

## **Summary of previous round of the debate:**

### **Meeting consumer requirements – quality, safety and emerging concerns**

The debate has focused on strategies and mechanism to meet the ever stringent market food safety and quality demands. Some suggestions include setting-up quality control systems, applying HACCP principles along the chain and providing financial and technical support to SME's and farmers to upgrade their agricultural and manufacture practices. It was suggested the reduction of post-harvest losses could off-set the cost of upgrading the food control system. Interestingly the proposition was challenged to say the retailers are who determine the rule of game at international markets and not directly the consumers. Therefore a counter strategy -for fair trade- against this trend is needed.

### **Focus of the debate**

**What are the best market mechanisms for ensuring food quality and safety through the food chain?**

**What negotiation schemes could be used to match the interests of international importers/exporters with those of small and medium agro-industries and agri-businesses in developing countries?**