



World Food Safety Day

7 June



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

SAFE FOOD NOW FOR HEALTHY TOMORROW

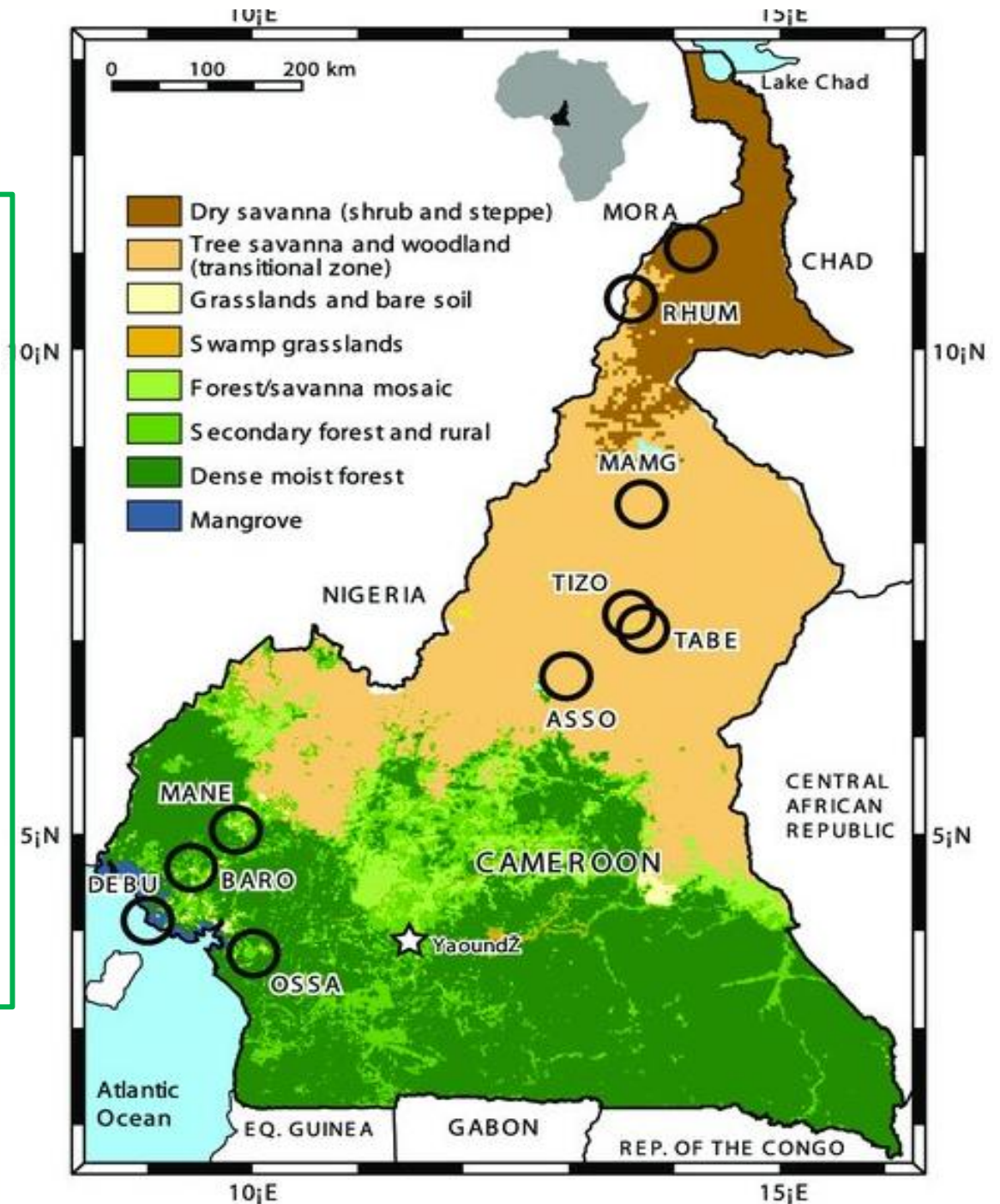
Introduction

- This day which is gaining global momentum as it approaches its third anniversary calls on governments, all those who work with food, and consumers to take action.
 - **Ensure it's safe**
 - **Grow it safe**
 - **Keep it safe**
 - **Know what's safe**
 - **Team up for food safety**
- In a period characterized by acute observations of food chains and the risks of foodborne disease, World Food Safety Day is a prescient reminder that the consumption and production of safe food have immediate and long-term benefits for people, planet and the economy.

Cameroon Context – Food Safety

Climate

- Tropical climate, semi-arid in the north, and humid and rainy in the rest of the country.
- Temperatures are high throughout the year, however, they decrease during the rainy season, when the air is humid.



Cameroon Context

COVID-19 Pandemic

- Supply chain (close outs, running of raw materials,
- Science on COVID-19 still being questioned as it never provided direction on when the virus would end.

Crisis

- Security situation continues to be tense in NWSW regions.
- Many people displaced
 - homes and farms abandoned,
 - schools closed and
 - some locations not accessible by humanitarian actors

Social-economical

- Typical for lower-medium-income countries, Cameroon facing challenges on having robust food safety standards

Any link between Context and Food Safety?

Climate

- Prolonged rains, reported to cause black pods on cocoa trees and blight in some food crops like yams
- The growth and survival of pathogens in foods. Increases in disease notifications, are frequently preceded by weeks of elevated ambient temperature (*Kovats et al., 2005*)
- Higher temperature and humidity in the week before infection has been correlated with decreased hospitalization rates for children diagnosed with rotavirus (*D'Souza et al., 2008*)

Humanitarian Crisis

- Displacements – limited options on selection of what to eat/reduced intake of proper/preferred food
- Unprotected crops from pests and diseases – high risk of food contamination
- School closure – education of children on health, sanitation and related topic
- Environmentalists say the crisis has brought many projects intended to help farmers fight climate change to a standstill.

How do we contribute to food safety?

Practical Actions by All

- Policy influencing?
- Peace building?
- Standards development facilitation and reinforcement?
- Environmental sensitive programming?
- Systems set up?
- Partnerships that can promote consumption of safe foods? Research, Testing, Packaging etc

<https://youtu.be/Lz3zL-Y-knbe> <https://youtu.be/Lz3zL-Y-kns>

