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Strengths and Weaknesses of Food Labs In Egypt

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Knowing strengths and weaknesses of food labs defines the situation of food control in Egypt

Sources of Food

- Imported food
- Local market food
[Open market and super market]
- Products of the Food Processing Sector
- Hospitality food
[Hotel and restaurants]



Control of Different Sources of Food In Egypt

Import food	Local market	Food product produced by Food processing Sector	Tourisms food [Hotel and restaurants]
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Several organization Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control by the producer them self if available• Minstry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May Be Ministry of Health

Weak Points

HANDLING OF SAMPLE

Sampling

Import food

- Sample Taken by committee from different Organization.

Local market

- Only Ministry of Health

Food product produced by Food processing Sector

- Control by the producer them self if available
- Ministry of Health

Tourisms food [Hotel and restaurants]

- May Be Ministry of Health

Chain of custody of Imported Food

Imported food

Sampling by committee from Agricultural ,Health and GOIEC



Samples coded by GOEIC [Handling of samples]



A sample sent to different laboratories



Labs belong to different organizations that apply Egyptian regulation standards

More than 1500 standards for food



The Lab Approved according to Egyptian Standards
[Results not fully reported]

Weak points



Local Market

Sampling

Not on scientific and statistical Base



Samples taken by inspector from ministry of health

[Weak Point]



All samples were analyzed In Central Laboratory of Ministry of Health and in some time in poorly –equipped labs



Lab often report suitability of food for human consumption without providing results

[weak point]

Food processing Sector

20% from factories register with Chamber of Food Industries

80% Unknown source of production

[Weak Point]



[Registered factories]

Samples analyzed by producer and /or Ministry of Health

[Weak Point]

Hospitality Food [Hotels & Restaurants]

Samples were taken by inspector of
Ministry Of Health



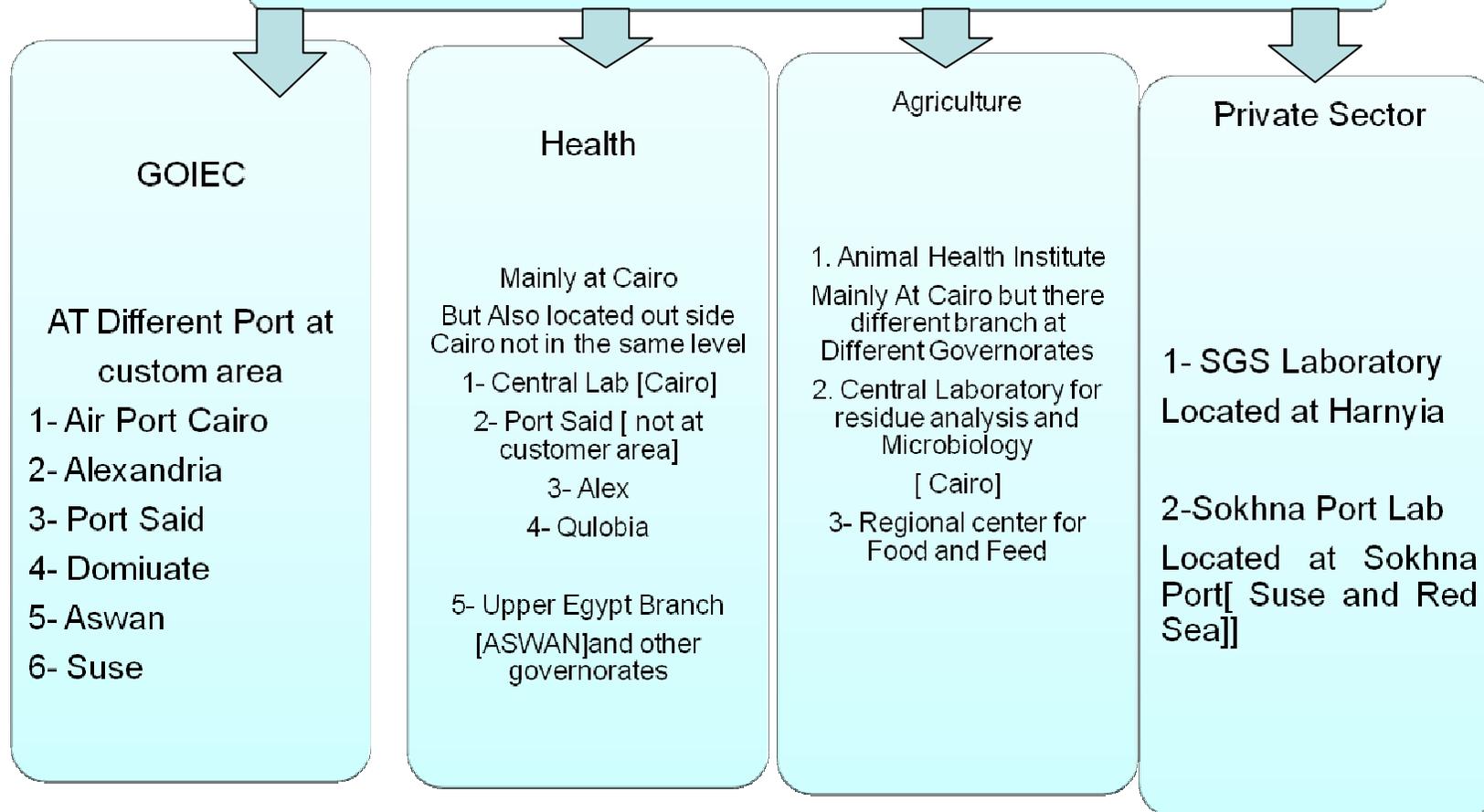
All samples examined in the
Central Laboratory Of Health

Weak Point For control Import food

- Existing food specifications [standards] are bloated with non-essential descriptive and proximate analyses ,but lack the specifics on critical food safety parameters
- Current methods of analysis as practiced in many lab are not sufficient to definitively detect disease-causing organisms or accurately quantify toxic chemical hazards

Where are food laboratories in Egypt?

Distribution of food Lab in Egypt



Analysis of Local Market Food

- Weak labs in many governorates. Example: Kalyoubia
- Deficiency of laboratories in many geographical areas.
 - Delta
 - Upper Egypt (except Luxor and Aswan)
- No labs serving a large cluster of food factories
 - 6th of October
 - 10th of Ramdan
 - Bourg El Arab
 - EL Ubour

Statistics Depository

Publishing

Stat. Analysis

Central Lab

Confirmation/Validation

Investigation

Province-B Lab

Province-A Lab

Lab analysis

Patient & Food Samples

Town

Village

Incidence of Disease