



ANNEX C1: Twinning Fiche¹

Project title: Strengthening Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures in Azerbaijan

Beneficiary administration: Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Twining Reference: AZ/17/ENI/AG/01/20

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EU funded project

TWINNING TOOL

(It is recommended that the complete Twinning Fiche should not exceed 10 pages, excluding annexes)

¹ In case of different language versions of the Twinning Fiche it must be clearly indicated which language version prevails.

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ACRONYMS

ABP	Animal Bye Product
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFSA	Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency
AFSI	Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute
AP	Action Plan
BC	Beneficiary Country
CA	Competent Authority
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPT	International Proficiency Testing
MoE	Ministry of Economy
MRL	Maximum Residue Level
MS	Member State
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PAO	Programme Administration Office
PL	Project Leader
PPP	Plant Protection Products
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
RTA	Resident Twinning Adviser
SIGMA	Support for Improvement in Governance & Management
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards
STE	Short Term Expert
TA	Technical Assistance
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange
ToT	Training of Trainers
VMP	Veterinary Medicinal products
WTO	World Trade organization

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Programme: ENI-Annual Action Programme 2017 for the Republic of Azerbaijan: European Union for the Lankaran Region of Azerbaijan (EU4Lankaran). Financing Decision Number 2017 / [040-366](#). Direct Management.

For UK applicants: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement² on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK residents and entities are therefore eligible to participate under this call.*

1.2 Twinning Sector: Agriculture and Fisheries (AG)

1.3 EU funded budget: Maximum amount of the grant is € 1.5 million

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 Overall objective(s)

The overall objective is to contribute to increase the safety of food and feed placed on the market and enhance export opportunities through improved compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

2.2 Specific objective

The specific objective is to strengthen the capacity of the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan to develop and enforce SPS compliant legislation with one focus on food and feed of plant origin.

2.3 The elements targeted in strategic documents i.e. National Development Plan/Cooperation agreement/Association Agreement/Sector reform strategy and related Action Plans

EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) - Partnership Priorities

The EU cooperates with Azerbaijan in the framework of the [European Neighbourhood Policy](#) (ENP) and its eastern regional dimension, the [Eastern Partnership](#). The European Union's

² * Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community

bilateral relations with Azerbaijan are based on the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in force since 1999. The EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement enables gradual approximation of Azerbaijan's legislation and procedures with EU and international trade-related laws and standards. In February 2017, the EU and Azerbaijan began negotiations on a new framework agreement with Azerbaijan designed to give new impetus to political dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Partnership priorities were also endorsed on 28 September 2018 by the Cooperation Council. They set the joint policy priorities that will guide and enhance our partnership over the coming years. Under the pillar economic development and market opportunities partnership priorities include enhancing bilateral trade in all sectors, including via addressing mutual market access with focus on good governance, sustainable development and high environmental standards. The EU supports in this context the process of Azerbaijan's negotiations for the country's membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The earlier EU-Azerbaijan ENP Action Plan defined several priority areas, one of which concerned reforms in the sanitary and phytosanitary system, including veterinary issues, food safety for consumers and facilitation of trade through improved compliance with SPS measures under Section 4.5.1³.

EU – Azerbaijan Cooperation

EU assistance to Azerbaijan aims at improving the quality of life of citizens from Azerbaijan in a tangible and visible manner, by supporting the policy objectives outlined in the Partnership Priorities. EU support is funded through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) for the period 2014-2020. The Single Support Framework (SSF) for EU support to Azerbaijan (2014-2017 and 2018 -2020) defines the scope of assistance more closely with a strong focus on trade and trade facilitation through compliance with international standards, including those of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), especially in the case of agricultural products, with requirements relating to sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The ENI 2017 EU 4 Lankaran annual action programme program includes an action in support of strengthening the SPS system in Azerbaijan with one focus on the fruit and vegetable sector.

Azerbaijan Strategic Roadmap on Production and Processing of Agricultural Products

In diversifying its economy away from a heavy reliance on oil and gas Azerbaijan has embarked on a reform agenda that is underpinned by Strategic Roadmaps on the National Economy and its main constituent sectors. These roadmaps were given the status of state programmes with the presidential decree of 06 December 2016. They contain a detailed plan for one year, an economic development strategy and action plan for the period of 2017-2020 and long-term priorities towards 2025 and beyond. Agriculture has been identified as a key

³ Reference document to be found at: https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/azerbaijan_enp_ap_final_en.pdf.

sector contributing 6.8% to GDP, 6.2 % to export earnings and accounting for 38% of employment. The Strategic Roadmap on Production and Processing of Agricultural Products provides, amongst others, targets and measures that are - to ensure that agricultural policy is evidence based, to create a more enabling environment for agriculture by improving service levels of state institutions as well as access to finance, to enhance productivity and quality of production along the value chain, specifically for crops that have potential for import substitution and export, to meet international food safety standards, to harness the potential of the smallholder sector and improve its access to markets - and to use natural resources sustainably thereby protecting the environment.

Priority 1.3 of the roadmap for the agricultural sector aims to "form a food safety system that covers all stages of the value chain and is based on a risk assessment approach".

State program for 2019-2025 for ensuring food safety in the Republic of Azerbaijan

The State Program on food safety 2019-2025 was adopted by Presidential Decree dated April 29, 2019. The program was developed by the Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency (AFSA) to ensure the implementation of the aforementioned "Strategic Road Map for the Production and Processing of Agricultural Products in the Republic of Azerbaijan". The document identifies twelve priority directions to ensure that a food safety system and plant protection system are implemented in the country in line with international standards, requirements and best practise.

The most relevant for this twinning are:

- Improvement of the food safety related normative legal framework in line with international standards, requirements and best practise;
- Establishment of a registration, approval and certification system (for food and feed business operators) meeting modern food safety requirements;
- Development of a risk-based food safety control system based on scientific evidence;
- Formation of a plant health control system (includes PPP market authorization and control) in accordance with international standards requirements and best practise.

The state programme is underpinned by an action plan identifying lead agencies in charge of implementation, implementation period and output indicators. (c.f. annex V for details)

EU COVID 19 Response

This Twinning contains a strong EU COVID 19 response dimension in that strengthening of SPS measures in Azerbaijan in general and in the AP 2017 programme area of Lankaran in particular is key for international trade facilitation and food safety in the local market. Improvements in the SPS regulatory framework flanked by other measures foreseen under the EU's AP 2017 programme will translate directly into improvement of competitiveness of food producers and processors and strengthen the socioeconomic fabric of rural regions in Azerbaijan in general and the Lankaran region in particular. The latter region is Azerbaijan's foremost fruit and vegetable producer accounting for some crops for 20% of domestic supply.

The region, which borders Iran, is at the same time particularly heavily affected by the restrictions of movement of people and goods because of its geographical location. This SPS Twinning is flanked by an important grant programme which supports amongst others SPS related know how transfer and investment at final beneficiary (producers and processors) level and an important service contract for regional development planning based on fruit and vegetable value chains – thus contributing significantly to the medium and longer term recovery from the negative impact of COVID 19 on the agricultural and specially fruit & vegetable sector and region.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1 Background and justification

The development of a food safety system that meets relevant international requirements has been identified as key in supporting the above described government economic diversification and reform programme. Below follows a summary of state of play of institutional and legislative developments as regards food safety and phytosanitary matters relevant for this twinning as well as a summary of areas requiring additional work to meet international standards in said domains. The focus on safety of food and feed of plant origin and plant protection products are priority subthemes identified by the Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency and supported by the overall theme of the EU4Lankaran Programme which concentrates on territorial development based on enhancing the competitiveness of fruit & vegetable value chains.

Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency

The Agency was established by Presidential Decree on 10th February 2017 as the central competent authority (CA) for food safety. AFSA acts as independent Body under the direct control of the Government unifying what was previously a fragmented food safety mandate including veterinary and phytosanitary controls⁴. With this purpose, the Agency received the regulatory functions of State Veterinary and State Phytosanitary controls from the Ministry of Agriculture, and transfer of veterinary, phytosanitary and sanitary border controls from the State Customs Committee in 2018.

Therefore, the Agency now has the exclusive mandate to address the three areas defined by the SPS Agreement, facilitating the management of the interfaces between them. This becomes of utmost relevance in relation to the possibility to export of agricultural produce originating from Azerbaijan in general and the Lankaran region in particular as the Agency is in charge of issuing the relevant phytosanitary certificates but also implementing the residue monitoring programs necessary to access the market and regulating the approval of pesticides.

⁴ Presidential Decree of 1 May 2018 on Amendments to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan ‘On ensuring activities of the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan’ No 1681 dated 13 November 2017.

As an indicator of the nature and extend of challenge to be addressed, data published by the EU RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) shows the following numbers of consignments exported from Azerbaijan which were rejected by EU BIPs or sampled on the EU market and found non-compliant.

Table 1 Number and type of EU border rejections of produce originating from Azerbaijan

Year	No of consignments rejected	Hazard	Produce
2019 (Jan-Oct)	9	Mycotoxin	Nut fruit, liquorice root
2018	18	Mycotoxin	Nut fruit
2017	18	Mycotoxin	Nut fruit

The results indicate that if Azerbaijan wants to increase variety and volume of agricultural products exported, it needs to strengthen its capacity to prevent unsafe food to be placed on the market. So far, no EU border rejections were recorded in relation to other products of plant origin as currently > 90 % of Azerbaijan agri-food exports to the EU are comprised of dried hazelnuts. Considering that one of the objectives of the State Program for 2019-2025 is to ensure food safety of the Republic of Azerbaijan and enable an increase of exports of Azerbaijan agricultural products including to the EU, it is reasonable to assume that as regards products of plant origin pesticide residues will be one of the challenges to be addressed in the near future.

AFSA is adequately supported by the Azerbaijan Government in terms of financial resources and staff. It started to build its capacity with the EU funded project AP 2013 “Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Government of Azerbaijan for Official Control of Food and Feed Safety” that ended in 2018 but additional capacity building is needed, being a newly established body, in the following areas: (i) Further alignment of secondary food safety legislation on food hygiene and official controls; (ii) Development of legislative framework and system of PPPs marketing authorization and control; (iii) Developing monitoring programmes for pesticide residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances; (iv) Developing IT based Phytosanitary Information System..

Authorization, marketing and control of pesticides

Limited data is available about the use of pesticides in the field: effective control system is not yet fully established; no monitoring program is in place and farmers have limited access

to information on sustainable use of pesticides. Furthermore, no data collection system is in place in relation to the use of pesticides.

The registration of the operators involved in marketing of plant protection products is requested only for the wholesalers and the retailers (agro-pharmacies) while no rules are in place for the users. No registers are available at central level and, despite the obligation, only few operators working in the phytosanitary sector are registered. In this condition, it is very difficult to prepare annual control plans as the primary information is missing.

Intensive agriculture is a sector with high input of plant protection products and considering that this sector in Azerbaijan is expected to increase soon, it is reasonable to estimate an increase of the risk of pesticide residues in food. The capacity of Azerbaijan in regulating the authorization and marketing of plant protection products should be built further. Support in strengthening the system of authorization and control of use of pesticides is also necessary.

Official controls

The Law on Regulation of Business Inspections and Protection of Interests of Business, under the Ministry of Economy (28.08.2015), impacts directly on official control of food safety as currently implemented by the AFSA. Many of the features are in line with good inspection practices, for example: inspections must be financed by the inspecting body; electronic records of inspections should be kept; and inspections should be conducted based on checklists and procedures.

However, its amendment in the short term is recommended in line with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 as certain provisions are still not harmonized (i.e. the announcement of official controls requires currently 5-day advance notice of inspections). Proposals to this effect were developed by the EU funded project “Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Government of Azerbaijan for Official Control of Food and Feed Safety”.

Plant Protection products

The current regulation for registration, import, testing and use of plant protection products is very general when compared to the corresponding EU Regulation. This Regulation describes registration and marketing steps for both active substances and preparations. Some major deficiencies and amendments to be done are listed below:

- Requirements of importers/producers: very general requirements are listed. There is a lack of standards for importers, producers, distributors;
- Documents: in the current legislation some required documents for importation, registration and marketing are listed. However, these lists should be more detailed;
- Classification: definitions used should be revised and approximated to the EU legislation;
- Provisions for labelling and traceability shall be introduced;

- Marketing: requirements regarding the marketing stages of plant protection products are missing. The eligibility of dealers, marketing conditions should be explained in detail;
- Transparency: during efficacy testing of new plant protection products, the list of Standard Trial Protocols should be published, and trials should be done according to these protocols.
- Control: regular market control of plant protection products is necessary to control collection from market and test physical and chemical properties for a confident use of plant protection products.

Pesticide residues, undesired substances and contaminants

AFSA oversees developing and implementing the monitoring plans for residues and other undesired substances and contaminants. The legislation related to the control of pesticide residues in food is not aligned with EU Regulation 396/2005 as well as legislation on other undesired and forbidden substances is partially aligned with Council Directive 96/23/EC and EU Regulation 1881/2006 while monitoring programs are not available.

Support is needed in the alignment of legislation and development of the guidelines and procedures for drafting and implementing the monitoring plans based on the legislation mentioned above. The availability of the monitoring plan and related guidelines are one of the pre-requisites that must be in place to guarantee the safety of national consumers and harness export opportunities.

Food contact materials and food additives

No legislation is in place for the authorization of food additives and food contact material. Support is needed for drafting and implementing the related legislation with special reference to the material that is going to be used for packing the fruit and vegetables and the additives that are going to be used to extend the shelf life of the produces with one focus on export.

Registration and approval of establishments

Among all the priorities contained in the State programme 2019-2025 for food safety, the improvement of the procedures for registration and approval of establishments where any stages of production, processing and distribution of food and feed is carried out with the view of international practice is one of the sectors where AFSA is responsible.

The agency started to develop the registers and the provisions for registration are available although not fully compliant with international standards. As example, there are no provisions for registration of establishments processing plant origin material (i.e. juice industry) that sells by-products as feed material (dried pulp). The increased agricultural production will create the conditions for the development of processing industries and the availability of by products that could be turned in feed materials thus increasing the overall

profitability of this sector. This is particularly relevant for the possible introduction in the food chain of residue of pesticides through the feed.

The development of organic agriculture as well as the traditional agriculture, both promoted by EU programmes, will increase the demand of organic fertilizers or soil improvers produced/imported by specific operators. Some of the fertilizer may be produced by composting plants using by-products of plant or animal origin. The current legislation does not include any provisions regarding the authorization of such operators and the requirements that must be fulfilled in terms of premises and equipment.

International standards require a system for registration of the operators mentioned above to guarantee that adequate controls to prevent the spreading of diseases and ensuring food/feed safety are carried out.

Human Resource Development

Whilst AFSA possesses staff with relevant qualifications, all have limited experience of food safety control systems in line with international requirements. The agency is going to develop and implement a Continuous Professional Development Programme in the forthcoming years, but it is necessary to provide initial trainings (ToT) to the staff core group in different disciplines such as:

- Procedures for registration, import, testing and use of plant protection products;
- Preparation and implementation of monitoring plans for pesticide residues and other contaminants;
- Official control technique;
- Authorization and labelling of additives to be used in fruit/vegetable processing industry and materials and articles in contact with food with special reference to packing materials for fruit and vegetables.

Data management system

AFSA is currently developing the internal IT system for the overall data collection and management. The part of the system related to plant health, marketing authorization of PPPs and control of the use in the field (pesticide residue monitoring program) is not yet developed thus requiring specific support.

Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute in Baku

The Institute was established in 2018 under AFSA and together with its 18 regional branches (among which 6 are in Baku) it is in charge for the analysis of the samples collected by AFSA inspectors for verification of compliance with SPS requirements.

More than 800 staff with different academic background are employed in the central laboratory and in the regional branches. The central laboratory in Baku acts as National Reference Laboratory for food and feed safety in Azerbaijan. Details about the structure are provided in the Annex 4b.

One of the regional laboratories that will benefit from the twinning support is in Lankaran. It was built in 2018 and it is fully equipped with HPLC for the analysis of residues and contaminants in food and feed. This laboratory is expected to manage the greatest part of the workload resulting from the increased number of samples collected in the national market and exported agricultural produces.

The laboratory is adequately equipped and with motivated young staff but, due to lack of experience, support is needed in the development, validation and accreditation of new methods of analysis to widen the detection capacity in agricultural produces for residues of banned pesticides and for verification of MRL for those authorized. Training is needed to update the knowledge of the staff in relation to international requirements for official laboratories including ISO 17025 and proficiency testing. C.f. list of analysis performed and methods is available in the Annex 6.

Laboratory capacity and authorization

Procedure for the authorization of Governmental official laboratories and authorized private laboratories by AFSA is not yet in place. As part of its mandate, the Agency shall define the requirements and the procedure for the authorization of official laboratories and shall prepare the necessary procedures.

The current capacity of laboratories to perform analysis of pesticide residues, contaminants and undesired substances in foodstuffs is limited and does not cover all the substances foreseen by EU legislation. Support is therefore needed to develop, validate and train the laboratory staff on additional methods for detection of pesticide residues. Furthermore, requirement for assistance has been identified in a variety of other topics:

- Improvement of pesticide residue analysis methods as well as mycotoxin and heavy metal screening;
- Assistance in obtaining standard reference materials for ensuring the accuracy of physical and chemical and toxicological examinations for microbiological tests;
- Assistance in identification and participation to IPT.

Similarly, the Food Safety Institute in Baku is setting up a Continuous Professional Development Programme for the laboratory staff: so far, the training needs identified are related to further introduction to the EU and international best laboratory practices such as:

- Principles of ISO 17025;
- Procedures for development and validation of new laboratory methods and internal methods already in use;
- Proficiency testing and calibration.

As for AFSA, the ToT approach is the most indicated to guarantee long term sustainability.

3.2 Ongoing reforms

Adoption of new Law on food safety

The current Law on Food Products of November 18, 1999 No.759-IQ sets out the main legislation concerning the safety and quality of food products, the organization of production and the market, and the framework for a secure food supply. However, this is out of date and describes a system of control, which does not meet the requirements of the SPS Agreement for risk-based controls.

A new Law on Food Safety, currently in the process of adoption, is going to replace the Law on food products as mandated in the Presidential Decree of 10th February 2017. The new law was drafted in 2017 and 2018 with the support of technical assistance from the EU and is expected to be in place by the time this Twinning Project is launched. The law contains the following features:

- Food and feed placed on the market should be safe;
- Food & feed business operators are primarily responsible for safety of food and feed produced;
- Controls should be applied from primary production up to and including the offering for sale or supply of foodstuffs to the final consumer;
- Traceability shall be guaranteed from primary production till final consumer;
- Food business operators should apply principles of hazard analysis and measures necessary to prevent, eliminate or reduce hazards to acceptable levels;
- Measures should be designed with reference to international standards and best practices - all activities for the safety of food are designed and implemented with consideration of international standards and practices;
- Power to regulate a wide range of food safety and food hygiene issues through secondary regulations is provided.

Transfer of laboratories to the AFSA

On the 26th January 2018, the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On additional measures for ensuring the activities of the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan” effected the transfer of several laboratories, their staff and assets to the AFSA. The laboratories were transferred into the Food Safety Institute, a subsidiary body of the AFSA. The Institute is currently working on increasing its capacity to perform all the analysis of pesticide residues, contaminants and undesired substances in foodstuffs as foreseen by EU legislation.

Creation of National bodies providing risk assessment and scientific advice

Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute carries out researches on food safety, conducts risk assessment, issues scientific opinion and supports AFSA in preparing the draft technical legal acts on food safety. The institute has been established recently and it is currently increasing its capacity to perform risk assessment. Internet portal is currently under preparation and once finalized will be used for posting all information and research related to risk assessment. The Institute has been officially appointed as risk assessment body in the frame of the risk-based food safety system that AFSA is setting up in compliance with international requirements.

3.3 Linked activities

The below projects support/ed AFSA in the field of food safety and phytosanitary matters. An active donor coordination mechanism led by AFSA ensures that there is no overlap of actions to be developed under this Twinning with those supported by other donors.

- AP 2013 EU funded project “Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Government of Azerbaijan for Official Control of Food and Feed Safety” has assisted with the drafting of the new food law and the establishment of AFSA and the AFSA Institute. It has moreover drafted proposals for FBO registration, a general hygiene regulation and a regulation on state controls, this establishing a new legal framework for the commencement of basic food safety controls of food business operators. Ended May 2019.
- AP 2013 EU funded “Support and Strengthening Capacity of the WTO Department of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan” included work on establishing an SPS inquiry point at AFSA in 2019. Ended 02/2020.
- AP 2013 EU funded project “Support to the State Phytosanitary Control Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan in drafting Twinning project fiche”. Ended 2014
- IFC funded project: “Azerbaijan Investment Climate and Agribusiness Competitiveness Project”. Advises the GoAZ on preparation of reforms of the entire food inspections system, including development of an automated inspection management system. Implementation period : 2017- 2020.
- World Bank funded project: “Agricultural Competitiveness Improvement Project” Implementation Period 2014-2020. This component aims to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of sanitary and phytosanitary services in order to reduce existing obstacles to agricultural and food trade. The component will be structured into following three sub-components: (i) food safety capacity building to establish a roadmap for comprehensive reforms, including key principles for the national food safety control policy and enforcement; (ii) upgrading plant health and phytosanitary system will support upgrading the State Phytosanitary Control Services (SPCS) which is mandated to ensure phytosanitary safety on the import, production, storage, and processing of plant and plant products; and (iii) animal health and veterinary services

will support the strengthening the State Veterinary Services (SVS) and promotion of a complementary private veterinary sectors as key elements being considered to provide a suitable environment for improving and securing animal production.

More Details about the support provided by EU funded and other projects and their relevance for this twinning are available in the Annex 7.

3.4 List of applicable *Union acquis*/standards/norms

- Regulation (EU) № 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. The corresponding National legislation is the Law 2006 No. 102-III on Phytosanitary Control in the Republic of Azerbaijan as last amended on 21 December 2010. The law is not fully harmonized with EU provisions;
- Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products; The corresponding National legislation is the Regulation of Business Inspections and Protection of Interests of Business, under the Ministry of Economy (28.08.2015). The law is not fully harmonized with EU provisions;
- Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products. The corresponding National legislation is the State Standard No. AZS 841-2015 for maximum residue limits and risk management recommendations for residues of veterinary drugs in foods;
- Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin;
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 of 19 December 2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs;
- Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs providing for registration of food business operators;
- Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin, providing for approval of certain food business operators;
- Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition;

- Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and defining the criteria for registration and approval of operators;
- Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 (cons 28.10.2019);
- Regulation 1129/2011 (amending Regulation 1333/2008) Union List of Food Additives

Details of Azerbaijani SPS legislation are summarized in Annex 2.

3.5 Components and results per component

The project will be implemented in four components, namely i) Food Safety Legislation; ii) Marketing authorization and control of Plant Protection Products; iii) Development of residue monitoring programs; iv) IT based phytosanitary information system. The following components and linked mandatory results are foreseen:

Component 1: Food safety legislation

Result 1: National secondary food safety legislation further aligned with the EU Acquis

Indicators of achievement:

- Report on the current status of alignment of national food safety legislation with EU legislation on food hygiene and official controls including gap analysis (by month 3);
- 10 priority food safety secondary legislation drafts developed and approved by AFSA – and addressing specific food safety issues focusing, inter alia, on: official control, residues of pesticide in food and feed, contaminants, registration and approval of establishments and operators (animal by products operators, feed, pesticides distributors), authorization of food additives, materials and articles in contact with food (by the end of the project);
- 100% of risk management and legal staff of AFSA trained on and familiar with legal basis and implementation on the EU Acquis for, pesticide residues, food contact material, food additives and contaminants and related official controls (by the end of the project);
- 10 % of inspectors trained on and familiar with legal basis and implementation of the EU Acquis for, pesticide residues, food contact material, food additives and contaminants and related official controls and ready to train the remaining part of inspectors according to the ToT approach (by the end of the project).

Component 2: Marketing authorization and control of Plant Protection Products

Result 2: Proposal for legislative framework and system of PPPs marketing authorization and control developed and approved by AFSA

Indicators of achievements:

- Report on the current status of national legislation on marketing authorization and control of PPPs as regards alignment with relevant EU legislation and including gap analysis prepared and approved by AFSA (by month 3);
- One legal draft aligning the national legislation on marketing authorization and control of plant protection products with EU Reg. No1107/2009 developed and approved at AFSA level (by month 12);
- Proposal for a system for granting marketing authorization and effecting control of PPPs compliant with provisions of EU Reg. No 1107/2009 developed and approved at AFSA level (by month 15);
- 100% of relevant AFSA staff in charge for authorization of PPPs trained on and familiar with EU legislation and procedures of authorization of PPPs (by month 15);
- 10 % of phytosanitary inspectors trained on - and familiar with EU legislation on pesticides and control of marketing authorization and ready to train the remaining part of inspectors according to the ToT approach (by month 24).

Component 3: Development of residue monitoring programs based on legislation developed under component 1 and 2

Result 3: Proposal for monitoring programmes for pesticide residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances in products of plant origin (with one focus on export destined products) developed and approved at AFSA level - and its implementation assisted.

Indicators of achievement:

- National Monitoring Plan compliant with EU provisions on pesticide residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances in or on food and feed of plant origin developed and approved by AFSA(month 9) - and its implementation assisted (month 12 to month 24);
- 100% of relevant AFSA staff in charge of preparation of monitoring plans on pesticides residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances in or on food and feed of plant origin trained on - and familiar with relevant EU legislation and procedures (by month 10);

- Three new methods for analysis of pesticide residues in or on food and feed of plant origin developed and validated (by month 15);
- Competences and capacities of Central Food Safety Laboratory in Baku and Regional Laboratory in Lankaran upgraded with focus on ISO 17025 requirements, validation of methods, calibration of laboratory equipment, and proficiency testing (throughout project duration with interim milestones to be developed in workplan. By month 24).

Component 4: IT based phytosanitary information system

Result 4: Proposal for IT based Phytosanitary Information System developed and approved by AFSA

Indicators of achievements:

- Proposal of the content and structure of IT data collection system to be used by AFSA relevant staff for collection of plant health data, PPPs marketing authorization and control of PPPs use including requirements for the hardware platform developed and approved by AFSA (by month 8);
- Functional specifications of IT data collection system drafted, approved by AFSA and presented to AFSA IT department for implementation (by month 15).

3.6 Means/input from the EU Member State Partner Administration(s)

The MS partner administration will provide the Project Leader (MS PL), the Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) and a team of short-term experts to support the implementation of project activities.

The RTA will be supported by an assistant that will handle administrative arrangements for conferences, training, seminars, etc. including provision of interpreters and the ensuring of translations.

A full-time interpreter/translator may also be recruited in Azerbaijan and funded by the project. (S)he will perform most of the required interpretation/translation services. Additional interpretation may be procured and funded by the project under special circumstances such as simultaneous interpretation.

3.6.1 Profile and tasks of the PL:

The Project Leader (PL) from the MS should be a high-ranking civil servant or an equivalent senior manager in a MS national body with sufficient work experience in the field relevant to the project and backing at political level.

Basic Skill Requirements

- University level education or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in a field relevant to this assignment
- Very good spoken and written English (at least level 2 on a scale of 1 [excellent] to 5 [basic]);
- Minimum of 3 years of professional experience, at a senior management level, in her/his national or regional food safety administration;
- Work experience at policy level, proven contractual relation to public administration.

Assets

- Civil servant in a MS CA for food safety structured in form of an Agency/Authority;
- Experience in EU funded project management, ideally twinning;
- Knowledge of EU plant protection products legislation and/or residue monitoring and/or official controls;

Tasks to be completed

- Overall coordination and managing of the implementation of the project in cooperation with the BC PL; monitoring and evaluating the progress against the project benchmarks, budget and outputs and implementation of corrective measures if necessary
- Participation in Steering Committee meetings

3.6.2 Profile and tasks of the RTA:

(S) he will reside for the entire implementation period in Azerbaijan and work full-time for the project. The RTA is expected to be actively involved in the implementation of all project activities.

Basic Skill Requirements

- University degree in disciplines relevant to food safety and/or related subject or equivalent professional experience of at least 8 years;
- Minimum of 3 years of working experience in EU MS administration responsible for the implementation of food safety and/or phytosanitary policy;
- Very good spoken and written English (at least level 2 on a scale of 1 [excellent] to 5 [basic]);

Assets

- Civil servant in a MS CA for food safety structured in form of Agency/Authority;

- Experience in capacity building and ideally twinnings
- Experience in organisation of food inspection and control services, and residue monitoring;

Tasks

- Day to day management of the project in the beneficiary institution;
- Assist with organization of visibility events (kick-off and final event);
- Assist with organization and participation to Steering Committee meetings;
- Providing technical advice on EU policies and best practices;
- Networking with institutions relevant to this project in Azerbaijan and in EU MS
- Preparation of ToRs for the Short-Term Experts and assist with their missions;
- Assist with planning of study visits to MS-countries administrations;
- Liaising with the BC Project Leader and RTA Counterpart on regular basis;
- Liaising with the EU Delegation and the PAO of Azerbaijan;
- Reporting to the MS-Project Leader.

3.6.3 Profile and tasks of Component Leaders (component 1 - 4)

Basic Skill Requirements:

- University level education or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in a discipline relevant to the component of the twinning for which the candidate is proposed;
- Minimum 3 years of experience at an operational level in relevant MS food safety CA or mandated body in a field relevant for the component for which the candidate is proposed;
- Very good spoken and written English (at least level 2 on a scale of 1 [excellent] to 5 [basic]);

Assets:

- Experience in capacity building and ideally twinnings
- Azerbaijani, Turkish or Russian language skills.

Tasks:

- Coordination and implementation of the project activities related to their component in close cooperation with the BC component leader, RTA and RTA counterpart
- Preparation of Terms of Reference (ToR) for short term expert missions relevant to their component and overseeing the implementation of STE missions.
- Continually monitoring objective achievements related to their component and comparing actual progress with the specified benchmarks and time-frame
- Support RTA in preparation of the interim, quarterly and final reports related to their component

3.6.4 Profile and tasks of other short-term experts

The STEs should be identified by the Project Leader/RTA and will be agreed with the Beneficiary Administration during the negotiation phase of the Twinning contract and following these indicative (but not exclusive) areas: Legal drafting, residue monitoring program preparation and implementation, laboratory analysis, PPPs marketing authorization, IT database and software development

Basic Skill Requirements

- University level education or equivalent professional experience of 8 years in a scientific discipline relevant to the assignment
- Minimum 3 years of experience at an operational level in relevant MS food safety CA or mandated body;
- Very good spoken and written English (at least level 2 on a scale of 1 [excellent] to 5 [basic]);

Assets

- Experience in capacity building and ideally twinnings
- Azerbaijani, Turkish or Russian language skills.

Tasks

- Provision of specific expertise defined in a ToR
- Know-how transfer according to the ToR prepared by the RTA and BC
- Reporting on missions and including detailed recommendations for follow up

4. BUDGET

Maximum Budget available for the Grant is EUR 1,500,000.

5. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting

The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan (EUD) in Baku, Azerbaijan will be responsible for the tendering, contracting, payments and financial reporting. EUD will work in close co-operation with the Beneficiary.

Address: Landmark III, 11th Floor, 90A, Nizami str.
AZ 1010 Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
<http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan>

The persons in charge of the project at the EUD are:

Mrs. Simona Gatti

Head of Cooperation/Minister Counsellor

Tel. +994 12 497 20 63 (ext. 853)

Simona.Gatti@eeas.europa.eu

Mr. Rainer Freund

Programme Manager

Tel. +994 12 497 20 63 (ext.846)

Rainer.Freund@eeas.europa.eu

Mrs. Milena Mitevova

Head of Contracts, Audit and Finance

Tel. +994 12 497 20 63 (ext.830)

DELEGATION-AZERBAIJAN-FCA-SECTION@eeas.europa.eu

5.2 Institutional framework

The Twinning project will be coordinated by the International Relations and Protocol Department, under the AFSA Deputy Chairman. This unit will be responsible for ensuring that AFSA staff contribute to the project activities to the full extent necessary. It will also coordinate the activities with Regional Laboratory in Lankaran.

5.3 Counterparts in the Beneficiary administration

The PL and RTA counterparts will be staff of the Beneficiary administration and will be actively involved in the management and coordination of the project.

5.3.1 Contact person:

Programme Administration Office in Azerbaijan (PAO)

Inara Mustafayeva Acting Director of PAO

Acting Head of the Department on Cooperation with International organizations
&

Ms. Gunel QULIYEVA, PAO Manager

Department on Cooperation with International organizations

Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

6th floor, Government House,

84 Uzeyir Hajibayli str.

Baku, AZ 1000

Republic of Azerbaijan

AFSA

Mr. Fuad Mardiyev

Head of International relations and Protocol Department of Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Heydar Aliyev 185B, Nizami dist., Baku AZ 1029

5.3.2 PL counterpart

Mr. Rufat Rustamzade

Deputy Chairman of Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Heydar Aliyev 185B, Nizami dist., Baku AZ 1029

5.3.3 RTA counterpart & Component leaders' counterparts

RTA counterpart:

Mr. Elkhhan Mikayilov

Advisor to the Chairman at Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Heydar Aliyev 185B, Nizami dist., Baku AZ 1029

Beneficiary Component leader for Component 1 and 3:

Mrs. Valida Sadikhova

Deputy Head of Food safety Department at Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Heydar Aliyev 185B, Nizami dist., Baku AZ 1029

Beneficiary Component leader for Component 2:

Mrs. Khayala Dadashova

Head of Plant Health Department at Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Heydar Aliyev 185B, Nizami dist., Baku AZ 1029

Beneficiary Component leader for Component 4:

Mr. Rashad Khaligov

Head of Information technologies and innovative solutions Division of Information support and innovative solutions Department at Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Heydar Aliyev 185B, Nizami dist., Baku AZ 1029

6. DURATION OF THE PROJECT

The execution period of the project shall be 27 months (24 months implementation period + 3 months closure period).

7. MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

7.1 Language

The official language of the project is the one used as contract language under the instrument (English). All formal communications regarding the project, including interim and final reports, shall be produced in the language of the contract.

7.2 Project Steering Committee

A project steering committee (PSC) shall oversee the implementation of the project. The main duties of the PSC include verification of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results/outputs chain (from mandatory results/outputs per component to impact), ensuring good coordination among the actors, finalising the interim reports and discuss the updated work plan. Other details concerning the establishment and functioning of the PSC are described in the Twinning Manual.

7.3 Reporting

All reports shall have a narrative section and a financial section. They shall include as a minimum the information detailed in section 5.5.2 (interim reports) and 5.5.3 (final report) of the Twinning Manual. Reports need to go beyond activities and inputs. Two types of reports are foreseen in the framework of Twinning: interim quarterly reports and final report. An interim quarterly report shall be presented for discussion at each meeting of the PSC. The narrative part shall primarily take stock of the progress and achievements *via-à-vis* the mandatory results and provide precise recommendations and corrective measures to be decided by in order to ensure the further progress.

8. SUSTAINABILITY

The achievements of a Twinning project (from results per component to impacts) should be maintained as a permanent asset to the Beneficiary administration even after the end of the Twinning project implementation. This presupposes *inter alia* that effective mechanisms are put in place by the Beneficiary administration to disseminate and consolidate the results of the project.

As concerns Twinning projects that includes support to development of sector policies (strategies and action plans), development of new legislation or amendments (especially Union *acquis*), the sustainability of mandatory results/outputs is best ensured by ensuring that policy and legislative proposals are backed up by at least basic impact assessments (regulatory, fiscal) and they are consulted with both internal and external stakeholders (inter-

ministerial and public consultations), as required by Beneficiary country legislation. Sufficient time should be allocated to this preparatory work during the project, and fast-track adoption procedures of legislation should be avoided, because they risk implementation and enforcement of future legislation. Since results should be sustained the Beneficiary should describe how they in their budget planning (Medium-Term Business Planning (MTBP) or alike) have planned necessary resources ensuring the sustainability.

All results to be delivered under this Twinning are firmly rooted in Azerbaijan's State program for 2019-2025 years for ensuring food safety of the Republic of Azerbaijan and have as such full political support and planned resource allocation. Nonetheless, sustainability is highly dependent of the commitment of the beneficiaries: the nomination of a responsible person within the AFSA, for each component of the project, will be requested to coordinate and promote the Twinning activities during the implementation of the project.

The sustainability of legislation developed under Component 1 of the project will be guaranteed by their formal adoption into law. PPPs marketing authorization developed under Component 2 and Residue monitoring systems developed under Component 3 should be sustained by an ongoing budgetary provision from the AFSA. IT system developed under component 4 shall be supported by adequate financial resources allocated by AFSA or, as it is currently planned, using resources under ENI.

9. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Increased regulation of food production will be expected to impact rural employment in SME agricultural and food enterprises which may not have the technical and financial resources for compliance. There is a high proportion of women engaged in small scale rural agri-food enterprises who could be disenfranchised by an over-zealous application of stringent new sanitary measures.

Regulatory impact assessments as already described under the sustainability chapter should be undertaken with a view to ensuring that appropriate mechanisms are in place to provide financial support for regulatory adaptation to relevant business operators. Both, the development of EU compliant legislation on PPP market authorization and control and monitoring of residues will by default have a positive impact on the environment and public health.

The twinning foresees workshops and roundtables to present and obtain feedback from stakeholders on proposed legislation. Interaction with the private sector and civil society organizations is foreseen in this context and underpinning and initiative by AFSA to establish a formal platform for consultation.

The proposed project will comply with EU equal opportunity policies. Great attention will be given to the equality principle in the training of AFSA personnel and the recruitment of the STEs.

10. CONDITIONALITY AND SEQUENCING

This project is embedded in an enabling government sector strategy and legal approximation plan. Its implementation is not contingent on the arrival of outputs of other projects or other events not under its control.

11. INDICATORS FOR PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

There are no issues pertaining to either conditionality or sequencing. Please refer to 3.5 above for indicators of achievement.

12. FACILITIES AVAILABLE

The AFSA will provide the RTA and other MS experts with office space in its main building in Baku, equipment (computers, printer, telephone and internet access) and other provisions as stated in the Common Twinning Manual.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

Annex 1 Simplified Logical Framework (in case of discrepancies with main text the latter prevails)

Annex 2 List of relevant Azerbaijani laws and regulations in SPS sector

Annex 3 Reference to relevant Government Strategic plans and studies

Annex 4 Existing donor coordination framework

Annex 1 Simplified Logical Framework (in case of discrepancies with main text the latter prevails)

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX	Project number: AZ/17/ENI/AG/01/20			Beneficiary administration: AFSA	
	Contracting period expires 13/11/2021				
	Total budget		€1,500,000	Execution period (FD) expires 13/11/2024	
Overall objective (IMPACT)	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI) (with relevant baseline and target data)	Sources of Verification	Risks	Assumptions	
Contribute to increase the safety of food placed on the market and export opportunities through improved compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of food and feed operators compliant with EU/SPS requirements per year % of food consumers and food/feed business operators involved in operations at all stages of food chain aware about food safety issues % of border rejections of food exported by Azerbaijan per year (baseline 18 rejections in 2018) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFSA reports and registers Statistical records RASFF reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources allocated to AFSA insufficient Resources, awareness and skills of growers and FBOs insufficient No CSO capacity in this domain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government remains committed to implement the state program 2019-2025 for ensuring food safety of the Republic of Azerbaijan 	
Specific objective (OUTCOME)	Objectively verifiable indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification	Risks	Assumptions	
Strengthen the capacity of the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan to develop and enforce SPS compliant legislation with one focus on food and feed of plant origin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new legislation/compliant with SPS measures standards per year (minimum 2 new legislation/year); % of food and feed of plant origin operators with one focus on the fruit & vegetable value chain operators compliant with new legislation and registered on whole territory of Azerbaijan (minimum increase of 10% per year); Risk based Monitoring program for pesticide residues, contaminants and other undesired substances with one focus on food and feed of plant origin (emphasis on export commodities incl. the fruit & vegetable value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Journal Annual report on official control activity and other activities carried out by AFSA Register of operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial and human Resources allocated by AFSA insufficient to develop the foreseen activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate financial and human resources made available to AFSA for the development and implementation of SPS compliant standards and monitoring program AFSA staff fully committed to achieve the planned results. 	

	chain) in place			
Mandatory Results OUTPUTS	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification	Risks	Assumptions
Result 1: National secondary food safety legislation further aligned with the EU Acquis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the current status of food safety legislation and gap analysis in the context of approximation to EU Acquis for food hygiene conditions and official controls (by month 3); 10 priority food safety legislation drafts addressing specific food safety issues focusing, inter alia, on: official control, residue of pesticides, contaminants, registration and approval of establishments and operators (animal by products operators, feed, pesticides distributors), authorization of food additives, materials and articles in contact with food (by the end of the project); 100% of risk management and legal staff of AFSA familiar with legal basis and implementation of the EU Acquis for pesticide residues, food contact material, food additives and contaminants and related official controls (by the end of the project); 10 % of inspectors familiar with legal basis and implementation on the EU Acquis for, pesticide residues, food contact material, food additives and contaminants and related official controls and ready to train the remaining part of inspectors according to the ToT approach (by the end of the project). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Journal Project reports AFSA Chairman Register of operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of commitment from the managers/high level decision-making of the beneficiary institutions and relevant personnel to participate in the activities of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment from lawmakers to reviewing and improving legislation to enable direct support measures to be adopted Adequate resources made available to AFSA to face the increase workload deriving from the new legislation.
Result 2: Proposal for legislative framework and system of PPPs marketing authorization and control developed and approved by AFSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the current status of marketing authorization of PPPs legislation and gap analysis in the context of approximation to the EU related legislation (by month 3); 1 legal draft aligning the national legislation on marketing authorization of plant protection products with EU Reg. No1107/2009 (by month 12); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reports AFSA Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of commitment from the managers/high level decision-making of the beneficiary institutions and relevant personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate resources made available to AFSA to face the increase workload deriving from the new legislation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for a system for granting marketing authorization of PPPs (by month 15); • 100% of relevant AFSA staff in charge for authorization of PPPs familiar with EU legislation and procedures on authorization of PPPs (by month 15 through to end of project); • 10 % of inspectors familiar with EU legislation on pesticides and ready to train the remaining part of inspectors according to the ToT approach (by month 15 through to end of the project). 		to participate in the activities of the project	
Mandatory Results OUTPUTS	Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVI)	Sources of Verification	Risks	Assumptions
Result 3: Proposal for monitoring programmes for pesticide residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances in products of plant origin (with one focus on export destined products) developed and approved at AFSA level - and its implementation assisted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Monitoring Plan draft compliant with EU provisions on pesticides residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances in fruit and vegetables (month 9) - and its implementation assisted (until month 24); • 100% of relevant AFSA staff in charge for preparation of monitoring plans on pesticides residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances in fruit and vegetables familiar with EU legislation and procedures (by month 10); • 3 new methods for analysis of pesticide residues developed and validated (by month 15); • Competences and capacities of Central food safety laboratory in Baku and Regional laboratory in Lankaran upgraded with focus on ISO 17025 requirements, validation of methods, calibration of laboratory equipment, and proficiency testing (by month 24). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project reports • List of validated laboratory methods • Testing laboratory results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of commitment from the managers/high level decision-making of the beneficiary institutions and relevant personnel to participate in the activities of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate resources made available to AFSA to implement the monitoring plan; • Adequate resources made available to official laboratories for development of new methods and their validation

<p>Result 4:</p> <p>Proposal for IT based Phytosanitary Information System developed and approved by AFSA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal of the content and structure of IT data collection system to be used by AFSA relevant staff for collection of plant health data, PPPs marketing authorization and control of PPPs use including requirements for the hardware platform developed (by month 8); • Functional Specifications of IT data collection system (by month 15). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project reports • AFSA management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unavailability of adequate staff and funds for the implementation of the proposal may jeopardize the job done by the experts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of adequate resources • Commitment of all the stakeholders involved
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INDICATIVE SCHEDULE (example)																								
Activity/Months	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Steering Committee Meetings			X			X			X			X			X			X			X			X
Reporting/Monitoring			X			X			X			X			X			X			X			X
Component 1: Food Safety Legislation																								
<i>Result 1: National secondary food safety legislation further aligned with the EU Acquis</i>																								
Report on current status of food safety legislation and gap analysis																								
10 priority food safety legislation drafts																								
100% of risk management and legal staff of AFSA familiar with legal basis and implementation on the EU Acquis for pesticide residues, food contact material, food additives and contaminants and related official controls																								
10 % of inspectors familiar with legal basis and implementation on the EU Acquis for, pesticide residues, food contact material, food additives and contaminants and related official controls																								

Component 2: Marketing authorization and control of Plant Protection Products																								
<i>Result 2: Proposal for legislative framework and system of PPPs marketing authorization and control developed and approved by AFSA</i>																								
Report on the current status of marketing authorization of PPPs																								
1 legal draft aligning national legislation on marketing authorization of plant protection products with EU Reg. No1107/2009																								
Proposal for a system for granting marketing authorization of PPPs																								
100% of relevant AFSA staff in charge for authorization of PPPs familiar with EU legislation and authorization of PPPs																								
10 % of inspectors familiar with EU legislation on pesticides and ready to train the remaining part of inspectors according to the ToT approach.																								

Component 3: Development of residue monitoring programs based on legislation developed under component 1 and 2																								
<i>Result 3: Proposal for monitoring programmes for pesticide residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances in products of plant origin (with one focus on export destined products) developed and approved at AFSA level - and its implementation assisted.</i>																								
Proposal for a national monitoring plan compliant with EU provisions on pesticide residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins, and other undesired/forbidden substances in fruit and vegetables																								
100% of relevant AFSA staff in charge for preparation of monitoring plans familiar with EU legislation and procedures																								
3 new methods for analysis of pesticide residues																								
Competences and capacities of Central food safety laboratory in Baku and Regional laboratory in Lankaran upgraded																								
Component 4: IT based phytosanitary information system data collection system																								
<i>Result 4: Proposal for IT based Phytosanitary Information System developed and approved by AFSA</i>																								
Proposal of the content and structure of IT data collection system including requirements for the hardware platform																								
Functional Specifications																								

Annex 2 : List of relevant Azerbaijani laws and regulations in SPS sector

The legal hierarchy in Republic of Azerbaijan is as following:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Orders of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Decrees of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Decisions and Orders of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The list of legislation in this Annex is not complete but provides basic guidance on SPS legislation applied in Azerbaijan. More details are available on:

- WTO-Azerbaijan Website: <http://wto.az/en/areas/sanitary-and-phytosanitary>
- AFSA Website: <http://afsa.gov.az/en/home>

Legal basis for SPS measures is established by the following legal framework:

- Law № 102-IIIQ "On Phytosanitary Control" adopted on 12.05.2006. This Law determines the legal basis for the organization and implementation of phytosanitary control in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, regulates the relations between the entities operating in the field of plant protection and quarantine. It empowers State Phytosanitary Service to perform official control and defines the competences, powers, duties, rights and obligations such as prevent the entrance and spreading of harmful pests, control over the safety of quarantine objects under phytosanitary control, monitoring of the causes and conditions of infection and spreading of pests, identification and implementation of compulsory phytosanitary measures for their prevention and liquidation;
- Law № 922-IIQ "On Veterinary" adopted on 31.05.2015 defines the areas subject to state veterinary control and empowers the competent inspectors to control:
 - Animals and their genetic materials;
 - Products and raw materials of animal origin, veterinary preparations, feed and feed additives and specimen thereof brought for veterinary examination, as well as specimens of water, air, soil and plants;
 - Transportation facilities, all types of containers, packaging materials, inventory, care products and so on, which can cause the entry of infectious diseases;
 - Venues of legal entities and physical persons where veterinary activity is being conducted;
 - Venues and fields for production, processing, storage, supply and sale or use of products and raw materials of animal origin.

- Law № 759-IQ “On Foodstuffs” adopted on 18.11.1999. It’s the main legislation concerning the safety and quality of food products, the organization of production and the market, and the framework for a secure food supply. However, this is out of date and describes a system of control which does not meet the requirements of the SPS Agreement for controls based on the principles of risk analysis. The new food law compliant with international standards has been developed with EU support, and it is currently under final consultation before submission for adoption;
- Law № 371 “On Sanitary-Epidemiological Safety” adopted on 10.11.1992. It sets out the right for the population to have a safe living environment, that does not harm population and human activities. It establishes preconditions for creation of a control system, determination of hygiene regulations and sanitary standards for protection of population. It empowers the chief of the State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Azerbaijan to develop, approve, publish, enhance and modify national and local sanitary rules and regulations;
- Law № 60-IQ “On Standardization” adopted on 16.04.1996. This Law determines the legal and economic bases for standardization, obligations for all executive bodies, local self-government bodies, enterprises, organizations, entrepreneurs – economic entities, as well as public associations in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Basic concepts of standardization are presented such as the scope of standardization (definition of norms, rules and characteristics for goods) and the aim (provide safe goods, technical, technological and information compatibility, accuracy and consistency of measurements);
- Law № 360-IQ “On Health Protection of Population” adopted on 26.06.1997. It regulates the relations between citizens and state bodies, as well as subjects of state and non-state health systems in the field of public health. It provides the basic principles and the obligation of the state for the protection of the health of population;
- Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers № 231 “On Adoption of Unified List of Goods Falling Under Veterinary, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Control” adopted on 17.06.2016. It is in line with the implementation of governmental policy about the measures for continuation of reforms in the customs system. The Single List contains:
 - 109 listed items related to veterinary controls such as live animals and certain food of animal origin;
 - 148 listed items related to phytosanitary controls such as High and low-Phytosanitary Risk Quarantine Products, Pesticides, biological preparations and agrochemicals;
 - 127 listed items related to sanitary controls such as processed meat, frozen fish, Ready-made foodstuffs by roasting grains or cereals (e.g. corn flakes);
- Law № 926-IIIQD “On Amendments and Changes to Certain Legislation regarding the application of “Single Window” while Inspection of Goods and Transportation Facilities at the Check Points on the State Borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan”

adopted on 04.12. 2009. The law introduces amendments to facilitate the implementation of the international single window principles where the customs, because of their pivotal role at borders, are foreseen as the enforcement agencies best suited as the “entrance” point to receive and coordinate the flow of information related to fulfilment of all cross-border regulatory requirements. As results the customs get empowered to perform the controls for SPS compliance on imported and exported produces at border check points (in coordination with other relevant CAs). Most relevant amendments include:

- the Law 371 On Sanitary-Epidemiological Safety, where is added that Sanitary control shall be carried out by customs authorities in order to ensure sanitary protection against entry into the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan of quarantine infections, sale of dangerous foodstuffs and consumer goods at checkpoints;
- the Law 922-IIQ "On Veterinary" where is added that Customs authorities exercising veterinary control at the checkpoints on the State Border of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall coordinate their activities with the State Veterinary Service in the manner prescribed by law and that if an infectious disease is detected, or if the international veterinary certificate is not properly compiled, the veterinary inspector may, upon inspection, decide for prohibition of transit of cargoes, making decisions on their return, cutting or destruction;
- the Law № 102-IIIQ "On Phytosanitary Control" where is added that the Phytosanitary control of the goods crossing the state border of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be carried out by the customs authorities that shall notify the State Phytosanitary Control Service if the imported plant and plant products are not accompanied by appropriate documentation and there is a risk of contamination by the pest to prevent their entry and distribution in the country. The State Phytosanitary Control Service shall decide for the storage, return, and restriction of import of plant and vegetable products, other quarantine control materials at phytosanitary control centres located within the country for the purposes of analysis, testing, storage and destruction. Additional measures may include prohibition or restriction of import of plants and plant products.

Annex 3: Reference to relevant Government Strategic plans and studies

- 3.1 State Program for 2019-2025 Years for Ensuring Food Safety of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1. Introduction

Large-scale measures implemented to ensure the demand of the population for quality and safe food products in a fuller and more sustainable way have been given positive results. Along with that, such issues as an increase of the production of food and agricultural products, the volume of export/import, protection of consumers' health and rights makes important strengthening the state regulation and control system in the area of food safety.

In order to diversify the economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the basis of sustainable development and ensure its inclusiveness, and also formation of the competitive sectors on production and processing of agricultural products, specific priorities and measures which are aimed at the establishment of risk based food safety system at all stages of the value chain envisioned by the "Strategic Road Map for the Production and Processing of Agricultural Products in the Republic of Azerbaijan" approved by Decree No.1138 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 6, 2016 have been identified.

In order to ensure the implementation of the "Strategic Road Map for the Production and Processing of Agricultural Products in the Republic of Azerbaijan" and the Implementation of Article 5.5 of the Presidential Decree No. 1235 as of 10 February 2017 "On Additional Measures for Improving the Food Safety System in the Republic of Azerbaijan", the State Food Safety Program of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2025 (hereinafter referred to as the State Program) has been prepared.

Interlinked Twelve priority directions have been identified for the implementation of the State Program.

2. Global food safety trends

In every continent of the world there is an increase in foodborne illnesses and food poisoning. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) report for 2017, every year around 600 million people or one out of every 10 people in the world are poisoned with food. Each year, 420,000 persons die from food poisoning, out of which 125,000 or 30 percent are children under the age of five.

Hence, foodborne illnesses and poisoning have a negative impact on the health and well-being of the population, as well as severe economic consequences for individuals, families, communities, economic entities and countries. From this point of view, food safety is an important area for the development of society, health of future generations, protection of nation's gene pool, and economic productivity.

In recent years, new food safety related challenges have been emerging around the world. Globalization of trade of food and agricultural products, more accessibility to and sustainable competitiveness of the food products brings benefit to the country through an increase foreign

currency inflow along with increasing threat of occurrence and spread of food borne diseases on a larger scale.

In addition, there is an increase in the resistance of foodborne pathogens to antibiotics, the dangers of newly discovered microorganisms and chemicals in food supply, as well as the changing nutrition habits of the world's population.

Due to the above-mentioned reasons food safety has turned into the issue of special importance all over the world, and relevant institutions have been established in this area. In order to provide the food consumers with objective, independent and scientifically justified information on the existing and potential risks in all relevant fields, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the main body responsible risk assessment on food and feed safety issues in the European Union has been established in 2002.

Recently, conceptual changes have taken place in the world to implement food safety management and control measures. Some developed countries focus their resources on highly risky areas and solutions of specific food safety issues.

In addition, several different principles and trends are seen in the design, structure, implementation, and functioning of modern food safety systems.

In order to apply a comprehensive approach for ensuring the safety and quality of food products, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (further referred to as FAO) and EU Commission recommends focusing on the main targets/objectives of food safety control systems by exercising control not over the final food product, but all stages of the food chain, namely, the initial production, production, processing, turnover and utilization.

Supporters of this principle say that prophylactic measures undertaken at all stages of the food chain are more effective and efficient than control at the last stage and withdrawal on the food products incompliant to the required norms.

FAO, WHO and Codex Commission have proposed application of scientifically based risks analysis to all the food safety related issues as a major approach in this area. Risk assessment is an important factor in determining the probability of hazard occurrence and severity for human health and life. Risk Assessment facilitates identification of effective intervention measures and strategies for preventing, recall and withdrawal of food products in line with nature of their hazards.

In this regard, the availability of the scientific basis in the body responsible for control functions is essential for making correct and objective food safety related decisions. The role of scientific committees is to provide guidance on technical issues, food standards and regulations, as well as to monitor and evaluate the impact of the issues measuring regulatory impact during risk assessment.

In the EU Member States and other developed countries, food business entities bear direct responsibilities and commitments for the safety of food products, while regulatory bodies verify the status of the implementation by implementing control measures.

The role of international organizations in ensuring food safety is very big. The organizations like FAO, WHO, Codex Alimentarius Commission, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and World Animal Health Organization (OIE) which determine standards for plant protection and animal health respectively cooperate with national food safety bodies and help them in implementation of national food safety programs by providing internationally adopted decisions and recommendations as well as in harmonization with international food standards

3. Current situation in food safety in Azerbaijan

Consistent and purposeful reforms in the development of the food safety system in the Republic of Azerbaijan have created enormous opportunities for the improvement of the existing normative legal acts and material and technical base and achievement of visible results.

So far, food provision related programs like "Food Safety Program of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2001-2010", approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No 640 dated 2 March 2001, "State Program on Reliable Provision of Population with Food Products in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015 " approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 3004 dated 25 August 25, " Strategic Road Map for the Production and Processing of Agricultural Products in the Republic of Azerbaijan " approved by Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No.1138 dated 6 December, 2016 have been adopted along with targeted programs, concepts and other documents as a continuation of these reforms.

Due to the measures undertaken to strengthen the food provision in the country, there were an increase in key food products in 2017, including meat and meat products by 84.7 %, eggs - 100.5%, milk and dairy products - 86.1 %, fish and fishery products - 81.2%, potato - 89.2 %, vegetables - 115.2 %, gardening (horticultural) products - 100.2%, fruit and berries - 122.4 %, sugar - 60.6 %, flour – 96% , fruits and vegetables cans - 92.5%, butter - 71%, margarine - 101.5%, salt - 105.8%.

Before the establishment of a single food safety body, the food safety was ensured by various government bodies and agencies in the country through state hygiene registration of food products, hygienic certification, certification for compliance with national standards, as well as non-risk-based government controls. It should be noted that food safety was ensured by the certification of the final product, while the state control was concerned with the existence of a certificate. Implemented control measures were not risk based, most applied national standards did not meet modern and international requirements, therefore there was a need for additional measures in this direction. At the same time, parallelism and repetition were observed in the field of food safety control and state regulation.

To improve the food safety system control, transparency in this field, to eliminate distraction and duplication, as well as to ensure the implementation of the relevant measures envisioned in the "Strategic Road Map on the Production and Processing of Agricultural Products in the Republic of Azerbaijan" approved by Decree No.1138 of the President of the Republic of

Azerbaijan dated 6 December 2016, the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established by Decree No 1235 dated 10 February 2017 .

To ensure the activity of the Agency, the Regulations and structure of the Food Safety Agency were approved by the Decree No. 1681 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On ensuring the activity of the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan" dated November 13, 2017. The Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute with the status of legal entity was established under the Agency.

Within the ongoing reforms in the field of food safety, the Decree No 28 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated May 1, 2018, a number of changes have been introduced to the Statute of the Food Safety Agency authorizing the centralized control at all stages of the food chain. Within the framework of these reforms, the existing legal framework has been improved in the field of food safety, and relevant legislative acts have been amended.

The main activity priorities of Azerbaijan Food Safety Institute, the Charter and Structure of which are approved by the Order Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated May 16, 2018, are scientific and practical research in the field of safety of food products, risk assessment based on scientific principles, drafting of technical normative-legal acts in the field of food safety, laboratory analysis of food safety and minimum quality indicators, expertise and research services, as well as public education and awareness raising in the field of food safety.

In addition, according to the reforms in the field of food safety, existing material and technical bases and laboratories of the relevant state agencies have been transferred to the balance of the Food Safety Agency

The State Program will ensure guarantees for more systematic and intensive implementation of the measures aimed at streamlining the requirements to the food safety and minimum quality indicators, improving food products certification, registering subjects operating in all food chain stages and maintaining state registry, enhancing the role and responsibility of business operators for ensuring food safety, as well as forming the risk based state food control system.

4. Strategic vision

The Strategic vision of the State Program up to 2025 envisages the full provision of the population with healthy and safe food along with significant reduction of foodborne diseases, as well as increase of the productivity and competitiveness of agricultural and food products and their exports to the developed countries

5. State Program objectives

The main State Program objectives are:

- To harmonize national food safety norms and standards with international requirements;

- To improve the provision of the population with safe and quality food, thereby significantly reducing the foodborne diseases among population;
- To increase competitiveness and export potential of food products to foreign markets through implementation of appropriate measures aimed at the improvement of safety and quality of food products;
- to increase plant and animal productivity through strengthening control over agrochemicals, plant protection means, and veterinary preparations used in agriculture, as well as awareness-raising activities thereon;
- to ensure the compliance of the activities of food subjects with legal food safety requirements in cooperation with entrepreneurs;
- to use effectively public control mechanisms for ensure food safety and consumer rights based on best international practices;
- to provide animal and plant health in the country in accordance with international best practice;
- to support the formation of a favourable and healthy business environment for businesses in the food industry.

6. The key areas of State Program

All planned activities related to the implementation of the State Program are grouped in the following priority areas:

- Improvement of the food safety related national regulatory framework with the view of international best practice;
- Improvement of infrastructure for ensuring food safety;
- Strengthening of scientific support and capacity building in the field of food safety;
- Formation of a risk analysis system based on scientific evidence in the field of food safety and meeting international requirements;
- Establishment of a registration, approval and certification system meeting the modern food safety requirements and introduction of a single window principle in this area to ensure food safety;
- Formation of a risk-based state food safety control system;
- Establishment of an animal health control system meeting the effective and modern requirements;
- Establishment of a plant health control system meeting the effective and modern requirements;
- Development of public-private partnerships for ensuring food safety;

- Application of modern technologies and innovative solutions in the field of food safety;
- Development of international cooperation in the field of food safety;
- Food safety related awareness-raising, promotion of healthy nutrition and protection of consumer rights.

The key performance indicators for evaluation of each of these activities have been predetermined, which will facilitate more successful implementation of the State Program.

7. State Program funding sources

The funding of the State Program measures is envisioned from the following sources:

- Funds provided from the state budget for the relevant year for relevant state agencies financed from the state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Extra-budgetary funds;
- Domestic and foreign investments;
- Funds of international organizations;
- Other sources not prohibited by law.

8. Results/outcomes expected from the State Program

The following results are expected to be achieved by 2025, the last year of the State Program:

- harmonization of rules and regulations on food safety with existing international requirements;
- improvement of the accuracy of the laboratory test results up to 95%;
- substantial reduction of food poisoning cases;
- increase of exports of food and agricultural products (including into the markets of developed countries);
- minimization of the cases of return of exported food and agricultural products from importing countries;
- Increase of productivity in crop and livestock areas;
- a significant reduction of the number of people infected from special hazardous animal diseases;
- significant reduction of poisoning caused by misuse of plant protection means;
- increase by 2 times the number of fundamental and applied researches on food safety;

- increase of the satisfaction level of entrepreneurs operating in food and agricultural spheres with control and regulation systems;
- Implementation of advanced food safety management systems in large enterprises by 90% and in medium-sized enterprises by 50%.

9. Implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Working groups will be established by the coordinating state body for the successful implementation of the State Program. Working groups will be responsible for timely and effective implementation of priority activities.

The State Program will be monitored and evaluated in accordance with the regulations developed based on international methodologies in order to ensure its successful implementation by required tools, processes and other means. During monitoring and evaluation process focus will be done on the implementation of the activities depending on their importance, the expected outcomes and indicators on the relevant priorities, and the compliance with the performance timeframe.

10. Action Plan

№	Action name	Major implementing body	Other implementers	Implementation period (years)
10.1. With the view of the best international practice, improvement of the food safety related normative legal framework				
10.1.1.	Development of the draft Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on "Food Safety" in accordance with the best international practice and in the order given in Article 5.4. of the Decree No. 1235 "On Additional Measures to Improve the Food Safety System in the Republic of Azerbaijan" of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 10 February 2017	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, State Customs Com-tee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2019
10.1.2.	Analysis of sanitary, veterinary and phytosanitary norms and regulations, their adaptation to international requirements and / or development of new rules and regulations	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, State Customs Com-tee	2019-2022
10.2. Improvement of the food safety infrastructure				
10.2.1.	Diagnostic assessment of the existing laboratories operating under food safety agency	Food safety Agency	Agriculture Ministry	2019
10.2.2.	Optimization of the food safety laboratory network as well as set up of	Food Safety	State Property Com-tee,	2019-2022

№	Action name	Major implementing body	Other implementers	Implementation period (years)
	the new testing laboratories meeting the modern requirements and provision of their supply	Agency	"Azerbaijan Railway CJC	
10.2.3.	Establishment of a single national food safety reference laboratory	Food Safety Agency	State Agency for Control of Antimonopoly and Consumer Market	2019-2020
10.2.4.	National and International accreditation of the food safety laboratories	Food Safety Agency	State Agency for Control of Antimonopoly and Consumer Market	2019-2022
10.2.5.	Strengthening of the material technical basis of the AFSA regional branches	Food Safety Agency	State Property Com-tee, local executive authorities	2019-2021
10.2.6.	Assessment, optimization and modernization of the animal slaughter houses and existing food safety checkpoints at the markets	Food Safety Agency	Local executive authorities	2019-2023
10.2.7.	Consideration of the possibility of establishing food safety checkpoints in the area of customs clearance with the aim to implement food safety control during import and export operations	Food Safety Agency	State Customs Com-tee, State Property Com-tee, "Azerbaijan Airways" CJC, "Azerbaijan Railways" QSC, "Baku International Sea Trade Port" QSC	2019-2021
10.3. Strengthening of the scientific potential and capacity building				
10.3.1.	Establishment of the database on international and local researches to provide scientifically justified assessment of food safety risks	Food Safety Agency	State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovation, Azerbaijan National Academy of Science	2019-2025
10.3.2.	Analysis of foodborne diseases in the country and establishment of a database thereof.	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Health, State Agency for Citizens Service	2019-2020

№	Action name	Major implementing body	Other implementers	Implementation period (years)
			and Social Innovation	
10.3.3.	Increase of scientific potential of Food Safety Institute	Food Safety Agency		2019-2020
10.3.4.	Establishment of a Food Safety Training Centre	Food Safety Agency	State Property Com-tee	2019-2020
10.3.5.	Development new relevant curricula for different levels of education with the view of international best practice in the field of food safety	Education Ministry	Food Safety Agency, Ministry of Health	2019-2021
10.3.6.	Implementation of measures for training needs assessment and capacity building of the personnel engaged in food safety	Food Safety Agency	Education Ministry	2019-2025
10.3.7.	Expansion of opportunities for talented young people to study abroad on food safety issues and implementation of relevant programs	Education Ministry	Food Safety Agency	2019-2025
10.3.8.	Establishment of links with specialized educational institutions in the field of food safety and a partnership mechanism	Food Safety Agency	Education Ministry	2019-2020
10.4. Formation of risk analysis system based on scientific evidence in the field of food safety				
10.4.1.	Development of the risk assessment methodology and regulations with the view of the international practice	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Justice	2019
10.4.3.	Investigation of the current situation with food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary control objects as well as identification of problems in this area	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan National Academy of Science,	2019-2020
10.4.4.	Development of Risk Profiles for Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Control Objects for objective assessment of the revealed deficiencies	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture, State Customs	2019-2020

№	Action name	Major implementing body	Other implementers	Implementation period (years)
			Com-tee	
10.4.5.	Preparation of a flexible assessment, management, communication procedures and crisis management plan for food safety crises	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Emergency Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, State Customs Com-tee, local exudative authorities	2019-2020
10.5. Improvement of registration, approval and certification system in accordance with modern requirements to ensure food safety				
10.5.1.	Improvement of the procedures for registration and approval of food objects and subjects with the view of international practice	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Taxes	2019-2020
10.5.2.	Formation of a new mechanism for the state registration of food products (genetically modified products, food additives, biology active ingredients, etc.) subject to state registration according to the legislation	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice	2019-2020
10.5.3.	Establishment of database of all food subjects and objects (facilities) operating at all stages of the food chain, as well as production of food products and trade flows	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Taxes, Ministry of Emergency Affairs, State Customs Committee, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations, "Supply and supply of food products" OJSC "Food products Storing and Procurement" OJSC	2019-2020
10.5.4.	Improvement of the current veterinary, phytosanitary and food safety	Food Safety	Foreign Affairs	2019-2020

№	Action name	Major implementing body	Other implementers	Implementation period (years)
	certification system in accordance with international requirements	Agency	Ministry	
10.5.5.	Implementation of activities on issuance of export certificates electronically and measures facilitating their recognition by importing countries	Food Safety Agency	State Customs Committee, Foreign Affairs Ministry	2019-2022
10.5.6.	Formation and implementation of the mechanisms for the issuance of "Halal" certificates to strengthen export potential of food products to the Muslim countries	Anti-Monopoly and Consumer Market Monitoring Agency	Food Safety Agency, Ministry of Economy, Recommended: Caucasian Muslims Office	2019-2020
10.6. Formation of food safety risk-based state control system				
10.6.1.	Establishment of database of risk indicators for food subjects and objects and conduct of risk classification/grouping	Food Safety Agency	State Customs Committee, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations	2019-2025
10.6.2.	Formation of a mechanism for determining the rating of food subjects and objects based on risk indicators	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture	2019-2020
10.6.3.	Preparation of a new mechanism for control over the imported cargo subject to food, veterinary and phytosanitary control	Food Safety Agency	State Customs Committee, "Azerbaijan Airways" CJSC, "Azerbaijan Railways" CJSC, "Baku International Trade Port" CJSC	2019-2020
10.6.4.	Improvement of food safety sampling norms and standards in accordance with the international best practice	Food Safety Agency	State Agency for Antimonopoly and Consumer Market Control	2019-2025
10.6.5.	Formation of the traceability system at all stages of food chain	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture	2019-2022
10.6.6.	Development of mechanisms for recall and withdrawal of dangerous for human	Food Safety	State Customs	2019-2020

№	Action name	Major implementing body	Other implementers	Implementation period (years)
	health and high risky food products	Agency	Committee, State Agency for Antimonopoly and Consumer Market Control	
10.6.7.	Improvement of requirements and control mechanisms for the production, processing and turnover of special purpose food products (diet, baby food, etc.)	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Health	2019-2020
10.7. Formation of animal health control system in accordance with the modern requirements				
10.7.1.	Development of animal identification and registration system and implementation of measures in this area	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture, Local executive authorities	2019-2023
10.7.2.	Development of animal health related risk management mechanisms in accordance with the international practice	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture	2019-2020
10.7.3.	Harmonization of the quality of veterinary services rendered in the area of animal health with the international requirements	Ministry of Agriculture	Food Safety Agency	2019-2025
10.7.4.	Development of programmer for monitoring residuals of veterinary preparations and antibiotics in animal origin food products	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture	2019-2020
10.7.5.	The expansion of vaccination campaigns for pets	Ministry of Agriculture	Food Safety Agency	regularly
10.7.6.	Implementation of measures to reduce the use of veterinary antimicrobial agents and increase literacy in this area	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture	2019-2020
10.7.7.	Improvement of the veterinary and food safety control mechanisms for fish and other sea products	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture	2019-2020
10.7.8.	Development of efficient control mechanisms homeless animals	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture, local executive authorities	2019-2020
10.7.9	Exploration of the opportunities of the	Ministry of	Food Safety	2020-2025

№	Action name	Major implementing body	Other implementers	Implementation period (years)
	zones free of animal diseases and development of the relevant support mechanisms	Agriculture	Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Local executive authorities	
10.8. Formation of plant health control system in accordance with the modern requirements				
10.8.1.	Implementation of monitoring over the usage of plant protection means and agrochemical agents in the land plots under plant cultivation	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, State Customs Com-tee, State Statistics Com-tee	2019-2021
10.8.2.	Development of risk-based monitoring mechanisms for quarantine and especially dangerous pests	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture	2019-2020
10.8.3.	Consideration of the possibilities of the establishment of the zones free of pests	Ministry of Agriculture	Food Safety Agency, Local executive authorities	2020-2025
10.8.4.	Harmonization of the level phytosanitary services in the area of plant health with international practice	Ministry of Agriculture	Food Safety Agency	2019-2025
10.8.5.	Improvement of the control mechanisms for the registration, turnover, and use of plant protection means	Food Safety Agency	State Customs Com-tee, Ministry of Agriculture "Azerbaijan Airlines" CJSC, "Azerbaijan Railways " CJSC, "Baku International Sea Trade Port "CJSC	2019-2020
10.8.6.	Development and ensuring the implementation of the programs for monitoring residuals of agrochemical agents and pests in plant origin food products	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture	2021-2022
10.8.7		Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Local executive	2019-2025

№	Action name	Major implementing body	Other implementers	Implementation period (years)
			authorities	
10.8.8	Development and implementation of the integrated system for the fight against pests (Hazardous organisms) in the major agriculture plants products	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture	Regularly
10.9. Improvement of the public private dialogue in the area of food safety				
10.9.1.	Implementation of the measures for setting up public private cooperation platform in the area of food safety	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture	2019-2025
10.9.2.	Support of the establishment and development of private veterinary service subjects	Ministry of Agriculture		2019-2022
10.9.3.	Implementation of support measures aimed at the application of food safety management systems (HAACP and other international standards) and advanced operation codex (GAP, GHP, GMP, etc.) by food entrepreneurs	Food Safety Agency		2019-2025
10.9.4.	Implementation of the technical assistance and special programs for the fulfilment of the food safety legal requirements by the entrepreneurs operating throughout the food chain	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture, State Agency for Antimonopoly and Control over Consumption Market	2019-2025
10.9.5.	Support of the establishment of private animal slaughter and sale centres in accordance with veterinary and sanitary epidemiological requirements	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Economy, local executive authorities	2019-2020
10.10. Implementation of modern technologies and innovative solutions in the area of food safety				
10.10.1	Establishment of the unified food safety electronic information management system	Food Safety Agency	State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations	2019-2020
10.10.2	Organization of electronic services in the food safety area and integration of the services to the government electronic portal	Food Safety Agency	State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations	2019-2020
10.10.3	Implementation of the measures ensuring integration with the database of the other concerned government bodies (structures) based on the information system	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Taxes,	2019-2021

№	Action name	Major implementing body	Other implementers	Implementation period (years)
	“Electronic Government”		Ministry of Health, State Customs Committee, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovation	
10.10.4	Implementation of the measures for food safety control by means of electronic technologies	Food safety Agency		2019-2025
10.10.5	Establishment and implementation of mobile applications in the food safety area	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Transport, Communication and High Technologies	2019-2025
10.11. Development of the international cooperation in the area of food safety				
10.11.1	Extension of the bilateral cooperation with the authorized food safety bodies of other governments, implementation of the measures for bilateral acceptance of the results of certification, registration and approval	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2019-2025
10.11.2	Implementation of measures aimed at recognition by the European Commission of the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan as an authorized agency	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2019-2023
10.11.3	Implementation of measures to enhance cooperation with international organizations engaged in food safety (including Codex Alimentarius, OIE, IPPC, WHO, FAO)	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2019-2025
10.11.4	Implementation of international projects in the field of food safety and coordination of the activities of donor organizations	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Economy Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2019-2025
10.12. Awareness raising on food safety, promotion of healthy nutrition and protection of consumer rights				
10.12.1	Improvement of public food safety control mechanisms for	Food Safety Agency	Council for State Support to NGOs	2019-2025
10.12.2	Improvement of mechanisms for the consumer rights protection in the area of food safety and the development of a system of operative intervention in case	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Agency for Control of	2019-2021

№	Action name	Major implementing body	Other implementers	Implementation period (years)
	of the law violations in the relevant		Antimonopoly and Consumer Market	
10.12.3	Conduct of awareness raising campaigns on the conservation of food products in the home environment, observance of sanitary-hygienic norms and rules during the storage and use of these products	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Health, local executive authorities	2019-2025
10.12.4	Conduce of campaigns for healthy and rational nutrition	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, "Azerbaijan Railways" CJSC, "Procurement and Supply of Food Products" OJSC, local executive authorities	2019-2025
10.12.5	Implementation of measures to ensure healthy nutrition of vulnerable populations (children, pregnant women, etc.) (Implementation of special pilot projects, etc.)	Food Safety Agency	Ministry of Health, local executive authorities	regularly
10.12.6	Introduction of curriculum on healthy nutrition in schools and pre-school educational institutions, conduct of competitions on the subject	Ministry of Education	Food Safety Agency	2019-2025

- **3.2 Key Functions of the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (as expressed in the Agency Statute)**
 - Perform duties associated with the development of norms in the relevant areas;
 - Ensure that priorities for the development of the relevant sector are set together with the concerned state agencies, state programs and development concepts are prepared and implemented;
 - Coordinate activities in the relevant area with other executive authorities;
 - Ensure that the international agreements related to its area of focus and to which the Republic of Azerbaijan was a party are implemented;
 - Conduct risk analysis, including risk assessment, risk management and risk communication in the relevant sphere;
 - Register food business operators in terms of food safety aspects, maintain state registry, as well as issue food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary certificates;
 - Take measures in cooperation with appropriate government agencies to carry out veterinary, phytosanitary and food safety control over imported goods at the customs border checkpoints;
 - Undertake inspections at all stages of food chain in accordance with the risk level of the product and in cases determined by legislation and make decisions on elimination of irregularities discovered in this area and (or) impose restrictive measures (give instructions)
 - Take decision as specified by respective legislation on disposal and utilization (re-processing, reproduction or liquidation) of unusable food products;
 - Where dangerous animal diseases occur, determine the rules for carrying out special veterinary measures and other actions, take actions to restrict and warn people in areas with risk of the spread of the disease, issue instructions on slaughter or mandatory disposal of animals, mandatory enforcement of disposal or utilization of primary product of animal origin, veterinary medicines, food and feed additives;
 - Isolate harmful organisms in quarantine facilities under phytosanitary control and in materials under plant quarantine upon their detection, take actions to take, store, utilize, re-process or dispose plants, plant products, pests, biological medicines, agrochemicals and other plant protection agents of which harmfulness has been proved following the investigation of the product;
 - Review cases on administrative offence, which are related to its competences and impose administrative penalties; Exercise control to ensure the persons involved in operations at different stage of food chain undergo medical examination during the recruitment and employment period pursuant to the rules and time determined together with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

- Demand the dismissal of persons involved in operations at different stages of food chain, who present a risk of spreading infectious and parasitic diseases, as well as violating regularly sanitary norms and rules and hygienic norms, due to the characteristics of their production or work they are dealing with;
- Exercise control on implementation of disinfection, disinfestation (insect control), deratization (rat destruction), fumigation works, as well as veterinary, phytosanitary and food safety measures in premises, facilities, sites, areas, food transporting vehicles of food business operators;
- Make decisions on taking the samples for assessing the safety indicators of the food products in the cases and in the manner prescribed by law, take samples and ensure the assessment of these samples on a single methodology in the accredited laboratories under its subordination, give instructions to eliminate revealed violations and take other measures envisaged by law during the inspections for the purpose of carrying out state control over safety of food products;
- Exercise state control over compliance with the legislation on protection of food consumers rights as well as over the compliance with the rules of trade, public catering, household and other types of service in the relevant area, take measures to prevent law violations in this area and make accused persons liable for such violations;
- Take measures to ensure that consumers have complete and accurate information about food safety and quality requirements;
- Prepare and implement measures for preventing actions that lead or may lead to the violation of the rights and legitimate interests of food products consumers of foodstuffs; take measures against the breach of the rules for the replacement or recall of products kept or sold during the storage or sale of food products;
- Take immediate measures to withdraw from market of food products domestically produced or imported into the country, that have caused or had justified reasons to cause dangerous and mass poisoning (diseases) and to eliminate emergency in the area of food safety together with relevant government agencies;
- Analyse the cases of food poisoning among the population in view of food safety aspects, as well as take measures to prevent and eliminate their spread;
- Based on safety criteria, set up examination of infrastructure and products of food business operators involved in primary production, production and processing of food imported into the country, maintain registration and state registry of such operators in accordance with the results of the examinations, and fulfil requirements of importing countries, including the European Union regarding the export of food products;
- Analyse information on the results of researches, monitoring, audits and examinations conducted in the field of expertise of the Agency and create a unified data bank;

- In cooperation with relevant government agencies, provide proposals regarding the development of food testing laboratory system;
- Provide review of the draft standards and technical specifications on quality of food products, as specified by relevant legislation;
- In cooperation with relevant government agencies, take actions for support of entrepreneurship development and state regulation of public support of businesses in the country;
- Take measures in support of raising awareness on food safety issues among food products consumers as well as food business operators involved in operations at all stages of food chain, and in cooperation with relevant government agencies, take measures to increase economic and legal awareness of businesses and ensure introduction of international best practices in order to improve entrepreneurship activities and competitiveness of entrepreneurs;
- Prepare proposals to improve the system of control over GMOs or organisms created using modern biotechnological and genetic engineering techniques and food products which contain such organisms or their material and take statutory measures, in conjunction with relevant government agencies against illegal trade of such food products;
- Identify genetically modified organisms or organisms generated by contemporary biotechnology and genetic engineering methods and food containing such organisms or their material and act in conjunction with relevant government agencies to identify potential hazards;
- Check whether genetic products of food origin imported to the country have been subjected to genetic modification at the country's customs border;
- Take actions in conjunction with government agencies concerned to develop and implement traceability and recall systems in order to strengthen safety of food products at all stages of the food chain;
- Provide a review of building and reconstruction plans of construction facilities designed for production, packaging, storage, processing, utilization and disposal of food;
- Protect population from diseases common for human being and animals as specified by applicable legislation;
- Protect the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan from infectious diseases likely to come from foreign countries;
- Control animal, livestock products and primary products owners to ensure their obedience to the veterinary legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

- Exercise control on safety, production, storage, application in cattle breeding and veterinary, trading of veterinary medicines, vitamins, feed additives, as well as biological stimulators and hormones which accelerate height growth and increase productivity;
- Prepare and approve actions plan to fight against epizootic disease;
- Take actions to ensure obedience to rules and requirements of World Animal Health Organization (OIE) and other international organizations;
- Regardless of a type of property, exercise control of services provided to legal and physical persons;
- Exercise control on storage, transportation, distribution, use and quality of veterinary and phytosanitary medicines purchased with a funding from public budget and other sources not prohibited by law;
- Set up accounting and record keeping in veterinary, as well keep a statistical records of quarantine diseases of animals;
- Organize and implement testing of plant protection agents and agrochemicals;
- Investigate phytosanitary situation in the country and take plant protection measures;
- Control import of plant pests, pathogens and weeds, which are subject of quarantine, into the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Should hazardous organisms subject to quarantine are approved to be in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, submit to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan proposals on declaration of quarantine in those territories to fight against them;
- Control production, storage, trading, application, import and export of pests, biological medicines, agrochemicals and other plant production agents, as well as all types of plant products, feeds, feed additives and amount of residues in soil;
- Carry out a phytosanitary check and laboratory examination of materials under quarantine control and imported to or planned to export from the country;
- Keep record of legal and physical persons involved in import, export, production, storage and application of pests, biological medicines, agrochemicals and other plant protection agents based on data received from the Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Carry out testing, registry of pests, agrochemicals, biological and other medicines and prepare a list of permitted medicines;
- Ensure approbation, examination, testing, state registration of veterinary medicines, as well as maintain registry of such medicines and provide commentary on approbation;

- Control import, export, production, trading, distribution of biologically active feed additives;
- Control obedience to requirements in technical regulations and technical normative legal acts in the field of food safety when “curative”, “dietary” and other equivalent names are granted to food and other promotional information are placed on labels;
- Consult and provide trainings on the voluntary application of international food standards through the subordinate authority, provide laboratory analysis on food safety and quality, provide expertise and research (measurement) services on food products, as well as implement national reference laboratory functions;
- Ensure implementation of issues related to the protection of human and citizen's rights and freedoms, related to its scope of work and duties and undertake preventative measures against their violation;
- With the view of international best practices, ensure introduction of scientific-technical innovations in the area of the Agency activities and promote the implementation of modern international management systems by food producers;
- Ensure that budgetary resources, credits and grants and all other financial resources related to the agency are used efficiently and for designated purpose;
- Ensure implementation of the measures for maintaining state secret and confidentiality regimes, as well as security measures pursuant to the field of expertise in which it is involved;
- Ensure that the public is informed about its activities, website is created, and information not prohibited by legislation is disclosed to public and updated on permanent basis.
- Undertake measures to ensure talent training and additional education of professionals in the area of focus of the Agency;
- Include scientific researches into the scope of activities and duties of the Agency.

Figure 3A AFSA Structure

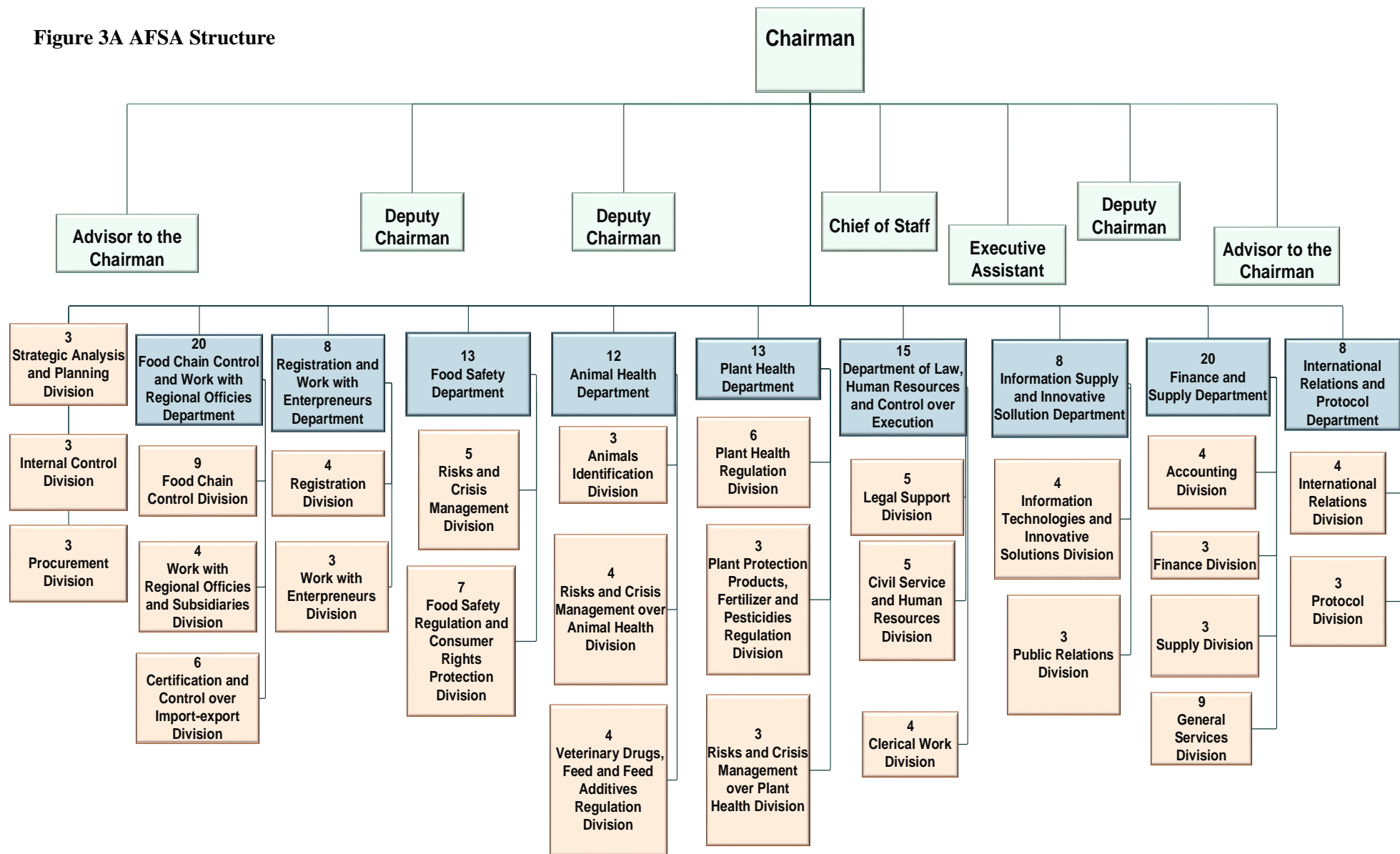
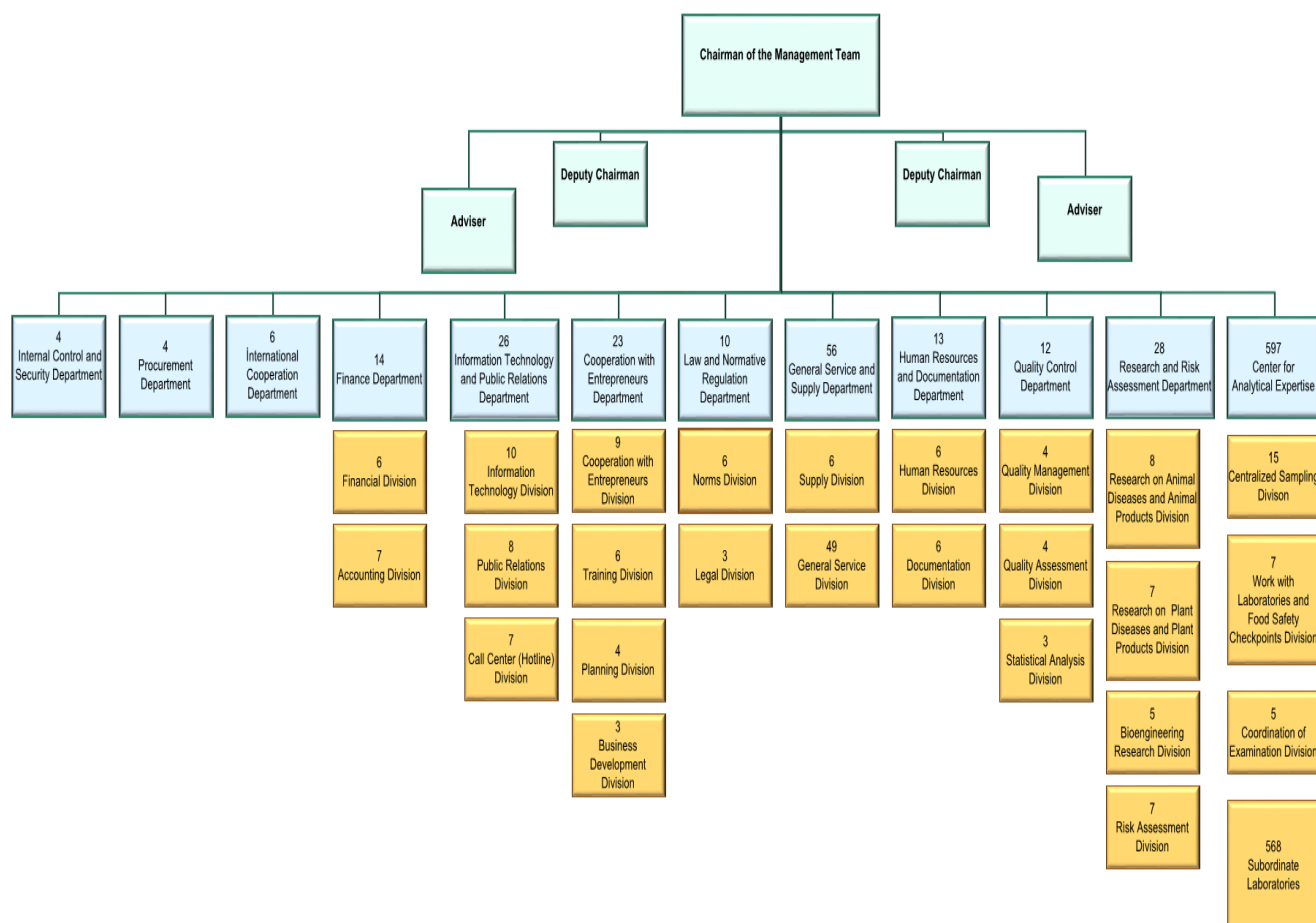


Figure 3B AFSA Structure



- **3.3 Analysis carried out by Lankaran Regional Test Laboratory**

	Name of tests or designated parameters	Method
In food products	PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL ANALYSIS	
	Determination of general ashy	GOST 5901-87
	Determination of organoleptic indicators	GOST 6292-93
		GOST 32573-2013
		GOST 19792-2017
		GOST 32097-2013
	Determination of acidity	GOST 5898-87
		GOST 31762-2012
		GOST 3624-67
	Determination of moisture	GOST 5900-73
		GOST 3626-73
	Determination of dry substance	GOST 3626-73
	Determination of acidity (lactic acid)	GOST 30305.3-95
		GOST ISO 32573-2013
	Determination of diastase activity	GOST 34232-2017
	Organoleptic quality indicators of honey	GOST 19792-2017
	Determination of food salt	GOST 13496.1-89
	Determination of fat, protein, soluble salts in milk, density, added water, freezing temperature	Funker Gerber Milk Analyzer
	Determination of PH	PH-meter
	MICROBIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS	
	Microbiology of food and animal feed — Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp	ISO 6579-2002
	Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — determination for the enumeration of yeasts and moulds	ISO 7218
	Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms	ISO 4833-2015
	TOXICOLOGICAL ANALYSIS - Determination of pesticide residues	

	Name of tests or designated parameters	Method
	Determination of hexachlorocyclohexane (α , β , γ -isomers)	AOAC official
	Determination of DDT and its metabolites	Method 2007.1
		Analysis of Pesticides in Olive Oil Using a Modified QuEChERS Method with LC-MS/MS and GC-MS/MS
	SEROLOGICAL ANALYSIS	
In Pathological Material	Laboratory diagnostics of brucellosis. Serological methods	GOST 34105-2017 Roze bengal test (RBT)
	Laboratory diagnostics of brucellosis. Serological methods	GOST 34105-2017 Agglutination Reaction (AR)
	Laboratory diagnostics of brucellosis. Serological methods	GOST 34105-2017 The reaction is complementary
	Laboratory diagnostics of brucellosis. Serological methods	GOST 34105-2017 Ring reaction with milk
	Laboratory diagnostics of brucellosis. Serological methods	GOST 34105-2017 Reaction of long-term complement fixation in the cold
	QUARANTINE-EXAMINATION	
In plant and plant products	Phytopathogenic Fungi	Me. M. 001.2018 / V2
	Harmful insects and ticks for plants	Me. E. 001.2017 / V2

Annex 4: Existing donor coordination framework

Periodic donor coordination meetings are organized and chaired by AFSA. Below a summary of recent and ongoing projects registered in the donor coordination matrix.

“Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Government of Azerbaijan for Official Control of Food and Feed Safety”

This EU funded project finished in 2018; it supported AFSA in the following areas:

- Development of the Statute of the Agency options for the organisation structure and allocation of the functions of the Food Safety Agency
- Establishment of a State Programme of Food safety 2018-2025
- Preparation of a draft law on food safety and a hygiene/HACCP regulation
- Capacity building of the staff of the Agency (organisation structure, training, study tour, website, dissemination activities)
- Strengthening the legal framework for implementation of food safety controls

The project staff has also drafted proposals for registration of food operators, a general hygiene regulation and a regulation on state controls, this establishing a new legal framework for the commencement of basic food safety controls of food business operators.

Azerbaijan Investment Climate and Agribusiness Competitiveness Project

The project is implemented by IFC and supported by the Government of Switzerland through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and Austria's Ministry of Finance. The following support was provided:

- Development of the concept of Automated Food Safety Information System (AFSIS).
- Development of technical specification for “ICT Assessment and Proposed Concept for AFSA Risk Based Inspection System” including models: Registration and Approval System, Risk Categorization, Import/Export, Inspection Management System
- Organized Study Tour to Ankara/Turkey for the leading AFSA specialists on the “Analysis and Development of the risk-based Food Safety Information System”.
- Delivered the trainings on risk-based inspection in July 2018 and October 2018 for food inspectors and phytosanitary inspectors on pest risk analysis, plant quarantine, import risk analysis
- Developed and submitted to AFSA the following documents for adaptation as secondary legislation:
 - Regulation on risk categorization including the food objects (establishment) and risk-based approach for the control of imported and exported food products;

- General food hygiene requirements (based on EC Regulation 852);
- Pest risk analysis procedure - (adopted by AFSA in December 2018);
- Import Procedure in the Republic of Azerbaijan on food, vet and phytosanitary products;
- Registration and Approval Procedure for food objects;
- Inspection Manual for food, vet and phytosanitary inspectors;
- Crisis management procedure;
- Recall withdraw and disposal procedure.

Action Plan on activities to be implemented under the Agreement signed between AFSA and IFC:

Name of activity	Date	Expected result
Development of draft laws and regulations on food safety issues, including amendments to legislation, methodology for risk-based inspections, checklists and state control procedures for food safety and other documents	2018-2020	Developed and approved laws and amendments, checklist lists, control procedures and other documents
Development of <u>secondary legislation</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General hygiene requirements for food products; - Regulation on risk categorization of the food objects; - Risk analysis procedure; - Pest risk analysis procedure; - Import Procedure in the Republic of Azerbaijan on food, vet and phytosanitary products; - Registration and Approval Procedure for food objects; - Inspection Manual for food, vet and phytosanitary inspectors; - Crisis management procedure; - Recall withdraw and disposal procedure. 	2018-2020	
Capacity building of the AFSA: Conduct training on risk-based inspections for food safety and phytosanitary inspectors	2019-2020	Trained staff
Development of proposals for improvement of one electronic register system of risk-based inspections	2019-2020	Proposals have been developed and adopted

Name of activity	Date	Expected result
Development of food safety inspection plans and checklist (already 3 checklists have been developed and submitted to AFSA, and planning to support in developing around 10 checklists in different food chain area)	2019-2020	Developed and implemented by AFSA
Development of proposals on institutional reforms in the field of state food safety inspection activities	2019-2020	Developed and implemented by AFSA
Development of proposals to improve AFSIS modules: import/export; inspection management system; complaint management system	2019-2020	Developed and implemented by AFSA
Development of E-Learning software platform for training of AFSA's inspectors and other relevant staff	2019-2020	Developed and implemented by AFSA and AFSI

Agricultural Competitiveness Improvement Project (ACIP)

The development objective of the Agricultural Competitiveness Improvement Project (ACIP) for Azerbaijan is to facilitate the access of agricultural producers to markets by strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary services, enhancing selected value chains, and providing financial services to agribusiness enterprises. The project has four components.

The first component is support for sanitary and phytosanitary services. This component aims to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of sanitary and phytosanitary services in order to reduce existing obstacles to agricultural and food trade. The component will be structured into following three sub-components: (i) food safety capacity building to establish a roadmap for comprehensive reforms, including key principles for the national food safety control policy and enforcement; (ii) upgrading plant health and phytosanitary system will support upgrading the State Phytosanitary Control Services (SPCS) which is mandated to ensure phytosanitary safety on the import, production, storage, and processing of plant and plant products; and (iii) animal health and veterinary services will support the strengthening the State Veterinary Services (SVS) and promotion of a complementary private veterinary sectors as key elements being considered to provide a suitable environment for improving and securing animal production.

The second component is agribusiness value chain development. This component will help develop value chains by partially financing demand-driven investment proposals. It will also support activities for improving seed varieties and quality of seeds entering the market. It has following two sub-components: (i) investment and advisory support for agribusiness value chain development to: (a) provide development support for value chain participants to assist them to establish productive partnerships and prepare sub-project proposals for funding under the project, and (b) investment support for agribusiness value chains; and (ii) seed sector development will help to build on the experience of Second Agricultural Development and Credit Project (ADCP-II) and will support the seed development chain that includes the National Research Institute for Crop Husbandry (NRICH) and its research stations.

The third component is financial services to agribusiness. This component will promote growth of agribusiness or agro-food processing enterprises through a line of credit to enhance their competitiveness, increase production and improve technologies, building thus on the sizeable results in lending to agribusinesses and improved skills of participating banks in appraising agriculture-related investment loans, achieved under the Bank's previous intervention.

The fourth component is project management. Management responsibility for the project will come under the State Agency for Agricultural Credits (SAAC) within the ministry of agriculture. ACIP will be managed by the Project Management Unit (PMU) located in the State Agency for Agricultural Credits (SAAC).

Overview of activities:

Fields of intervention	Activities	Duration	Actions implemented or foreseen
Institutional development and capacity building	Building of human resources for AFSA and AFSI through comprehensive training program based on the specific training needs	October 2019- March 2020	TOR on Training system is being finalized
	Monitoring and Evaluation of national Food safety system	February – August 2019	KPIs Results Framework M&E Guidelines
	Improvement of Veterinary Legislation	December 2019 –June 2020	1.Revision or new edition of the Veterinary law 2. Revision and drafting some secondary legislation like: Rules on registration of veterinary drugs and establishment of maximum residue limits; Rules on exercising veterinary control over cargo during import, export and transit operations; Rules on Regulation of compensation payments; Rules on conduct of epizootological monitoring; Rules on control over the turnover in the country and on farm application of veterinary drugs
	Providing translations of documents submitted by AFSA	January - December 2019	This activity is being implemented.
Food safety infrastructure and laboratories development	Support with developing a feasibility study for a cost/efficient laboratory networking and preparing laboratories development strategy	March – July 2019	Diagnostic Analysis; Laboratory Strategy; ToR for the implementation the strategy document.

Fields of intervention	Activities	Duration	Actions implemented or foreseen
	Developing integrated information system of laboratories	January-April 2019	No activity
	Specialized trainings to lab staff on lab techniques	January-December 2019	No activity
	Supply of sampling tools and training on how to take samples	January – November 2019	Training in November, 2019
	Support to accreditation of laboratories	January – December 2019 July 2019	AOIC (Official Methods of Analysis) is procured, ISO standards are procured. Procurement of CRMs and PTs under way.
	Supply of equipment and consumables (if required) for priority laboratories	January – December 2019	No activities
	Support to inspection and state control by provision of inspection technical means (tablets) and instruments	January – November 2019	Supply procedure ongoing
Food safety	Support developing sampling regulations, protocols and procedures for various types of products	March – November 2019	Sampling procedures related ISO standards and Manual are procured Training to be delivered
	Support in developing traceability guidelines and establishing traceability system of pilot products	March-November, 2019	Feasibility Study on Traceability system Draft Guidelines; Training
Upgrading the pest diagnostics and toxicological laboratory capacity	Equipment for plant and quarantine and toxicological labs	December 2019	No activities
	Training programs to lab staff	July 2019	Training delivered
Enhancing pest control and pest risk analysis capacity	Training and technical assistance on pest risk analysis (PRA)	June 2020	Pest Risk Analysis Guidelines on Pest Risk Analysis Training
	Training on pest and eradication	November	Training

Fields of intervention	Activities	Duration	Actions implemented or foreseen
	surveillance.	2019 June 2020	
Animal Health and Veterinary Service sub-component	Animal Identification and Registration system (AIRS)	Oct 2019 – Jun ,2020	The AFSA has prepared information describing what is done against aid-memoire points to be implemented before going for tender

