



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

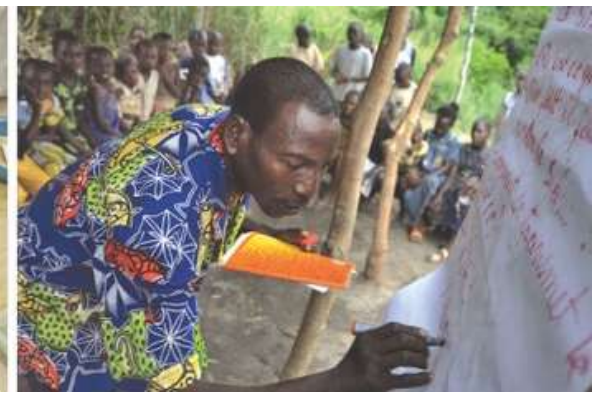


# FAO/WHO FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM ASSESSMENT TOOL

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2. TOOL STRUCTURE
3. THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS
4. BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING  
THE ASSESSMENT





# 1. A NEW ASSESSMENT TOOL

## DEFINITIONS

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### Objectives of a National Food Control system:

Dual objective: Protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

(CXG 82-2013)

### Food Control System:

The integration of a **mandatory regulatory approach** with **preventive and educational strategies** that protect the whole food chain.

(FAO & WHO, 2003. *Guidelines for strengthening national food control systems*)

## Why assessing the national food control system?

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Whatever the architecture of a national food control system, we have to make sure that **the system is effective in achieving its goals and that resources are targeting the right priorities.**

**Measuring the performance** of the system allows us to:

- > know where we are
- > identify areas for improvement
- > target investments

**Keeping track of progress** is also a clear signal of transparency and accountability, which enables to build stakeholder confidence domestically and internationally, open new markets and improve safe trade.

## System review required by Codex texts

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### Principles and Guidelines of National Food Control Systems (CXG 82-2013)

... **The effectiveness and appropriateness of the national food control system should be regularly assessed** against the objective of the system, effectiveness of control programs, as well as against legislative and other regulatory requirements.

... **Criteria for assessment** should be established, clearly defined and documented, and may also include cost benefits and efficiency.

... The results of the evaluations, including the results of self-assessment and audits should also be taken into account in **further improvement of the system**, and corrective actions should be taken into account as appropriate.



## Codex principles and guidelines for national food control systems (CXG 82-2013)

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### PRINCIPLE 1: **PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS**

... In the event of a conflict with other interests, precedence should be given to protecting the health of consumers.

### PRINCIPLE 2: **THE WHOLE FOOD CHAIN APPROACH**

### PRINCIPLE 3: **TRANSPARENCY**

... open to scrutiny by all stakeholders, while respecting legal requirements to protect confidential information as appropriate.

### PRINCIPLE 4: **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Food business operators, Competent Authorities, Consumers, Academia and Scientific Institutions.

## Codex principles and guidelines for national food control systems (CXG 82-2013)

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**PRINCIPLE 5: CONSISTENCY AND IMPARTIALITY**

The competent authority should be free of improper or undue influence or conflict of interest.

**PRINCIPLE 6: RISK BASED, SCIENCE BASED AND EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING**

...scientific information, evidence and/or risk analysis principle.

**PRINCIPLE 7: COOPERATION & COORDINATION BETWEEN MULTIPLE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES**

...for the most effective use of resources in order to minimize duplication and/or gaps and to facilitate information exchange.

**PRINCIPLE 8: PREVENTIVE MEASURES**

...prevention, intervention and response.



## Codex principles and guidelines for national food control systems (CXG 82-2013)

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**PRINCIPLE 9: SELF ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROCEDURES**

...continuous improvement and include mechanisms to evaluate whether the system is able to achieve its objective.

**PRINCIPLE 10: RECOGNITION OF OTHER SYSTEMS (INCLUDING EQUIVALENCE)**

...food control systems although designed and structured differently may be capable of meeting the same objective.

**PRINCIPLE 11: LEGAL FOUNDATION**

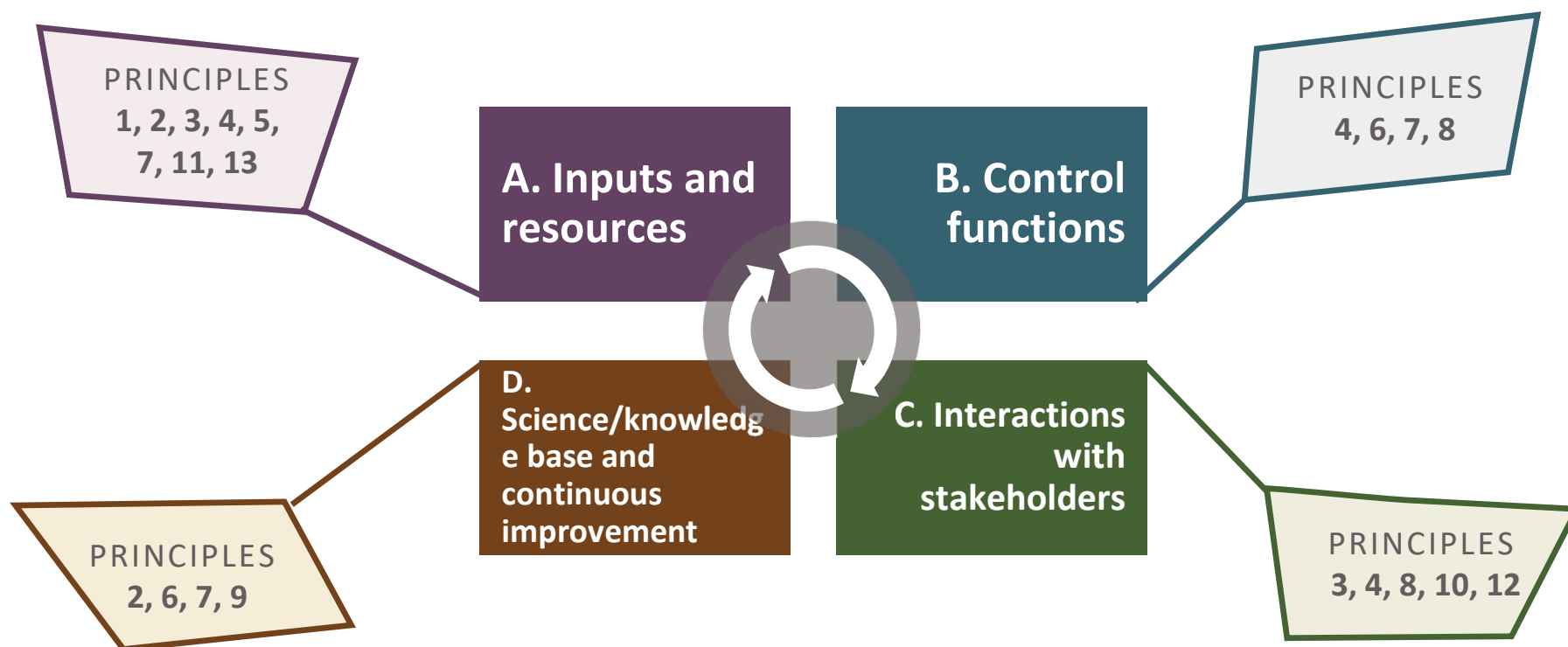
...establishment of food laws and competent authorities

**PRINCIPLE 12: HARMONISATION**

...consider Codex standards as elements of their national food control system

**PRINCIPLE 13: RESOURCES**

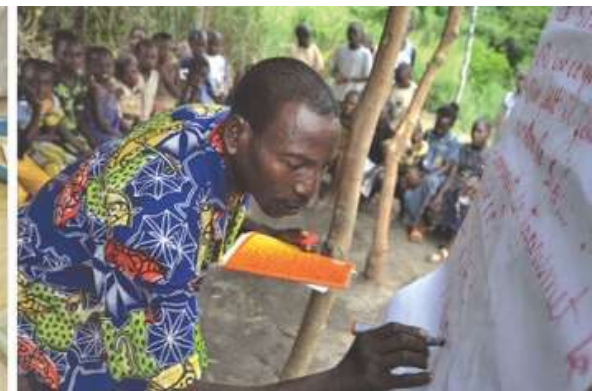
## Codex principles and guidelines for national food control systems (CXG 82-2013)



## Key features

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- > **System approach:** only tool that looks at overall food control system
- > **Participatory and collaborative process** - country driven
- > **Recognition of each country's specific situation, needs, traditions:** limit “cultural” bias in assessment model
- > **Evidence based**
- > **Confidentiality of reports**

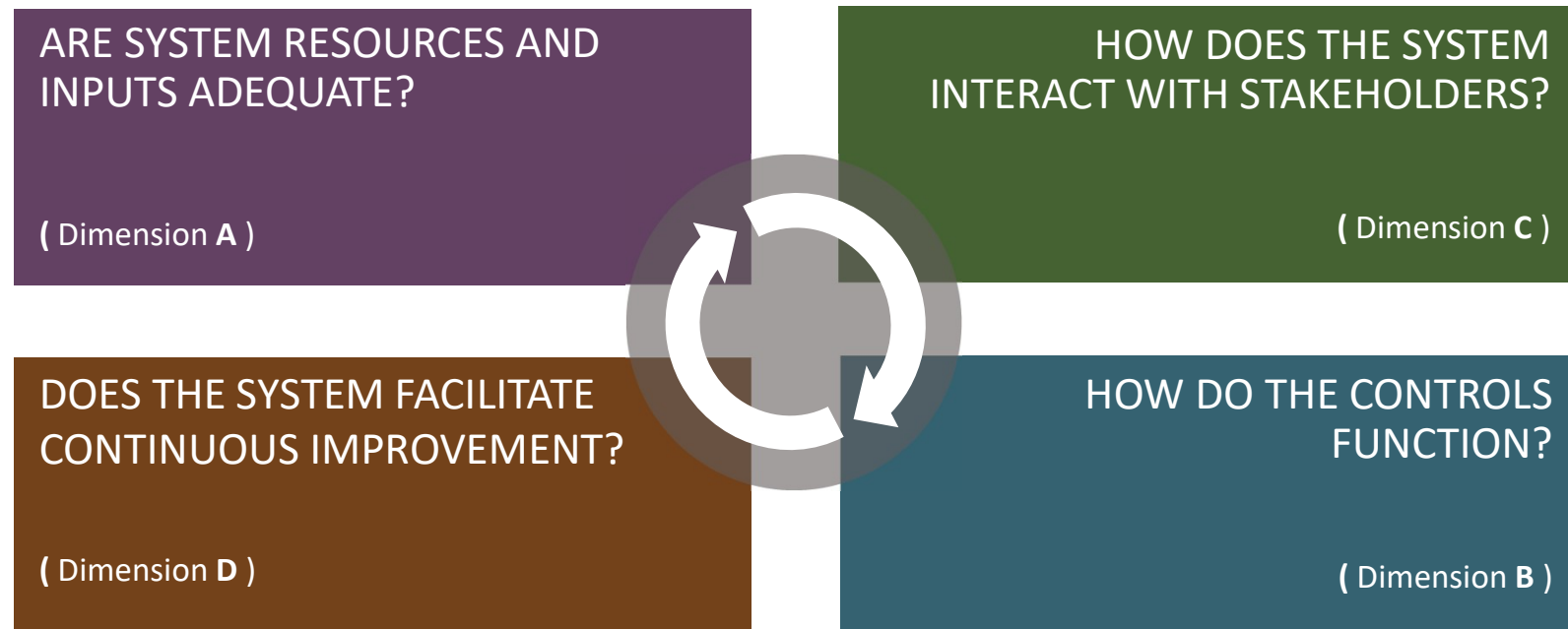


## 2. TOOL STRUCTURE

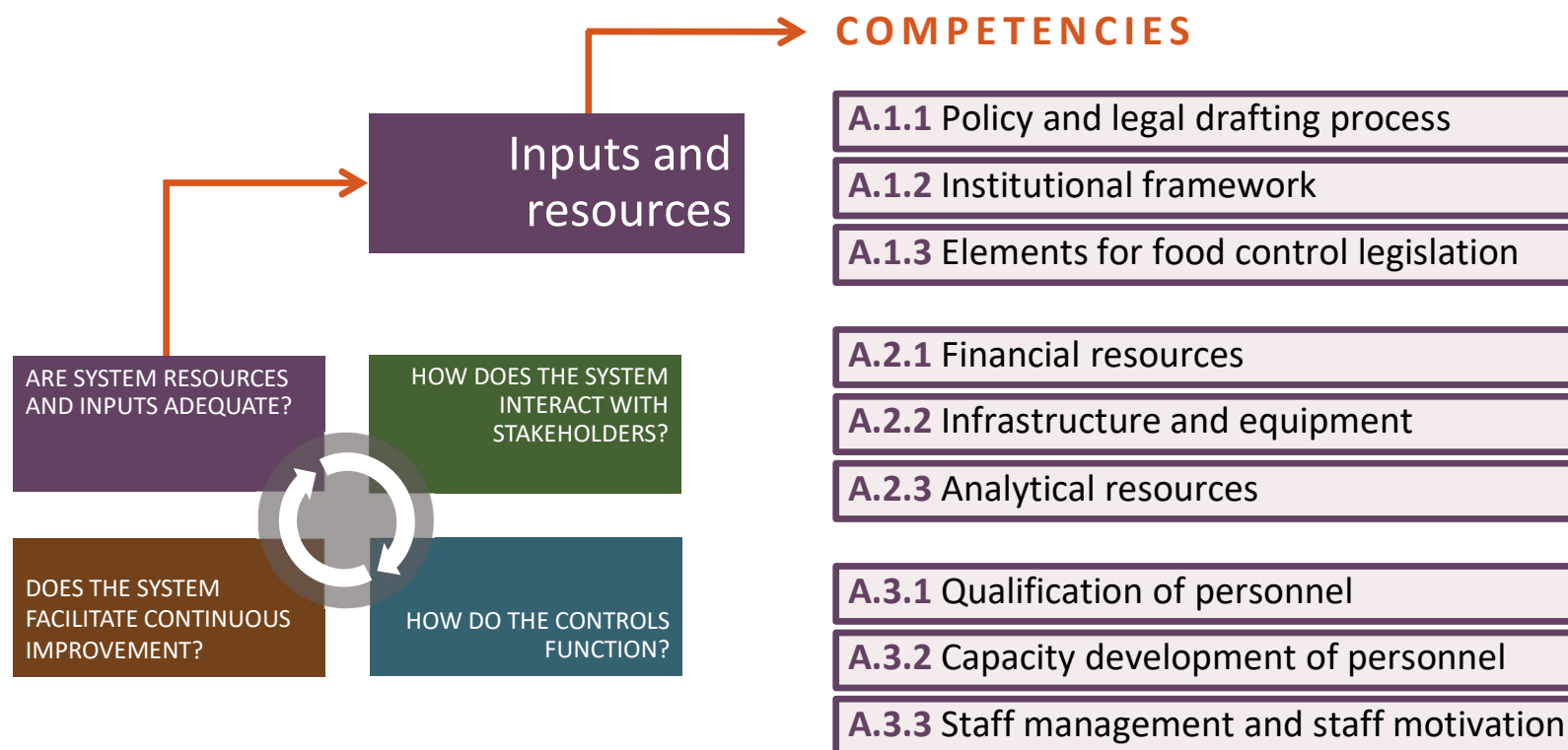
## TOOL STRUCTURE

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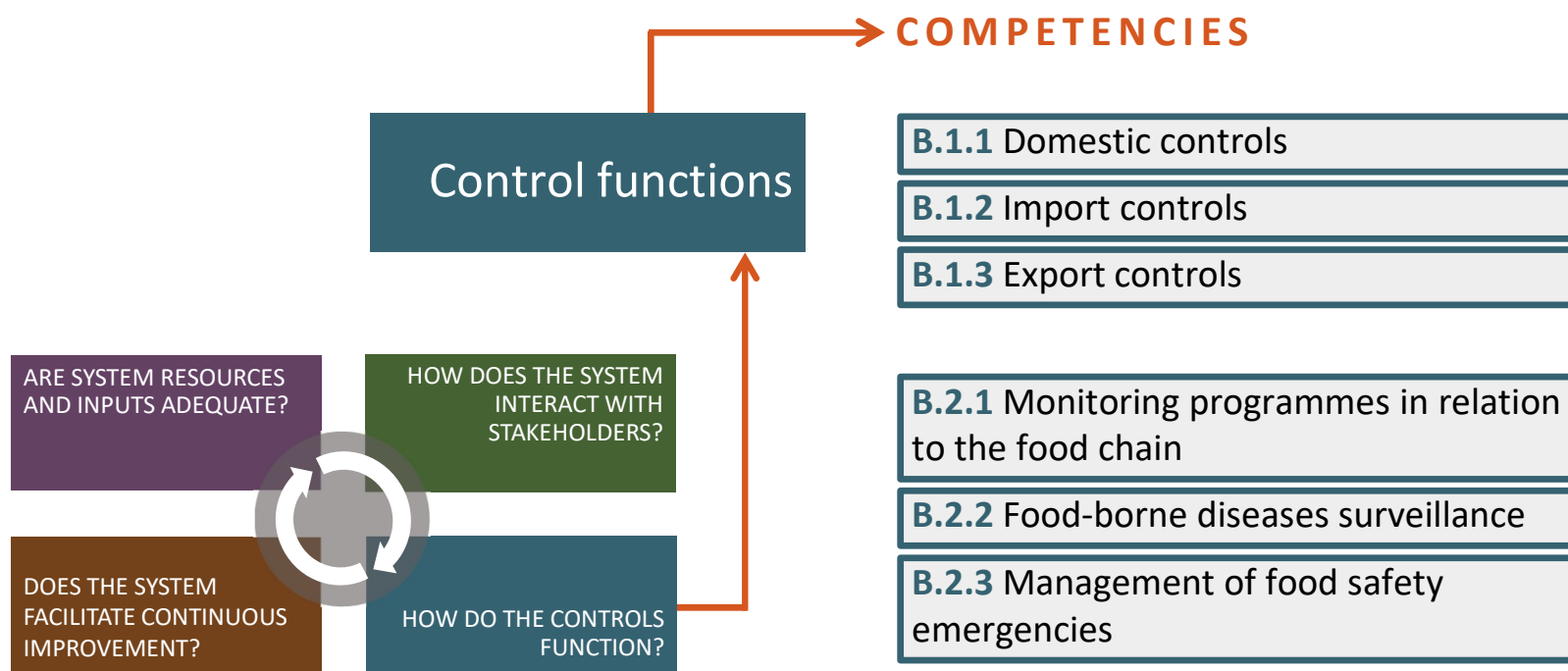
Tool foundation: **4 dimensions**



## DIMENSION A: Are system resources adequate?

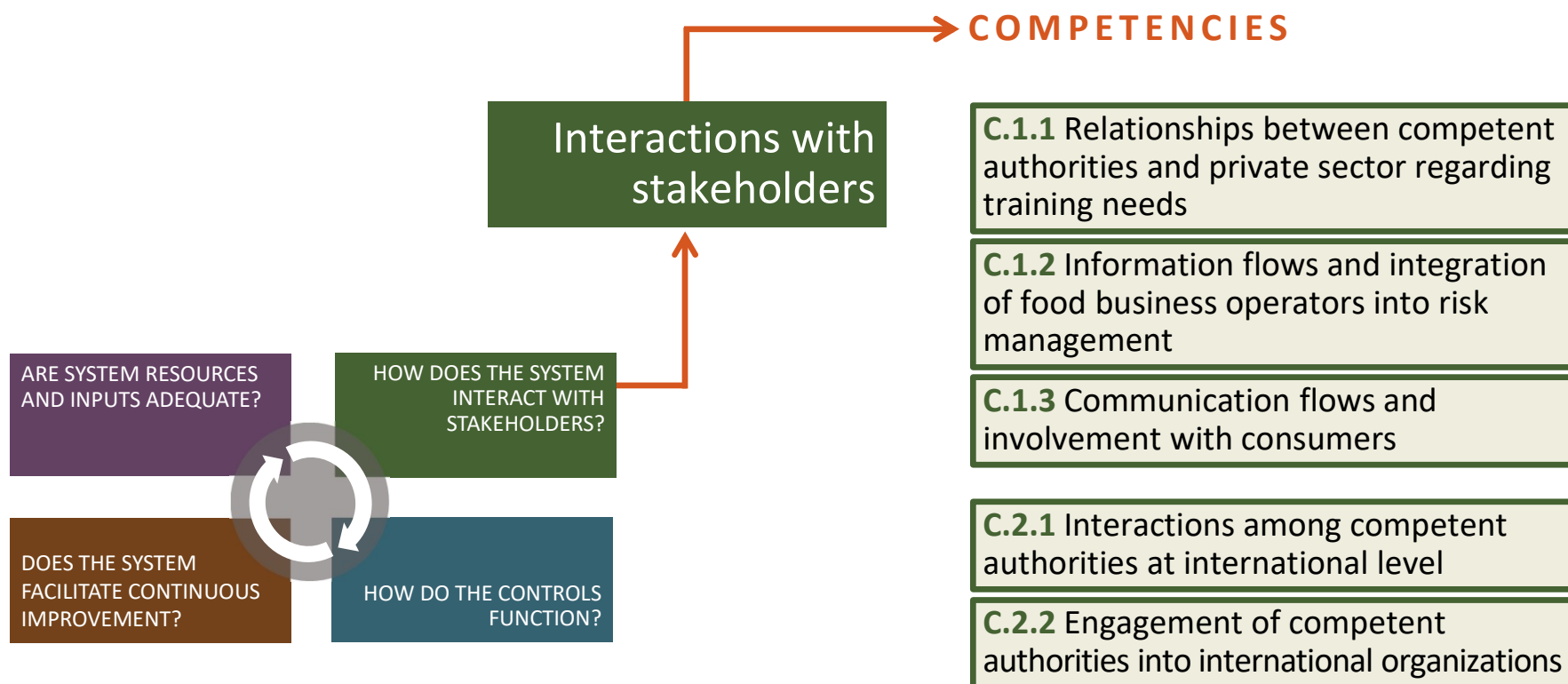


## DIMENSION B: How do the controls function?

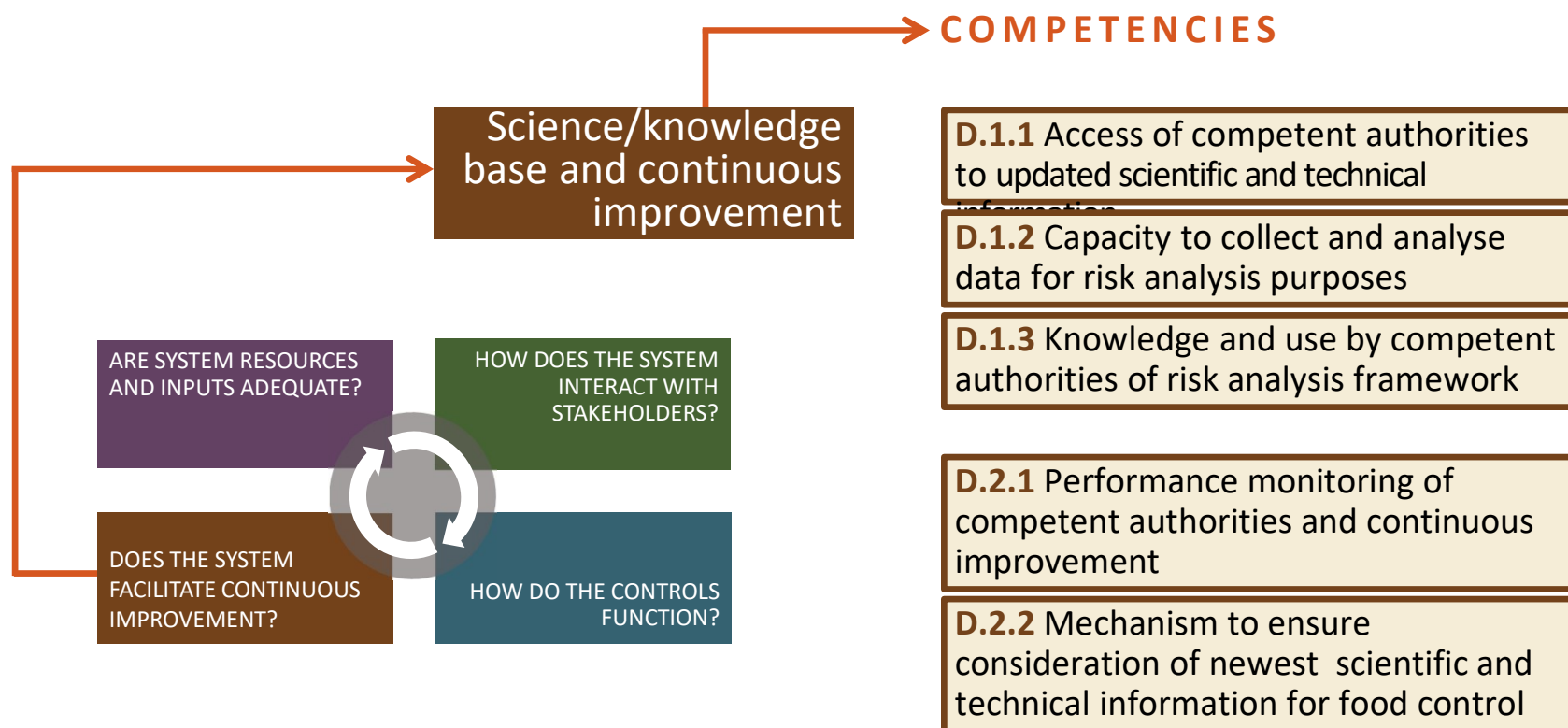




## DIMENSION C: How does the system interact with stakeholders?

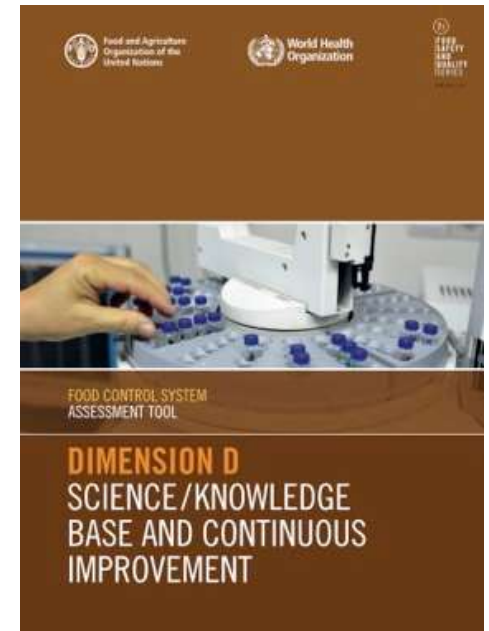
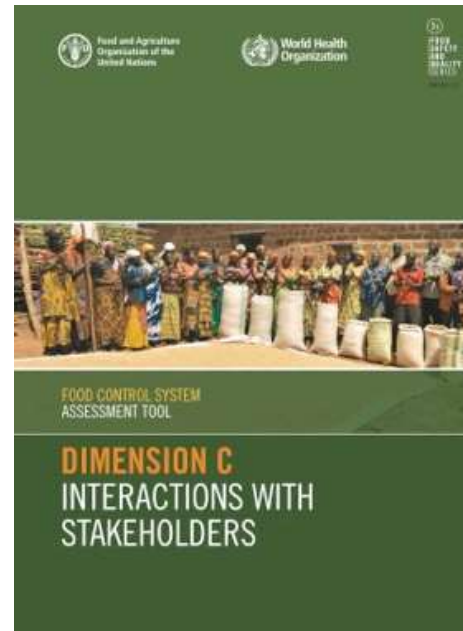
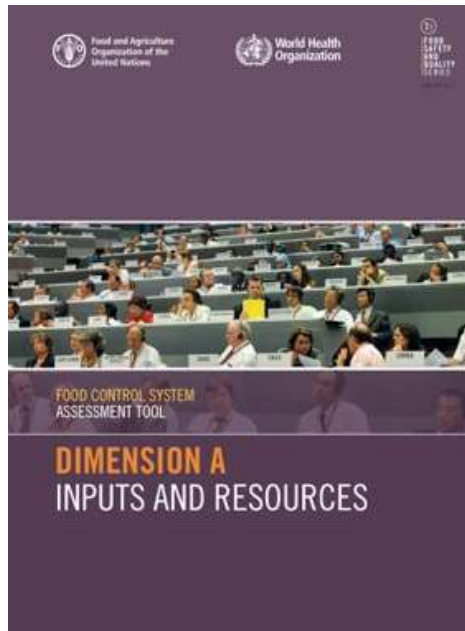


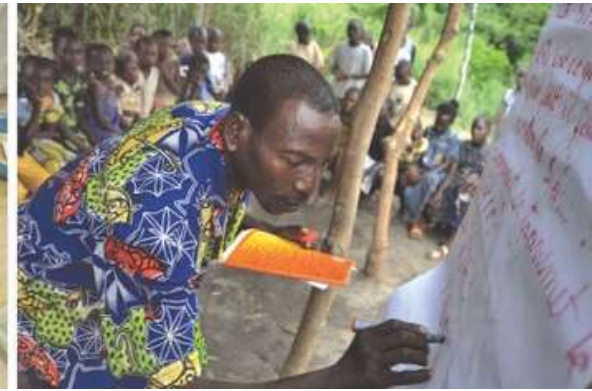
## DIMENSION D: Does the system facilitate continuous improvement?



# A NEW ASSESSMENT TOOL: OVERVIEW

## Key features





# 3. THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

## How to use this tool

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### > Self-assessments

the government is completely in charge of the implementation of the assessment

- requires **food control experts** familiar with the tool to help government stakeholders going through the implementation process

### > FAO/WHO “facilitated assessments”

the implementation is externally facilitated by FAO/WHO through the provision of technical support and overall coordination of the process

## FAO/WHO Facilitated Assessment

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Preconditions for facilitated assessment:

- > Significant level of **political support**
- > Government willingness to dedicate time and resources
- > **All competent authorities** agree and commit to providing data  
(National authorities have primary responsibility for evidence collection)
- > Need for CAs to **work together** (multi-stakeholder exercise)  
The evaluation should support a wider **strategic planning**

## FAO/WHO Facilitated Assessment Process

**1. AGREEMENT BY GOVERNMENT**

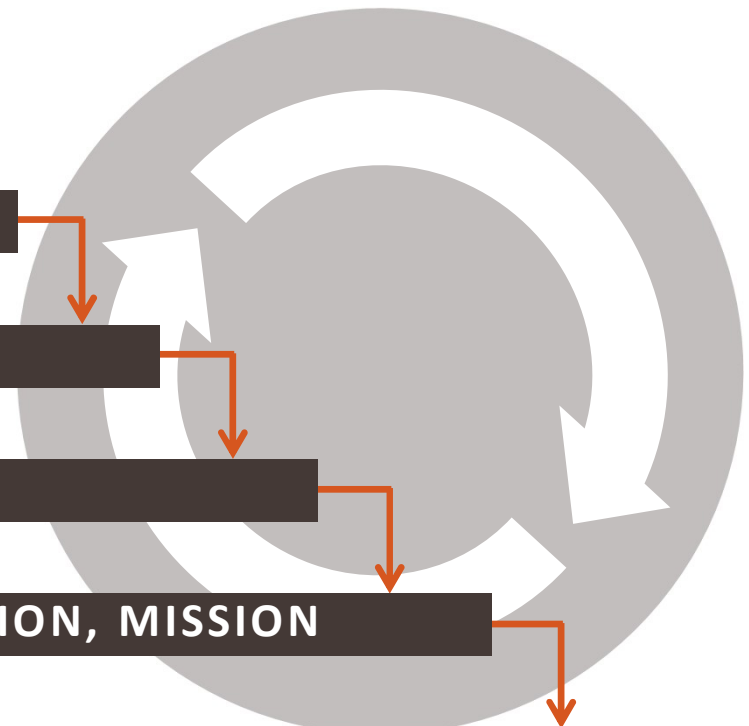
**2. COUNTRY PROFILE**

**3. TRAINING FOCAL POINTS**

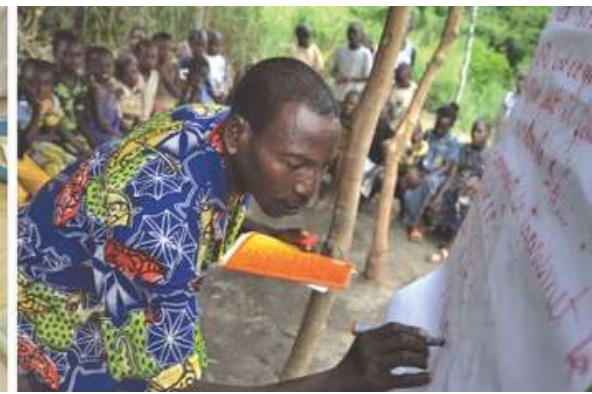
**4. NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION**

**5. EXTERNAL DATA REVIEW, INTEGRATION, MISSION**

**6. CONCLUSIONS & WAY FORWARD**







## 4.

# BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING THE ASSESSMENT

## Benefits of implementing the assessment at National Level

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- > **Evidence based** and semi-quantitative results produced through **independent process** (reliability)
- > **Overall vision** that allows coherent and constructive contribution from each **contributor to the system**
- > **Overall output:** report with set of recommendations and strategic framework
  - to guide **interventions**
  - to serve as benchmark for measuring **progress**
- > Commonly defined **priorities** for gradual improvements and investments
- > Increased **communication and understanding** among competent authorities (across and within organizations)
- > Increased **awareness**

## Benefits of implementing the assessment at Regional Level

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- > Helps to build a **regional vision** and supports **mutual recognition**
- > Grounded in a **common understanding** of food control system's design and operation
- > Supports **harmonization**
  - Through the use of common terminology largely based on FAO/WHO guidelines (including Codex texts)
  - Through the use of benchmarking using the same tool
- > Supports the identification of **regional priorities** for strategic improvements
- > Supports **sharing of ideas and expertise** to identify and expand opportunities for financing and investments

# Any questions?

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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