Food Safety in Myanmar

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Background

- Legislations:
  - The National Food Law (1997)
  - The Amendment of the National Food Law (2013)
  - Currently drafting new Food Law

- Standard of reference:
  - Codex standards (and others).

Food Safety Control Mechanism

- Myanmar Food and Drug Board of Authority – chaired by minister for health
- Central Food and Drug Supervisory Committee – chaired by Director General, FDA
- The Department of Food and Drug Administration is the regulatory/implementing agency for food and drug safety, guided by above-mentioned steering bodies.

Food Safety Control Mechanism

- Food safety control system in Myanmar is multi-agency approach along the food-chain.
- In collaboration with other stakeholder departments and agencies:
  - Department of Agriculture
  - Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
  - Department of Fisheries
  - Department of Consumers Affairs
  - Municipal Health Departments
  - Custom Department
  - Disease Control Unit, Dept. of Public Health
  - Consumers Organizations and etc.

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Food chain

Food Safety Control works
- GMP Inspection and Certification of domestic manufacturing facilities
- Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification
- Post–market Surveillance
- Switching to Risk–based approach

Food Safety Control works
- Certified food manufacturing plants;
  - Bottled drinking water – 816
  - Others – 504
- Import Health Certificates
  - Year 2014 – 8644
- Post–market surveillance
  - Year 2014–15 – 7469 market samples

Food Safety Hazards
- Microbiological;
  - Staphylococcus
  - Salmonella Shigella
  - Vibrio cholerae
  - E. coli

Food Safety Hazards
- Chemicals;
  - Dyes
    - Rhodamine B
    - Auramin O
    - Orange II
    - Sudan
  - Non–permitted additives
    - Borax
    - Salicylic acid
    - Formalin

Food Safety Hazards
- Chemicals (contd.)
  - Contaminants;
    - Pesticide residues
    - Toxins
    - Heavy metals
Information, Education, Communication
- Public announcements
- Information networks
- Education/awareness program
- Education materials
Information, Education, Communication

Needs and Gaps
- Budget
- Institutional capacity
- Analytical capacity
- To strengthen risk analysis
- Concerted action among stakeholders

Recent development
- Drafting new food law, expecting to submit upcoming parliament
- Just launch FDA website; www.fdamyanmar.gov.mm

Way forward
- Switching to risk–based food control system
- Strengthen capacity building for food control officials
- Develop food safety regulations
- Develop stakeholders network
- Decentralization of food safety control works to provincial FDAs

Thank you all!