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9.0 Annex I: Key-Informant Interview Questions

The following sets of questions were developed in an earlier draft of this manual, and may prove useful to Task Forces at any point in the development of the approaches and tools discussed here. Note that these questions are far from comprehensive, and are not targeted to specific stakeholder groups. Given the context-specific nature of key informants (which will differ country by country and sector by sector), the Task Force must itself devise a list of tailored questions it deems to be of relevance for the informants identified as potential contributors to a particular analysis.

9.1 Responsibility for food safety regulation, harmonization and policies
- What agencies are responsible for food safety regulatory policies?
- What responsibilities and policies do each of the areas cover?
- What are the overlaps, gaps in responsibilities? what are the hierarchies in reporting (Do decisions converge to a central authority, or are they independent for each authority, etc.)?
- How would you describe the capability and authority of your national food safety service to establish national regulatory norms under its mandate that conform to international norms, guidelines, and recommendations?

9.2 Technical capacity
Describe your country's technical capacity in terms of:
- Food inspection services
- Food safety education
- Foodborne disease surveillance

Describe the capability and authority of your national food safety service to identify and record those biological, physical and chemical agents that can adversely affect public health and food safety.

What technical challenges do you currently have with regard to technical capacity to conduct:
- Food inspections
- Food safety education
- Foodborne disease surveillance?

Describe the capability and authority of your national food safety service to rapidly respond to situations that pose a risk to public health.

Describe the capability and authority of your national food safety service to prevent the contamination of food products throughout the agri-food chain

Describe the capability and authority of your national food safety service to lead a continual and systematic process of collection, analysis and interpretation of data related to food production, as well as potential problems for human health, that facilitate the establishment of adequate policies for the control of food products based on risk.

Describe the capability and authority of your national food safety service to identify in advance, those sanitary problems covered under its mandate which may either put at risk or benefit the public health and commerce of food products.

Describe the capability of your national food safety service to make decisions and carry out actions based on scientific principles, including the assessment, communication and management of risk.

9.3 Human resource capacity

Describe your country's human resource capacity for conducting:
* Food inspection services
* Food safety education
* Foodborne disease surveillance.
* Public health and epidemiology of food safety

What are some of your country's most important challenges related to human resource capacity for conducting:
* Food inspections
* Food safety education
* Foodborne disease surveillance?
* Public health and epidemiology in the area of food safety

9.4 Financial resources
What is your country's financial capacity to conduct effective:
* Food inspections
* Food safety education
* Foodborne disease surveillance?

What are some of your country's most important challenges related to financial resources to conduct:
* Food inspections
* Food safety education
* Foodborne disease surveillance?

9.5 Public-private partnerships for food safety
* Please describe your country's public-private partnerships in food safety programs and policies?

- Are there specific examples of attempted or successfully accomplished collaborations?
- Have there been successful initiatives that contributed to overall policy?

9.6 Food safety concerns
What are the main food safety concerns in your country in terms of:
- Agriculture, food production, and food products.
- International export
- Domestic food sale, distribution, transportation, and storage
- Testing
- Compliance

For each food safety concern identified, describe why you consider it a concern.
- Food products, production
- Retail
- Distribution
- Testing
- Compliance
- Other? (please name)

9.7 Food customs
Are there food customs (in food cultivation, harvesting, processing, preparation & consumption) that influence your country's food safety concerns and policies?
- Food cultivation
- Harvesting
- Processing
- Food preparation
- Consumption

9.8 Vulnerable groups
Are there specific groups or segments of the population that are particularly at risk for food safety problems? (important human rights and equity perspective; do you want to add potential segments such as women and children, minorities, displaced and immigrants, and rural vs urban or should we leave it open?

9.9 Key messages
What are the key messages, principles or tenants that guide your country's food safety control programs and policies?

Describe the capability of your food safety service to inform users and educate them on food safety topics.

Describe the capability of your national food safety service to implement policies and programs that are sustainable and improve over time, incorporate new demands and independent of political changes.

Describe the capability of your national food safety service to carry out its duties with autonomy and free from political interference that may affect technical and scientific decisions; measured in two ways: political appointments and technical support for decisions.

Describe some of your country's existing major food safety programs and policies.
For each program or policy identified above, highlight some major accomplishments and limitations/setbacks.

9.10 Food safety policy barriers
List some general barriers to effective food safety policy formation and implementation in your country

9.11 Internal factors
List key factors internal to your country that influence food safety policy decision making processes.

9.12 External factors
List the major factors external to your country that influence your food safety policy decision making processes.

Describe the capability of your national food safety service to regularly and actively participate, coordinate and provide follow up to the meetings of international organizations such as the WTO/SPS, Codex Alimentarius.

9.13 Champions of food safety
Which groups, businesses, or individuals at your national and sub-national levels are leaders in putting food safety policies into practice, e.g., through outreach to industry, businesses and consumers?
- Groups (public or private)
- Businesses
- Individuals

9.14 Largest food industries
- List your country's major food industries.
- For each, identify the share of their products that are exported.
- Identify any food safety issues unique to these industries.

9.15 Food industry associations
Identify the major food industry associations in your country.

9.16 Food service sector
Identify the major food service sectors and associations in your country, including hotel and tourism industries.

9.17 Sharing food safety knowledge

List the major ways in which the public and private sectors in your country share knowledge and information about food safety policies and practices.

9.18 Best ways to translate knowledge

What would be the best ways to translate possible results of a foodborne disease burden study into policy and practice at each of the following levels in your country:
- Sub-national
- National?
- What is the current knowledge translation (KT) infrastructure?
- What is the KT capacity in the country?
- What are the human resources for KT activities?
- What are the financial resources for KT activities?
- What are the processes?
- Who are the target audiences?
- What is the role of the media?
- What are optimal timings for KT activities?

9.19 Other information

Provide other pertinent information that might enable you to better understand the context of food safety and food safety policy in your country.

9.20 About FERG

How can FERG be of support to your country's food safety efforts?

Briefly describe how you might apply results from FERG burden of foodborne disease in your country to support your food safety programs and policies.