Workshop on Improving Safety of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables in Southeast Asia

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El Cielito Hotel, Santa Rosa City, Laguna
PHILIPPINES
• Production and marketing of fruit and vegetables for domestic and export markets in Southeast Asia
  ➢ A significant source of income for small-scale farmers
  ➢ One of the largest sources of employment in the rural areas
• Rapid industrialization and urbanization with increasing wealth
  ➢ Created increasing demands for fresh fruit and vegetable products which greatly render health benefits for the consumers
• Potential risks of food safety in fresh fruit and vegetables could occur throughout the marketing chain
  ➢ Imprudent application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on cropland during production may result in dangerous levels of chemical residues in fresh horticultural products
  ➢ Fresh fruit and vegetable products could be exposed to harmful biological or chemical contaminants during handling, transportation, storage and retailing
Consumers are likely vulnerable to unsafe fresh horticultural products which may not be apparent in the appearance of the product.
• Importing countries imposed stringent safety standards
  ➢ Rigorous and increasingly demanding
  ➢ Well beyond traditional quality standards
  ➢ Significantly higher than those prevailing in developing countries
  ➢ Subject to frequent changes
  ➢ Often difficult and costly to meet
Imperative to collaboratively work on a strategic framework for the prevention of harmful contamination from farm to plate

- Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)
- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)
- Quality and Safety Assurance System

BACKGROUND and RATIONALE
Suppliers must pay close attention to the responsible use of agrochemicals, energy, water and waste.

Improving the ability to meet food quality and safety standards for fresh fruit and vegetables:

- Facilitate greater international market access
- Reduce the impact of price competition
- Stimulate investment
- Mitigate risks
OBJECTIVES

• To share experiences on policy formulation, regulatory frameworks, monitoring systems, prevailing practices, and research and development to ensure safety of fresh fruit and vegetables
• To formulate collaborative strategic directions to enhance harmonization of safety standards for fresh fruit and vegetables in Southeast Asia
• Extension of promising strategic frameworks, field-tested technologies and monitoring systems related to enhanced food safety of fresh fruit and vegetables

• Partnership contributing to the safety and competitiveness of fresh fruit and vegetables from Southeast Asia

• Recommendations for "ASEAN 2015: Strengthening the Regional Food Safety"
Thank you!

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