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Strengths and Weaknesses of Present Food Inspection System

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Presentation Outline

- Current Food Inspection System Of Egypt
- Strengths
- Weaknesses



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CURRENT FOOD INSPECTION SYSTEM OF EGYPT



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The Ministries and Agencies charged with food inspection responsibilities include:

- Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP)
 - General Department for Food Control
- Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR)
 - General Authority for Veterinary Services
 - Central Administration for Plant Quarantine
- Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)
 - General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC)
 - Industrial Control Authority
- Ministry of Social Solidarity (former Supply and Home Trade)
 - Control and Distribution Sector: Control and Supply Department
- Ministry of the Interior
 - Supply Investigation Police
- Ministry Of Electricity
 - Atomic Energy Agency



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STRENGTHS



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Inspector Qualifications

- ❖ The educational requirements for inspectors, mostly those in General Organization for Exports and Imports Control, Industrial Control Authority, General Authority for Veterinary Services, fulfill the required level.



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Inspector Training

GOEIC has:

- ❖ Training center equipped with all required training aids
- ❖ Training plan based on training need assessment



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Standard Operating Procedures / Manuals

GOEIC has standard Operating Procedures covering all inspection activities.



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Product Sampling Procedures

GOEIC has:

- ❖ Sampling standard Operating Procedures.
- ❖ Adequate Samples handling, storage facilities.



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Data Management

- ❖ GOEIC has a comprehensive fully electronic data management system, which provides real time information to GOIEC management and the import/export community.



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WEAKNESSES



Laws & Regulations

- ❖ Existing food laws & regulations are not based upon risk assessment; they do not include the obligation of food companies to apply principles such as HACCP, GMP, etc. nor do they all conform to the latest internationally recognized standards.
- ❖ The lack of clear concise laws makes the work of the field inspector much harder than it should be



Inspection Responsibilities

- ❖ The structure of food safety was organized within the model “multiple bodies system” and there is no identified policies and strategic plan of food safety documentation.
- ❖ Areas of responsibility are not clearly defined and the methods of operations of the Ministries under the current system seem to be more subjective than risk based.



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Food inspection activities

- ❖ Food inspection activities focus mainly on end-product testing.



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Geographical Coverage, i.e., Rural and Urban Areas

- ❖ Food inspectors employed by MOHP in rural areas have many other assignments apart from food inspection, which lead to very poor food inspection service



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Inspector Qualifications

- ❖ The educational requirements for inspectors, mostly those in MOHP, are under the required level.



Inspector Training

- ❖ Lack of continued training to keep the inspector abreast of modern methods in a highly technical profession.
- ❖ Low training budget
- ❖ Lack of training planning
- ❖ Lack of Training facilities



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Standard Operating Procedures / Manuals

- ❖ The existence of written inspection procedures and /or Inspection Manual could not be verified



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Inspector Wages

- ❖ Food inspectors, mostly those working with MOHP, are paid low wages



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Inspection and Sampling Tools

- ❖ Inspection and sampling tools are inadequate, e.g. thermometers, sample withdrawal tools, transportation, etc.



Data Management

- ❖ Lack of an updated centralized data collection and management system.
- ❖ The current information system does not allow for the sharing of data between the different Ministries that have food safety duties.
- ❖ Even within each Ministry, data is difficult to retrieve and use for management and/or audit purposes.
- ❖ Inspection data is not readily available to assist management in work load planning which would help better control budgeted resources.



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