



Nationaal Instituut voor Voedselveiligheid Suriname
National Institute for Food Safety Suriname

PROPOSED STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 – 2026

Including Associated Implementation Approach

Background

The National Food Safety Agency (NIVS) was established in December 2020 as Suriname's single food safety agency, with the intent to assemble key food safety regulatory authorities and to address several limitations observed over time with respect to performance of the food control system, in particular with the operation of and coordination between Surinamese food competent authorities, previously having oversight on food and agri-food products.

NIVS gathers all food regulatory authorities on food safety and quality, with a mandate that aligns with the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the international food standard setting body, meaning that the food regulatory oversight is exercised regardless of the state of processing of the food commodity: primary production, processing, sale and retail.

NIVS will be collaborating with other Surinamese regulators hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV), mainly the animal health regulator, led by the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) and the Plant Health regulator, headed by the National Plant Protection Office (NPPO).

NIVS will aim to offer a favorable and enabling environment that supports confidence in the safety and quality of Surinamese food and agrifood products and that contributes therefore towards enhanced market access opportunities domestically and internationally.

As part of its commitment to apply best food regulatory practices, NIVS is developing a Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2026, that will steer of its food regulatory oversight and the planning and operationalization of its food control program. The Strategic Plan will be further supported by an operational plan that will need to be updated on a yearly basis.

These plans take stock of the current food regulatory environment, domestically and internationally and focus on the incremental deployment of food control activities, considering the young stage of development of NIVS as a food regulator in Suriname, but with the ambition to have a leading position at the regional and global level.

The strategic plan and the associated workplan will benefit from a stakeholder consultation at the national level to ensure it reflects the priority of all partners and actors of the food system in Suriname.

The Strategic Plan will be supported with a Roll out plan for an implementation approach starting on January 1st 2023, with a more detailed emphasis on Year 1 of implementation. The period between the development and adoption of these plans and the implementation start date will be used to secure the level of buy-in needed from the stakeholder community as well as securing the resources required for operations.

Considering the fact that NIVS will also encompass food regulatory functions of the Fisheries Inspection Institute (VKI), the deployment of food regulatory function of NIVS will attempt to leverage what was accomplished by VKI and not disrupt the functioning of the VKI program. The goal is built upon the functioning of VKI program, leading to its enhancement and to develop other requirements for other sectors.

Vision

To be recognized as a leading food regulatory authority to effectively enhance consumer protection and contribute to a favorable environment for the food and agri-food sector, supported by Modernized Food Legislation, and through the operations of Proactive Food Regulatory Programs

Mission

To regulate and promote the safety, quality and sustainability of food and agri-food products – produced, imported into and exported from Suriname –protecting the health of consumers and enabling fair practices in the food trade.

Values

- ❖ Promote collaboration with and between stakeholders.
- ❖ Embrace transparency in food regulatory decision-making, operations and management.
- ❖ Emphasize the independence of NIVS as a food competent authority protecting consumers and creating a fair environment for food trade.
- ❖ Promote impartial treatment amongst stakeholders and constituents of NIVS

Proposed Strategic Plan

The NIVS Strategic Plan is meant to steer the activities of NIVS according to 3 Key Strategic Goals, destined to build and deliver food regulatory programs and two other Strategic goals oriented to help strengthen the capacity of the organization as a food regulator (Figure1)

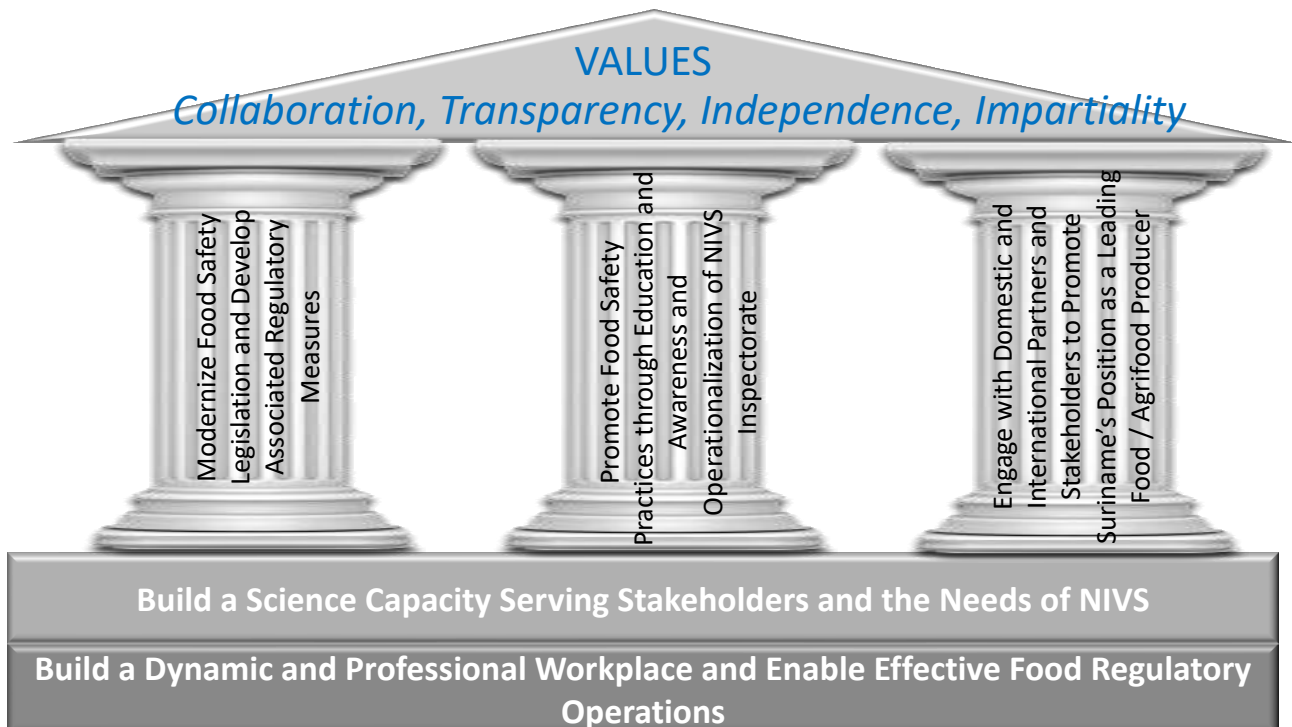


Figure 1: Strategic Goals of NIVS

Strategic Goal 1

Modernize Suriname’s Food Safety Legislation and Develop Supporting Regulatory Frameworks

Strategic Goal 1 aims at anchoring NIVS activities in a modernized food safety legislation that gives NIVS the regulatory powers needed to exercise its mandate and creates accountability to all partners of the food production system.

The main objective is to enable the replacement of the 1911 outdated food safety legislation and to initiate the implementation of a food regulatory workplan to be rolled out over the period 2023-2026, building incrementally Suriname’s Regulatory Framework.

Activities

1.1 Develop and consult on the policy underpinning the new food safety legislation

This activity will lead to develop the policy underpinning the reform of Suriname’s food safety legislation, which will account for guidance from international organizations and best practices applied by other food regulatory jurisdictions in modernizing their legislation.

The policy will emphasize the importance of accountability of Food Business Operators (FBOs), preventive approaches and the reliance on food risk analysis as a foundation for food regulatory decision-making and the requirements to base such decisions on an evidentiary base.

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicators(s)
Dec 2022 – Mar 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Draft Policy paper discussed and endorsed by NIVS ➤ Draft Policy published on NIVS Website for consultation and to consider comments ➤ Consultations with stakeholders leading to enhancements and amendments to the proposed legislative policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of Meetings of the NIVS governance structure (e.g., Board of Trustees and associated structure) ➤ #of Consultation meetings with stakeholders and partners to discuss the proposed policy ➤ # of Iterations of the policy published on , NIVS Website along with the way comments were addressed

1.2 Draft a modernized Suriname Food Act and support its discussion and adoption by Parliament

This activity will lead to the development of the drafting instructions of the updated food safety legislation for Suriname and support its transcription in the form of a draft legislation to be introduced for approval by the Government of Suriname, prior to being introduced to the National Assembly of Suriname for discussion.

The final output is the introduced legislation and support to its discussion and adoption by Suriname’s National Assembly.

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jan 2023 – Mar 2023 (until adoption by the National Assembly of Suriname)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Draft food safety legislation approved for introduction to the National Assembly by the Government of Suriname ➤ Updated Food Safety Legislation adopted by the National Assembly of Suriname 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of Support documents produced to enable the discussion of the proposed food safety legislation at the National Assembly of Suriname ➤ # of Iterations of Proposed food safety legislation based on input from Parliamentary committee and members of the National Assembly ➤ # of Communication Products in support of the adoption of the food safety legislation by the National Assembly of Suriname

1.3 Develop a regulatory regime for Food Import Management and Control

This activity will lead to the development of the food regulatory policy associated with food import management and control, following a risk-based approach. It will include not only the development of the regulatory regime i.e. the food import technical regulations, but also the operationalization of a risk-based food import control system for Suriname. It will include the development and deployment of enablers, such as training materials, information and awareness sessions to food importers, as well the Information and Communication Tools (ICT) and applications supporting the operationalization of the import control regime.

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jan 2023 – Apr 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Food import regulatory policy adopted by NIVS leadership ➤ Food Import Control Regulations Developed and Approved by NIVS leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of Publications supporting the consultations on the food import control policy ➤ # Public and stakeholder engagement meetings supporting the discussions of the food import control regulatory policy ➤ # Comments received on food import regulatory policy and technical regulations and addressed by NIVS
Apr 2023 – Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Modernized Food import control operationalization plan developed ➤ Modernized Food Import Control Risk profile developed and deployed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Decisions of transformation, regarding modernized food import control ➤ # Reviews associated with the proposed modernized food import control
Oct 2023 – Apr 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IT Application for food import control developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Iterations of the IT applications and input provided to it, until its finalization
Apr 2024 - Dec 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Data collection and iterative implementation of the Risk-Based Food Import control Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Establishments / importers / exporter for which data was collected in relation with performance of fulfilling the modernized food import control ➤ # Updates to the Risk Profile and associated code for the IT application governing food import control in Suriname

1.4 Develop a regulatory regime for minimum food safety requirements of Food Business Operators:

This activity aims at operationalizing one of the key operational functions of NIVS related to licensing food production establishments, based on clear food safety requirements, associated with: Prerequisite Programs (PRPs) and Preventive Controls, including the operationalization of the registration and approval of food production establishments.

This activity will focus on the registration component, while other activities under a separate strategic goal (Goal 2) will be focusing on the development and adoption of the enhanced food safety performance criteria for FBOs, to support registration.

Also, and as indicated previously, this function will take stock of what was adopted for the fisheries sector and will build on it accordingly

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jan 2023 – Jun 2023	➤ Regulatory Policy Pertaining to the Licensing regime for FBOs in Suriname	➤ # Iterations related to the regulatory policy supporting a proposed food regulatory regime pertaining to registration of establishments
Jan 2023 – Jun 2023	➤ IT application for FBO registration mapped and deployed	➤ # Iterations of the FBO registration applications developed and deployed for trials
Feb 2023 – Dec 2023	➤ Reviewed and updated / enhanced of the current regime (regulatory and operational) related to registration of Fishery establishments	➤ # Enhancement areas for the fisheries Registration / approval regime as a result of the review (regulatory and operational)
Jun 2023 – Dec 2024	➤ IT mediated registration of Fisheries FBOs implemented	➤ #Fisheries FBOs migrated to the new NIVS IT registration system
Jan 2024 – Dec 2026	➤ Incremental capacity of FBO registration established and operationalized by NIVS	➤ # FBOs in all sectors registered through the IT NIVS registration system

1.5 Develop Updated Food Safety Standards and other Horizontal Food Regulatory Requirements:

This activity will help initiate the reset of Suriname’s horizontal food safety standards, including for the various areas under purview of NIVS: Food additives, contaminants management, management of pesticide residues, management of residues of veterinary drugs, management of food contact applications and other chemicals used in conjunction with food production, development of microbiological criteria and management of food labelling requirements.

This activity will be initiative with the adoption then implementation of the regulatory workplan established by NIVS, as a food standard setting body, in collaboration with other regional organizations.

Priority will be given to the management of chemical contaminants and management of residues of pesticides in food, and in crops in particular, in the first year(s) of implementation.

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jan 2023 – Mar 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reviewed and Updated Food Regulatory Workplan associated with the development and adoption of horizontal food safety standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Food regulatory measures identified for development and promulgation by NIVS
Jan 2023 – Jun 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Food Contaminants Regulatory Provisions developed and adopted based on guidance from Codex standards and supported by a developing scientific capacity relied upon by NIVS ➤ Structured approach adopted for the update of food contaminant provisions for Suriname 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Measures associated with food contaminant management supported by scientific assessment ➤ # Publications on NIVS website related to food contaminant requirements in Suriname ➤ # Notifications to the World Trade organization (WTO) related to Suriname contaminant provisions
Mar 2023 – Mar 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticide residues developed, based on Codex standards for substances used in Suriname and for imports (import MRLs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Assessments conducted leading to pesticide residue decisions ➤ #Publications and WTO notifications related to pesticide MRLs
Jan 2024 – Dec 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prioritized food regulatory provisions related to horizontal food safety standards reviewed and adopted for Suriname (including additives, processing aids, microbiological criteria etc.) ➤ Process for updated horizontal food standards established and applied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Food regulatory provisions related to deploying horizontal food standards

Strategic Goal 2

Promote Food Safety Practices by Surinamese Food Producers and Operators through Education and Awareness including Operationalization of NIVS Inspectorate

This Strategic Goal aims at equipping Suriname with food safety guidance needed to be followed by FBOs, in various sectors of food production to address food safety deficiencies and to enhance food safety requirements.

This guidance may be adopted as a voluntary guidance and would progress incrementally to become part of the imposed food safety regulatory requirements for the food production sector in Suriname.

Under this Goal, enhanced food safety practices will be also promoted for adoption by FBOs, in application with the value adopted by NIVS: “We Educate before we Regulate”

Similar to other areas, the implementation of this Goal will also leverage the performance of the Fisheries Sector and the learnings from the enhancements of food safety practices applied for this sector, to apply with the relevant adaptations to other sectors.

Activities

2.1 Develop tailored guidance for enhanced food safety practices

This activity will support NIVS in the development and adoption of updated guidance for minimum food safety performance requirements by FBOs in the form of general Prerequisite Programs and Preventive Controls adapted for the production sector in Suriname.

These requirements will be developed in the form of voluntary guidance, based on best practices followed internationally, but taking into account the limited resources of the production sector in Suriname.

Some of these requirements are meant to be progressively adopted as part of the mandatory provisions underpinning the licensing of food operations, at a later stage.

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jan 2023 – Apr 2023	➤ Minimum Requirements of Food Safety Performance, in the form of voluntary guidance related to Prerequisite Programs (PRPs), for all sectors	➤ # Iterations related to the PRPs requirements for all food production sectors
Apr 2023 – Jul 2023	➤ Minimum Requirements of Food Safety Performance related to the Preventive Controls for all sectors, in the form of a voluntary guidance	➤ # Iterations related to the Preventive Controls for all food production sectors
Feb 2023 – Jun 2023	➤ Reviewed and updated / enhanced of food safety performance requirements for approval fishery production establishments	➤ # Enhancement areas for the fisheries licensing approval regime as a result of the review
Jun 2023 – Dec 2023	➤ Minimum food safety requirements of operations for the Horticulture Sector – developed in the form of guidance documents	➤ # Guidance documents developed to support the small farmers / horticulture sector meet minimum requirements of food safety (to be used later as conditions of operation)
Jun 2023 – Dec 2025	➤ Education and awareness raising campaign related to minimum requirements for FBO operations in general and dedicated to sectors of priority	➤ # Communication Productions / # Events and other material developed to support awareness raising and education campaigns
Jan 2024 – Dec 2026	➤ Minimum food safety requirements incrementally adopted as a foundation for maintaining a legal license of operations for FBOs in Suriname	➤ # Technical regulations promulgated moving aspects of the voluntary guidance into mandatory conditions of operation

2.2 Develop and deploy guidance and associated training on Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) adapted for Suriname

This activity relates to the development and adoption of a sector-tailored approach for minimum food safety requirements of operations, in the form of voluntary guidance of Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) to the horticulture sector, which is called to evolve towards a mandatory technical regulation.

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Mar 2023 – Jul 2023	➤ Guidance on GAP for the horticulture sector developed and made accounting for stakeholder input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Iterations of GAP guidance shared with stakeholders ➤ # Comments received and addressed to develop the GAP guidance
Jul 2023 – Dec 2023	➤ Awareness Program on Guidance related to GAP developed and implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Farmers / producers reached through the awareness raising program related to GAP ➤ # Communication products made available as a result of the proposed GAP

2.3 Develop a general food safety awareness campaign

❖ **For food producers.**

❖ **For consumers.**

This activity relates to initiating the education and awareness raising function of NIVS as the primary food safety regulator and authority in the country.

It aims at the development of general food safety awareness material as a reference for consumers and for food producers. This function will be further extended to accompany the various efforts of guidance development, destined to improve food safety measures to be observed by the food production sector, including guidance aimed at leading to technical regulations to be observed on a mandatory basis.

The reliance on food safety communication will further support various food regulatory functions of NIVS, including the recall function that NIVS will need to accompany with the relevant risk communication approaches

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jan 2023 – Jun 2023	➤ Key food safety messaging supporting the identification of NIVS as the source of trusted food safety information in Suriname developed and broadcast/ disseminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Messages destined to consumers ➤ # Messages destined to FBOs ➤ Messages destined to supported institutes (e.g. customs at border entries) ➤ # Communication products associated with food safety guidance developed and disseminated ➤ # media used to disseminate food safety messages by NIVS ➤ # Visits of NIVS Food Risk Communication / Education and awareness website pages

Jul 2023 – Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed food risk communication framework supporting NIVS awareness and education activities developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Priority food safety risk communication topics and targets # Webpages of the NIVS website dedicated to food safety risk communication
Apr 2023 – Jul 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Safety recall risk communication approach developed and deployed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Visits to webpages related to food recalls # Food recalls timely communicated
Jan 2024 – Dec 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritized food risk communication, awareness and education activities implemented (more details will be required for subsequent planning) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Projects of education and awareness raising campaigns identified and implemented # Communication products developed and disseminated # Webpages developed # Visitors / participants / contributors to various food safety campaigns

2.4 Operationalize NIVS Inspectorate, incrementally

This activity aims to operationalize activities of compliance verification related to NIVS regulatory mandate with the adoption of the incremental approach of VADE: Voluntary compliance, Assisted Compliance, Directed Compliance and Enforced compliance.

The operationalization of NIVS inspection functions will cover both domestic and imported products incrementally.

As indicated earlier, this function will also leverage the progress achieved through the VKI inspection programs and will aim at strengthening those functions, prior to moving to other sectors.

This Goal will not cover program and operations management, along with the development and deployment of an IT application supporting NIVS food inspection activities.

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jan 2023 – Jun 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of food inspection capacity of the fisheries sector, as adopted by VKI completed and areas requiring strengthening implemented Adoption of an initial IT-Based approach for risk-based food inspection adapted to the requirements of the fisheries sector deployed by VKI – Pilot for the overall food inspection tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Areas of enhancement of VKI food inspection system identified and addressed # Iterations of the VKI IT inspection tool completed with input from the VKI Inspection staff

Mar 2023 – Jun 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Food Compliance and enforcement management policy, guiding food inspection activities developed and adopted by NIVS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Iterations of Food Compliance Policy published and comments received
Jul 2023 – Dec 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inspectorate workforce incrementally recruited, with the initial reliance on VKI staff and trained on VADE compliance verifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Inspectorate staff recruited and trained on modernized food inspection framework
Dec 2023 – Jun 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Capacity for food safety incident management, including enforcement initiated and supported by an Incident Management Unit ➤ Food Safety Incident Management Framework Developed and Operationalized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Qualified Staff trained and recruited to cover the requirements of operations of a food incident management ➤ # Staff trained to manage food safety incident management, including rapid response to possible emergencies.
Apr 2023 – Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Checklists related to Prerequisite Programs and Preventive Controls developed for a prioritized sector where the modernized food inspection program is planned to be deployed ➤ IT-based application for the NIVS food inspection system updated and trialed by trained staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Checklists for compliance verification developed and adopted ➤ # Iterations of IT applications and associated checklists updated as a result of input from field staff and based on VKI experience, leading to the adoption of the IT assisted inspection system
Jan 2024 – Dec 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prioritized food risk inspection activities identified and covered by the relevant food inspection checklists, with the associated training and stakeholder engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Food production sectors covered by operationalized compliance and enforcement programs

2.5 Develop Guidance on Food Labelling Practices

This activity refers to the initial development of guidance of food labelling requirements for prepackaged food in Suriname, with the intent to reset the food labelling policy and associated food regulatory provisions

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Mar 2023 – Jun 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Principles of food labeling to be followed in Suriname developed and disseminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Guidance documents operationalizing the food labeling principles, in line with Codex guidance

<p>Jul 2023 – Dec 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technical Regulations related to food labeling principles and requirements developed and promulgated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Drafts of the technical regulations on food labelling requirements developed# ➤ Comments received and addressed as part of the development of the technical regulations related to food labelling.
<p>Jan 2024 – May 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Food Labelling regulatory measures prioritized in the form of a food labelling regulatory policy framework to be implemented as part of NIVS planned risk management strategy (e.g. allergen labelling, nutrition labelling, health claim management, food fraud management etc..) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Iterations of the food labeling food regulatory policy framework ➤ # Input received and comments associated with the proposed food labelling regulatory policy framework
<p>May 2024 – Dec 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prioritized Food Labelling regulatory measures developed and promulgated according to NIVS food regulatory approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Food labeling regulatory measures issued by NIVS

Strategic Goal 3

Engage with Domestic and International Partners and Stakeholders to Promote Suriname’s Position as a Leading Food and Agrifood Producer

This Goal aims at supporting NIVS to establish an international food regulatory policy through planning its activities within the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its interactions with other regulators regionally and internationally.

This Goal will also cover the operationalization and reset of Suriname’s Codex program, with the update of the associated governance structure as may be required.

Activities

3.1 Enable effective preparation and participation of Surinamese delegations in Codex Committee proceedings

This activity will cover the operationalization of the Codex National Committee of Suriname and the effective preparation of Suriname’s positions at upcoming Codex sessions and technical Committees

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
<p>Jan 2023 – Jun 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Codex National Committee Operationalized (CNC), including CNC members trained ➤ Codex Technical Committees related to Suriname’s position formulation established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Meetings of the CNC ➤ # Codex meetings for which Suriname issued documented positions ➤ # Codex Technical Committees established with on-going work.

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| Jul 2023 – Dec 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Documented Participation in Codex Proceedings (committees and electronic working groups) through fully documented Codex positions and reports on Suriname’s participation ➤ Documented reliance on proceedings and standards for the update of national food standards in a consistent fashion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Codex Positions for Codex Committee meeting participations by Surinamese delegations with the established process ➤ # Food standards and regulatory decisions updated, based on Codex guidance as a result of participation in Codex proceedings. |
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3.2 Play a leading role in the operationalization of the Caribbean Taskforce on Food Safety and support Caribbean Food Regulatory Convergence

This activity aims to enable NIVS to play a leading role in the food regulatory environment of Caribbean countries and to leverage opportunities of collaboration with regional organizations, such as the International Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Caribbean Agriculture Health and Food Safety Authority (CAHFSA).

This activity will also support NIVS in the development of its food safety and food regulatory science capacity leveraging regional expertise through collaboration with CAHFSA and other organizations.

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jun 2023 – Jun 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Suriname’s leading role established in reactivating the Caribbean Food Safety Taskforce and other regional collaboration mechanisms in collaboration with CAHFSA and IICA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Engagement meetings with CAHFSA, IICA and other food regulators in the Caribbean to re-establish the Caribbean Food Safety Taskforce ➤ # Collaborative projects developed with other food regulators from the Caribbean and beyond
Jul 2023 – Dec 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collaborative agreements reached with other Caribbean regulators and regional organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Meetings with Caribbean counterparts (food regulators) ➤ # Memorandum of understanding supporting collaboration between NIVS and other Caribbean food regulatory organizations
Apr 2023 – Dec 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Expert Groups established and trained through collaboration with Caribbean partners to support NIVS scientific capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Expert groups established to support the application of risk analysis driven decision-making ➤ # Risk assessment experts trained to support Caribbean and NIVS food safety decision-making

Strategic Goal 4

Build a Dynamic and Professional Workforce and Enable Effective Food Regulatory Operations

This Strategic Goal aims to building the human and technical capacity of NIVS to operate as a science-based regulator and to adopt a competency driven framework for its activities.

This goal will enable NIVS to reach a staff complement in numbers and competencies, supportive of the deployment of NIVS mandate.

Activities

4.1 Recruit a vibrant and developing food regulatory workforce serving the objectives of NIVS and the food production sectors through multiple strategies and engagement with academic institutions in Suriname

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jan 2023 – Apr 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technical institutes and other academic institutions in Suriname engaged to support the identification of talent and promote food safety regulatory jobs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Job fairs organized with technical institutes in Suriname to attract developing talent to join NIVS as a young professional
Jan 2023 – Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First Cohort of NIVS food safety officers recruited by NIVS through various measures of recruitment and engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Food safety officers identified meeting the recruitment requirements and joining the NIVS workforce ➤ # of key food regulatory and operational positions filled within the first 12 months
Mar 2023 – Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introductory training and on-boarding program for professional food safety staff developed and implemented with recruited staff ➤ Continued education program established within NIVS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # NIVS staff covered by the developed on-boarding program ➤ # Modules of continued education programs developed to support NIVS Staff competency enhancement
Jan 2023 – May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NIVS HR Strategy including a competency-based HR Management, NIVS code of conduct, Accountabilities and rules, established and deployed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Iteration documents supporting the implementation of NIVS HR strategy

4.2 Develop and deploy the relevant Information and Communication Tools (ICTs) needed for the food regulatory operationalization of NIVS programs

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jan 2023 – Dec 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Information and Communication Tools (ICT) needed to support NIVS food regulatory operationalization identified and planned for development and procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # ICT identified with the associated terms of reference developed ➤ #ICT developed, tested and deployed

Strategic Goal 5

Build a Science Capacity Serving Stakeholders and NIVS

This Strategic Goal aims to equip NIVS with a key enabling ingredient in the form of a food regulatory science capacity, supporting its operations, both in food safety laboratory testing and food risk analysis underpinning food regulatory processes, for food safety, food quality and nutrition

Activities

5.1 Enhance food laboratory operations with extension of food testing capacities to address the needs of Suriname's food production sectors

This activity aims at strengthening the food laboratory operation of NIVS through the incremental adoption of food laboratory procedures supporting the needs of the Suriname's food production sector.

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jan 2023 – Apr 2023	➤ Training on Multi-Residue Pesticide Analysis Procedures achieved	➤ # Training sessions implemented for key staff of the NIVS / VKI laboratory operations
May 2023 – Dec 2024	➤ Targeted procedures for pesticide residue analysis achieve accreditation against 17025	➤ # Steps leading to method accreditation fulfilled
Jun 2023 – Dec 2023	➤ Development and Optimization of a Method Supportive of Trace Metal Analysis by ICP – MS supported by international centres of excellence	➤ # Training sessions achieved to adopt ICP-MS -based methods for Trace elements
Apr 2023 – Dec 2024	➤ Development and Adoption of Analytical methods supportive of rapid identification of chemicals and microbiological hazards in food	➤ # Priority methods identified for rapid testing ➤ # Methods deployed for rapid testing of chemicals and microbials in food
Jun 2023 – Dec 2025	➤ Incremental staff increase to support to food laboratory testing food – with the relevant training completed	➤ # Staff joining NIVS laboratories ➤ # NIVS Laboratory staff training delivered
Jan 2024- Dec 2025	➤ Incremental Methods of Analysis for nutrients in food developed and adopted by NIVS and where relevant accredited	➤ # Methods prioritized for development ➤ # Methods adopted ➤ # Methods accredited

5.2 Develop a food safety science capacity to anchor NIVS Decision-making in Food Risk Analysis

This activity aims to equip NIVS with the foundation of applying a risk analysis approach for decision making, such as:

- ❖ An incremental capacity for food safety risk assessment internally and in collaboration with Caribbean partners,
- ❖ An initial set of data upon which assessments would be conducted that would constitute the baseline scientific information underpinning risk assessment.
- ❖ Starting points for foundational data collection activities such as the Total Diet Study and Food Consumption data collection

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Apr 2023 – Apr 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Incremental Capacity for food safety risk assessment supporting rapid risk assessment established ➤ Incremental capacity for food safety risk assessment established in collaboration with Caribbean partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Staff hired to join the rapid risk assessment capacity for NIVS ➤ # Training sessions implemented for key staff of the NIVS science assessment teams ➤ # Network meetings with Caribbean food regulators to develop and sustain the food safety risk assessment capacity
May 2023 – Dec 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Planning and implementation of foundational studies: Suriname Total Diet Study and Suriname Food Consumption Survey accomplished 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Planning steps for key science studies: TDS and food consumption completed ➤ # TDS study implemented ➤ # Initial steps of the 24 hour recall food consumption survey implemented
Jun 2023 – Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Food contaminant Database for Suriname developed and adopted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Data points included in the newly established food contaminant database
Jan 2024 – Dec 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NIVS scientific staff included in international food science regulatory networks. ➤ NIVS leadership in organizing key food regulatory science events established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # NIVS experts part of international food science assessment programs and expert consultations ➤ # Food risk assessment and risk analysis organized in Suriname and in the Caribbean with NIVS leadership

5.3 Sustain infrastructure, equipment and operational investments to support NIVS food safety regulatory operations

This activity aims to support NIVS identifying its food regulatory infrastructure needs and to identify sources of funding for sustaining its operations

Timeline	Output(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Jan 2023 – May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Initial infrastructure investment needs identified and sources of funding sought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Office areas ▪ Laboratory areas ▪ IT investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Building enhancements and infrastructure projects developed and for which sources of funding identified
Jan 2023 – De 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Infrastructure enhancement for NIVS HQ identified and delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # NIVS HQ established and operational
Jun 2023 – Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Donor roundtables organized to seek sustainability of funding for NIVS operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # NIVS Funding requests made to sustain food regulatory operations ➤ # NIVS successful funding requests seeking positive response from donors
Jan 2024 – Dec 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Priority Infrastructure and equipment acquisition projects implemented and completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Infrastructure projects completed ➤ # Equipment / system to support NIVS operations acquired