

Contact

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Top Skills

Strategic Thinking
Strategic Planning
Food Safety

Ziva Hamama, Ph.D.

Head of Food Risk Management Department, Ministry of Health.
Food public policy | AgriTech | FoodTech | leading innovative policy |
Food Safety | Food Security | Public Health | sustainability
Tel Aviv District, Israel

Summary

I assess risks to human health, find ways to control these risks and communicate both risks and controls to the public.

Science and evidence-based assessment for the authorization of new products (“novel food”, food supplements, etc.) coming to the market.

I help the FoodTech, and AgriTech ecosystems turn technological ideas into the food of the future by leading public policy and connecting the public sector to the business space to meet changing market needs and make Israel a leader in the field.

Recent key achievements:

1. A partner in leading a change in the legislation of food contaminants and pesticides that is expected to reduce estimated import barriers of NIS 3 billion per year.
2. As the chairman of the inter-ministerial committee for the registration of pesticides for agriculture, I led a change in the policy of re-assessment of pesticides with high toxicity to humans and the environment while harnessing four government ministries to the process (Agriculture, Environmental Protection, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Health). In this process, the use of dozens of pesticides was canceled, including carcinogenic substances used in Israel.
3. Leads a project to build a food control mechanism based on risk management to enable better management of public resources and improve food safety.
4. I lead a pilot project in the alternative protein field to formulate regulatory guidelines for the Israeli industry.

My success formula:

I weigh all the factors that can affect a situation and analyze them.

I carefully anticipate possible obstacles and, through unique thinking, find solutions and action methods outside the box.

Assemble suitable work teams for productive work by identifying each member's unique qualities, and I work diligently to achieve the goal.

Experience

Ministry of Health Israel

12 years 1 month

Head of Food Risk Management Department, Ministry of Health
January 2020 - Present (4 years 3 months)

Tel Aviv District, Israel

I'm involved in shaping food policy concerning different risks inherent in food consumption, manufacturing, and importing food to Israel to protect public health while minimizing trade barriers and promoting innovation.

Promoting risk management approach based on scientific risk assessment in Novel Food (e.g., cultured meat, CBD), contaminants, pesticides, food supplements, food contact materials, and more.

Representation of the ministry of health in relevant committees and representation of Israel in several international forums on the abovementioned topics.

Chairman of the inter-ministerial committee for the approval of pesticides.

I promote food reform to reduce import barriers, which is expected to save the Israeli economy 3 billion NIS annually.

Development of advanced tools for formal food control that is risk management based to optimize the use of public resources and reduce the burden on the food industry.

We are initiating and implementing a project to promote novel food and innovative food technologies.

Head of contaminants section

June 2014 - May 2020 (6 years)

Tel Aviv District, Israel

I was responsible for conducting a scientific risk assessment of contaminants in food and emerging contaminants.

I've set guidelines for the food industry and other relevant stakeholders.

Member of professional committees: Inter-Ministerial Committee for Approval of Pesticides, Inter-Ministerial Committee for Determining Pesticide Residues, Committee for Registration of Veterinary Preparations Based on Genetic Engineering, the committee for the approval of food supplements.

representing Israel in international committees of the Codex.

Responsible for the field of exposure assessments of Israeli consumers to different contaminants and pesticides.

Head of Novel food section

March 2012 - December 2019 (7 years 10 months)

Tel Aviv District, Israel

I conducted a scientific risk assessment of novel food applications.

Chairman of the Novel Food committee.

Set guidelines for the food industry and other relevant stakeholders.

Member of professional committees: Inter-Ministerial Committee for Approval of Pesticides, Inter-Ministerial Committee for Determining Pesticide Residues, Committee for Registration of Veterinary Preparations Based on Genetic Engineering, the committee for the approval of food supplements.

Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment

9 years 1 month

Teaching Assistant at the courses "Chemical Principles" and "Chemical Principles-Lab".

October 2002 - October 2011 (9 years 1 month)

Rehovot, Center District, Israel

This course introduces fundamental topics in general and physical chemistry. Teach students to think about the properties and behavior of the macroscopic world in terms of the structure and arrangement of constituent molecules and atoms.

It lays the foundation for students to pursue more specialized studies in other fields of science and engineering.

Teaching Assistant at the courses "Food Microbiology and Hygiene"

October 2002 - October 2011 (9 years 1 month)

Rehovot, Center District, Israel

The course aimed to evaluate the risks of microorganisms in food. To investigate the interactions between food and microorganisms and to study spoilage and pathogenicity mechanisms. To suggest tools and methods reduce the risk and the damage.

Education

Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Doctor of Philosophy - PhD, Biochemistry and food science

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Master of Science - MS, Biotechnology · (October 2003 - July 2005)

Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Bachelor of Science - BS, Biochemistry and food technology · (October 2000 - July 2003)