



International Regulatory Framework for fish and seafood safety

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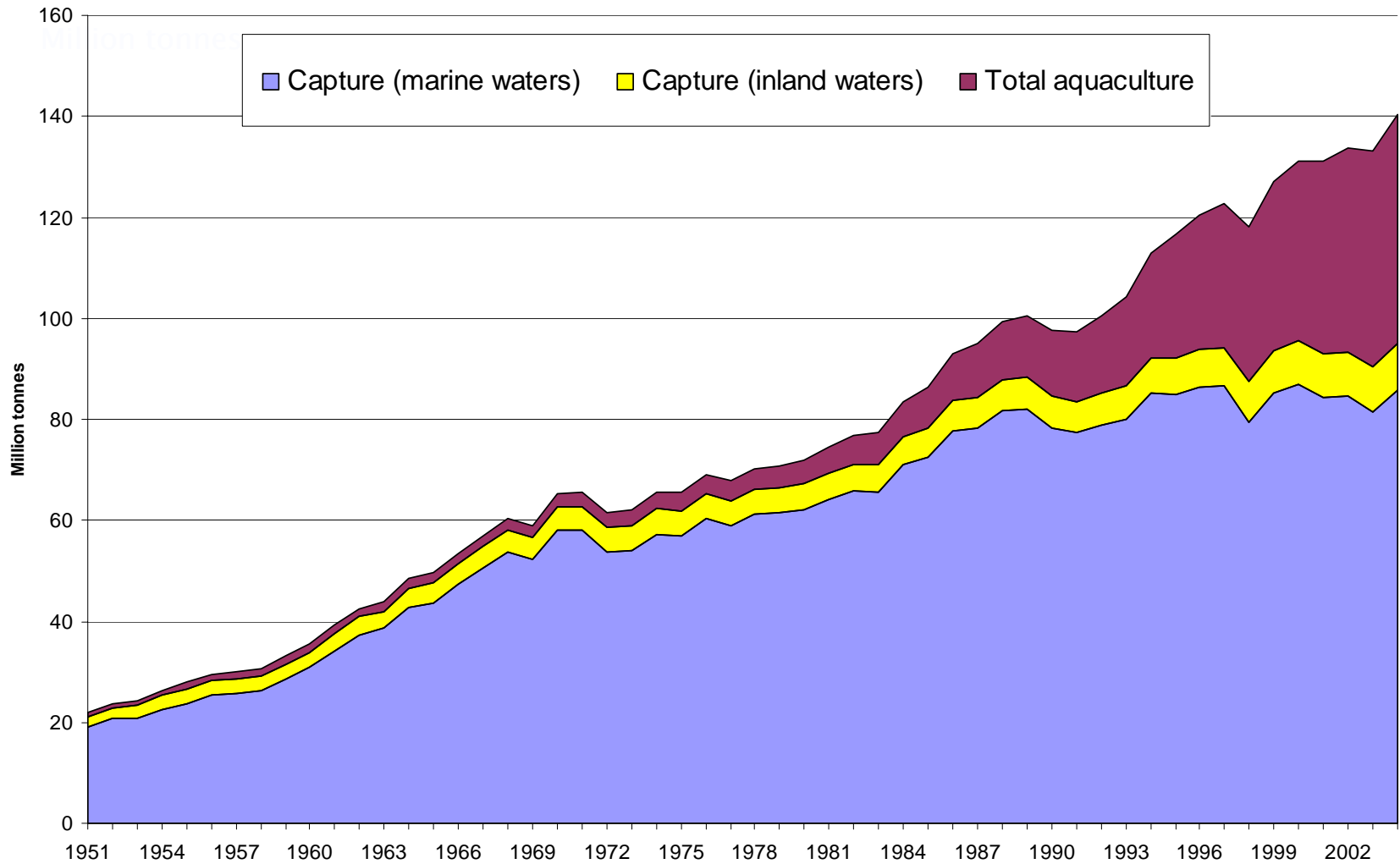
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**Workshop on Certification in Aquaculture
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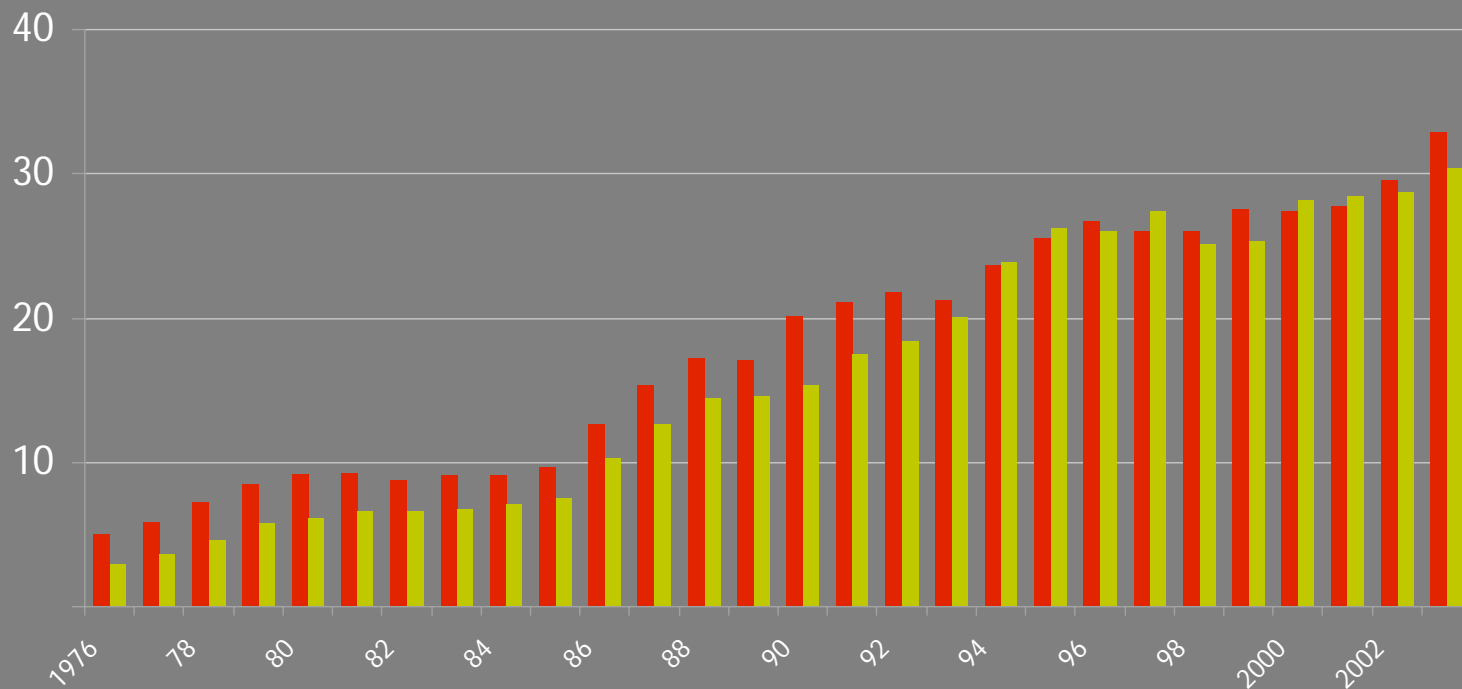
Fisheries production (1951-2004)



Fish exports (1976-2004)

US\$ billion

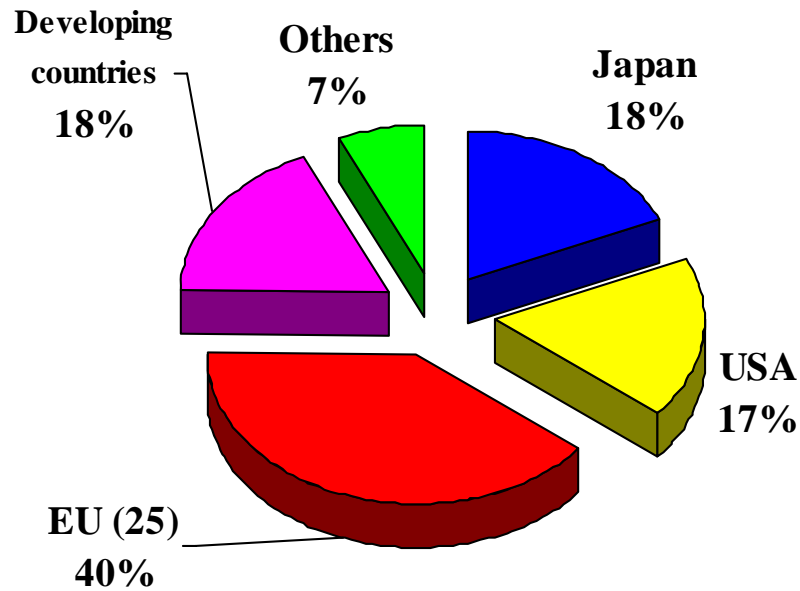
■ Developed countries or areas ■ Developing countries or areas



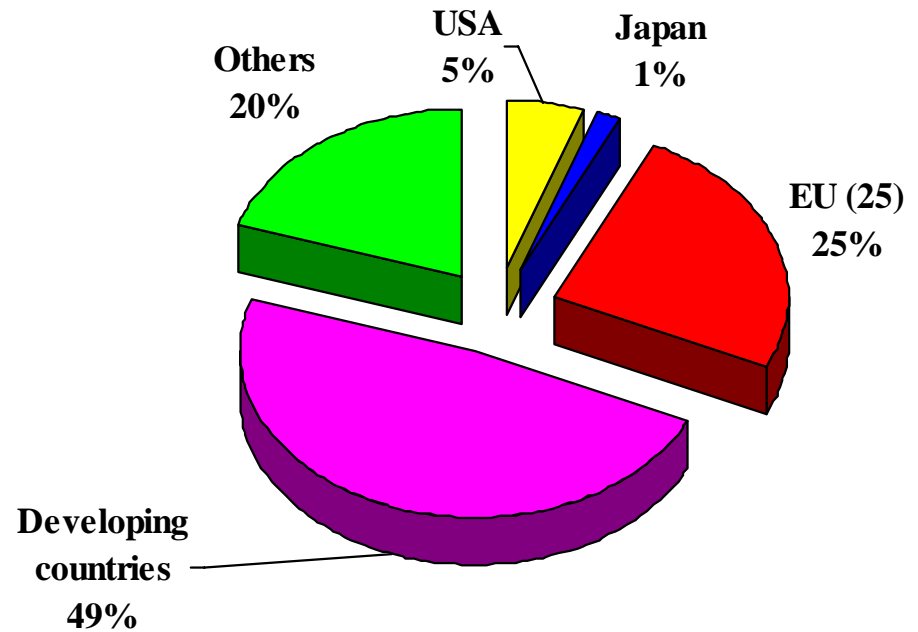


WORLD FISH TRADE 2004 (by value)

Imports



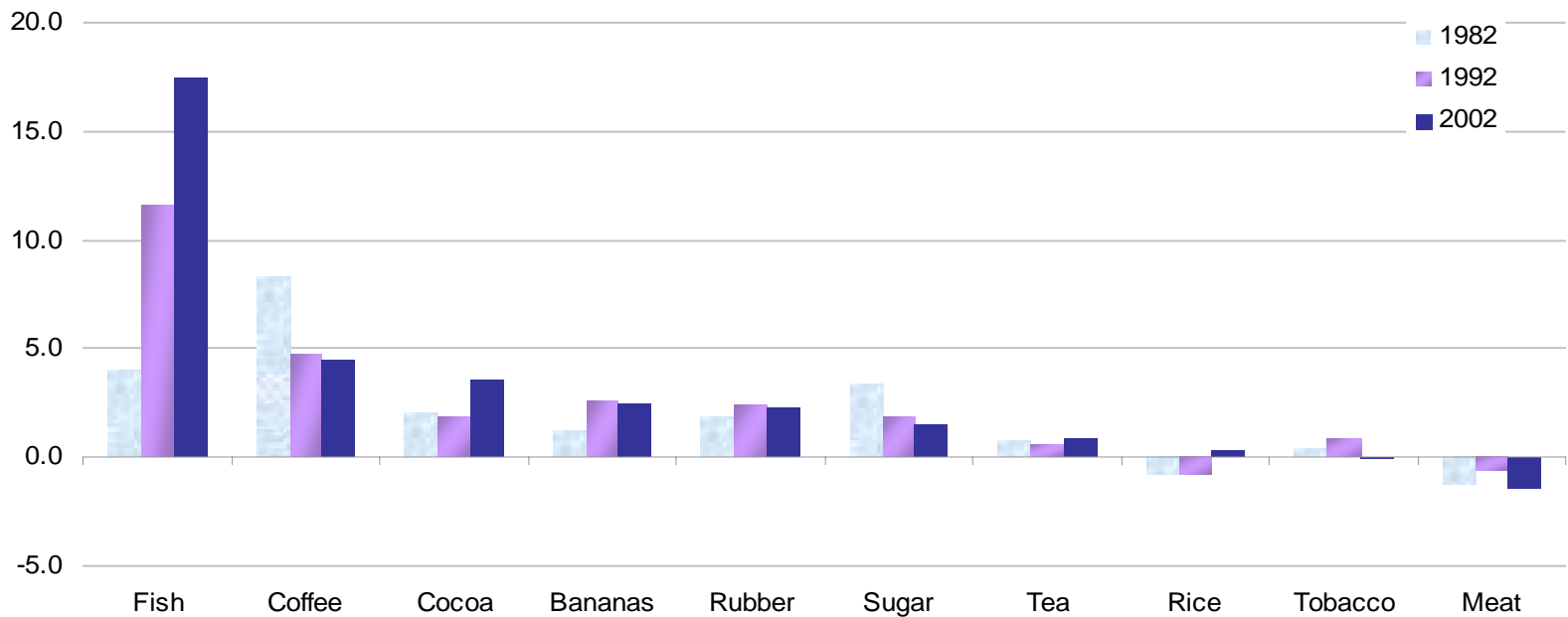
Exports



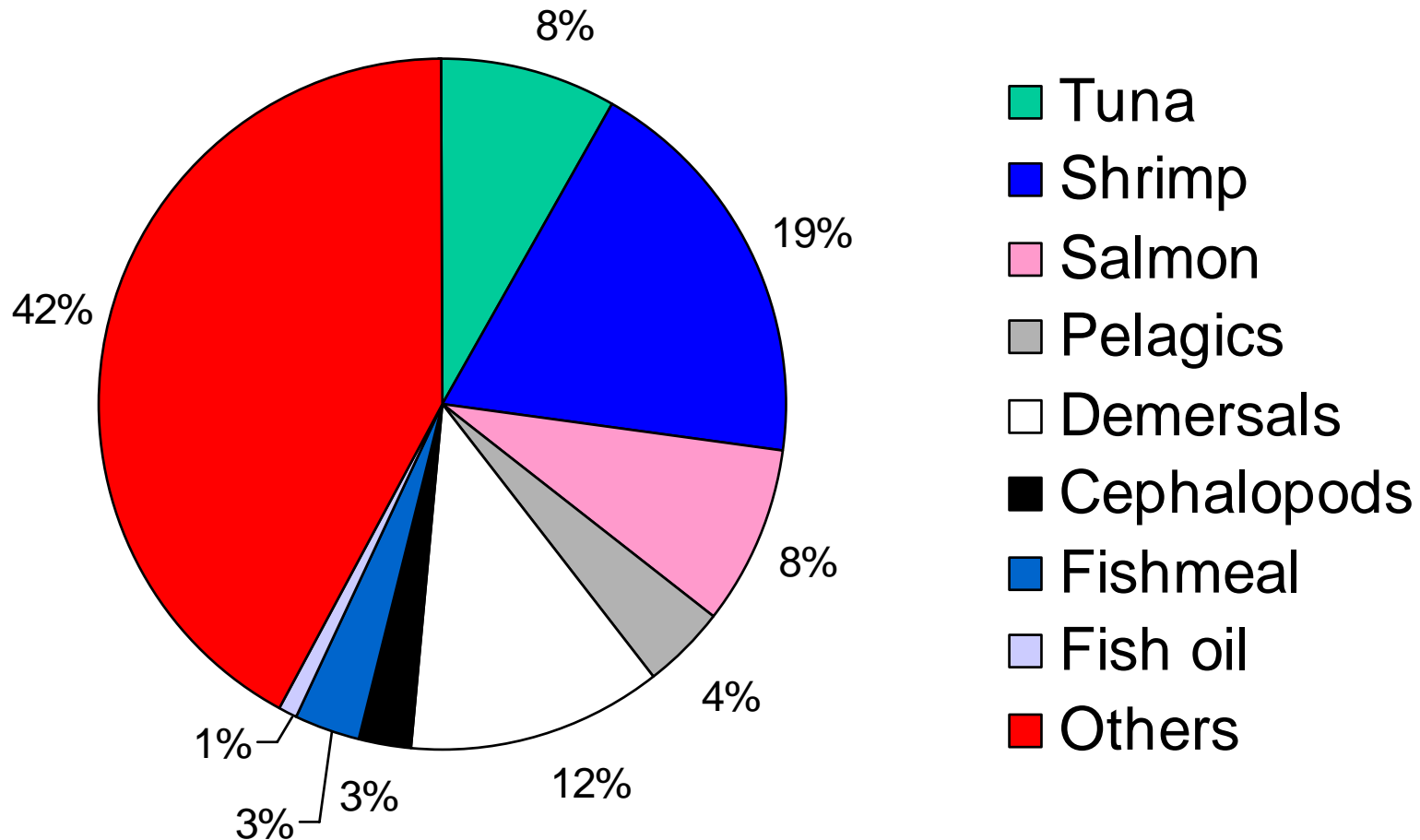


Net exports of selected agricultural commodities by developing countries

US\$ billions



Commodity breakdown (Trade)





International regulatory Framework

Issue:

- **Liberalization of trade**
- **Maximal protection of plant, animal and human health**
- **Minimal Technical Obstacles to trade**





International regulatory Framework

Protection

VS.

Protectionism

- **Necessary to achieve an ALOP but sanitary requirements and technical standards should not be used to shield domestic producers from foreign competition**
- **Pressure to do so is high as other trade barriers (tariffs and quotas) are reduced**
- **SPS measures and technical standards are complex which makes them particularly deceptive and difficult to challenge**





International regulatory Framework

Scope:

- **Consumer protection**
- **Animal and plant protection**
- **Fair trade practices**



International regulatory Framework

- GATT (1948, Article XXII:b)
- **Codex Alimentarius (FAO/WHO, 1962)**
- TBT Agreement (GATT, Tokyo Round, 1974-1979)
- Code of Conduct For responsible fisheries (FAO, 1994. Article 11)
- COFI and its two sub committees
- **SPS/TBT Agreements (WTO, 1995)**
- ISO 9000:2000 (QMS) and 22000:2005 (FSMS)
- International Principles for Responsible Shrimp Farming, 2006
- Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification





SPS/TBT Agreements

General Principles

- **Sovereignty**
- **Harmonization**
- **Transparency**
- **Equivalency**
- **Scientific basis**
- **Special and differential treatment**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **Consultation and dispute settlement**



Harmonization

- **Establishment, Recognition and Application of Common SPS Measures by Members**
- **Members shall base their measures on those developed by relevant international organizations (OIE, CAC, IPPC)**
- **Measures which conform to international standards are consistent with Agreement**
- **Members are to fully participate in the work of relevant international organizations**
- **WTO to monitor progress of international harmonization (SPS and TBT Committees)**





Equivalence

- **Members shall accept other Member measures as equivalent, if final results are the same (achieve same ALOP)**
- **Members shall consult to achieve bilateral and multilateral agreements (Mutual Recognition Agreements)**





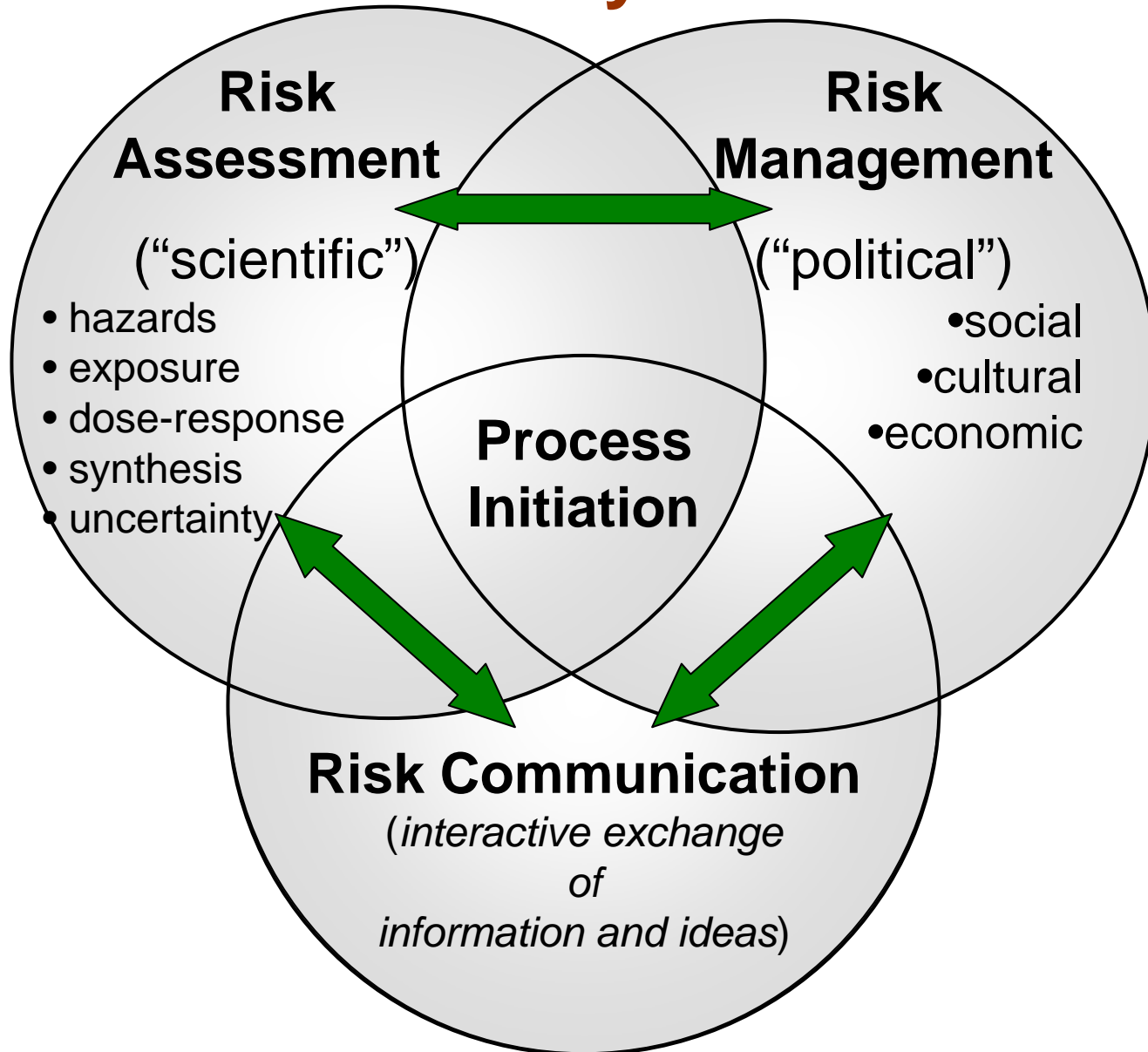
Scientifically based standards

- **SPS measures are to be based on the assessment of risks to humans, animals or plants, using internationally accepted risk assessment techniques and taking into account the available scientific evidence**
- **SPS measures should minimize negative trade effects and arbitrary and unjustified measures should not be considered**





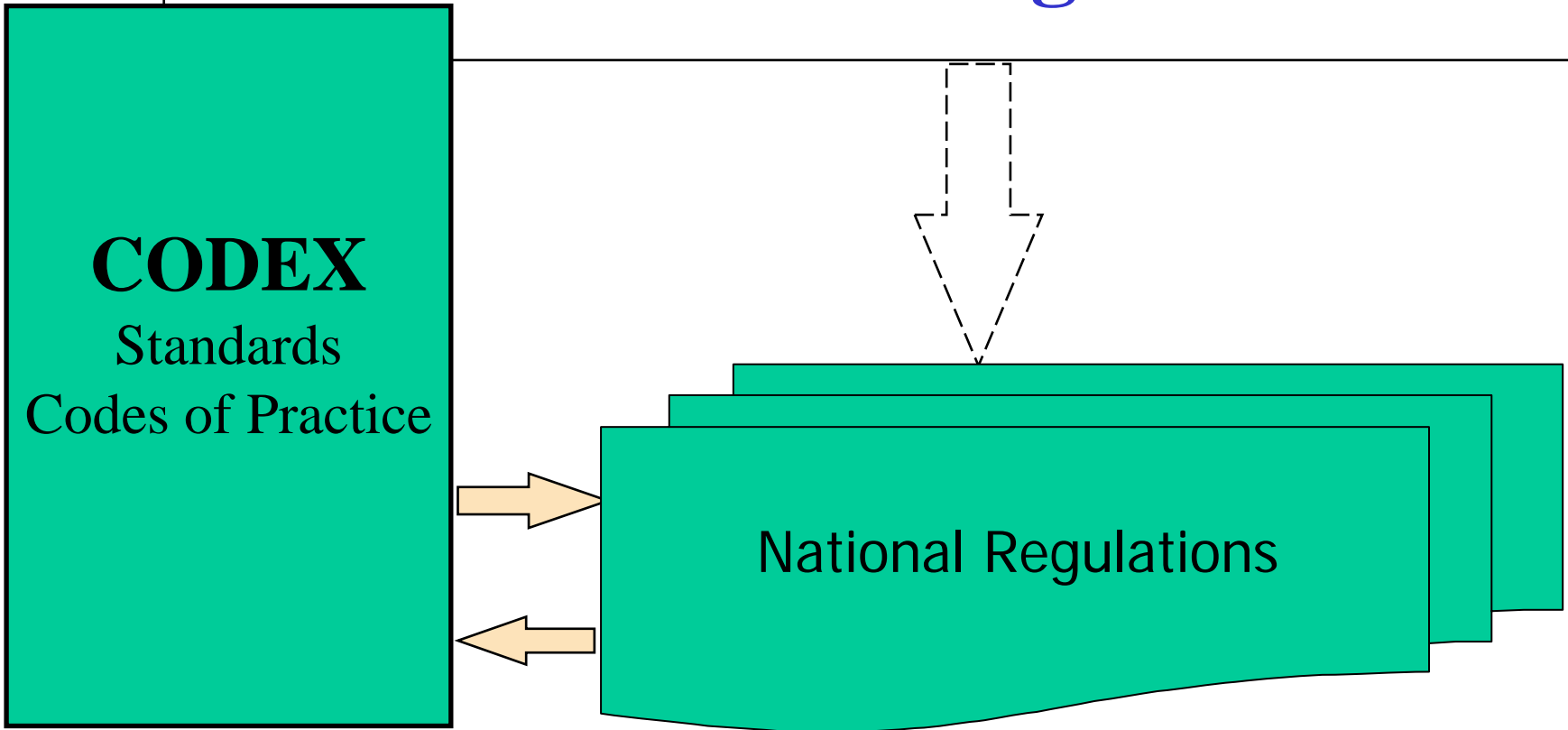
The Risk Analysis Process





SPS/TBT and *Codex*

World Trade Organisation





Management Organs of the CA

- **The Executive Committee**
- **The Regional Co-coordinating Committees**
- **The Secretariat of the Commission**





Technical Organs of the CA

- **9 General Subject Committees**
- **12 Commodity Committees**
- **4 Ad Hoc Inter-Governmental Task Forces**





General Subject Committees

- **General Principles (France)**
- **Import/Export Inspection and Certification Systems (Australia)**
- **Food Labeling (Canada)**
- **Methods of Analysis & Sampling (Hungary)**
- **Food Hygiene (USA)**
- **Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (USA)**
- **Pesticide Residues (Netherlands)**
- **Food Additives and Contaminants (Netherlands)**
- **Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Germany)**





Active Commodity Committees

- **Fats and Oils (U. K.)**
- **Fish and Fishery Products (Norway)**
- **Milk and Milk Products (New Zealand)**
- **Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Mexico)**
- **Cocoa Products & Chocolate (Switzerland)**
- **Natural Mineral Waters (Switzerland)**





Expert input to Codex work

- **Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)**
- **Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticides Residues (JMPR)**
- **Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA)**
- **Joint FAO/WHO Working Groups, Expert Consultations**





JECs Essential characteristics

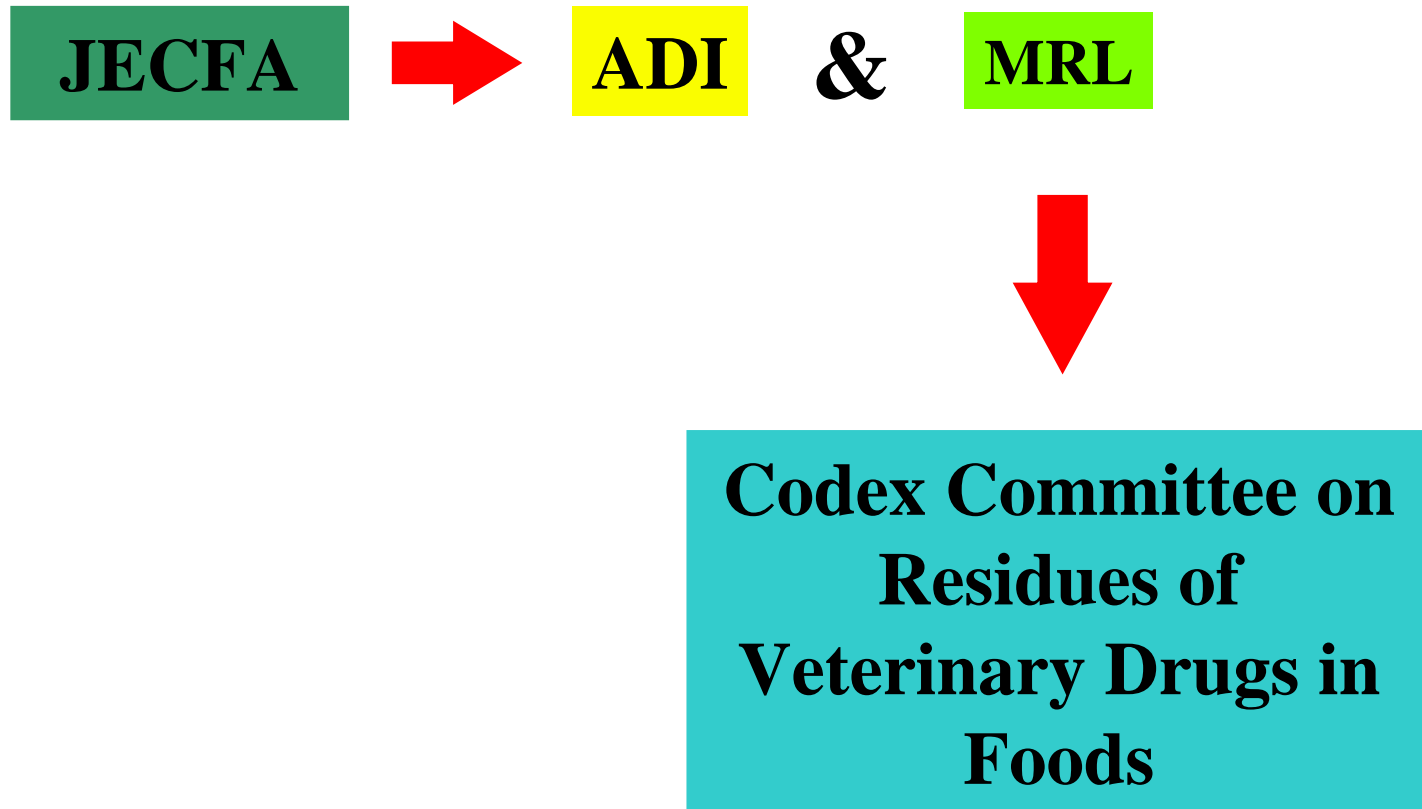
- **Independent of *Codex***
- **Members serve on their personal scientific capacity**
- **Broad based representation**
- **Meet on *ad hoc* or regular basis**
- **Provide scientific advice to**
 - ***Codex Alimentarius* Commission**
 - **FAO/WHO Governing Bodies**
 - **FAO/WHO Member Countries**





Expert input to Codex Committees

Residues of Veterinary Drugs





Food Hygiene and Food Labeling : general provisions

**Codex Committee on
Food Labeling
&
Codex Committee on
Food Hygiene**

Establish

General provisions

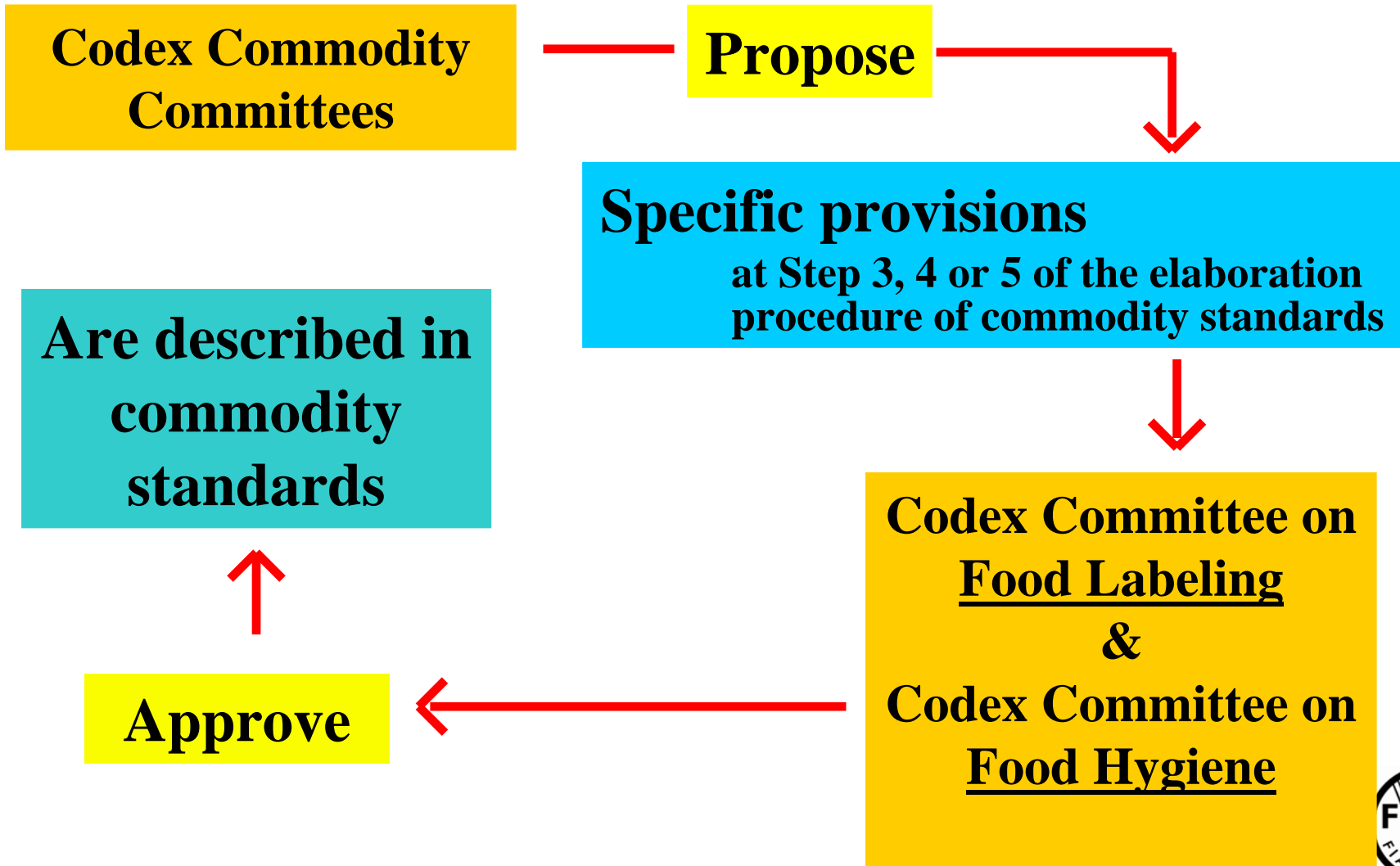
**Ex : Codex Code of practice for food
hygiene**

**Are referred to
in commodity
standards**

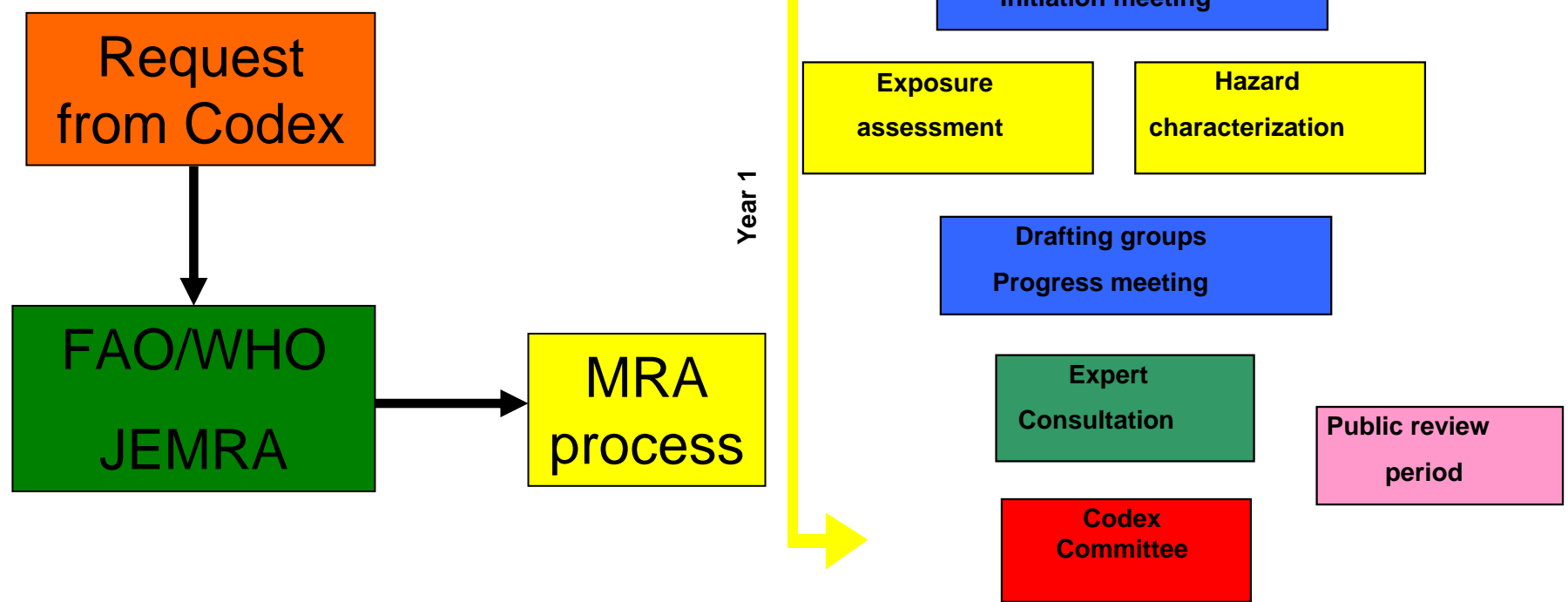




Food Hygiene and Food Labeling: specific provisions

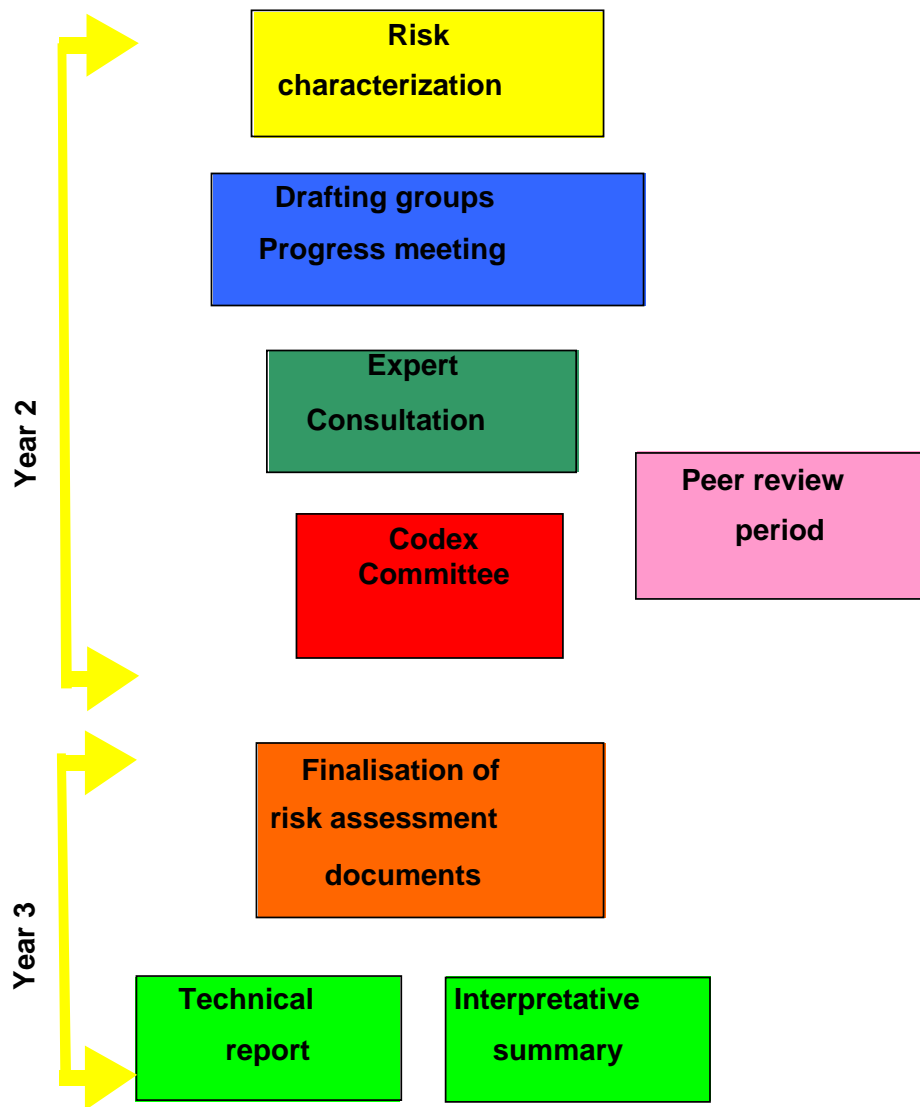


How it started





MRA Process (2)





Outputs relevant to Aquaculture

- **Code of practice for food hygiene (GHP, HACCP, Risk assessment)**
- **Standards for fish and fishery products (Volume 9A)**
- **Code of practice for intensive aquaculture (GAP, HACCP)**
- **Several risk assessments (*Vibrios* in seafood, biotoxins, antimicrobial resistance)**
- **Several principles and guidelines for food import and export inspection and certification**
- **MRL for veterinary drugs**



Development of Private standards

- **Consolidation in the food industry (e.g., processing, retail)**
- **Emergence of coalitions (GFSI, BRC)**
- **“Supermarketization”, including in developing countries**
- **Increasing influence of civil society and consumer advocacy groups**
- **Increasing role of retailers as the last link between suppliers and consumers. The use of B2B standards to protect reputations**
- **Special case of aquaculture (GAA, ACC, EUREP GAP)**

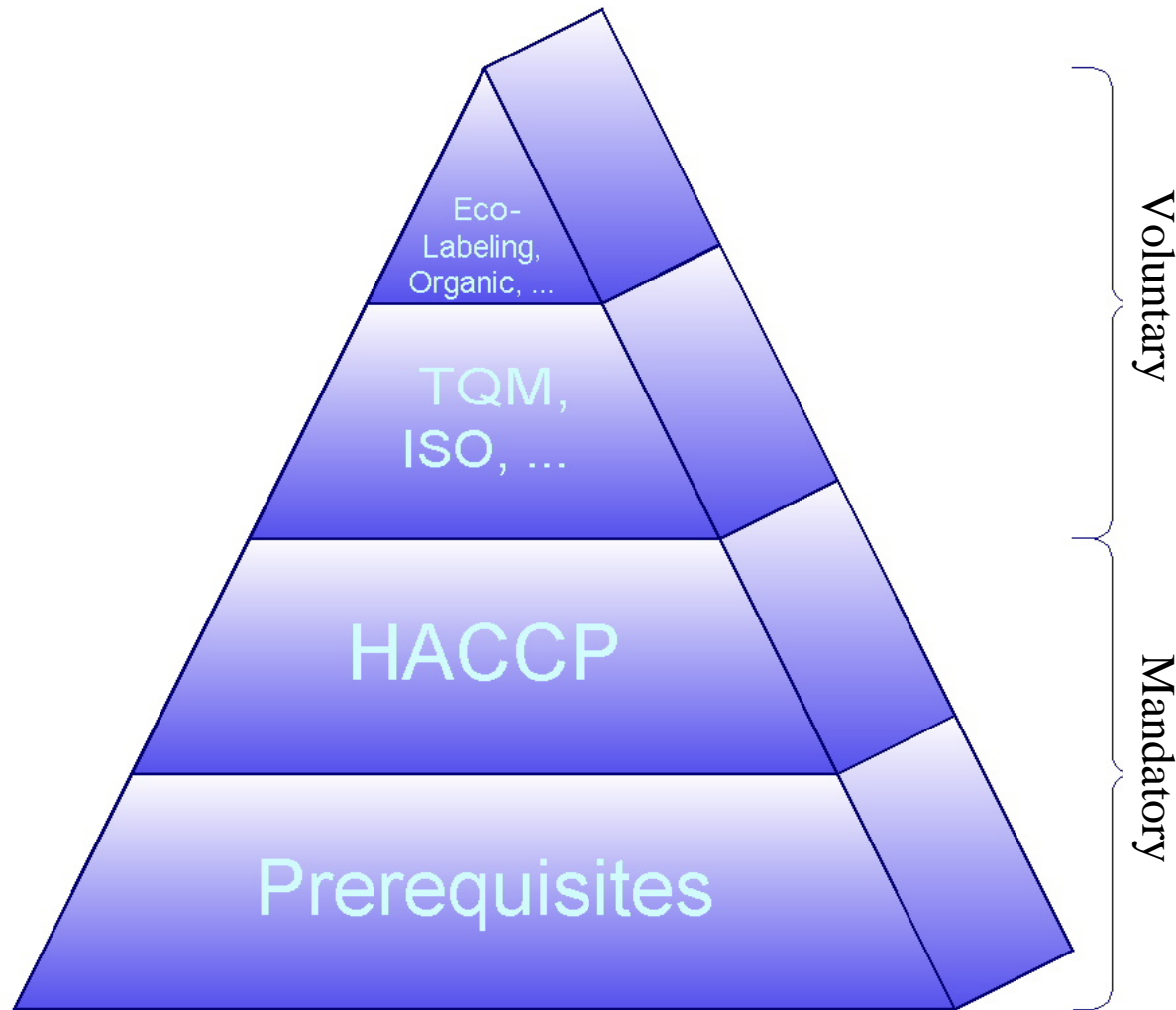




Implications

- **Additional burden for Small scale businesses and developing countries**
- **Risk of anti-competitive behavior**
- **Definition of boundaries between private and public sectors. Who is responsible for what?**
- **Competing certifying schemes confuse consumers as to the value of the process**

Practical implementation





Thank you

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