Risk analysis is considered the gold-standard approach for food safety management. However, in Vietnam risk analysis capacity is lacking in practical application, especially in the informal markets, where the majority of domestically produced foods are bought and sold.

The taskforce was set up in 2013 with the aim of developing the capacity of decision-makers and national researchers in Vietnam to use risk-based approaches for food safety management. The taskforce brought together risk assessment experts from universities and research institutes as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Activities

- **Interdisciplinary team formation**: A Taskforce of risk assessment for food safety was formed, which comprised researchers in Vietnam working on risk assessment and food safety from key universities, research institutes and representatives of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

- **Analyses of food safety policy and research evidence use for food safety policy**: Key informant interviews, twenty experts and policy makers in food safety were interviewed.

- **Consultation meetings and workshops**: Stakeholder workshops to identify the scope of activities and priority issues in food safety formulated by policy makers that the taskforce works on and workshops to disseminate outputs.

- **Training and capacity building**: Trainings in risk assessment for Taskforce members and staff from the ministries.

- **Case studies**: Case studies on the use of risk assessment were conducted to characterize the health risks associated with relevant food commodities in Vietnam.

**Taskforce members**

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<tr>
<th>Ministries</th>
<th>Universities / Research institutes</th>
<th>International partners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health (MOH): Vietnam Food Administration</td>
<td>- Hanoi School of Public Health</td>
<td>- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya and Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD): Department of Animal Health</td>
<td>- National Institute of Nutrition</td>
<td>- Rakuno Gakuen University, Japan</td>
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<td>- National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology</td>
<td>- Swiss Tropical Public Health (SwissTPH), Switzerland</td>
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<td>- National Institution for Food Control</td>
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<td>- HCM Institute of Public Health</td>
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<td>- Vietnam National University of Agriculture</td>
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<td>- National Institution of Veterinary Research</td>
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**Risk assessment training for MARD**


**Achievements**

1. Published a special issue of risk assessment in Vietnam.
2. Developed a policy brief on risk based approach to food safety.
3. Several training courses on advanced risk assessment were conducted for members of the Taskforce (2-10 days trainings). Other training courses on risk assessment were organized for veterinary staff from the Department of Animal Health, MARD.
5. Conducted case studies of risk assessment related to.
   - Vegetables and fish grown and caught in wastewater (Hanam province)
   - Ready-to-eat vegetable and noodle soup (Hanoi)
   - Antibiotic and heavy metal residues in pork (Hung Yen province)
   - Dioxin in foods (Da Nang and Bien Hoa severe dioxin hot spots)

**Next steps**

1. To make risk-based approaches easier to use and adapted to local context
2. To become a technical working group nationally recognized by MOH and MARD in risk assessment
3. To publish two risk assessment guidelines on food safety related to biological and chemical hazards