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DIMENSION A

INPUTS AND RESOURCES

FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM
ASSESSMENT TOOL

DIMENSION A

INPUTS AND RESOURCES

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DIMENSION A aims at mapping the fundamental elements necessary for the system to operate. These range from legal and policy instruments to financial assets, equipment and infrastructure and human resources.

SUB-DIMENSION A.1

POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

This sub-dimension explores the policy and legal foundation of the food control system. Three main elements are assessed here: the quality of the policy and legislation drafting processes; the conduciveness of the institutional framework to an efficient use of the CAs' resources and skills; and the incorporation of key technical elements into the legislation, aligned on internationally agreed good practices.

Competency A.1.1 (Policy and legal drafting process) analyses the existence of a food safety and quality policy and legislation of high quality, appropriate for its context, comprehensive and transparent. Two key areas are reviewed: first, an appropriate policy framework, where clearly articulated food safety and quality policies exist and are implemented through strategic plans that spell out CAs actions; and second, the existence of formal procedures for the policy and legal drafting processes and for the accessibility and publication of the legislation. The procedures should endorse comprehensive and participatory drafting processes, ensuring that the resulting food control system is inclusive, appropriate for the national context and clear on rights and responsibilities of CAs and on their technical independence and impartiality.

Competency A.1.2 (Institutional framework) features the elements that contribute towards an effective and efficient institutional framework for food control. A comprehensive, coherent and consistent distribution of mandates among CAs to ensure food safety and quality throughout the whole food chain should be complemented by mechanisms that ensure relevant and timely communication to exchange relevant information, as well as coordination among CAs to develop a common vision of food control. CAs, and their key staff, should also have all the necessary powers and responsibilities to carry out their mandates, while sufficient safeguards and appeal mechanisms should be in place to prevent abuse of power.

Competency A.1.3 (Elements for food control legislation) ensures that the legislation includes all the technical provisions necessary to implement food control activities and achieve the overarching objectives set in the food safety and quality policy. For this to happen, the food control legislation should apply to all steps of

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