



Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards
Department of Agriculture
Republic of the Philippines
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Philippine Food Safety Conference 2015
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Crowne Plaza, Manila Galleria, Ortigas Avenue

Presentation Outline

1. The Philippine Food Safety Act of 2013;
2. Issues and Challenges of Coordination in the Implementation of the Food Safety Act;
3. Recommendations; and
4. Conclusions;

The Philippine Food Safety Act

- An Act to Strengthen the Food Safety Regulatory System in the Country to **Protect Consumer Health** and **Facilitate Market Access** of Local Foods and Food Products, and For Other Purposes
- Signed into law last 23 August 2013

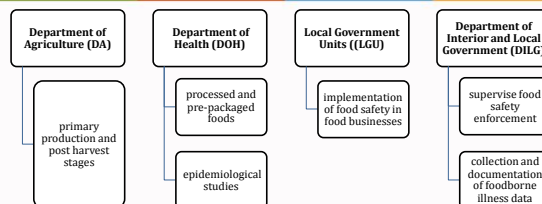
Importance of the Food Safety Act

- Legal framework for the development and implementation of food safety regulations
- Use of science in developing food safety regulations
- Farm to fork approach to control hazards
- Adoption of precautionary measures
- Adoption of international standards

FSA Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR):

- Facilitate compliance with the provisions of the FSA
- Drafted by a DA-DOH Joint Technical Working Group
- Signed by the Department of Agriculture and Department of Health Secretaries last 20 February 2015, awaiting publication

Philippine Food Safety Regulatory Framework



Delineation of Functions between DA and DOH

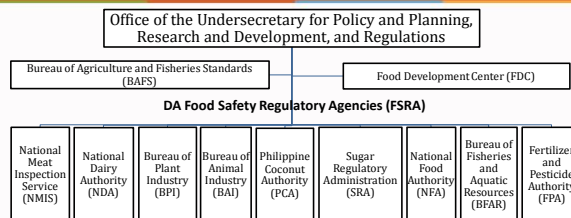
DA

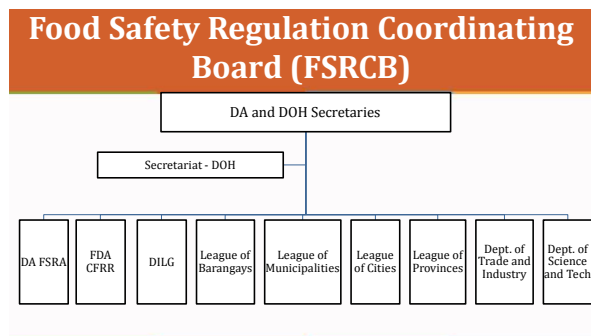
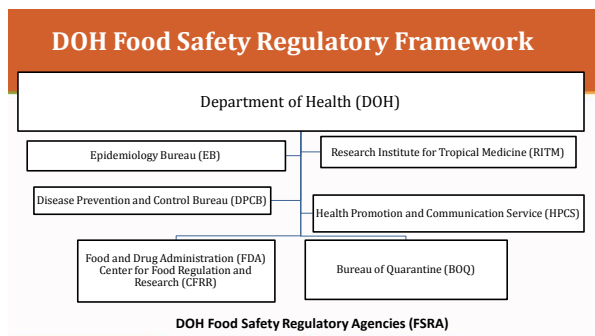
1. **Primary production** - production, rearing or growing of primary products
2. **Post harvest - minimal transformation** of plant and animal foods after primary production

DOH

1. **Processing** - stage that **substantially alters** the initial raw materials or product or ingredients
2. **Prepackaged food** - processed food made up in advance in a container, **labeled and ready for sale** to the consumer, or for catering purposes.

DA Food Safety Regulatory Framework





- ### Overlapping Jurisdictions Between DA and the DOH
1. Processed Fish and Meat
 2. Frozen Fruits and Vegetables, and Pasteurized Milk
 3. Milled Rice, Flour, and Sugar
 4. Veterinary Drugs

- ### Processed Fish and Meat
- Currently with the DA-BFAR for processed fish and DA-NMIS for processed meat under **an existing MOA between DA and DOH**
 - DA-BFAR and DA-NMIS currently recognized as the **competent authorities** for ensuring food safety in all fish and meat products from the Philippines by importing countries

Frozen Fruits and Vegetables, and Pasteurized Milk

- Frozen fish and meat considered as **postharvest foods** by both DA and DOH; and
- Frozen fruits, vegetables and pasteurized milk considered as **processed foods** by DOH.

Milled Rice, Flour, and Sugar

- Paddy rice to milled rice, wheat to flour are considered as **postharvest foods** by both DA and DOH
- Sugar cane to milled sugar considered as **processed food** by DOH

Veterinary Drugs

- DOH in charge of **food safety and quality of veterinary drugs**
- DA in charge of the **efficacy of the veterinary drugs**

Coordination Between DA/DOH and LGU

1. **DA and DOH** – development of food safety standards and regulations, regulation of large and medium businesses
2. **LGU** - implementation of food safety in slaughterhouses, dressing plants, fish ports, wet markets, supermarkets, school canteens, restaurants, catering establishments, water refilling stations, street food/ambulant vending

Recommendations

1. *Status quo* in the Assignment of Regulatory Jurisdiction **until the establishment of the FSRCB**
 - Fisheries: DA-BFAR for fresh and processed fish
 - Meat: DA-NMIS for fresh and processed meat
 - Sugar: DA-SRA for milled sugar
 - Dairy: DA-NDA for pasteurized milk
 - Veterinary Drugs: DA- BAI for the registration and licensing of veterinary drugs

Recommendations

2. Transitory Period (24 months) to effect the ff.:
 - Efficient transfer of all processed and pre-packaged food applications from DA to DOH-FDA;
 - DOH-FDA to apply for recognition to EU as competent authority for processed fish; and
 - DA and DOH to jointly undertake information dissemination to notify relevant stakeholders of the transfer of regulatory activities.

Recommendations

3. DA and DOH to coordinate with and assist the LGU on the following:
 - implementation of **food safety standards and regulations**
 - **training**
 - **develop ordinances** to control excessive consumption of food substance leading to the diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, obesity and others

Conclusions

1. Delineation of Functions through **Enabling Legislations**;
2. Establishment of a **Food Safety Regulation Coordinating Board (FSRCB)** to resolve overlaps, duplications and gaps of jurisdiction;

Conclusions

3. **Coordination between DA/DOH** (development of standards and regulations) and the **LGU** (implementation of standards and regulations, training); and
4. DA/DOH regulatory agencies to **provide technical assistance and build capacity** of LGU on food safety implementation.



Thank You.