Abstract

Higher income, urbanization, other demographic shifts, improved transportation, and consumer perceptions regarding quality and safety are changing global food consumption patterns. Shifts in food consumption have led to increased trade and changes in the composition of world agricultural trade. Given different diets, food expenditure and food budget responses to income and price changes vary between developing and developed countries. In developing countries, higher income results in increased demand for meat products, often leading to increased import of livestock feed. Diet diversification and increasing demand for better quality and labor-saving products have increased imports of high-value and processed food products in developed countries. Consumer groups in developed countries have also brought attention to organic production of food and the topic of animal welfare. One way in which the public and private sectors have responded to consumer demand for these quality attributes has been by developing and implementing mandatory and voluntary quality control, management, and assurance schemes.

Acknowledgements

Appreciation is extended to Mary Bohman, John Dunmore, and Joy Harwood for their role in the oversight and review of the project’s development. The authors would also like to extend sincere thanks to Neil Conklin, John Dyck, Praveen Dixit, Janet Perry, Barry Krissoff, Noel Blisard, Jay Variyam, Carlos Arnade, and Kuo Huang of ERS; Sara Schwartz, Ralph Dutrow, Steve Neff, Stan Phillips, Christine Strossman, Bobbie Ritchie, Elizabeth Jones, and Michael Riedel of FAS; Ron DeHaven and Mary L. Madell of APHIS; Karen Stuck, Virginia Olson and Mary Stanley of FSIS; Carol Goodloe of the Chief Economist’s Office; and David Stallings, Joel Greene, and Gerald Rector of the World Agricultural Outlook Board for their valuable review comments. Special thanks are extended to Martha R. Evans, for editorial assistance, and Wynnice Pointer-Napper for design assistance.

Cover Photo: FAO, Market in Uganda, by K. Dunn.