The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), as part of its mandate to ensure public health and safety, has organized a one-day training programme for managers and staff of bakery facilities in the Wa Municipality of the Upper West Region at the Pelican Hotel.

The training was among others to extend the education of Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) to the operators of bakeries and to support the food service industry to meet food safety standards.

It was also to increase the knowledge of the participants on the regulatory requirements for the food service industry, to know the negative impact of microorganisms to the food service industry and to educate them on the factors that support safe bakery practices.

The one-day training programme saw trainees being educated on the Public Health Act, 2012, Act 851, where facilitators emphasized on the functions and mandates of the FDA, which included; licensing of premises and the registration of products, with the aim of ensuring products manufactured for sale are safe, of good quality and wholesome.

The participants were therefore urged to maintain a good cleaning culture where all utensils and equipments are washed thoroughly before and after baking to avoid pests such as cockroaches, flies, wall gecko, and mice that are associated with food from invading their premises. According to the officials, lack of proper waste management systems in the manufacturing facilities may have adverse effects on the food and may lead to the spread of diseases such as cholera and other associated food borne diseases.
The training became necessary due to food safety concerns observed during food safety audits conducted in the bakery facilities over the years in the Municipality. The training brought together a total of twenty-three (23) participants from thirteen (13) bakery facilities.

The Upper West Regional Office of the FDA will extend the training programme to other facilities in the various Districts in the Region to ensure compliance to promote public health and safety.

The training was facilitated by the following officials from the FDA; Mr. Shamir M. Alhassan, Mr. Charles Bashiru Bakin and Mr. Kamaldeen Ismail.