

# Food Legislation Perspectives and Recommendations, Including a Proposed Model Food Law

Abdul Ghaffar Korai<sup>a</sup>, Abdul Samad<sup>b</sup>, Ahad Ghaffar<sup>c</sup>, Javed Ahmed<sup>d</sup>, Imtiaz Ahmed Memon<sup>e</sup>, Azhar Khan<sup>f</sup>, <sup>a</sup>Corresponding Author, Assistant Professor Law, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University of Law, Karachi, <sup>b</sup>Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences. <sup>c</sup>Law student at Government ABD Law College, Sukkur. <sup>d</sup>Advocate, High Court Sindh. <sup>e</sup>Deputy Director (Monitoring) Criminal Prosecution Service, Law Department, Government of Sindh. <sup>f</sup>Assistant Professor SRH Campus, Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan, KP, Pakistan. Email: [koraiahad71@gmail.com](mailto:koraiahad71@gmail.com)

Critical changes in the worldwide and public food administrative frameworks have come about because of the expanding globalization of food exchange and the assembly of food guidelines and sanitation laws. It is getting progressively certain that, to more readily secure the lives and soundness of individuals, creatures, and plants while forestalling pointless exchange boundaries, public and global administrative exercises should be incorporated and reinforced. Moreover, crushing episodes of food-borne infections have increased consciousness of the worldwide food handling and exchange administrative framework. These progressions have required new enactment. Public administrative constructions should be adjusted to satisfy global and local responsibilities, and the food area's risk dispersion should be dissected. The content depends on FAO's involvement with helping governments in growing new food laws and guidelines, just as making and refreshing a few parts of the public design, and these exercises ought to be fused into the orderly survey of the public food administrative system. With that in mind, the content contains three renditions of the current model food law, just as point by point rules for the plan of a fundamental public food law.

**Key words:** *Food Legislation, FAO's, Food Law*



## Introduction

The climate around us is rapidly changing. Many people expect that the food system will change dramatically within the next ten years. Food is being reformulated; new foods, manufacturing processes, and distribution methods are being developed; and systems are becoming increasingly digital.

The national and international regulatory systems for food control, food safety, and food trade have undergone substantial changes in the last decade. The Codex Alimentarius was used as the basis of international food standards by the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) in 1995. This is one of the most significant recent changes in global food policy, and it can be considered a food effect. Recognized that production and commerce are being increasingly globalised. The global epidemic of food-borne diseases, which has ignited unprecedented interest in national food control and legislation, as well as infrastructure, has been followed by media coverage and direct consumer attention.

Similarly, in the last decade, there has been a surge of interest in the intersection of food security and other agricultural problems that have traditionally been viewed separately (such as phytosanitary and animal quarantine). These subjects are often grouped together under the heading "biosafety." Biosafety is generally understood as the defence against potentially harmful animal and plant pests, invasive alien species, and genetically modified organisms from environmental, economic, and human health risks. Food protection, animal and plant quarantine, and phytosanitary powers are all given to a single executive agency in some countries, which performs "farm-to-table" inspections to protect the health and lives of livestock, plants, and humans.

These shifts have been influenced by a number of factors. The parts that follow go into some of the recent experiences and legislative developments that have shaped international and national debates and decisions on food control, food safety, and food trade.

Many factors, including culture, customs, political structures and support for different stakeholders within the community influence the formulation and implementation of national and regional food policies. Only collaborative and strategic interoperability between different component systems will achieve effective behavioral changes. An ideal forum for individual actions should be an ideal design of policies at all levels. Policies have to be planned to improve the atmosphere where poor eating habits take place, that is, the everyday eating environment. The food system needs to be changed and revamped to create a safe food climate in an effort to improve the food environment. Continuous preparation and training should be provided to provide people with the appropriate expertise and skills to adapt to the new world in order to sustain the required behaviors. The synergy between all these variables

and policies needs to be achieved through local and national government compliance mechanisms and administrative oversight.

Countries will have greater chances to reach the export market in the coming years, but this will go hand in hand with increased competition as well as the need to maintain confidence in food security. The latter can be accomplished by implementing the 'from farm to table' concept, which includes monitoring of all the links in the food chain to guarantee food safety and quality, and the implementation of preventive food safety methods. Sharing knowledge nationally, regionally, and internationally can help minimize customer concerns, and testing can enhance scientific awareness of food risks.

Another factor impacting world food trade is privatization. Privatization is evidently linked to the breakdown of the socialist governance system in Central and Eastern Europe and in other countries that turn to a market economy. This is not confined to this background, however. Whether through internal changes or through external pressure, countries around the world have to change their law systems to isolate the government from the economy and services in form of structural adjustment plans. Enhance the legal framework for private trade and private investments. For instance, food inspection tasks and research functions can be transferred at national level to semi-official or autonomous agencies, and regulatory and administrative market access criteria can be coordinated and simplified as a food business at national level or food shopkeeper. Unlike globalization, coordination, and other examples of convergence, this possible separation seems to be celebrated with a propensity to emphasize the growing decentralization of the authorities and obligations of government. There is a change in the legal structure to represent policies which foster local decision-making in different fields. Decentralization is a policy which governments and international organizations have embraced in theory and which is expressed in various legal instruments. The ability to be more successful than the central government alone may be one of the driving factors. It is also possible to reduce cumbersome bureaucracies that can lead to departmental or regional coverage lacunas, especially in rural areas. Strategies for food control may include the assignment of local district and municipal tasks to inspect food companies for the adjustment of laws and institutions for those purposes.

## **Review of Related Literature**

### **WHAT IS FOOD LAW?**

It is proper to portray "food law" prior to moving into the setting of global food law and afterward into the current and ideal components of the public food law framework. The term is broadly utilized in enactment that oversees the creation, dispersion, and treatment of food. The tight view would restrict this definition to public level food control, sanitation, and food exchange guidelines, with an accentuation on broad food or specific sorts of food laws and guidelines. Food insurance enactment, fish investigation enactment, and fare guidelines for



creature inferred food sources are all as a result. This gathering covers every one of them. As per this agreement, there are not very many unfamiliar factors, and imports and fares are the lone things that are considered.

A more extensive perspective would consider all zones that require guideline to guarantee quality food preparing, exchange, and dealing with, and will represent these components. At the end of the day, food guideline would cover whatever has to do with food on a public level, regardless of whether straightforwardly or by implication. Therefore, a meaning of the food law will be required, which will consider a scope of legal arrangements identifying with sanitation. Food handling laws, just as purchaser security or extortion anticipation laws, compromise laws, customs laws, import and fare guidelines, meat assessment laws, item examination rules, fisheries, pesticide buildup laws, and veterinary medications, might be remembered for this rundown. Also, there are laws that manage composts and creature feed, in addition to other things.

### **National Developments**

Populace development keeps on being a critical issue for the worldwide food framework at the public level. To take care of a steadily expanding populace, horticultural yields and creature farming practices should be improved; reap misfortunes should be diminished; food preparing and conveyance frameworks should turn out to be more proficient; and new innovations and methodologies should be executed. Helpless post-collect foundation, particularly in non-industrial nations, incorporates an absence of clean water, power, storerooms, thruways, and transportation.

Not only is the population projected to grow, but the majority of the growth will take place in urban areas. Between now and 2030, almost all expected population growth will occur in cities, with the global urban population rising from 2.9 billion in 2000 to 5 billion in 2030. Rising demand for food has resulted from migration to urban areas and the intensification of urbanisation, and increased population density would raise the risk of health hazards.

Food processing, planning, and marketing practises have all changed drastically in both urban and rural areas, raising new risks. New technology, for example, enables food to move farther and last longer, but growing foreign trade in agricultural products, paradoxically, makes rapid spread of food hazards more possible, and rapid response is therefore more difficult. Food is affected not only by microorganisms, but also by chemicals and environmental contaminants as it is generated, processed, and transported around the world. Heavy metals and other toxins will reach the food through the soil or water if pesticides are misused during processing and storage. Antibiotic residues from animal feeding or improper handling can contribute to the continuous enhancement of microorganisms' resistance to antibiotics. Dioxins may penetrate animal feed through feed additives, and feed contaminated with mycotoxins can contaminate milk and meat.

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## **Regulatory**

In general, a country's legal structure for food is formed by a combination of political, social, economic, and science powers. Laws and regulations cannot be revised or changed on a regular basis, resulting in a web of rules that regulators, businesses, and customers are unable to decipher. The need to create a regulatory structure for the domestic market or encourage exports could have an effect on these changes. In this situation, the statutory instrument can only target particular goods or food-related practices, resulting in an inconsistency and uncertainty in the overall scheme. While certain departmental regulations are unavoidable in any food control system, the ultimate aim is to address the majority of food issues in the basic food law while also enforcing regulations and standards.

In several countries, the issue is that once the basic food law is amended or promulgated, the organization in charge of enforcing the law is decided. Food regulation has historically been considered the responsibility of the hygiene department (because food safety requires human health), while some departments (such as meat and other animal product inspection) have been delegated to the veterinary department. Veterinary facilities are generally housed within the Ministry of Agriculture, while the autonomous Ministry of Fisheries may be in charge of ensuring the protection and quality of fishery products. Conflicts, overlaps, and gaps with the responsible national and local health authorities may or may not arise as a result of the assignment of different responsibilities.

## **National Public Nutrition Education: Dietary Guidelines**

Sustenance training is basic for advancing ideal dietary conduct upgrades and dietary patterns. Numerous nations have created dietary proposals over the most recent twenty years, and the United States is at the bleeding edge of this exertion. These dietary suggestions help with raising public consciousness of nourishing necessities and empowering wholesome training on various levels and in different settings. In excess of 60 created and agricultural nations all throughout the planet have built up their own public dietary rules.

## **Nutrition Labeling for Food Packages**

Food marks may assume a significant part in helping purchasers in settling on better food choices by helping them to remember their healthful substance. Therefore, officials all throughout the planet are calling for enactment requiring nourishment marking on food bundles and in cafés. While the viability of these arrangements is uncertain, primer proof demonstrates that such naming may impact the food decisions of specific populaces and improve their admission of fat, sugar, and sodium.

An ever increasing number of nations have as of late presented naming plans that are less difficult and simpler to recognize. The British Food Standards Agency, for instance,



dispatched a willful "traffic signal" naming plan on the facade of the case in June 2013. The red, yellow, and green marks in this plan allude to the high, medium, and low rates of fat, immersed fat, salt, sugar, and all out energy in the item, individually. This nourishing information is more obvious on account of shading coding. Notwithstanding the way that the current plan just includes 60% of food, it is viewed as a significant advance toward a straightforward and predictable way to deal with food naming. In June 2013, Australia's and New Zealand's priests consented to supplant the Daily Intake Guidelines with a deliberate wellbeing star rating framework. Food varieties with higher dietary benefit get a higher star rating in this pre-bundled marking plan, though food varieties with lower dietary benefit get a lower star rating. On the facade of the food bundling, a star rating scale (from half to five stars) will be printed. Sugar, immersed fat, sodium, and energy substance of the food will all be referenced on the sustenance name.

### **The National Communications Platform for ALL Food Protection Stakeholders**

The cornerstone of an effective response to reduce the effect of any food emergency on the economy and public health is quick and accurate contact between federal, state, and local officials, as well as industry. The need for improved communication among all stakeholders is frequently mentioned in lessons learned from actual events and exercises. Both federal, state, and local food enforcement agencies, public health authorities, and other agencies involved in food safety must use a centralized contact channel, according to the FDA and USDA.

### **State Food Inspection Programs**

The key providers of national food security regulatory services should become the State and local authorities, allowing the federal government to commit more money to import food. The funds should be: adequate, ongoing, risk-based, and versatile insight into food safety hazards by states and rely on the Federal Assessment Plan's food safety outcomes (for example food safety standards). The aim of the NFSS project is to create a framework that can allow better use of all committed resources for food safety (all levels of government) and achieve continuity and uniformity (inspection, review, enforcement and supervision). Activities) to increase consumer trust through food safety improvement and the introduction of a framework for food safety.



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## **Food Policies Approach**

### **School-focused Food Policies**

Numerous nourishment related plans and arrangements are better upheld in a school setting. All things considered, every kid goes through around 1,300 hours in the homeroom throughout a nine-month school year. Youth is a vital time for heftiness avoidance on the grounds that hefty kids are bound to remain stout as grown-ups. Moreover, activities that are seen as profitable to kids are bound to acquire social help than arrangements that favor other segment gatherings. Thus, schools have taken on another situation as the cutting edge, and school wellbeing activities are basic for improving kids' wellbeing.

### **Roles & Responsibilities**

Our existing food safety regulatory framework is the product of collaboration between local, state, and federal partners. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States ensures that domestic and imported foods are clean, sanitary, healthy, organic, and properly labeled. The FDA is governed by two major laws: the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) and the Public Health Services Act. The FDA has developed regulatory requirements and guidelines to ensure that food is safe and unadulterated. Departments of federal, local, and county agriculture and public health play an important role in helping FDA fulfill these duties by performing national food business inspections, conducting food laboratory testing, and implementing safety measures. The FDA collaborates with states to develop quality standards for food and drug establishments, and evaluates state compliance with these standards and any applicable federal regulations.

While the FDA is in charge of the food safety network, it also has a robust state and local legal framework in place to help coordinate and protect the food supply of the United States. Since all problems begin at the local level, the state often acts as an outpost for emerging concerns, allowing it to respond rapidly before they become a national issue and, as a result, before the FDA intervenes.

Inspections, implementation, training, and other compliance efforts to support the FDA's legal authorization are primarily the responsibility of state agencies. The FDA, for example, has signed agreements with states to monitor medicated animal feed and analyse pesticide residues in food. Currently, 80 percent of food safety checks in the United States are carried out at the state and local levels.

These figures cast a pall over our federal partners' efforts, signaling a genuine dedication to state and local food security. The state has much more regulatory authority than the FDA, including the ability to revoke, detain (embargo), and impose administrative penalties. This highly automated mechanism creates more rigorous regulatory processes than the FDA alone.



With our capital, we will be able to overcome food-borne diseases, food adulteration, and intentional food supply contamination.

## **Factors Affecting Food Law**

### **Economic Policies Affecting Food Prices: Taxation and Subsidy**

Food prices are influenced by economic policies. As a result, in 2008, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended economic policies to allow people to eat more healthily. Two main economic policy measures for preventing obesity are taxes on unhealthy foods and incentives for nutritious foods. However, the controversy about whether the government can implement these economic policies and how effective they are at reducing obesity rates continues. One of the key issues is that these measures could be regressive. Low-income people are more likely to consume low-cost unhealthy foods and eat less high-cost nutritious foods. As a consequence, food taxes or subsidies will favour the rich while punishing the poor. Proponents of this economic strategy, on the other hand, argue that the greatest health advantage of reducing obesity is for low-income individuals, so food taxes or subsidies are justified.

Some countries have enacted fiscal policies aimed at reducing the consumption of unhealthy foods and beverages. Similar policies are being introduced in other nations. The US sugary beverage tax, Denmark's "fat tax," Hungary's "junk food tax," and France's "sugar-sweetened beverage tax" are among the steps that have been introduced. Other policies in the works include a fat tax in Romania, Finland, and the United Kingdom, as well as a junk food tax in Peru.

### **Laboratory Issues**

The refusal to accept state details on food safety would lead to delays in addressing public health problems and a rise in costs. A survey of food security managers from 50 states was conducted in 2001 by the American Food Distribution Organization (AFDO) and the countries agricultural and public health laboratories estimate over 300 000 food specimens annually. Federal agencies must integrate state and federal inspection and analysis data to guide strategies, compliance and organizational decisions. At present, State inspections or data analysis are not recognized by the US Food- and Drug Administration [FDA], and different measures are required to be undertaken for public health and safety.

Over the last five years, 1,400 food retrieval systems in 61 countries/regions have been organized by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets on the basis of food lab research. The FDA has checked only 13 of the 1,400 foodstuffs, with an import alert being issued in all 13 cases. FDA compliance has not been subjected to other foodstuffs that the State of New York considers violated by the state and federal law.



A national network of federal and state laboratories will detect bacterial, chemical and radiological contamination in food, Food Emergency Response Network (FERN). In response to terrorist attacks linked to food, the FERN network has developed important analytical improvements. The work to extend the FERN scheme is supported by NASDA through co-operation agreements and technical assistance to States.

### **Disparagement of Ag Products**

By banning the publication of misleading, destructive, and financially destructive information, NASDA supports laws and regulations that require truthful information to be used when accusing agricultural products, and/or producers would protect the entire industry and promote the public interest.

### **Role of Education**

Science-based general food protection services for all customers, as well as programs for people at high risk of foodborne diseases, should be part of public education. Consumer education should also provide knowledge on technical advancements such as irradiation technology and agricultural biotechnology, which can increase food safety and raise consumer awareness of this beneficial advancement. Food warning labels and other knowledge claims must also be consistent, according to federal law.

Consumers have full power over every food safety scheme. Foodborne disease incidence can be significantly reduced due to successful public education and effective media coverage, according to observations in the United States and other nations. Consumer education on proper food handling and cooking practices must be shared by the government and industry.

While it is vital to provide sensitive individuals with facts, the statements that such products (rather than other similar products) need can lead to misunderstanding and misinformation about these products. NASDA looks forward to working with the federal legislature on a standardized food labeling and information programme.

### **Food Safety Measures**

According to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food-borne diseases sicken 48 million people worldwide each year, hospitalize 128,000 people, and kill 3,000 people. This is a big public health issue that should be avoided.

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) is changing the US food safety system by moving the emphasis from responding to food-borne diseases to preventing them. The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was enacted by Congress in reaction to significant changes in the global food system and our perception of foodborne diseases and their effects,



including the realization that preventable foodborne diseases are a major public health issue and a threat to the food economy.

The FDA has established seven major rules for enforcing FSMA, and acknowledges that food safety is a joint responsibility of several parties in the global human and animal food supply chain. The FSMA rules are intended to set out the clear steps that must be taken to avoid emissions at each of these stages.

## **Discussion and Conclusion**

This research supports a broader perspective, advocating an inclusive approach, in reviewing and updating the national food law framework. This viewpoint supported the authors' support for centralized food control actions at the national level (even the establishment of an independent central authority to address all sanitary and phytosanitary measures at the national level). At the same time, we accept that it is easier to resolve and monitor some problems in basic food law and that government agencies or other branches than the central agency have other areas best left to deal with laws and rules of procedure. However, the comprehensive structure outlined here would probably be useful for those countries that conduct studies in order to recognize the many components of the national food regulatory system. Only by identifying and revising various programs, organizations, regulations, and legislative provisions directly or indirectly applicable to food, may governments determine strengths, deficiencies, overlaps and differences. Thus, governments should choose an appropriate legislative strategy, taking account of national strategies, structure, activities and available resources, and the best approach for their national needs and current international engagements.

The high level approach aims to change the existing structure and construct an environment in which people are less susceptible to bad habits. For example, banking fast food from school cafes can prevent children from eating unhealthy food and inspire students to learn more about how to control their food intake and consumption. In reality, paying separate attention to children enhances their ability to adapt as adults to a bad consumption. Many policies on the other hand have only dealt with one aspect of the food climate, so that they cannot use the power to enact more systemically legislation, which can change the safe food environment more dramatically.

## **Recommendations**

Many elements affect the formulation and execution, including culture, customs, political structures and the support of various stakeholders, of national and regional food policies. Significant behavioral improvements can only be made by mutual collaboration and strategic interoperability between different component systems. The best design of policies at all levels should accompany individual measures. Policies need to be designed to change the



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environment in which poor eating patterns are formed, i.e. the food environment to which people are exposed every day. Change in the food environment requires changes to the food system that need to be updated and revised so that a healthy food environment is created. Continuous learning and training must be provided to give people the knowledge and skills they need to adjust to the modern environment to sustain the desired changes in behaviour. In order to strike a balance between all these factors and policies, compliance frameworks and regulatory controls by local and national governments would be essential.



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