



## **FOOD SAFETY ASSOCIATES LIMITED @ 15 YEARS**

### **Historicity, Vision, Mission and Values; Progress and achievements; and Future Forecast**

Food Safety Associates Limited this year (2024) celebrates 15 years of sustained and ground-breaking contribution to humanity across the African continent in providing technical support in the areas of Food Safety and general Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) environments, Quality Infrastructure and Standards, Value Chain Management and Development, Value Addition, Industry Upgrading and Modernization, Trade Development and Facilitation, Regional Integration, Cross Border Trade Procedures, Competitiveness and Market Access Issues, Project Cycle Management and Project/ Program Monitoring and Evaluation.

Our Contribution has been boundless in helping agro-food business operators to meet requirements for accessing better markets and supporting responsible government agencies to establish appropriate policy, Institutional, legal and operational frameworks and strategies to guarantee safety, quality and adequacy of products produced, handled and traded by the business operators under their jurisdictions; to meet the regulatory and customer requirements of targeted markets.

Food Safety Associates Limited came as a dream to one of the founding directors Dr. Ananias Bagumire; who after completing his Doctoral Studies in Food Safety and International Trade, envisaged establishing an organization that would provide the rarely available, but very vital technical services to businesses, governments, development partners and other stakeholders to enable production and handling conditions for agro-food products in Africa meet all criteria for facilitating agro-products' access to better markets in the world.

Since establishment in March 2009, Food Safety Associates Limited (FSA) and its key experts have catalyzed the transformation of food production, handling and processing/manufacturing; as well as supply, distribution, marketing, trade and service of food in Uganda, and East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Markets for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Member Countries, and some of the Members Countries of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Food Safety Associates



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Limited has also influenced good practices across the African continent through its collaboration with the African Union Commission and other continent-wide programmes and projects aimed to enhance safety, quality and adequacy of products produced in, and traded in and outside the continent. In doing so, FSA has in large measure made huge contribution in positioning food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary environments and quality infrastructure and standards to play central role in trade and Industry development; as well as socio-economic transformation of African communities. We will continue to put our skills and knowledge at the disposal of key stakeholders in all relevant sectors to ensure that our high aim of inculcating a food safety and quality culture in African society is realized sooner than later.

The fifteen years of our relentless efforts in providing homegrown solutions to human and nature-induced food safety, quality and SPS –related challenges to ensure that the products meet all applicable criteria in domestic, regional and international markets has separated us from other players in the industry. This has truly confirmed our position as the leading providers for technical support services in the areas of Food Safety and general Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) environments, Quality Infrastructure and Standards, Value Chain Management and Development, Value Addition, Industry Upgrading and Modernization, Trade Development and Facilitation, Regional Integration, Cross Border Trade Procedures, Competitiveness and Market Access Issues, Project Cycle Management and Project/ Program Monitoring and Evaluation; across the African continent and beyond.

Indeed, our Vision has always been, and remains for FSA to become the leading home-grown provider of technical support services for Food Safety and general Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) environments, Quality Infrastructure and Standards, Value Chain Management and Development, Value Addition, Industry Upgrading and Modernization, Trade Development and Facilitation, Regional Integration, Cross Border Trade Procedures, Competitiveness and Market Access Issues, Project Cycle Management and Project/ Program Monitoring and Evaluation, and other Trade related technical support services; reputable for its cutting-edge innovations in keeping the integrity of value chain for products from the less resourced nations.

The Vision is being realized through the achievement Food Safety Associates Limited Mission of being an agent of change by providing expertise and superior



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support services in area of Food Safety and general Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) environments, Quality Infrastructure and Standards, Value Chain Management and Development, Value Addition, Industry Upgrading and Modernization, Trade Development and Facilitation, Regional Integration, Cross Border Trade Procedures, Competitiveness and Market Access Issues, Project Cycle Management and Project/ Program Monitoring and Evaluation; with an intentional bias on improving the safety and quality compliancy of products and related infrastructure in the developing countries with international market requirements.

The Mission is being achieved by providing consultancy; technical assistance; project/programme management; training; capacity building; advisory; innovations; research and development; conformity assessment (inspection, auditing, verification, sampling, testing and certification); promotion; advocacy and awareness raising services in the above core areas of our mandate to public institutions and private enterprises as well as supporting the work of all relevant development partners. Food Safety Associates Limited also provides technical support services related to good agro-food production practices and access and use of better inputs and technologies to agro-food enterprises to be able to produce adequate and better products that they need to break even as businesses, and also to keep in operation and sustain production to meet the needs of local population and attain surplus for trade

We are convinced that our clients will continue to choose us for the following four reasons which form our core values of:

1. Honesty
2. Commitment to serve
3. Professionalism
4. Being considerate (Understanding)

For, we have committed that to ensure that our values are honored, maintained and undiluted, we exercise self-control by declaring them (values) to our clients so that we can be judged by our actions.

We are grateful to the business operators, government agencies, development partners, program and project managers all across the agro-food enterprises,



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ministries, and international organizations that have placed their trust in our technical inputs to their projects, programmes, strategies, plans, actions and operations that have helped to transform the manner food safety, SPS and quality is perceived, managed and controlled which has been a precursor for enhanced lives of producers, traders, processors, manufacturers and consumers. We recognize the development partners whom we have directly or indirectly worked with as our clients on projects utilizing their funding which has given us avenue and opportunities to make our contribution. Our services have been supported by funds from the EU (European Union), USAID, SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), ICEIDA (Icelandic International Development Agency), NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation), UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), World Bank, African Development Bank, Trademark Africa, DFID/UKAID, and Embassy of Netherlands among others.

Our Founding Director in a special way wishes to thank Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of EAC (East African Community) and SADC (Southern African Development Community), The EAC-COMESA-SADC TRIPARTITE and the AUC (African Union Commission) for direct engagements which have been good exposures that provided specific and global insights to regional and international policy environments which enabled keeping up with the developments in the areas of Food Safety, SPS, Quality and Regional and International trading environments. These engagements have provided opportunities to widen the terrain for trial of concepts enabled the approaches utilized by Food Safety Associates Limited to remain above or contracting those applied by other players in the market; and have facilitated FSA to hit the targets for transforming industry and trading requirements.

In the same vein, the Founding Director wishes to extend gratefulness to the collaborators all around the world with whom Food Safety Associates Limited (FSA) and the key staff have successfully implemented collaborative projects and programs. These include USAID Feed the Future Inclusive Agricultural Markets Activity (FtF IAM), USAID Feed the Future Agricultural Enabling Environment Activity (AEE), TechnoServe Uganda, EU-Funded PESCA; EU-Funded MOBIP, SIDA-Funded QUISP and NIRAS Sweden, EU-funded EPA TAPPS and ECORYS-NETHERLANDS, EU-Funded SFP and LAMANS S.A GREECE, ITS-UK, EU-SADC REIS and IBF-BELGIUM, EU-SADC TRF and EU-SADC TFP and GFA-GERMAN, DAI-USA, CHEMONICS-USA, DAI-BELGIUM, ADB Funded EAC-COMESA SADC



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TCBP II, World Bank funded EAAPP, UNIDO-NORAD Funded EAC TCB among other and many ministries, departments and agencies in Uganda and countries in EAC, SADC and Ghana, Sierraleone, Liberia and Gambia.

Going forward Food Safety Associates Limited will continue consolidating its achievements by working and strengthening collaborative relationships with our existing and past collaborators while endeavoring to expand and leverage on new networks. We are focusing on renewing our commitment to enhancing safety and quality of food available for consumption and trade and to realize our vision further, we will improve the internal quality management system for our service delivery among others.

We will work to expand our service scope through our four entities which have since grown into fully fledged departments, with hope that our terrific progress will be sustained and sooner than later; they will run as separate independent organizations to cover the respective service scope much more effectively and better:

### **Food Safety Associates**

Which will remain the arm of Food Safety Associates Limited that deals with consultancy, technical assistance and project and programme management. The focus is to expand the service range and also expand the profile and sizes of the projects and assignments by engaging in direct bidding for projects and assignment with larger funding portfolios by either working as single bidder or participating as consortium leader. To achieve this, FSA will level edge on its highly specialized team of experts, and the knowledge and experience of industry; to widen the client base and attract impactful projects that drive change in agro-food value chain, promote trade and improve health and welfare of consumers.

### **Food Safety Academy**

Food Safety Associates Limited has adjusted the packaging of its cutting edge training courses in food safety, SPS and quality management and control offered by it Food Safety Academy. In the coming five years, the Academy will run all the one-day and 2-day courses off-site; where the courses will be tailored to the needs of the clients and trained at the clients' premises to achieve impact through on-site demonstrations and hands-on training. More so, the pre-scheduled one-day and two-day training courses will be accessed by the rest of our clients through online packaged self-learning courses or virtual training through zoom



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and related software tools. The academy will continue to offer pre-scheduled training for the 3-day and 8-day courses which will be run twice in a year at the Food Safety Associates Limited Headquarters in Ntinda – Kulambiro or other designated venues. The prospective trainees for these 3-day and 8-day courses should look out in the social media, and our websites for adverts on the scheduling of these courses not to miss out on the enrolment and participation. Organizations, Agencies and enterprises that require training in areas of our mandate can approach FSA to develop and tailor courses that meet the knowledge and skills needs of their personnel/work teams. The FSA will endeavor to collaborate and work together with the collaborators to bridge the food safety, SPS and quality related skills gaps in the enterprises, agencies and organization at more affordable and reasonable terms. The future of the Food Safety Academy is a projected transformation into a Food Standards Institute, with capability of transiting into a Diploma awarding and subsequently; Degree awarding institution within 5-10 years

### **National Food Safety Foundation (NFSF)**

Food Safety Associates Limited is working to expand its services in the areas of research and development and conformity assessment. On research and development side, the FSA has established a framework for synchronizing the services offered by the entities so that they can benefit from one another. On this note, amid term research plan covering the research priorities for the next five years will be developed by identifying and implementing research projects that bring to the fore food safety, SPS and quality related issues that inform effective management and control of food safety and quality of products produced, traded and consumed by the different targeted sections of the societies. The data and information generated will be used to facilitate the interventions to enhancing food safety and quality culture in our society undertaken through other entities of FSA

Regarding the conformity assessment, the FSA is taking a bold step to bolster the customers' confidence in its services by subjecting itself to a third party accreditation that will result in international recognition of its credibility to perform as a Certifying Body for food safety and quality management system. Accreditation as a Certifying Body will enable expansion of the FSA services scope to include providing credible inspection, verification, auditing, sampling, testing and certification services as third a party. The accreditation as a food



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safety and quality certifying body will place the organization (NFSF) to international scale hence requiring it to obtain its independent status as a separate company specializing in Research and Development and Conformity Assessment which it is expected to be, sooner than later.

### **Food Safety Advocacy, Promotion and Advocacy Center (FOSAPAC)**

Food Safety Associates Limited through Food Safety Promotion and Advocacy Centre (FOSAPAC) aims to continue working with the stakeholders to take actions that increase the consciousness of food production and value chain operators on the importance and modalities for producing safe food that is fit for human consumption and promoting trade. It will also focus energies to collaboratively raise the awareness of the consumers and general public regarding the dangers associated with safe food and modalities for accessing safe and wholesome food that it fit for human consumption. The FOSAPAC focusses to realize its long-time held vision of being the champion and center for catalyzing food safety and quality-related sensitization and awareness creation activities and to be a fulcrum for inculcating a food safety and quality culture in the African society. This is to be achieved through working with stakeholders to promote, advocate and undertaken awareness raising activities and events on food safety and quality; and producing and disseminating sensitization and awareness raising materials on food safety and quality. To do so, FSA has developed a 10-year strategic plan setting out the strategies, priorities and actions that will be taken to realize the contribution to a food safety and quality conscious society in Africa. The strategy also focusses to transform the FOSAPAC which one of the departments of Food Safety Associates Limited into a Public Company Limited by Guarantees to enable it serve and reach out to impact the communities better.

### **Digital Facility for Food Safety, Standards and Trade (DIFFOSSAT)**

The Food Safety Associates Limited is focused to play a role in digitizing the management and control of food safety and quality within the enterprises and regulatory agencies by leveraging innovations within the ICT areas to facilitate efficiency in implementation of food safety and quality related standards and requirements within the food production and value chain; and streamlining the operations of mandated food safety and SPS regulatory agencies. In the same vein the FSA is focused to digitize the operations relating to domestic and cross-border trade to improve efficiency and facilitate trade by reducing delays related to the slow approvals and clearances that are currently conducted manually. It is



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for this reason that FSA established Digital Facility for Food Safety, Standards and Trade Limited (DIFFOSSAT) as a vehicle for championing its digitization agenda. DIFFOSSAT is still a startup with a large vision of dominating technological innovations in areas that improve food safety and SPS regulatory compliance for African goods in mid-to-long term period.

For more information on how to access Food Safety Associates Limited's (FSA) services, please contact us on:

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E-mail: [Foodsafety@foodsafetyltd.com](mailto:Foodsafety@foodsafetyltd.com)

Or check our website: [www.foodsafetyltd.com](http://www.foodsafetyltd.com)



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