

Foreword

It is with great pleasure that we introduce this training package on

Food Safety for Nutritionists and other Health Professionals

Access to nutritionally adequate and safe food is the right of each individual¹ and an important condition for good health. At the brink of the 21st century, foodborne diseases remain one of the major public health problems and an important cause of malnutrition, particularly in infants and young children.

Understanding the basics of food safety is essential for preventing foodborne illnesses and associated malnutrition as well as for ensuring a safe food supply. Training and education of health professionals in food safety is an important strategy for promoting food safety as these professional groups are responsible for advising the population on dietary and food handling practices. One of the objectives of the Food Safety programme of the World Health Organization is to promote and facilitate such training and education.

Food safety is a shared responsibility, and many food industries recognise the role that they have in promoting safety. The Industry Council for Development (ICD), a non-governmental organisation in official relations with the World Health Organization, works to assist WHO in implementing food safety and other health related projects in the developing countries and at the international level. The development of the present training manual is one of these projects. It is an example of a fruitful collaboration between industry and the public health sector.

Internationally recognised experts in various areas have reviewed the training manual. It has been field-tested in the framework of M.Sc. courses in Community Nutrition, organised by the South East Asian Ministries of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) at the University of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia. These courses have been financially supported by the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ). Since then the course has been used in various countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. The present manual is the second edition and includes new modules on water, food allergy, biotechnology, good hygienic practice, cleaning and disinfection, strategies for preventing foodborne illnesses. The module on food technology has also been revised and improved.

We hope that this course finds its way into many other countries.

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¹ World Declaration on Nutrition. FAO/WHO International Conference on Nutrition (ICN), Rome, 1992

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