



National Instituut voor Voedselveiligheid Suriname
National Institute for Food Safety Suriname

The National Institute of Food Safety Suriname (NIVS) Celebrates World Food Safety Day 2023

Paramaribo, 07 June 2023 – NIVS celebrates with World Food Safety Day the Launch of Key Initiatives to Promote Food Safety in Suriname

A multi-stakeholder event was hosted on June 7th 2023, by the NIVS convening various representatives of government organizations, the food and agri-food production sector and consumer groups, with a strong representation from the Board of Trustees of the NIVS.

This event which is held on World Food Safety Day, was an opportunity for NIVS to highlight the importance of collective actions to promote food safety practices.

The event allowed to launch the NIVS food safety communication campaign with a video reminding all parties of the importance of food safety and of the shared responsibility to achieve it.

Another important milestone was also reached with the discussion of the [first draft of the proposed food law](#) with the aim to modernize Suriname's Food Safety Legislation.

“By creating the NIVS and by moving forward with the development and the initial discussions of a proposed new legislation, modernizing the food safety requirements in Suriname, whose underpinning policy was inspired by feed-back of all partners and stakeholders, Suriname is joining nations that aim to ensure that the country's food regulatory environment is not only protective of our consumers, but also a driver for the development of the food and agri-food production sector” declared Minister **Parmanand Sewdien, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV)**. *“By embracing the slogan “Food Safety is everyone's business”, the NIVS is also demonstrating its commitment to helping producers through encouraging the adoption of food safety practices from the farm to the retail”,* he added.

The Chair of the Board of Trustees of the NIVS, **Mrs. Parveen Amritpersad**, opened today's meeting and declared that the *“policy driving the new proposed law will not only help empower the NIVS to act to protect consumers and to support fair conditions to do business in food production and food trade, but more importantly to create obligations on the NIVS, to be a science-based regulator, to embrace transparency, predictability and fairness in dealing with all regulated parties.”*

Participants in the event witnessed a presentation on the proposed draft food law which is based on the input received from stakeholders on an earlier document introduced by NIVS as a [policy underpinning the modernization of food safety legislation](#), and on which [NIVS solicited comments](#) since holding early meetings with stakeholders in January 2023.

This event is part of a series of actions led by the NIVS in an effort to ramp up incrementally its capacity, aiming to attain its position as the primary food safety regulator in Suriname. A training of technical staff from the food laboratory cluster operated by the NIVS and the Fisheries Inspection Institute (VKI) is also to be initiated this week, in collaboration with experts from the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS) on multi-pesticide residue methods. This training is meant to strengthen the food analytical testing capacity to be offered by the VKI and the NIVS to Surinamese stakeholders.

“We acknowledge that the NIVS is a young organization” declared **Mrs. Juliette Colli**, acting director of the NIVS, *“ with many challenges ahead, but we are committed to playing our fulsome role as Suriname's food safety regulator, and to develop the NIVS block by block until it assumes its full food safety regulatory mandate”*

The NIVS will progressively take over all food safety regulatory responsibilities for food produced in Suriname as well as imported into and exported from Suriname with the aim to protect consumers' health and enable fair practices in the food trade.