

June 7, 2022

## Participation of BD4FS in the Celebration of the World Food Safety Day in Saint Louis

Like the other countries of the world, Senegal celebrated World Food Safety Day on Thursday, June 07, 2022, in the city of Saint Louis located 255 km from Dakar. The celebration was organized by the National Codex Alimentarius Committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, FAO, WHO and Feed the Future Business Drivers for Food Safety (BD4FS) - Senegal through popular gatherings and conference debates. The BD4FS Senegal Team was actively involved in the organization and facilitation of the various activities.

The day started with the opening ceremony of the scientific workshop on various topics related to food safety. It was chaired by Dr. Seynabou Ndiaye, the Representative of the Minister of Health, who had at her side Dr. Ahmadou Diouf, the President of CODEX; and Mr. Makhtar Thiam, the BD4FS Senior Technical Advisor who took the opportunity to give words of welcome and thanks from BD4FS to the Organizing Committee of the day headed by Professor Diouf and Mrs. Leye. The morning was devoted to thematic workshops with themes related to this year's slogan, "Safe food for better health". The BD4FS Senior Food Safety Specialist presented the theme of "The Importance of Strengthening the Capacities of Professionals for Compliance and Competitiveness of " Senegal Origin" products in front of an audience made up of official authorities, food sector professionals, researchers, academics, representatives of food analysis laboratories, representatives of consumer associations and students. Building the capacity of professionals in food safety is a major focus for improving the competitiveness of growing food businesses.



The BD4FS Senior Technical Advisor presenting the BD4FS project to the Governor of the Saint Louis region while visiting the official ceremony exhibit.

Photo Credit: Babacar Sène



Dr. Babacar Sène, presenting for BD4FS during the thematic workshop in Saint Louis.

Photo credit: Mr. Makhtar Thiam, BD4FS

with the approach to co-creation and training and to learn more about food safety practices and their importance.

The BD4FS Team also took advantage of the opportunity offered by the workshop, which brought together all food safety specialists in Senegal, to discuss and assess the degree of commitment of stakeholder partners for establishing a national certification of food products. As part of the public-private dialogue, the BD4FS Team plans to organize other meetings with all these partners, including ASN and CODEX. The activities continued with the organization of a mobile auto caravan through the city, providing information at a booth and participating in the official ceremony chaired by the governor of the region.

The BD4FS Team managed an information booth which made it possible to make more than 80 (eighty) visitors better acquainted



BD4FS booth at the CODEX exhibition during the celebration of World Food Safety Day in Saint Louis. Photo credit: Dr. Babacar Sène, BD4FS

An awareness-raising caravan was also organized with the active participation of BD4FS. It consisted of a sound truck with loudspeakers, a bus, a 4X4 car and two horse carts that traveled the main streets of the city. The caravan was enlivened by comedy artists, *signares* (historical figures of the cultural heritage of the city of Saint-Louis), and singers whom all contributed to attracting an audience. It served as an opportunity for BD4FS to disseminate its key messages of food safety for better understanding by the target populations; in particular, butchers, fruit and vegetable sellers, restaurant operators, and other perishable food vendors.



*Signares de Saint-Louis in their traditional clothes on their cart during the awareness caravan on good hygiene practices.*  
Photo credit: Mr. Mohamed Dia, BD4FS

The main messages conveyed were:

- Ensure compliance with good hygiene practices in food processing
- Wear clean clothes to handle food
- Disinfect food handling rooms regularly after cleaning
- Separate food from waste and garbage
- Separate raw materials from finished products



*Makhtar Thiam presenting the key messages of BD4FS to the Governor of Saint Louis during the official ceremony.*  
Photo credit: Dr. Babacar Sène

The ceremony was presided over by the Governor of the Saint-Louis region who delivered his speech in the presence of the CODEX President, representatives of the Minister of Health, the Mayor of Saint-Louis, representatives of the WHO and FAO Directors, the BD4FS representatives and the various institutions involved in food safety in Senegal, as well as a huge crowd composed mainly of women and young people. The governor's speech focused on the need for people to respect the principles of hygiene for healthy eating and to reduce the risk of disease.

He then visited the various booths, including BD4FS's, where he had a good time with the BD4FS Team who took the time to explain to him the approach and objectives of BD4FS training for private actors within various value chains targeted by the project. Mr. Thiam took the opportunity to give the governor a packet with the various BD4FS communication documents and flyers composed of key messages and invited him to distribute them widely to the actors of the region.

The official ceremony was an opportunity to screen films, including the BD4FS video. It was also staged with skits and humorous sketches by theatrical groups and folkloric actors who were able to convey and popularize key messages in food safety in a fun and accessible way.

On the sidelines and in addition to the BD4FS mass training, the team was able to visit the processing site for fish products in the Saint-Louis region to present the project and assess the training needs at this site.

The BD4FS program is implemented in Senegal, Ethiopia and Nepal.

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