



Dr. Abong' (right) consults with other delegates during a health break

The workshop that was held at ILRI Campus, Nairobi from 3-4 November 2014 and whose thematic Focus was “*Improving Food Safety On-Farm to Enhance Supply Chain Linkages and Consumer Product Safety*” was well attended by over 30 stakeholders in the dairy value chain, food safety experts and related disciplines and were drawn from industries, academia, NGOs and other professional bodies. This conference comes at a time when Milk markets in many countries in Eastern and Southern Africa are undergoing significant change in respect to the development of local supplies in response to increased market demand. In East African market segment milk is mainly (>80%) produced by small-holder farmers who have been shown to face challenges in ensuring safety of the so important commodity.

The workshop looked at the specific food safety needs of small and medium sized milk producers in the context of the current developments in milk production and processing as well as

identifying opportunities and approaches for enhancing the prevailing situation. The input of every stakeholder was indeed paramount with public private partnerships (PPPs) being touted as important driver in the process. Presentations focused on the need for African Union to have a Food Safety Authority and Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed similar to the EU; enhancing milk quality through traceability; enhancing safety in milk production; enhancing food safety and quality awareness; capacity building structures and approaches and food safety training and capacity development.

In this workshop, Dr. Abong' from the Department of Food Science Nutrition and Technology, University of Nairobi not only attended as an expert in this area but also made presentation on training and Curriculum Development including International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) efforts towards this course. Notably IUFoST drives the Global Food Safety Curriculum Initiative which is part of GFSP that seeks to harmonize basic food safety requirements with regional specificity in mind.

The contribution of Mr. Lamuka, a lecturer in DFSNT was fundamental in the just concluded workshop to drive the process of assuring milk safety in small-holder dairy forward.

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