

Country Profile: Portugal

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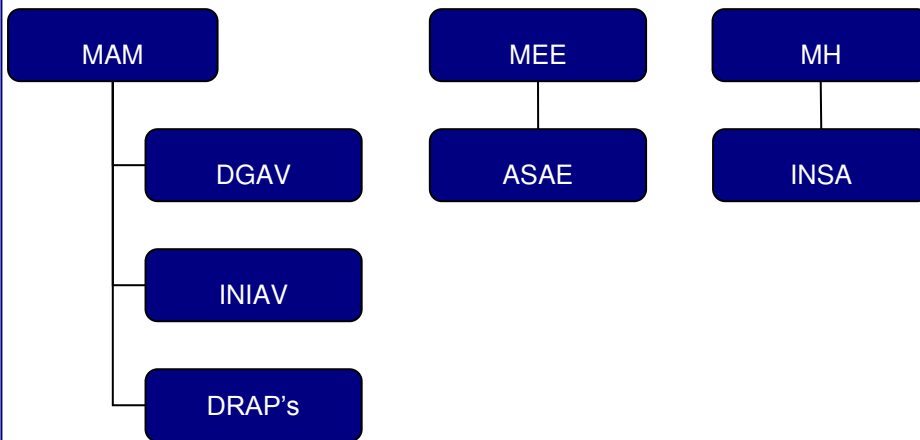
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I – Key priorities for risk assessment

- Reliable databases on food safety.
- Better Laboratory results, better risk assessment authorities' decisions.
- Role of consumer organizations in decision process.

II – Major public actors involved in food safety (including risk assessment, management and communication)

Simplified chart of the public organizations involved in food safety and risk assessment in *Portugal*



- Ministry of Agriculture and Sea (MAM)
 - General Direction of Food and Veterinary (DGAV)
 - National Institute of Agrarian and Veterinary Research (INIAV)
 - Regional Directions of Agriculture and Fishing (DRAP's)
- Ministry of Economics and Employment (MEE)
 - Food Safety and Economics Authority(ASAE)
- Ministry of Health (MH)

Main public organisations involved in food safety and roles – Portugal

Organisation	Main areas of remit (in term of risk assessment/ management/ communication)			
		Risk assessment	Risk management	Risk communication
MAM – Ministry of Agriculture and Sea	Food and feed Animal and plant health Contaminants Food contact materials GMO's	x	x	x
DGAV – General Direction of Food and Veterinary	Food and Feed Animal and plant health Contaminants Food contact materials GMO's	x	x	x
INIAV – National Institute of Agrarian and Veterinary Research	Food and Feed Animal and plant health GMO's		x	x
MEE – Ministry of Economics and Employment	Function of the market, consumer policy	x	x	x
ASAE – Food Safety and Economics Authority	Surveillance and prevention of economic activity legislation	x	x	x
MH – Ministry of Health	Health policy	x	x	x
INSA – Health National Institute	Additives and contaminants in food		x	x

Ministry of Agriculture and Sea (MAM)

Tasks of MAM:

- Agriculture policy
- Risk assessment, management and communication

Website: www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/os-ministerios/ministerio-da-agricultura-e-do-mar.aspx

Ensure the enhancement, protection, quality and safety of agro-food primary production

General Direction of Food and Veterinary (DGAV)

Tasks of DGAV:

- Food and feed safety competent authority
- Risk assessment, management and communication
- RASFF contact Point

Website: www.dgv.min-agricultura.pt

Define and coordinate strategies to promote food safety, food for animals and materials in contact with foodstuffs in conjunction with the Food Safety and Economics Authority, as well as plant health and protection and health of animals.

Develop , coordinate and evaluate the implementation of plans of official control on the production and processing foodstuffs, the respective raw materials, ingredients and additives, materials in contact with foodstuffs and animal byproducts and feed.

Develop, coordinate and evaluate the implementation of plans of official control within the plant and waste pesticides, as well as official control plans relating to the protection and animal health, including actions hygiene and health inspection of animal products and implementation of prevention and control programs relating the animal or zoonotic nature of diseases.

Coordinate and audit the implementation of the various plans of official control by regional directions of agriculture and fisheries within their competence.

Coordinate the technical and regulatory activities relating the control and certification of propagation material plants, including the cultivation of plant varieties GM.

National Institute of Agrarian and Veterinary Research (INIAV)

Tasks of INIAV:

- Food and feed safety National Reference and Official Plans Laboratories
- Risk management and communication

Website: www.iniaiv.pt

Develop the scientific and technological bases support the definition of sector policies.

Promote research activities, experimentation and demonstration, in line with the defined policies for the respective sectors, ensuring technical support and contributing to scientific development and innovation, improving competitiveness in agro-forestry areas, crop protection, food production, animal and plant health food security as well as to food technology and biotechnology application in those areas.

Ensuring the functions of the National Reference Laboratory particularly in the areas of food security, animal and plant health.

Cooperate with scientific and technological, national or international related institutions, and participate in scientific and technology activities, particularly in consortium networks and other ways of joint work, and promote exchange and transfer of knowledge with national or international public and private entities, in particular through the establishment of agreements and protocols of cooperation.

Participate in the preparation of official control plans in the areas of animal and plant health and food safety.

Perform laboratory analysis for the official control plans coordinated by MAM, within their areas of competence, namely, through the networking of accredited laboratories.

Ministry of Economics and Employment (MEE)

Tasks of MEE:

- Promoting the rights of consumers
- Ensure a system of open, but balanced, economic competition

Website: www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/os-ministerios/ministerio-da-economia-e-do-emprego.aspx

Food Safety and Economics Authority (ASAE)

Tasks of ASAE:

- Inspection of food chain
- Risk assessment, management and communication

Website: www.asae.pt/

The Food Safety Authority and Economics, abbreviated as ASAE, whose mission is the inspection and prevention of the compliance of regulating legislation for the trade conduct in food and non-food sectors, as well as assessment, management and communication of risks in the food chain, being national liaison body with their bodies counterparts at European and international level;

It also characterizes and assesses the risks impact in food security, collaborating in the area of their responsibility with the European Safety Food Authority;

Supervise all places where there should be any industrial activity, tourism, trade, agriculture, fishing or services.

Ministry of Health (MH)

Tasks of MH:

- Health policy

Website: www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/os-ministerios/ministerio-da-saude.aspx

Health National Institute (INSA)

Tasks of INSA:

- Food safety and nutrition
- Risk management and communication

Website: www.insa.pt/

INSA is active in the areas of food security and nutrition, with the vision to achieve gains in public health through the in-depth study of the situation of the country in the areas of food and human nutrition, health promotion, prevention of forborne illness and the improvement of the nutritional status of the population through research and development, surveillance, reference, providing differentiated services, training, information and advice.

Collaborates with similar institutions and other national and international organizations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Organization for Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Authority for Food Safety Authority (EFSA), participating in National and International Programs and Plans.

III – Food safety alerts management in Portugal

1. Does the competent authority (or authorities) for food safety have an established mechanism to evaluate and react to food safety crises (crises management mechanism)?	Yes
2. If the reply to Q1 is yes, does this mechanism include a committee or a body with pre-determined representatives?	No , no committees are formed specifically for crisis management
3. If there is an established mechanism for crisis management (the reply to Q1 is Yes):	
3a. Do actors with risk assessment capacity participate directly in this mechanism?	-
3b. Do actors with risk management capacity participate directly in this mechanism?	-
3c. Do actors with risk communication capacity participate directly in this mechanism?	-

IV – Characteristics of the food sector in Portugal

Number of enterprises: 13 098 (2013)

% of the industrial sector: 11 % of the enterprises

% of the industrial workforce: 21%

% of industrial turnover: 24%

Top subsectors (in terms of number of enterprises): Beverages, Flour and bakery products, Meat, Fats and oils, Dairy (2012)

Top subsectors (in terms of turnover): Beverages, Meat, Flour and bakery products, Dairy, Animal feeds (2012)

ⁱ **Country profile elaborated by:**

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