SECTORIAL SELF-ASSESSMENT GUIDE (SSAG) FOR THE
FISHERIES SECTOR IN KENYA
WHAT IS EDES?

Launched in 2010, EDES is a cooperation programme managed by COLEACP (Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee) in collaboration with a consortium of European organisations specialising in food safety. The programme is implemented at the request of the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States, and funded by European Union (€ 29.5 million/4 years) in order to support ACP exports sustainably.

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF EDES?

To secure the flow of food products of animal and plant origin towards the EU or between ACP regions and internationally. EDES aims at strengthening the sanitary and phytosanitary systems of ACP countries.

HOW IS EDES WORKING?

EDES focuses on promoting interactions between public authorities at the national level and food business operators in both plant and animal production sectors. Special attention is given to the specific needs of vulnerable groups (small scale producers, farmers and fishermen) so as to contribute to the goals of poverty reduction while at the same time enhancing access to safe food.

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMME?

The program intervenes in both raw and processed food products. It promotes the setting up of a national risk assessment framework as a basis of the establishment for an efficient sanitary and phytosanitary control system. Public and private sector operators will have the capacity and resources to assess that all food sectors from production to consumption are safe.

WHY FISHERIES SECTOR?

Fisheries sector is a major employer in the country with at least 80,000 fishermen and fish farmers directly. The sector also provides livelihoods for about 2.3 million Kenyans involved mainly in fish processing and trade. In the inland waters, Lake Victoria is leading in fish production at 143,908 metric tons followed by Lake Turkana at 4,559 metric tons annually.

Aquaculture has grown exponentially in the last 5 years with an annual growth of 10% per annum, being one of the fastest growing sub-sectors in the country, contributing KES 4,223,471,000 (US $ 49,282,312) to the economy.

Fish export from Kenya is currently contributing KES 4,200,000,000 (US $ 49,008,452) in foreign exchange earnings and the domestic trade in fish and fish products is valued at KES 19,470,579,000 (US $ 227,195,952). In total, the fisheries sector contributes 0.5% to the GDP.

Despite its importance, the sector is still faced by safety and health challenges that include:
• non-compliance with safety requirements resulting in interception of produce in the international market;
• undeveloped aquaculture safety, quality and traceability infrastructure;
• emerging issues related to stringent market access.

WHAT IS A SELF-ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (SAS)?

A set of measures to be applied by the operator in the fisheries sector – fishermen, fish farmers, input suppliers, fish processors, traders and transporters – to ensure that at every stage, the product meet regulatory and markets food safety quality and traceability requirements.

BASIS OF SELF-ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

• Internal and external verification system;
• Each operator verifies their own practices at all stages with regard to compliance to requirements;
• Verification identifies any disfunction, documents non-compliance at each step;
• Compliance proves that food safety requirements are met.

ADVANTAGES OF A SELF-ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The implementation of a self-assessment system benefits food business operators of the sector as well as the Competent Authority. The system:
• ensures safety of fish and fisheries products;
• reduces post harvest losses;
• creates consumer confidence on fish and fish products;
• creates value leading to increased earnings;
• guarantees human safety;
• enhances national, regional and international market opportunities.

RATIONALE FOR A SELF-ASSESSMENT GUIDE (SAG)

Access to safe fish and fish products is a right of each individual and consumers are worried about their safety. Fish and fish products safety issues have in the recent past become important area of concern both nationally and internationally.

The SAG will ensure reduction in the cost of official controls: provide better information to the Competent Authority concerning risks and management measures applied in the fish sub-sector, strengthened public-private dialogue and create a business oriented forum for the fish sub-sector.

WHO ARE THE USERS OF THE SAG?

Beneficiaries of the Sectorial Self-Assessment Guide of Kenyan fisheries sector are:
Capture fisheries: fishermen at the fishing grounds and at landing site;
Aquaculture: fish farmers at hatchery level and at grow out level, input suppliers;
Cross-cutting (capture and culture): fish traders, artisanal fish processors and fish transporters.
WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAG?

All stakeholders in the fish sub-sector in freshwater fish production and aquaculture business in Kenya namely; fishermen, fish farmers, traders, processors (AFIPEK), transporters and service providers. These are represented by Beach Management Units (BMU), Aquaculture Association of Kenya (AAK), Commodity Based Associations, Kenya Fish Processors & Exporters Association (AFIPEK), Competent Authority (MOFD) and relevant Government Departments and collaborators (KEPHIS, NEMA, KEBS).

The stakeholders have been organized into a Steering Committee (SC) for policy directive, Technical Working Group (TWG) for the development of Self-Assessment Guide (SAG) and coordinated by the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee (NFSCC).

The project is supported by the Government of Kenya and funded by EDES-COLEACP program. Your participation and support as a stakeholder is key to development of this tool and its successful implementation.

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