced by value chain actors, lessons from the EU, and successful approaches in Africa supported global and local partners, which can be replicated and scaled up.

Food safety: a critical part of the food system in Africa This Briefing looked at the issue of food safety of Africa's domestic and regional markets and to some findings of the study from the GFSP. The presenters highlighted a multitude of opportunities to improve food safety in Africa, including by empowering consumers, linking food safety to public health, incentivising farmers, harnessing demand in regional markets, and working with stakeholders through partnerships.

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- CTA
- European Commission (DG DEVCO and DG SANTE)
- ACP Secretariat
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Isolina Boto

Viwanou Gnassounou

Isolina Boto, Manager, CTA Brussels Office and coordinator of the Briefings, opened the Briefing by welcoming participants, introducing the co-organisers, including the European Commission's Directorate for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) and the Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP). While the current briefing focuses on investments needed in African food safety capacity to improve public health, food security and trade, she referred to previous work in this area (i.e. Brussels Briefing on Meeting Food Safety Standards for ACP export markets), as well as other standards related Briefings in the context of regional markets, fair trade, and other agribusiness issues). The current work on the annual Africa Agriculture Trade Monitor 2018, also includes a section on food safety.

Viwanou Gnassounou, Assistant-Secretary-General, ACP Secretariat, emphasised that the issue of food safety affects all of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group, noting that there will be specificities in each country or region, so all countries from the global South can benefit from the experience of each other. Food safety has been a long-term issue for the ACP, with capacity building programmes such as COLEACP being in place since 2001, together with accompanying measures to support the exports of ACP products. Food safety is also increasingly a local issue as ACP countries are looking to improve regional value chains and trade; for example, progress with the Continental Free Trade Area in Africa will present challenges, with one of the main ones being standards and food safety. He also thanked the GFSP and the EU for their cooperation and welcomed cooperation with other partners. In order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG17, partners have to work together across borders, for example, to address African swine fever, and to also restore consumer confidence. In 2017, the ACP adopted a new Agricultural Value Chain Policy, and Gnassounou expressed interest in new ideas or approaches, and identification of best practices that can be scaled up.

Leonard Mizzi

Lystra N. Antoine

Michael Hailu

Leonard Mizzi, Head of Unit Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition, Europeaid, European Commission, noted that food safety and sanitary and phytosanitary standards becoming an ever-important topic in Africa. He emphasised the cross-cutting nature of food safety, with trade, agriculture and public health implications. Mizzi provided some figures on the burden of foodborne diseases especially for children, as well as for government budgets. The European Commission has been involved for 15 years in this area, notably through COLEACP, as well as through other programmes funded through intra-ACP funding, such as PIP, EDEs and Fit For Market, Standards and Trade Development Facility. Additionally, the joint ACP EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly recently issued a report on SPS and illegal use of pesticides and inputs in the value chain. Additionally, the EU also provides budget support which countries can also apply towards agriculture capacity. Finally, with the advent of the CFTA, it is more important to look at SPS from a local and regional trade dimension; there are still significant problems with intra-regional trade and barriers among regional configurations, and the EU has been discussing with the eastern African configuration what type of support would be required in this respect. Increasingly, investors are looking into   social and environmental sustainability in investment in value chains, stakeholder engagement and dialogue with the private sector, including supporting farmer's

organisations. Mizzi also highlighted the potential of blockchains in food safety systems, which is becoming a trending issue, which it would be useful to hear from experts on the role of technology in food safety systems. Finally, Mizzi recommended a more systemic approach towards food safety, both in terms of investment decisions of the EU and also in the research context.

Lystra N. Antoine, CEO Global Food Safety Partnership, thanked the co-organisers for the opportunity to partner in the Briefing, USAID and stakeholders of GFSP following online. GFSP was launched in 2012 as a public-private partnership hosted within the World Bank, dedicated towards capacity building in food safety in developing countries. It was initiated out of an interest in promoting food safety systems-based prevention underpinned by science, improving the effectiveness of food safety systems capacity investments. GFSP convenes key players, assess the food safety landscape, prioritise investments that are scalable and sustainable, and share lessons and leverage resources from varied sources. GFSP believes food safety is a key development prerogative and central to the SDGs, and needs to receive more attention to this issue both at policy levels and on the ground. Multiple stakeholders need to be engaged in discussions and actions to ensure better food safety outcomes, as food safety impacts trade, and foodborne diseases pose a big economic cost for countries. Antoine also noted with pleasure

the participation of the private sector, CSOs and NGOs, multilateral organisations and many other groups in the Briefing. She went on to discuss the GFSP's forthcoming report, *Food Safety in Africa: Past Endeavors and Future Directions*, which was carried with the support of GFSP partners in the private sector (Cargill, Walmart and Mars) and key donors, and thanked the authors and their institutions.

Michael Hailu, Director of CTA, underscored that food safety is integral to food security; there are four pillars to food security: accessibility, availability, utilisation and stability, and the key aspect of utilisation is safety, quality and health impact of food. The recently published *State of Food Security and Nutrition Report* shows that the gains made in food security since 2014 are reversing and there are more hungry people now, especially as a result of conflict. Food safety is central to achieving food security, which is clearly stated in the SDGs. In the African context, the Malabo Declaration parameters are affected by food safety, including eliminating hunger, improving income for farmers and tripling intraregional trade. CTA has been supporting the African Union Commission to include food safety within the Biennial Review of the Malabo Process – the first one that was published in early 2018 – as there is no specific target now to track food safety. This support centres on development of an indicator on food safety, building capacity, developing an electronic

Lystra N. Antoine

Kristina Roesel

platform to share information and track progress. He also expressed hope that CTA could also cooperate with GFSP especially on capacity building. Other support from CTA comes from its value chain programmes that have a strong component on food safety, such as the cassava value chain in Central Africa, rice value chain in West Africa, and dairy value chain in East Africa. Furthermore, CTA is also active in ICTs for agriculture, and has recently launched a call for proposal on blockchain applications in agriculture, with the focus being on supporting young ICT innovators in Africa, as well as a recent publication, which details initiatives already in progress in the area of blockchain. The African Agriculture Trade Monitor 2018 was singled out for its demonstration of the impact that SPS requirements have in terms of trade, namely that they are the most important trade restriction measures in Africa.

The first panel presented successful approaches for **ensuring food safety along the entire food chain**, and was chaired by **Leonard Mizzi.**

Lystra N. Antoine kicked off this session with an overview of the GFSP study. The presentation began with an introduction of the GFSP, its key principles and main messages. It went on to highlight the ways in which food safety is a mainstream economic development issue – within the context of the SDGs, and argued that the lack of a strong evidence base for the economic burden of foodborne diseases is a key reason why food

safety was historically overlooked in the development context. Recently, food safety has gained greater attention due to the 2015 WHO report which shows that the burden of foodborne diseases is comparable to that of malaria, HIV/AIDs or TB, and food scares such as the listeriosis outbreak in South Africa. The food safety landscape in Sub-Sahara Africa (SSA) is characterised by: the highest per capita burden of foodborne disease; agrifood systems that have many hazards, but little understanding of their contribution to health risks; a rapidly growing urban population needing safe food; heavy dependence on informal markets for food, with fresh produce and animal sourced food contributing significantly to foodborne illnesses. Food safety is expected to play a bigger role in the context of growing regional trade and integration. The presentation also looked at public and private investments into food safety in Africa, and the best approaches for coordinating these, comparing the approaches taken in other health areas such as HIV/AIDS. The Report is one of the few attempts to look at investments in food safety in SSA over the last ten years, quantify the actual amounts spend by key investors on food safety in Africa. The goals of the report were shared, as well as the methodology, were discussed, with the report gathering data from 500 projects financed by 20 donor organisations since 2010 and consulting over 200 experts and stakeholders, and it presented major findings and recommendations. Three important

sets of evidence were shared, on the likely worsening health burden of foodborne diseases, the persistence of informal markets, and increasing consumer concern over food safety. The first key result of the study was the mapping of a complicated dynamic food safety landscape, with a multitude of investors, determinants and African institutions, with many areas of overlap in responsibility between these various bodies. The second key result noted that food safety investment have been helpful, but small, relative to the burden of foodborne disease and they tend to be centred around access to overseas markets compared to addressing informal markets and domestic food safety challenges. The third key result was a range of concerns from experts, which highlighted a lack of modernisation in the approach towards food safety in Africa. The report's key recommendations were that food safety should out public health first, be risk-based, and market led.

Kristina Roesel, Jointly appointed scientist, Freie Universität Berlin and ILRI, followed on to discuss the important work done by ILRI on improving food safety and human health in partnership with IPRI, which has already spanned over ten years of research. More than 70% of food in SSA is marketed in informal or wet markets – rising up to 90% for products such as milk in East Africa – which is expected to continue for the next twenty years. It is this market segment, which is ILRI's target group, as these markets

Michael Scannell

are critical for food and nutrition security, jobs etc. in SSA, although they are quite heterogeneous and lack organisation. These factors discourage external investment into the informal markets, which is needed if the health outcomes are going to be improved in the region. Previous efforts to address food safety in informal markets were unsuccessful because the standards were not suitable for the context – as illustrated by the sheer extent of non-compliance with the standards – which in some cases were copied from European standards dating as far back as the 1960's. Another factor has been the lack of an enabling environment for operators in the informal sector to comply with food safety standards, including clean water, infrastructure, marketplaces, trained inspectors, laboratories and to overcome vested interests. ILRI's approach seeks to generate evidence, test interventions and create impact. ILRI tries to engage with policymakers at the local, national and regional level to build capacity around risk based analysis. The research is focused on foodborne disease risks from production to consumption, and to identify critical control point where new technologies can be implemented or food safety can be improved by institutional training. Due to urbanisation, value chains are getting longer and more complex, creating food safety risks at points where products are aggregated due to contamination, so ILRI works in these critical points. Some of the more effective past interventions by ILRI were discussed,

such as the implementation of biogas in pig slaughterhouses in Kampala, which improved sanitation. Insecticide treating nets to be used at butcheries were also tested, at an affordable cost, which kept flies off the meat – tools like these and other similar ones were developed by WHO, medical research council etc., which ILRI tested instead of trying to start from scratch, but applied them at the point of aggregation. This makes their interventions more cost-effective. Uganda's private sector has now picked up ILRI's training modules, with over 20,000 voluntarily receiving this training, demonstrating a strong demand and willingness to improve. ILRI's latest approach uses pull factors at the consumer end of the supply chain to improve food safety, notably in the more economically advanced African countries (Kenya, South Africa etc.) in order to understand what consumers attitudes and understanding of food safety, and to leverage this to change the behaviour of food handlers.

Michael Scannell, Director for the Food Chain, DG Sante, European Commission, began by noting that the Briefing had a strong emphasis on the topic foodborne diseases, which made him reflect on the fipronil and horsemeat food scandals in the EU, as notwithstanding the widespread coverage and strong political reaction, neither of these incidents had resulted in any hospitalisations nor deaths. These incidents highlight that EU citizens demand high levels of food safety, putting pressure on politicians, who

in turn put pressure on policymakers, working with member states, private sector and other stakeholders, to ensure food safety. The success of the EU's approach to food safety is down to citizens insisting on safe food. Therefore, it is incumbent on African citizens to similarly demand high standards. In terms of the CFTA and intra-African regional trade, lessons can be learnt from the EU's regional integration. EU citizens expected safety to be guaranteed under trade liberalisation and to avoid the high political price that comes with unsafe food. Thus, when facing challenges about the implications for Africa of the EU's food safety standards, including whether they constitute barriers to trade, Scannell responds that there is no margin for unacceptable risk when it comes to consumer safety in the EU – nor would it be in the interest of African countries to be associated with lower standards and unsafe food. The EU imports products from Africa such fish, coffee, cocoa, spices, fruits and vegetables, even sensitive goods like beef, and African countries receive support to facilitate these exports applying safe standards. As to whether African countries should place the emphasis on food safety for export markets, or on tackling foodborne diseases domestically, the example from the EU's approach in its integration was for new Member States to be required to raise their domestic standards to often higher EU levels. Developing countries wishing to export to the EU should not make the mistake of creating niche export sectors, as this has

Morag Webb

weaknesses and risks; those partners who sustainably trade with the EU do so by breaking down barriers between their export standards to the EU and the standards within their domestic markets, an approach which ultimately puts less of a burden on regulators. As in the case of the EU, , regulators in Africa should aspire to the highest standards for their domestic consumers, and this is the entry point for the EU in supporting food safety in Africa. Other support of the EU comes through EPAs and the Standards and Trade Development Facility. In concluding, he argued that China as an example of a country which shows great progress is possible using this approach to food safety, also that food safety is a dynamic and evolving issue with new hazards and risks emerging all the time, that technology is attracting a lot of investment to address food safety in Europe and beyond, and finally, the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework to promote food safety.

Morag Webb, Policy Adviser, PIP-COLEACP, shared the experience and model that COLEACP developed over the last fifteen years. COLEACP is a private sector association, which amongst other activities, working through programmes focusing on food safety for fruit and vegetables export value chains in ACP countries: PIP, which primarily worked supporting private sector operators, and EDES promoted the establishment of national food safety systems, primarily supporting the

public sector. The current programme, *Fit for Market*, builds on the progress of these programmes and other work by COLEACP. Food safety is at the core of COLEACP's work, with some important lessons and principles shared during the presentation. These include the need to localise the practices behind food safety, as the concept behind is more or less the universal, but faces challenges in implementation due to the diversity of the local context. As a result, up to 90% of COLEACP's work in ACP countries is delivered by local intermediaries in the public and private sectors. This approach is made possible through a "train the trainers" method, with COLEACP training global and regional master trainers, who then share their knowledge and capacity with other groups at the local level, working to build capacity down the supply chain through this "cascade approach". COLEACP now has 80 master trainers and around 800 national trainers, and 25,000 trainers within companies and extension services who have trained an estimated 5 million workers and small-scale growers. The guiding principles are localisation, tailoring the training and message to the local context and culture, and complementing shared knowledge with shared skills, to enable recipients of training to be able to put their newly acquired knowledge into practice, as well as ensuring the sustainability, affordability, responsiveness and replicability of the programme over the long term. One example of the COLEACP approach under the *Fit for Market* programme was shared, focusing on

the implementation of the programme in Kenya. The current focus of the programme is on inspection services, national control systems and research institutions, responding to some of the challenges that Kenya had faced when the EU buyers adopting poor trading practices, and the introduction of more stringent SPS measures by the EU, accompanied with a limited capacity by regulators and producers to deal with it, led to closure of Kenyan horticulture exports to the EU with disastrous outcomes. Regaining access to the EU markets, and the general fact that ACP producers are able to export to the EU using complex supply chains, was indicative of the success of food safety in ACP countries. The biggest challenge will be ensuring that this progress in the high-end export markets leads to actual impact for consumers in local markets. Finally, there was an emphasis on the need for donors and other actors in this field to avoid competing with each other, and instead, to foster partnerships and coordination.

The **Questions and Answers** saw the speakers address a variety of issues. **Michael Scannell** noted that consumers are at the heart of the EU's approach to food safety, and that food safety is subjective, so that it will only work if it responds to the expectations of the consumers and society. Furthermore, he emphasised that any country is ultimately responsible for its own domestic affairs, and not obliged to rely on the EU or any other external party, but given the dominance of the EU when

Jacky Le Gosles

Kelley Cormier

it comes to global food trade, third countries have to accept that one way or another, they will encounter the EU's rules. He also welcomed engagement with local institutions, frameworks and partners such as those involved in CAADP, to work with the EU, if they can generate greater impact. **Morag Webb** noted as five takeaway recommendations: holistic partnerships, exports to local, policy to practice, and opportunities of technology. **Kristina Roesel** remarked that the issue of side selling of unsafe food, which enters into new markets after being rejected in its local market, is symptomatic of a limited capacity and enforcement of rules, but other problems like corruption also come into play. Researchers can support policymakers by providing evidence, as well as developing tools and metrics to help policymakers prioritise responses, by testing solutions under scientific protocols, and finally, by studying incentives for the adoption of technologies and behavioural changes, especially where they will have a positive impact on human health. **Lystra N. Antoine** focused on motivation of policymakers, where GFSP looks at assessment and analysis of capacity, convenes stakeholders on action at the country level, and helps to build capacity, with the ultimate goal of empowering consumers. In terms of providing recommendations, she emphasised the need for governments to prioritise public health, increase the evidence base, develop risk-based food safety systems, and harness the market drivers of food safety – namely, to empower consumers, and

acknowledge the role of the private sector, including farmers themselves. **Jacky Le Gosles** from DG Sante, European Commission, addressed the complex point of genetically modified organisms, noting that this issue above anything else, requires significant cooperation and collaboration between regulatory and governance institutions in order for progress to be made. Furthermore, with respect to challenges with the informality of Africa's food systems, the enforcement of food safety should not *a priori* discriminate against informal food traders, many of whom are women. **Isolina Boto** noted that with respect to blockchain, the topic may well come up in future Briefings addressing digitalisation and ICT in agriculture, as examples were emerging on the application of blockchain to food safety and other areas of agriculture.

Leonard Mizzi concluded the first panel by highlighting five key takeaways: evidence and impact, informing awareness and consumer based approaches; mainstreaming, holistically and systemically, through multistakeholder and inter-ministerial coordination, founded on CAADP; donor coordination; partnerships – both GFSP and GFSI – which can support the coordination with the UN agencies and in the context of the SDGs; trade – informal and non-informal, and pace setters in standards setting in Africa, and potential impact on regional trade.

The second panel examined the **drivers for success for improving**

food safety in Africa, with **Michael Hailu** chairing.

Kelley Cormier, Division Chief, Bureau for Food Security, USAID, discussed USAID support to the private sector – formal and informal – in Africa. USAID's approach to engagement with the private sector begins with three key questions around market-based approaches, roles of the private sector and constraints faced by the private sector. USAID support could involve modalities such as transactional support, direct or indirect financing, private-public partnerships, informal collaboration and so forth. Private sector development is programmatic, and interventions would focus on strengthening the business enabling environment, providing public goods to facilitate investment by the private sector, capacity building, for which there are many potential applications in the private sector. The US Global Food Security Strategy, which is aligned with the SDGs, has as its main goal the sustainable reduction in hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. This is realised through three objectives: inclusive and sustainable agriculture led growth, strengthened resilience among people and systems, and well-nourished population, particularly women and children. USAID applies food systems as a lens into which it informs its activities supporting food safety, and is emphasised in the USAID strategy, and food safety is linked to critical nutrition objects. In terms of the challenges

Elizabeth Nsimadala
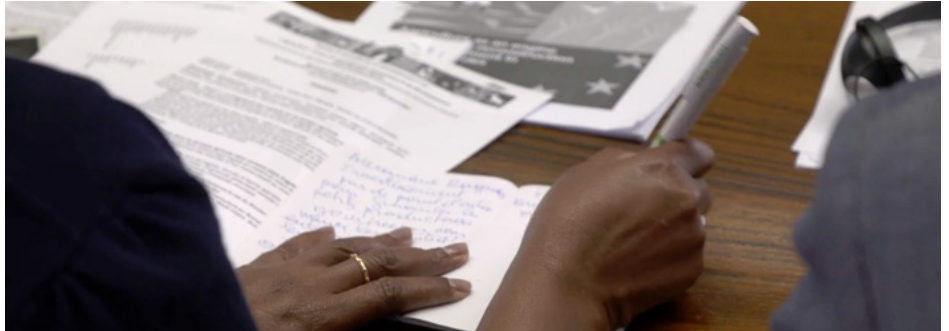
and opportunities for food safety in Africa, she mentioned low levels of public and private sector investment, a confusing and costly food safety environment, diverse and changing diets, threats to public health. USAID engages with the GFSP to overcome coordination challenges at various levels, which itself also involves creating new partnerships with the private sector, as well as through initiatives such as the Partners in Food Solutions which is a model leveraging in-kind company staff time to build the capacity of SMEs in SSA. USAID also works with other multinational companies in the food and agro-industries sector. USAIDs private sector investment programme is managed by Dalberg, positioning an agriculture finance and investment programme to support Feed the Future initiatives to integrate food safety in their partner country national plans. USAID also collaborates with the US Food and Drug Authority and the US Department of Agriculture through the Food Safety Network, allowing USAID to leverage their capacity and skills. In terms of the principles for action on food safety, in alignment also to the work under the GFSP, USAID will facilitate collaboration among food safety stakeholders and promote expanded markets for safe and nutritious foods by raising consumer demand, as consumers will be drivers of change but they need empowerment and organisation, and address gaps in food safety by focusing on food systems. One area USAID is keen on leveraging and

aligning its investments is in food industry leadership, to empower public sector actors and partners to strengthen food systems.

Elizabeth Nsimadala, Entrepreneur & President of Eastern Africa Farmer's Federation (EAFF), introduced EAFF, and explained the impact of climate change on food safety. Following a brief elaboration of the definition of food safety, the presentation addressed the key question of why farmers should meet food safety standards. Firstly, farmers have a responsibility to provide safe food to consumers, and are key players providing accountability in the value chain. Secondly, value is important for farmers as the global market in high-value goods is growing, but because very little of this is seen on local markets, there are few incentives for farmers to produce these quality foods. Thirdly, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) are critical for farmers in improving postharvest handling, traceability and so forth, as poor practices consistently lead to significant losses for farmers. Fourthly, consumer awareness about health has risen, with an associated willingness for consumers to pay more for safe food. Finally, technology is enabling farmers to produce safer foods, and new innovations like blockchain can be promoted to ease traceability. EAFF has taken advantage of a number of key opportunities to improve food safety: collaboration and partnerships, capacity building and training, lobbying and advocacy. Examples of activities related to

these opportunities include EAFF's partnership with the Platform for African – European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD) where they have developed a strategy on agropastoral systems with a major sub-theme on livestock feed, including a 3-year programme on aflatoxin. The EAFF mobile enabled platform "E-Granary", developed with the support of CTA, has allowed them to train over 250,000 farmers on postharvest losses management, and EAFF has trained women dairy farmers in Tanzania, and other farmer groups in the small ruminant dairy value chain. EAFF are part of the subcommittee on Regional Expert's Working Group on Aflatoxin, and they have an observer status and MOU with the East Africa Community. Through the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA), they create awareness on aflatoxin and engage policymakers, and are members of the EAC on standards. The key challenges faced by EAFF are poor market incentives due to lack of organisation, so farmers do not invest in quality for local markets. Linkages between public health and agriculture ministries are weak, despite food safety being an issue relevant to both. An often-overlooked challenge is the lack of alternative uses of contaminated food products. Knowledge and technology uptake is hampered by a lack of finance to disseminate it, regional and international agreements do not get fully implemented or enforced at country level, government policies also tend to be ad hoc, and there

Cris Muyunda

are limited financial and human resources to scale up emerging and successful approaches, such as E-Granary. In conclusion, EAFF can do more work with all value chain actors from consumers to producers to promote food safety, and develop a food safety management protocol. Support to local value chains to create incentives is also critical, as is funding and policy action to promote, enforce and monitor food safety.

Cris Muyunda, Chairman of the Governing Council of CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition, declared food safety a big concern at regional levels, as confirmed by various consumers perception studies (ASARECA, 2015 and UNIDO 2014), and reports on food adulteration, contamination, and aflatoxin – especially in groundnuts. Africa's intra-regional agricultural trade is hampered by these negative perceptions, as are its exports. The Malabo Declaration objective to triple intra-regional trade will not be achieved if African consumers keep on rejecting African made goods, which is also a massive lost opportunity for African SMEs and businesses. This final presentation examined the CAADP process, which should be the main framework to promote agriculture as an engine for economic growth in Africa. In terms of the Malabo Declaration, the Biennial Review (BR) of the CAADP process examines progress on seven key commitments; the first review of 47 countries, saw 20 on track for implementation, with 20 lagging behind. New areas of motivation have been introduced to

promote implementation, leading to a recognition that food safety is inadequately covered within the BR indicators. Subsequently, the African Union has supported the development of composite indicators under an "African Food Safety Index" (AFSI). The major driver for food safety in Africa is in addressing the food import bill – standing at US$ 40 billion, projected to increase to US$110 billion by 2025 – indicating the scale of the market for safe food on the continent. The regional economic communities in Africa can be used to harmonise standards, scaling these up to the CFTA. Consumer demand and expectations show that they are willing to pay more for safe food. The PACA model was suggested as a best practice because it involves a food safety situational analysis, which leads to a strategy or plan that is validated by stakeholders, who then mainstream it and continue to evaluate it. The presentation emphasised PPPs on food safety, awareness raising within the value chain, use of food safety situational analysis and strategy, development of finance models, and need to recognise and support non-state actors in the STDF. In terms of the way forward, producers who meet quality should be promoted, regular testing must be increased, local and regional certification bodies should be encouraged, and capacity building should be given to value chain actors. Finally, there should be an entrenchment of a culture of shared responsibility by all stakeholders when it comes to food safety, a promotion of the business

opportunities for SMEs to provide safe food and meet harmonised standards in order to achieve this. At a global level, the Codex Alimentarius, partnerships with the UN agencies, national governments, the EU and SME umbrella organisations and programmes should be included in this process. PACA should expand its scope along other value chains, and the EU was called on to help scale it up. Africa must address its ever-expanding food import bill by putting food safety at the heart of its competitiveness agenda, with the full support of global partners.

During the **Questions and Answers** on the second panel, **Elizabeth Nsimadala** addressed a question on EAFF membership, noting that as an organisation which represents smallholder farmers, it is important to understand that in the African agriculture system, smallholder farmers are overwhelmingly informal. EAFF aggregates these farmers into some structural or production system, so that they can be represented through cooperatives and associations. EAFF is now using technology like E-Granary with partners to aggregate their farmers for markets and ensure their farmers get quality services. She recommended pro-poor, pro-farmer technologies that are affordable, but argued that without incentives for safe food, farmers will not see the value of investing in safety or using technologies. **Cris Muyunda** agreed with participants comments that standards need to be enforced, but that it was also very

important to continue discussing standards development because in the marketplace standards will differ – for example, EU versus US standards on food – so it is important for Africa's producers and stakeholders to be aware of these distinctions. **Kelley Cormier** noted that in the USAID context, capacity building refers to knowledge, skills and development, with metrics in the pipeline to assess this. In terms of building trust, informal collaboration is part of this process and involves choices to be made by partners – for example, on the need to acknowledge that food safety can be a factor in competitiveness. She expressed a need to widen coordination beyond donors, who are limited in numbers relative to all the other actors involved in food safety, so initiatives like the GFSP are really well suited as platforms to coalesce actors around food safety development in Africa.

Michael Hailu summarised some of the key outcomes of the discussions around partnerships, capacity building, the role of the private sector, research and technology, the policy agenda at the continental level (CAADP) and the importance of the food safety in achieving SDGs and the Malabo targets in Africa, including its impact on both regional and global agriculture trade, which should see food safety addressed in conjunction, rather than in parallel systems.

Further information available online:

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