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Growing Agribusinesses Upgraded to Senegalese Food Safety Regulations



Training workshop on Senegalese regulations on agri-food standards.

The agrifood sector in Senegal is one of the most dynamic and is the primary contributor to the industry's GDP. While this is mainly due to the large exporting companies, small growing food companies also contribute, and they are continuously increasing in scale and positioning their products for local consumption. In a globalized economy, these companies face competition from all sides, especially from products imported from Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East.

Facing difficulties related to the financing of production tools, raw materials, promotion of their products, and distribution, smaller artisanal-level companies can nevertheless find their market niche thanks to increasing consumer demand for local products. This comes with the challenge, however, of producing high quality, safe, and healthy food products which consumers have come to expect.

To support the successful implementation of standardization in Senegalese agrifood production companies, the Senegalese Association of Standardization (ASN) has been established as a tool for the development of national standards and the promotion of quality and product certification. Significant efforts have been made by ASN to identify the needs of economic operators, industrialists, consumer associations, and laboratories in terms of standards and to launch a standardization program. This program has led to the development of some thirty specific national standards, compliance with which is becoming a strategic tool for small and growing enterprises.

Feed the Future Business Drivers for Food Safety (BD4FS), funded by USAID and implemented by Food Enterprise Solutions, held a training session on Senegalese national food safety regulations on November 17 and 18, 2021 to build capacity of local agribusinesses. The objective of this workshop was to enable managers of growing agribusinesses to understand the regulations and standards in force in the food sector and to be able to apply them to their professional environment. The workshop was attended by about thirty companies that all left with a clear vision of market expectations but also with the objective of strengthening the level of safety of their products.

Mrs. Mbodj, director of the company Maria Distribution notes that "this training is welcome because it will allow before developing the processes of food safety in business, to first know, the content of the regulation and national laws, and that the partnership with BD4FS will allow as much a setting to the standards as theoretical as practical."

Mr. Bousso, founder of the company Wilane Viande which specializes in butchery products, mentioned the need for improved cold chain to be able to respect the standards related to his sector of activity. He hopes that the collaboration with BD4FS will allow the companies to take up the challenge of transporting and distributing perishable products safely.

This workshop, which was part of a series of training activities, was a great success with the companies who are requesting food safety support and helps fill a capacity building gap in the Senegal agrifood sector.



Dr Babacar Sène, BD4FS Senior Food Safety Specialist, interacting with GFBs leaders attending the BD4FS training on food safety regulation in Senegal.

Learn more about FES and BD4FS activities at <https://www.foodsolutions.global/> and <https://agrilinks.org/activities/business-drivers-food-safety>; and follow us at:

