



In partnership with
Canada

SAFEGRO



Newsletter

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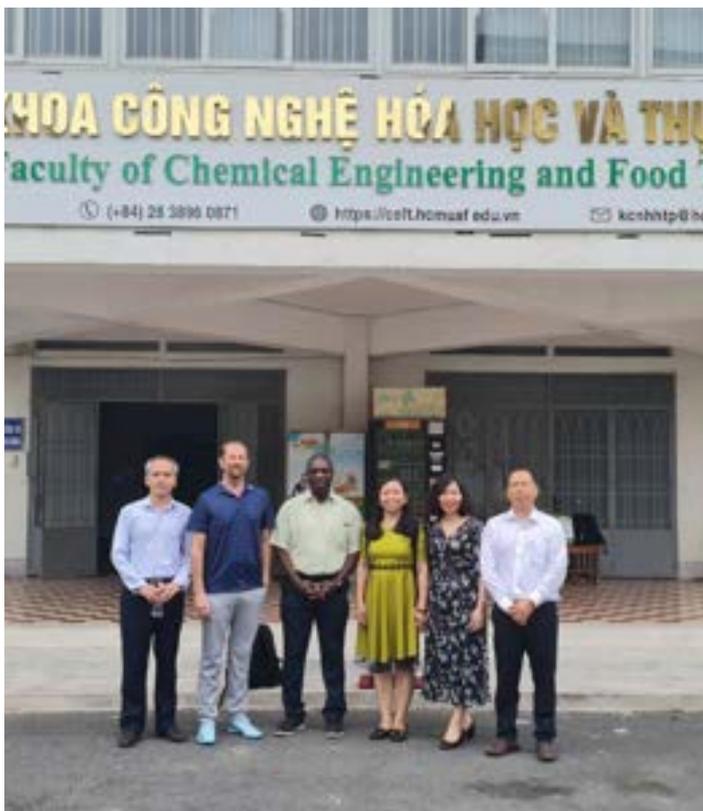
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Food Safety Education



The FS program in Thanh Oai District has expanded to include **1,622** preschool teachers trained through the learning-through-play approach, benefiting **11,949** children. It integrates five key FS principles into lessons, engaging both children and teachers, while involving parents in practicing food hygiene and safety at home.



Productive discussions were held with HCMC University of Industry and Trade, HCMC Nong Lam University, Nha Trang University, and the SAFEGRO team, alongside Prof. Lawrence Goodridge, Director of the Food Safety Research Institute at the University of Guelph, Canada. The focus was on developing and implementing **food safety curriculum** for undergraduates and certificate training programs.



Better Process Control School for thermal processing and canned foods

Since 2017, the Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Food Technology at Nong Lam University – Ho Chi Minh City has conducted the “*Better Process Control School Training*” twice annually. The 2024 session, held from November 28 to December 1 with support of SAFEGRO, successfully attracted 25 participants from 16 food processing companies.

The course has equipped us with crucial insights into controlling food production thermal processes and canned foods in line with international standards. Under the expert guidance of experienced lecturers, we have acquired practical and valuable skills that will undoubtedly benefit our professional growth. - Participant feedback.

A series of workshops focusing on Canada's Food Safety Investigation and Recall Process



"Canada uses a risk-based food safety management system. Licensed businesses are evaluated based on the level of risk they represent to consumers. This approach allows the allocation of inspection resources based on food safety risks. Risk assessments evaluate the likelihood of food causing illness and, if a health risk is identified, appropriate risk mitigation actions, such as a recall, are considered. While most recalls in Canada are voluntarily initiated by companies, the country has the regulatory authority to enforce mandatory recalls" said Mr. Pedro Chacon, Food Safety Risk Expert at the Office of Food Safety and Recall at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

**PRODUCT
RECALL**

Ha Noi: 20 - 21, November, 2024

Ba Ria Vung Tau: 26 - 27, November, 2024

FARMERS PLAY A “CENTRAL, KEY” ROLE IN THE PRODUCTION AND TRADING OF SAFE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FOOD FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

On the morning of November 16, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Farmers’ Union held a workshop titled: ***“Promoting the Role of the Vietnam Farmers’ Union in Propagating, Mobilizing, and Guiding Farmers in the Production and Trading of Safe Agricultural Products and Food for Public Health.”***



At the workshop, Mr. Lam, Director of SAFEGRO proposed that Farmers’ Associations at all levels should focus on propagating and mobilizing efforts toward “changing food safety behaviors.”

The goal is to influence the behavior of sellers, consumers, and market managers, while also recognizing and praising individuals and groups that excel in ensuring food safety.



SAFEGRO Supports Vietnam Food Safety Risk Assessment Center (VFSA)



On November 1st in Hanoi, the Ministry of Health held a ceremony to announce the establishment of the Food Safety Risk Assessment Center (VFSA), the first of its kind in Vietnam.

The VFSA is dedicated to assessing food safety risks, providing scientific evidence for management, and proposing effective solutions to enhance food safety nationwide.



84%

of the participants expressed readiness to apply the knowledge when opportunities arise!

“In Vietnam, we have limited opportunities to learn about quantitative risk assessment, so I find this course very necessary.” - Ms. Luu Ngoc Phuong from the Reference Testing & Agrifood Quality Services Center (RETAQ), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.



SAFEGRO Quantitative Food Safety Risk Assessment Training

October 28, 2024, SAFEGRO continued the series of quantitative risk assessment training in Hanoi with the “Quantitative Risk Assessment for Food Safety – Microbial Hazards.” for assessors from MARD, MOH and MOIT.



Led by Mr. Greg Paoli of Risk Sciences International and Dr. Ashwani Tiwari from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the course aims to build QRA skills for Vietnamese food safety professionals in support of a National Food Safety Risk Assessors Network.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD CONTROL CONFERENCE 2024

“Risk Assessment to Support Risk-based Food Safety Control”

On October 24-25, 2024, the International Food Control Conference 2024 (FCC2024) was successfully organized by the National Institute for Food Control – Ministry of Health.

SAFEGRO is very proud to contribute to the conference:

- *Risk assessment promoting state management in food safety* - Mr. Greg Michael Paoli, Risk Sciences International.
- *Canada’s risk-based approach to food safety control* - Dr. Brian G. Bedard, Alinea International.
- *Risk assessment for food safety – CFIA Risk modeling* - Dr. Ashwani Tiwari, Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
- *Food Safety Culture: The science and art of improving food safety* - Dr. Birgitta Elizabeth Ball, University of Guelph, Canada.



WORKSHOPS:

Improving Food Safety Culture in Agricultural Value Chains

Ho Chi Minh city



Dr. Brita Ball, an international expert on food safety culture from Canada, and Ms. Do Thi Lan Nhi, a lecturer on food safety at Ho Chi Minh City University of Industry and Trade, shared international and Vietnamese experiences and research on food safety culture, and its relationship with Vietnam's food safety management systems.

Great work!

The workshop featured:

- Effective communication on food safety risks
- Effective food safety education and training to change behavior
- Effective leadership to build a positive organizational food safety culture

Hanoi



Introducing and promoting the market food safety model in Long Bien district

SAFEGRO is supporting food safety management in Long Bien district to enhance food safety practices and hygienic conditions at Thuong Thanh and Kim Quan food markets.

The project has improved food safety in local markets by aligning practices with Vietnamese and international standards. SAFEGRO provided guidance on zoning, training for staff and vendors, and essential safety equipment, including tables, handwashing stations, hygienic gear and infrastructure upgrades, with the support from market management and Long Bien DPC.



Traceability



From October 28-31, the **SAFEGRO Traceability team** visited Lam Dong and Ho Chi Minh City to work with value chains—Phong Thuy and Phu Loc for vegetables, Can Gio for seafood, and the Binh Dien wholesale Market.

These visits highlighted the commitment to improving food safety by enhancing traceability, transparency and trust in areas that serve large populations of consumers and their families.

SAFEGRO IN THE MEDIA

SAFEGRO's events were covered on national TV and in newspapers, including VTV2, Hanoi TV, Nhan Dan (The People), Vietnam Investment Review, Dan Viet, and others. TV clips were also shared on social media, reaching millions of online viewers.



The SAFEGRO, funded by a grant from the Government of Canada, is being implemented in Vietnam from 2021 to 2026. The MARD is the Project Owner. The NAFIQPM serves as the Project Standing Agency. The Alinea International in association with the University of Guelph is the Canadian Execution Agency.

The project aims to enhance access to safe, affordable, and competitive agricultural products for Vietnamese consumers, thereby improving consumer well-being. It also seeks to raise consumer awareness of food safety and increase demand for safe agricultural products in Vietnam.

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THANKYOU