



**African Union**

**Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources**

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP**

**Continental Workshop on the establishment of Food Safety Authority at African Union and of a Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed -RASFF.**

**29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012, Kigali, Rwanda**

**By Dr. Raphael Coly**



# OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- **AUC has initiated a process of implementing**
  - **AU-DREA's vision** as per the **2010 - 2012 Strategic plan**
  - **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)**
  - **Resolutions of the First Africa Regional Food Regulators Meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe in October 2005,**
  - **AU and EU Heads of State and Government at the Lisbon Summit held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007 adopted a Joint Africa-EU Strategy**



# OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

## Aim:

- To have an effective food safety management coordination system at the AU level
- To coordinate existing instruments within the RECs and within the individual member states to have a mechanism of alert and promptly address of eminent public health risks related to food safety with view to enhance both domestic and international consumer confidence in food produced and or traded in Africa.



# OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- **The AU-DREA vision as per the 2010 - 2012 Strategic plan is**

*“A transformed African agriculture with diverse and sound environment that provides the basis for continental sustainable growth and prosperity, food security and poverty reduction, reinforced by prudent management of the natural resources including proactive responses to climate change”*



# OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- ❑ **The AU-DREA vision is also in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which was endorsed at the African Union Heads of State Summit as a New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) program in July 2003.**
- ❑ **The overall goal of CAADP is to “Help African countries reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development, which eliminates hunger, reduces poverty and food insecurity, and enables expansion of exports.”**



# OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

## ❑ The First Africa Regional Food Regulators Meeting

❑ Was held in Harare, Zimbabwe in October 2005,

❑ FAO Statement

❑ Mr Hartwig de Haen, then FAO Assistant Director-General, had said in his opening statement that: *“Building an effective food safety and quality regime throughout Africa has become an urgent necessity in order to save lives and create economic opportunity across the continent. The failure of many African produced food products to meet international food-safety and quality standards hampers the continent’s efforts to increase agricultural trade both intra-regionally and internationally, locking many farmers out of a chance to improve their economic well being. Establishing Pan-African food safety standards will not only save lives and improve the health of African people, it will go a long way toward helping Africa join in international trade and raise African living standards, particularly in rural areas where most of the poor are subsisting.”*



# OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- ❑ A meeting of **AU** and **EU Heads of State and Government** at the **Lisbon Summit** held on **9<sup>th</sup> December 2007** adopted a **Joint Africa-EU Strategy** including the need to strengthen capacities in the sanitary and phytosanitary (**SPS**) fields with the view to harmonizing **SPS** frameworks within **Africa** under the framework of the **BTSF Programme**.
- ❑ Another important **AU-EU** programme is called **Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organizations (PAN-SPSO)** under which **African** countries have been supported to strengthen their national **SPS** coordination mechanisms including training of **African SPS** experts on the use of science-based methods and development of scientific arguments in regional and international standards-setting forums.



# OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

## This workshop provides forum for **AU Food Experts to:**

- Appreciate Africa food safety peculiarities**
- Take note of the AU-DREA vision as per 2010 – 2012 Strategic plan**
- Take note of the overall goal of CAADP**
- Take note of the resolutions of the First FAO/WHO Regional Conference on Food Safety for Africa 3–6 October 2005 Harare, Zimbabwe**
- Take note of the ongoing AU - EU projects including “Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) and Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organizations (PAN-SPSO)**
- Take note of the AU and EU Heads of State and Government at the Lisbon Joint Africa-EU Strategy on strengthening SPS in Africa**



# OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- ❑ **This workshop also provides an opportunity for AU Food Experts to discuss in details:**
  - ❑ **What form, objectives, the structure and the functionality of an elaborate food safety management coordination system under AU-IBAR or under AU-DREA in the long run**
  - ❑ **How AU can coordinate existing instruments within the RECs and within the individual member states to have a mechanism of alert and promptly address of eminent food safety risks in the continent with view of enhancing both domestic and international consumer confidence in food produced and or traded in Africa.**
  - ❑ **The road map to be followed to ensure implementation of this workshop' recommendations**



# Thank you



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