



FOSCU ADVOCATES FOR ROBUST FOOD SAFETY MEASURES IN UGANDA'S REVISED NUTRITION POLICY AND BILL

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Food and Nutrition Stakeholders pause for a photo during the review of the food and nutrition policy.

In a concerted effort to bolster food and nutrition security across Uganda, the Food Safety Coalition of Uganda (FoSCU), along with its dedicated members including CARITAS, AFIRD, CONSENT, SUKUMA, KULIKA, UAA, GEDA, and Makerere University, actively collaborated with other stakeholders in the nutrition arena to provide technical input on the first draft of the proposed revised food and nutrition policy for Uganda. This policy aims to establish a comprehensive framework encompassing policy, regulatory, legal, and institutional measures to address the multifaceted nutrition challenges facing the nation. These challenges include food and nutrition insecurity, double burden of malnutrition, food safety concerns, food waste and loss, as well as diet-related diseases.

The revised policy is designed to create clear and harmonized nutrition coordination structures, ensuring a cohesive and effective approach to tackling these pressing issues. By integrating various sectors and stakeholders, the policy seeks to streamline efforts and maximize impact.

FoSCU's Advocacy in the Food and Nutrition Bill

In addition to its involvement in the policy review, the Coordinator of FoSCU also participated in the review and provided invaluable technical input into the proposed food and nutrition bill before its initial presentation in Parliament. The bill aims to establish a robust legal and institutional framework that safeguards the right to adequate food and nutrition for all Ugandans.

Key Recommendations by FoSCU

In both the policy and bill review processes, FoSCU emphasized the critical need to prioritize food safety concerns. Specifically, FoSCU advocated for:

- **Stakeholder Food Safety Education and Capacity Building:** Implementing comprehensive educational programs to equip stakeholders with the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure food safety across the value chain.
- **Food Safety Awareness Creation:** Launching public awareness campaigns to

educate consumers about food safety risks and best practices.

- **Localized Food Safety Research:** Investing in research initiatives to identify and address specific food safety challenges within local contexts.
- **Infrastructural Development for Food Safety:** Enhancing infrastructure, including laboratories and storage facilities, to support effective food safety monitoring and enforcement.
- **Coordination of Food Safety Efforts:** Establishing clear mechanisms for coordinating food safety activities among government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector.
- **Enforcement of Food Safety Regulations:** Strengthening enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with food safety standards and regulations.

Anticipated Outcomes

Once the revised food and nutrition policy and bill are enacted and effectively enforced, Uganda is poised to witness significant improvements in its food and nutrition landscape. The establishment of robust policy, legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks will create an enabling environment for addressing malnutrition, promoting food safety, and ensuring that all Ugandans have access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food.

Conclusion

The collaborative effort of FoSCU and its members reflects a deep commitment to improving the lives of Ugandans. By advocating for strong food safety measures, FoSCU is working to protect vulnerable populations from foodborne illnesses, reduce malnutrition rates, and promote overall well-being. The revised policy and bill represent a significant step forward in Uganda's journey towards achieving food and nutrition security for all.



Technical group pause for a photo during the review and technical input into the food and nutrition bill.

