



REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM ON **TRACEABILITY IN FOOD VALUE CHAIN**



February 13-17, 2023 | Mekong Institute, Khon Kaen, Thailand



PROSAFE

BACKGROUND

Food is a very sensitive commodity. It is perishable and sensitive to temperature. Due to various safety risks in the food chain, religious restrictions and cultural practices, consumers demand information about their food. Regulators also require significant amounts of information for trade facilitation and control. Quick and efficient information sharing and exchange is thus important for trade facilitation and in the management of food safety risks to achieve appropriate level of protection (ALOP). Various actors need to exchange information in the complex process of importing and exporting agri-food products. One key tool to facilitate information sharing and exchange about food in the supply chain from farm to table is traceability. Food traceability is also one of the 10 principles of the ASEAN Food Safety Policy.

Faced with the challenges of food safety emergency situations and the importance of food recall at both the national and global levels, many countries have implemented mandatory requirements on product traceability since 2004. It is expected that additional control measures and requirements are likely to be put into place in the future, given growing challenges in the food chain which extends beyond safety into sustainability and social considerations.

Traceability or product tracing applied in a food safety context does not in itself improve food safety outcomes unless it is combined with appropriate measures and requirements. It can contribute to the effectiveness and/or efficiency of associated food safety measures. Traceability is a tool that when applied in a food inspection and certification system can contribute to the protection of consumers against deceptive marketing practices and facilitation of trade on the basis of accurate product description.

Developing countries have become major food producers, exporters and food processing hubs. In ASEAN, countries like Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) have gained market access to developed countries for their agri-food products. They do face challenges at various stages of the food chain to prove compliance with food safety management requirements (domestic and international). One of the issues often raised by stakeholders in the food chain in the CLMV is traceability.

In its pursuit to contribute in improving the food safety measure in the Mekong region, Mekong Institute (MI), through its PROSAFE project, is organizing a Regional Training Program on Traceability in Food Value Chain on **February 13-17, 2023** for relevant agri-food stakeholders in CLMV.

OBJECTIVES

The five-day course is designed to contribute in improving the national food safety control system and food safety management system of food businesses in CLMV by strengthening traceability management system. Specifically, it aims to:

1. Provide a background and overview of traceability measures in food safety and trade facilitation;
2. Strengthen understanding on general food traceability requirements in food laws and for specific food groups;
3. Increase awareness on product identification and management of information that facilitates traceability; and
4. Enhance knowledge on traceability requirements for food business operators (FBOs).

TRAINING MODULES

Module 1 - Introduction to food traceability

This module will provide the basic concepts of traceability, as well as its importance in the agri-food value chain, highlighting food safety and identification. It will also provide the characteristics and types of food traceability.

Contents:

- Traceability overview
- Importance of traceability in the food and agricultural sector
- Characteristics of traceability
- Types of traceability

Module 2 - Traceability for agri-food trade facilitation

This module will emphasize traceability in international and regional trade facilitation such as the ASEAN Food Safety Policies and Principles. The sessions under this module also covers developments in the food traceability tools and systems from simple tagging to use of blockchain, plus the traceability requirements for FBOs.

At the end of the session, the participants will share their product tracing and data requirements for trade. Those from the government will present the common data standards for cross border facilitation, while FBOs will focus on their traceability information management.

Contents:

- Effectiveness of traceability systems
- Traceability and product tracing tools and technology solutions
- Traceability requirements for food businesses
- Sharing of product tracing and data requirements for trade

Module 3 - Traceability development and implementation for food businesses

GS1 traceability standard is widely used for supply chain identification. It provides the common language for traceability solutions to track products from the property to the consumer. At the moment, GS1 is being used by the existing traceability of the government agencies in Southeast Asia, including those in Thailand and Vietnam. For this module, an overview of the GS1 standard and its framework that defines minimum traceability system requirements for companies across industry sectors will be covered.

Contents:

- Overview of the GS1 traceability framework
- Key data elements and requirements for an interoperable traceability system
- Challenges in implementing traceability

Module 4 - Traceability platforms in the Mekong Region

Mekong countries are now working towards food traceability. However, they started developing a traceability platform in different periods. Some, like Thailand and Vietnam, already have sophisticated ones, and others are just starting their development such as Cambodia. In this module, representatives from Mekong countries will be invited to share their platform and experiences on developing and implementing traceability.

Case Studies:

- Best practices from the government with traceability platform
- Best practices from food business operators with existing traceability system
- Learning Visit

Module 5 - Action planning

Action plans are the most important aspect of PROSAFE Regional Training Programs. Participants will share how they plan to implement the lessons learnt in their work leading to a demonstrable change either in the food control system or food establishments.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Food traceability tools are useful to food systems' competent authorities and businesses. In this regard, the training program is targeted at the public and private sector from CLMV. It is especially useful for government officials with food inspection and certification roles such as GMP, GAP, GHP and organic agriculture, as well as FBOs with existing or aiming for the aforementioned certifications.

TRAINING AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITIES	IN-CHARGE
DAY 1 – February 13 (Monday)		
08:30–09:00	Registration	MI Team
09:00–09:10	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn Executive Director Mekong Institute (MI)
09:10–09:15	Group Photo	
09:15–09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mekong Institute and PROSAFE Video Presentations• Presentation on MI Facilities and Logistical Arrangements	MI Team
09:30–10:00	Getting to Know Each Other	
10:00–10:15	Coffee/Tea Break	
10:15–12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring Expectations• Introduction to Program Schedule, Setting the Norms, BOD, Mood Meter, and Suggestion Box• Pre-test	MI Team
12:00–13:30	Lunch	
13:30–15:00	Module 1 - Introduction to food traceability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traceability overview• Importance of traceability in the food and agricultural sector• Characteristics of traceability• Types of traceability	Prof. Chen Wei Ning, William Michael Fam Endowed Professor Nanyang Technological University Singapore
15:00–15:15	Coffee/Tea Break	

15:15–16:45	Module 2 - Traceability for agri-food trade facilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectiveness of traceability systems Traceability and product tracing tools and technology solutions 	Prof. Chen Wei Ning, William
16:45–17:00	BOD Meeting	MI Team and BOD
18:00–20:00	Welcome Dinner	
DAY 2 – February 14 (Tuesday)		
08:30–08:45	Recap of Day 1	BOD
08:45–10:15	Module 2 - Traceability for agri-food trade facilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traceability requirements for food businesses 	Prof. Chen Wei Ning, William
10:15–10:30	Coffee/Tea Break	
10:30–12:00	Module 2 - Traceability for agri-food trade facilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of product tracing and data requirements for trade 	Participants (Chaired by Prof. Chen Wei Ning, William)
12:00–13:30	Lunch	
13:30–15:00	Module 3 - Traceability development and implementation for food businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the GS1 traceability framework 	Mr. Leong Kah Leon Customer Knowledge Competency and Training Support GS1 Malaysia Berhad
15:00–15:50	Coffee/Tea Break	
15:15–16:45	Module 3 - Traceability development and implementation for food businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key data elements for traceability system Activity on key data elements 	Mr. Leong Kah Leon
16:45–17:00	BOD Meeting	MI Team and BOD
17:30–20:00	Central Plaza Khon Kaen	
DAY 3 – February 15 (Wednesday)		
08:30–08:45	Recap of Day 2	BOD
08:45–10:45	Module 3 - Traceability development and implementation for food businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key requirements for an interoperable traceability system 	Mr. Leong Kah Leon
10:45–11:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
11:00–12:00	Module 3 - Traceability development and implementation for food businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity on key requirements Challenges in implementing traceability 	Mr. Leong Kah Leon
12:00–13:30	Lunch	
14:00–17:00	Module 4 - Traceability platforms in the Mekong Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning visit at the Dairy Farming Promotion Organization of Thailand (Northeastern Branch) 	
DAY 4 – February 16 (Thursday)		
08:30–09:00	Recap of Day 3	BOD

09:00-09:45	Module 4 - Traceability platforms in the Mekong Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trace Thai 	Ms. Worapak Thitadilok Director of the Trade System Policy Division Trade Policy and Strategy Office Ministry of Commerce Thailand
09:45-10:30	Module 4 - Traceability platforms in the Mekong Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food traceability system in Vietnam 	Mr. Viet Tran Official Directorate for Standards, Metrology and Quality Ministry of Science and Technology Vietnam
10:30-10:45	Coffee/Tea Break	
10:45-11:30	Module 4 - Traceability platforms in the Mekong Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenovator Myanmar: a traceability platform 	Ms. Yin Yin Phyu Business Development Director and Co-founder Greenovator Myanmar
11:30-12:00	Module 4 - Traceability platforms in the Mekong Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning visit and best practices reflection workshop 	Participants
12:00-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15:00	Module 4 - Traceability platforms in the Mekong Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the reflections 	
15:00-15:15	Break	
15:15-16:45	Module 5 - Action planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops Post-test Course evaluation	
16:45-17:00	BOD Meeting	MI Team and BOD
DAY 5 – February 17 (Friday)		
08:30-08:45	Recap of Day 4	BOD
08:45-10:15	Module 5 Action Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan presentation 	Participants
10:15-10:30	Coffee/Tea Break	
10:30-12:00	Module 5 - Action Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan presentation (cont.) 	Participants
12:00-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15:00	Module 5 - Action Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan presentation (cont.) 	Participants
15:00-15:30	Coffee/Tea Break	
15:30-16:15	Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Report Awarding of Certificates 	

• Reflections of Participants		
16:15-16:25	Closing Remarks	Ms. Maria Theresa S. Medialdia Director Agricultural Development and Commercialization Department MI
16:25-16:30	Group Photo	
17:30–20:00	Farewell Dinner	

CONTACT PERSON

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