

Developing Science-based, Harmonised Food Safety Regulations and Standards in Order to Promote Regional and International Trade

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REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

SPS AGREEMENT

This Agreement applies to all sanitary and phytosanitary measures which may, directly or indirectly, affect international trade. Such measures shall be developed and applied in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.



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- To harmonize sanitary and phytosanitary measures on as wide a basis as possible, Members shall base their sanitary or phytosanitary measures on international standards, guidelines or recommendations, where they exist, except as otherwise provided for in this Agreement



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International Plant Protection Convention
Protecting the world's plant resources from pests



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- Members may introduce or maintain sanitary or phytosanitary measures which result in a higher level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection than would be achieved by measures based on the relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations, if there is a scientific justification, or as a consequence of the level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection a Member determines to be appropriate



REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Provided the measures are:

- based on **scientific risk assessment**;
- consistently applied; and
- not more trade restrictive than necessary

In cases where relevant scientific evidence is insufficient, a Member may provisionally adopt sanitary or phytosanitary measures on the basis of available pertinent information, including that from the relevant international organizations as well as from sanitary or phytosanitary measures applied by other Members=(PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE).



COMPONENTS OF RISK ANALYSIS AS DEFINED BY CODEX

Risk assessment: A scientifically based process consisting of the following steps:

- i) hazard identification;
- ii) hazard characterization;
- iii) exposure assessment and
- iv) risk characterization.



COMPONENTS OF RISK ANALYSIS AS DEFINED BY CODEX

Risk management: The process, distinct from risk assessment, of weighing **policy** alternatives in **consultation** with all interested parties, **considering risk assessment** and other factors **relevant for the health protection of consumers** and for the **promotion of fair trade practices**, and, if needed, **selecting appropriate prevention and control options**.

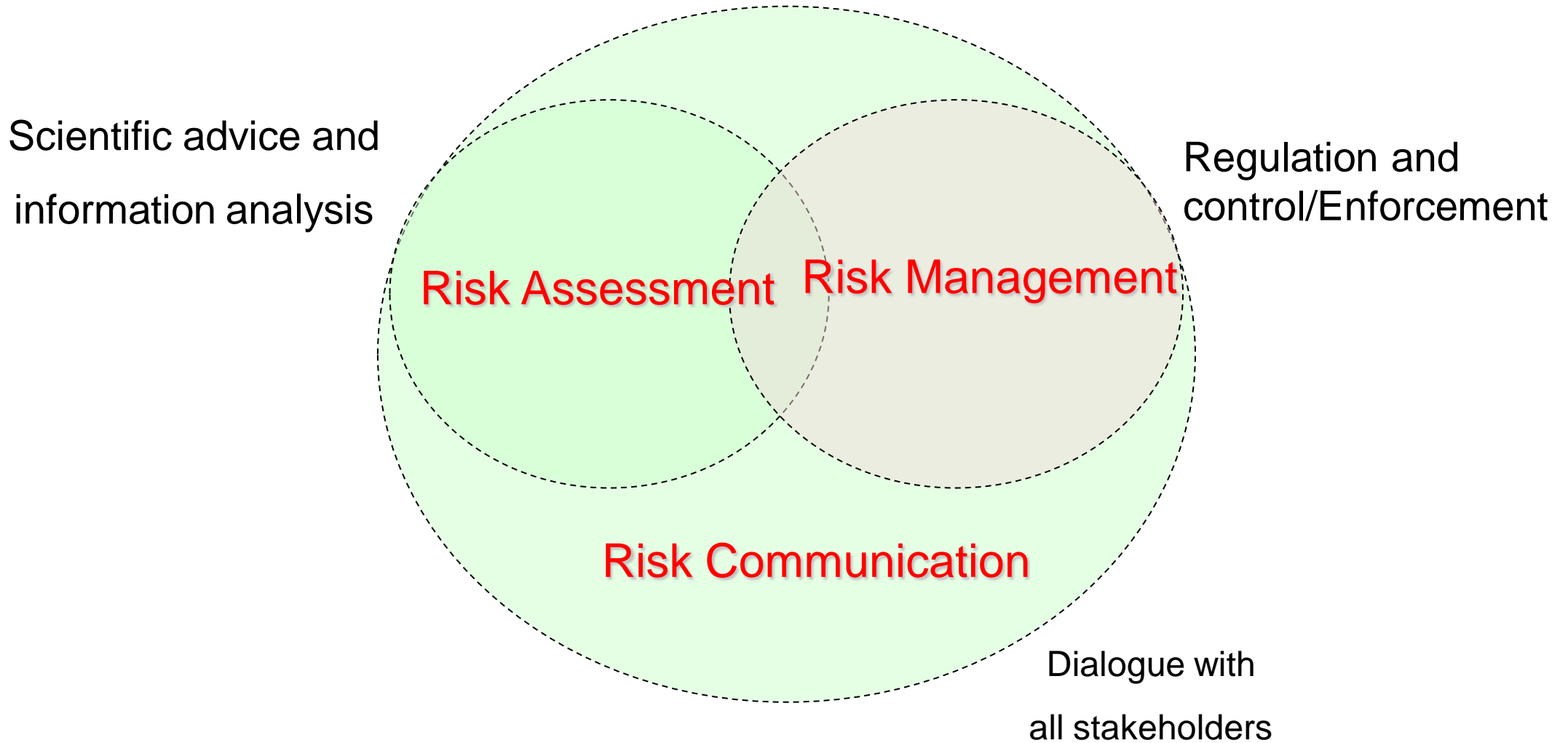


COMPONENTS OF RISK ANALYSIS AS DEFINED BY CODEX

Risk communication: An interactive process of exchange of information and opinion on risk among risk assessors, risk managers and other interested parties. (individuals, groups and institutions).



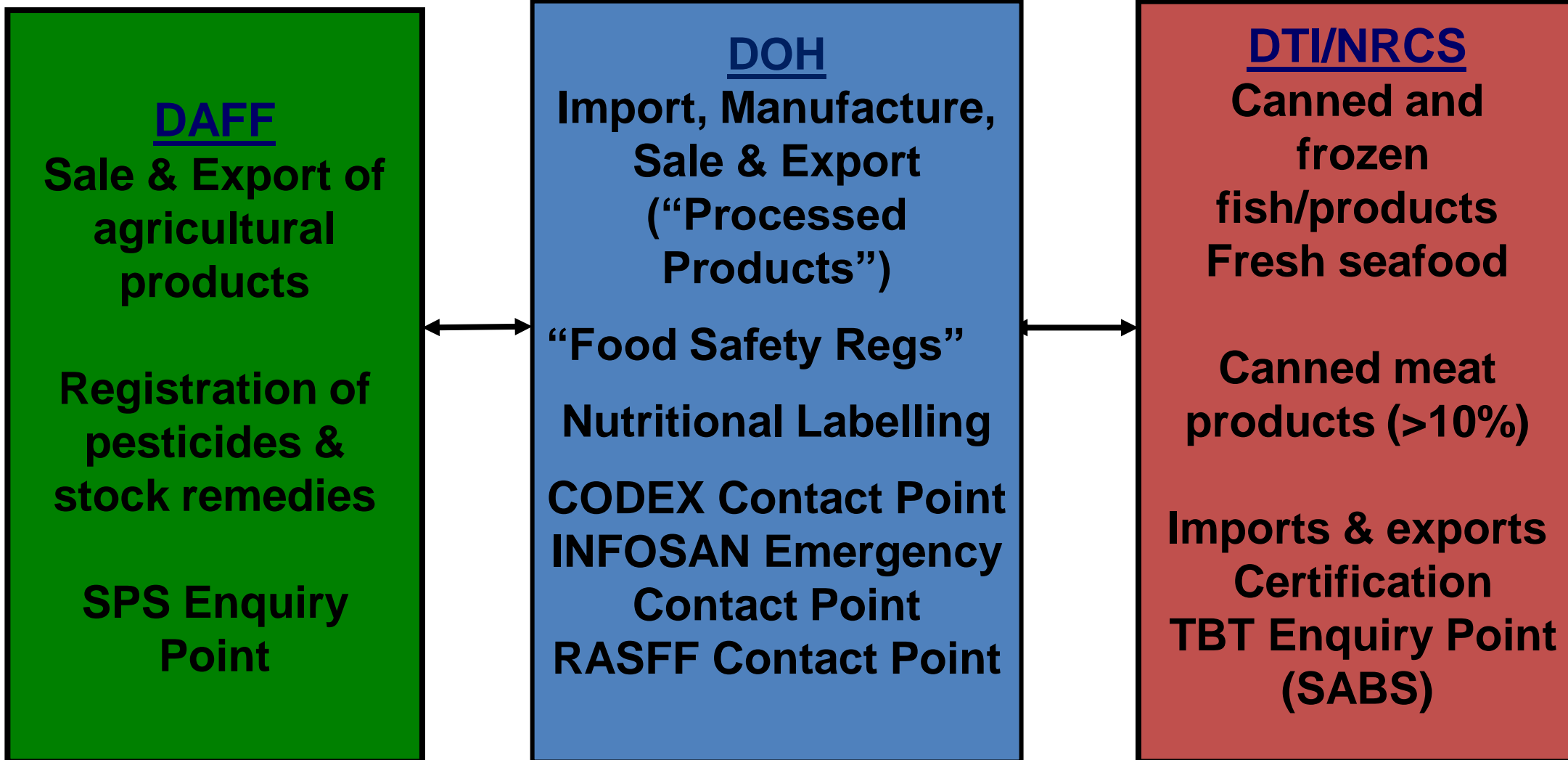
STRUCTURE OF RISK ANALYSIS



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South Africa: Food Control (WTO Member Country: 1994)



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FOOD SAFETY: INTERACTION WITHIN BRANCH: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY



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SAFE FOOD FOR ALL

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

**FOOD LEGISLATION &
LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**ADVICE FOR
INDUSTRY/TRADE**

**CONSUMER
EDUCATION**

**INFO GATHERING &
RESEARCH**

**PROVIDING HEALTH-
RELATED SERVICES**

GOVERNMENT

**EDUCATED AND KNOW-
LEDGEABLE PUBLIC**

**DISCRIMINATING &
SELECTIVE CONSUMERS**

**SAFE FOOD PRACTICES
IN THE HOME**

**COMMUNITY
PARTICIPATION**

**ACTIVE CONSUMER
GROUPS**

CONSUMERS

**GMP'S BY PRIMARY
PRODUCERS/DISTRIB.**

**QA & CONTROL OF
PROCESSED FOOD**

**APPROPRIATE PROCESSES
AND TECHNOLOGY**

**TRAINED MANAGERS &
FOOD HANDLERS**

**INFORMATIVE LABEL-
LING & CONSUMER EDUC.**

INDUSTRY/TRADE

NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO FOOD SAFETY

**WHO LEADERSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS
ON FOOD SAFETY ISSUES, POLICY & ACTIONS**



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FOOD CONTROL LEGISLATION: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES (DAFF)

Agricultural Products Standards Act, (Act No. 119 of 1990)

(Quality/TBT standards & food safety standards for exports of food products of plant origin)

Meat Safety Act, (Act No. 40 of 2000) (abattoirs and import/export of fresh/chilled/frozen meat)

Animal Health Act, (Act No. 35 of 1984) (permit required for import of animal & animal products)

Plant Health Act, (Act No. 35 of 1984) (phyto-sanitary requirements)

Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947(Act NO. 36 OF 1947) (Regulations relating to farm feeds & remedies requirements- MRL's)

(National Inspectors involved in enforcement, as well as Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) appointed as an assignee.



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FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Industry & country research consulted and government funds & commissions research e.g. Poultry injection research (Limit and safety of IQF product).

Local industry involvement in draft legislation - information received from food industry and related representative bodies e.g. CGCSA (FSI), DSA, SAPA and other industry associations.

Alignment with international standards set by reputable bodies or National Legislation from other countries e.g. MRL's of Codex and EU.

Notification of the drafts for comments with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) through the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS).



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- Members shall accept the sanitary or phytosanitary measures of other Members as **equivalent**, even if these measures differ from their own or from those used by other Members trading in the same product, if the exporting Member objectively demonstrates to the importing Member that its measures achieve the importing Member's appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection.



EQUIVALENCE

- Zoning
- Compartmentalization
- Zero tolerance
- Single source



References

Department of Health – A presentation on situation analysis and roles and responsibilities for food control in South Africa by Mr. Malose Daniel Matlala

FAO - Food safety risk Analysis – A guide to national food safety authorities

www.wto.org

www.codexalimentarius.org



THANK YOU



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