

Food Safety Incident Management

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Global Food Regulatory Science Society, GForSS

Regional Roundtable Meeting
**Advancing the Implementation
of Framework for Action
on Food Safety**

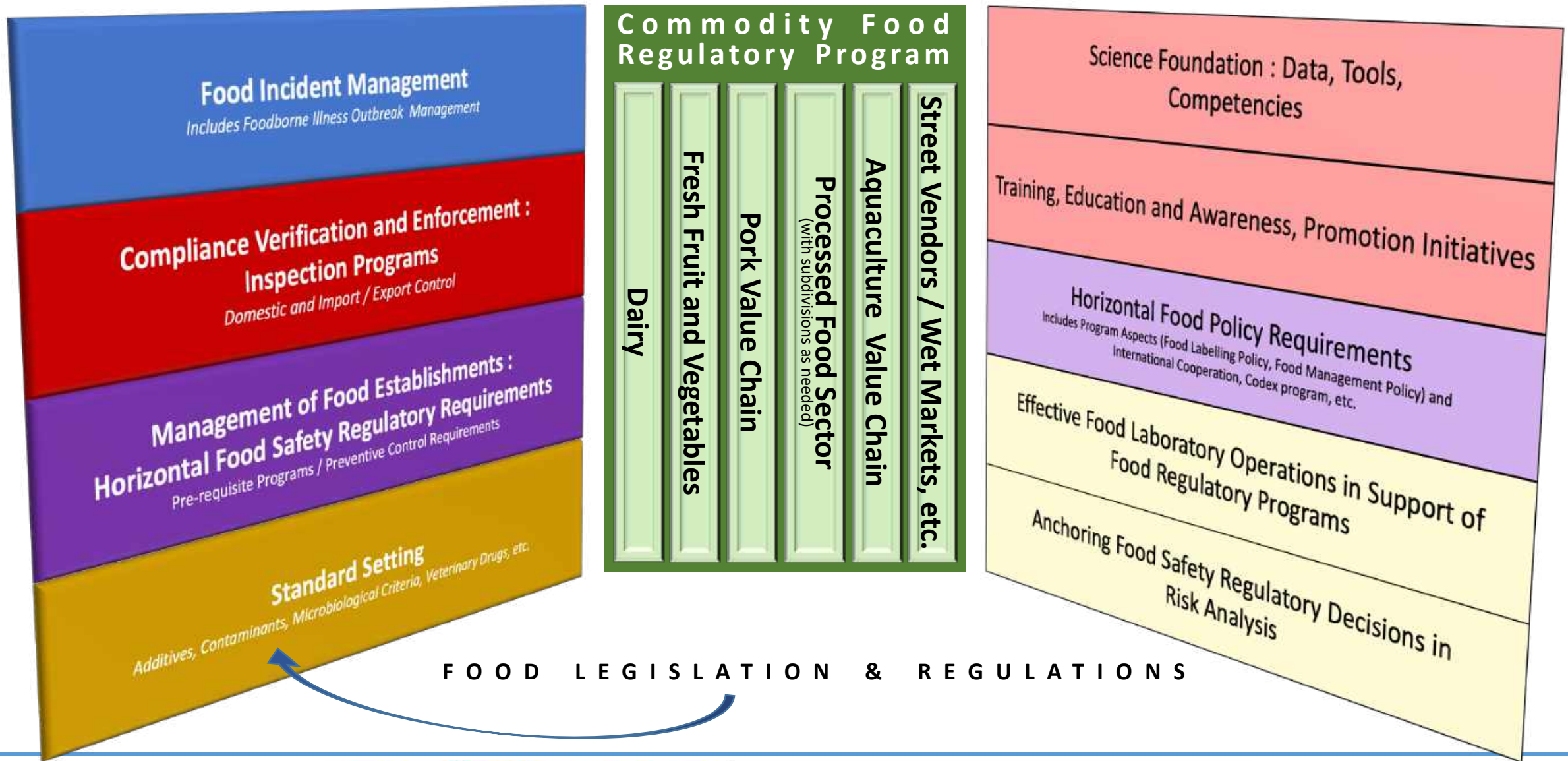
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Food Incident Management is One of the Key Function of Food Control Functions: defined as the collective actions and activities in place to manage specific food safety hazards, assure quality and safety of food and fair practices in the food trade



Building a Robust & Integrated Food Regulatory Operation



Operations of the Food Competent Authority

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An Effective Food Safety Competent Authority:

- ❑ Anchors its actions and operations in a *robust legislative and regulatory framework* that enables it to “develop, establish, implement, maintain and enforce a national food control system”.
- ❑ Bases its food safety decisions on the application of the *Risk Analysis Principles*.
- ❑ Ensures effective *food regulatory operations* both for ***standard setting and compliance verification and enforcement***.
- ❑ Is supported by a **focused:**
 - ***Scientific capacity for risk assessment***; and,
 - ***Laboratory operations***.



Importance of Food Safety Incident Management

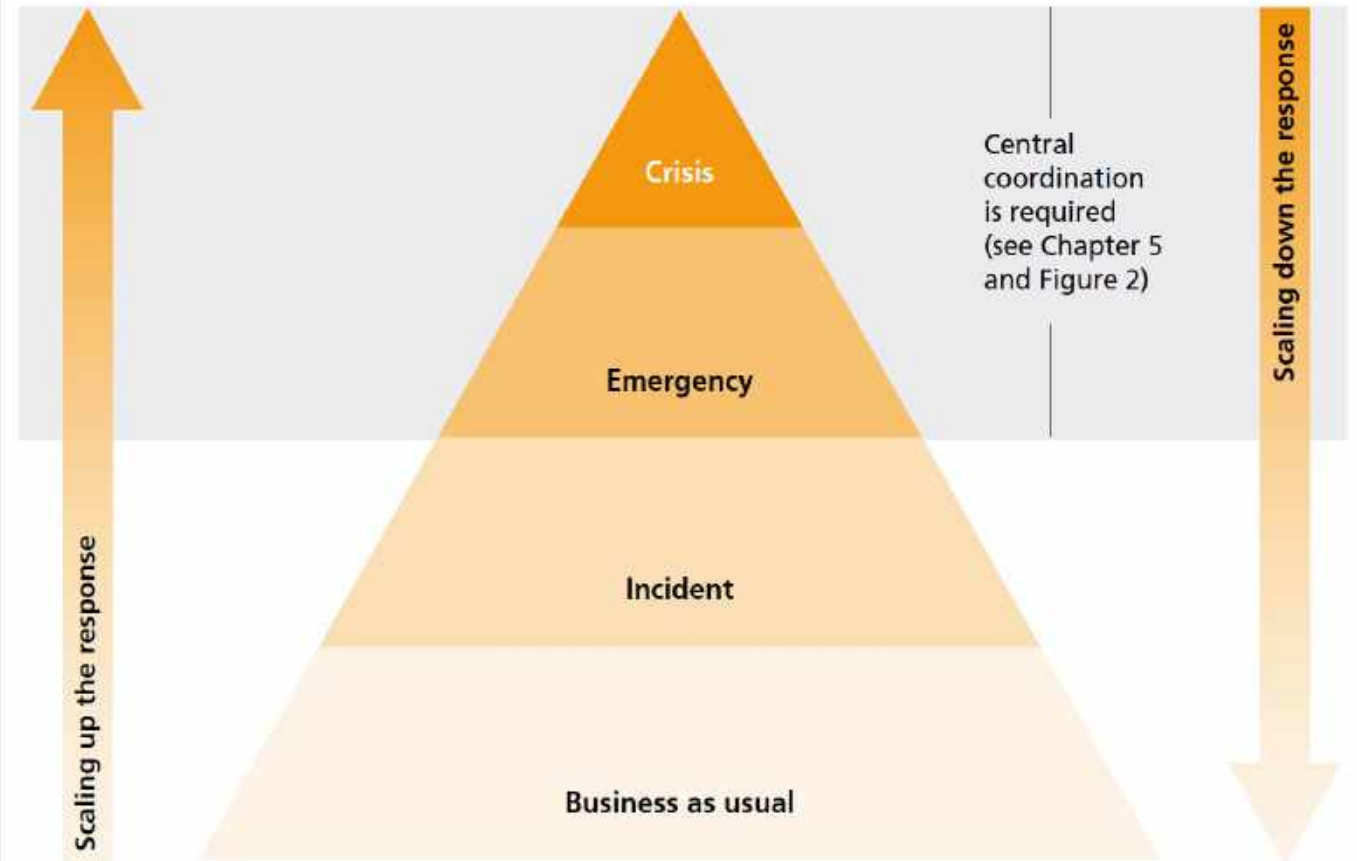
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- ❑ Critical food regulatory function to confer credibility to the food control system.
- ❑ Maintains the preventive nature of the system.
- ❑ Food control system as robust as its ability to:
 - Address food safety incidents in a **systematic** and **consistent** manner.



Departure from Usual Operations: Still being under control (or likely to be maintained as such)

Figure 1. Scalability of responses to food safety events



Source: FAO-WHO Framework for Developing National Food Safety Emergency Response Plans

Definitions : Food Safety Incident / Emergencies ⁷

Codex Definition of Food Safety Emergency

- ❑ A situation, whether accidental or intentional, that is identified by a competent authority as **constituting a serious** and as yet **uncontrolled** foodborne risk to public health that requires urgent action.

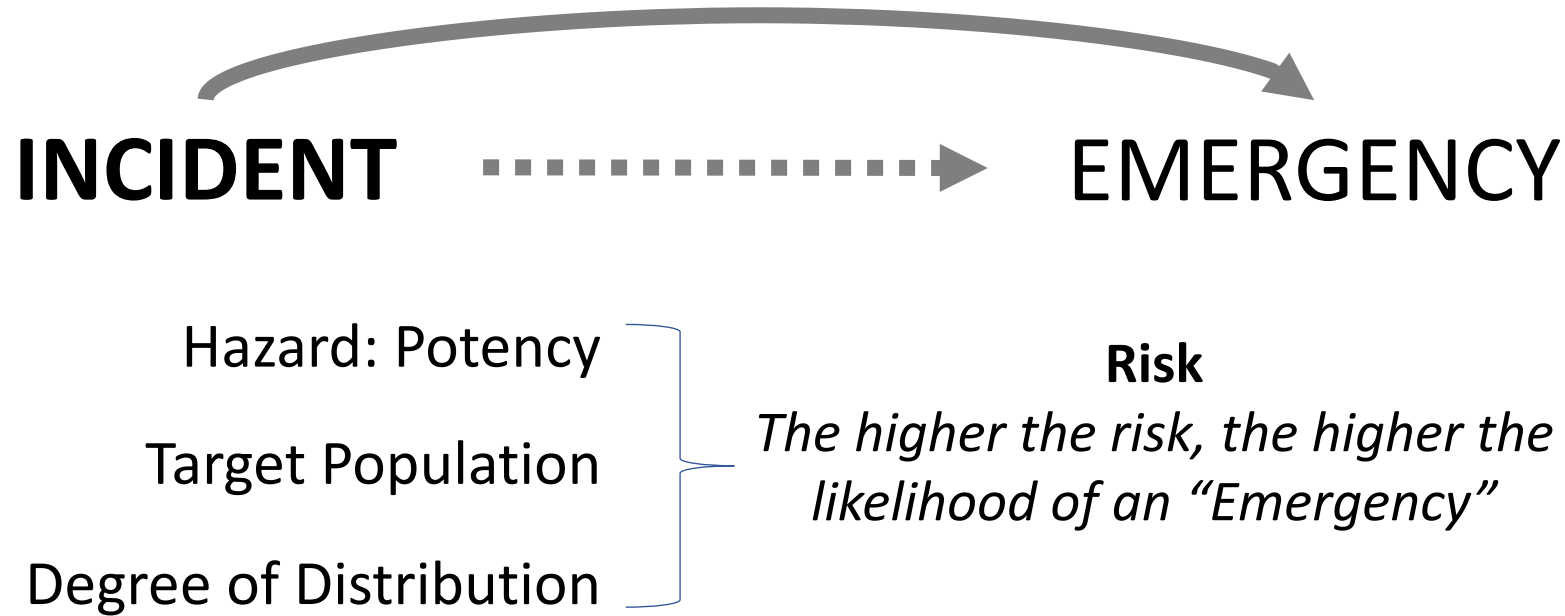


Food Safety Incident Definition

- ❑ Several definitions, according to the jurisdiction:
 - **Canadian definition:** a situation that has the potential to represent a health risk and that requires investigation under ... the competent authority's mandate.
 - **Australian definition:** any situation within the food supply chain, where there is a potential risk or perceived risk of illness associated with the consumption of a food or “foods” and which may / will require interventions.

Differentiating Food Incidents from Emergencies

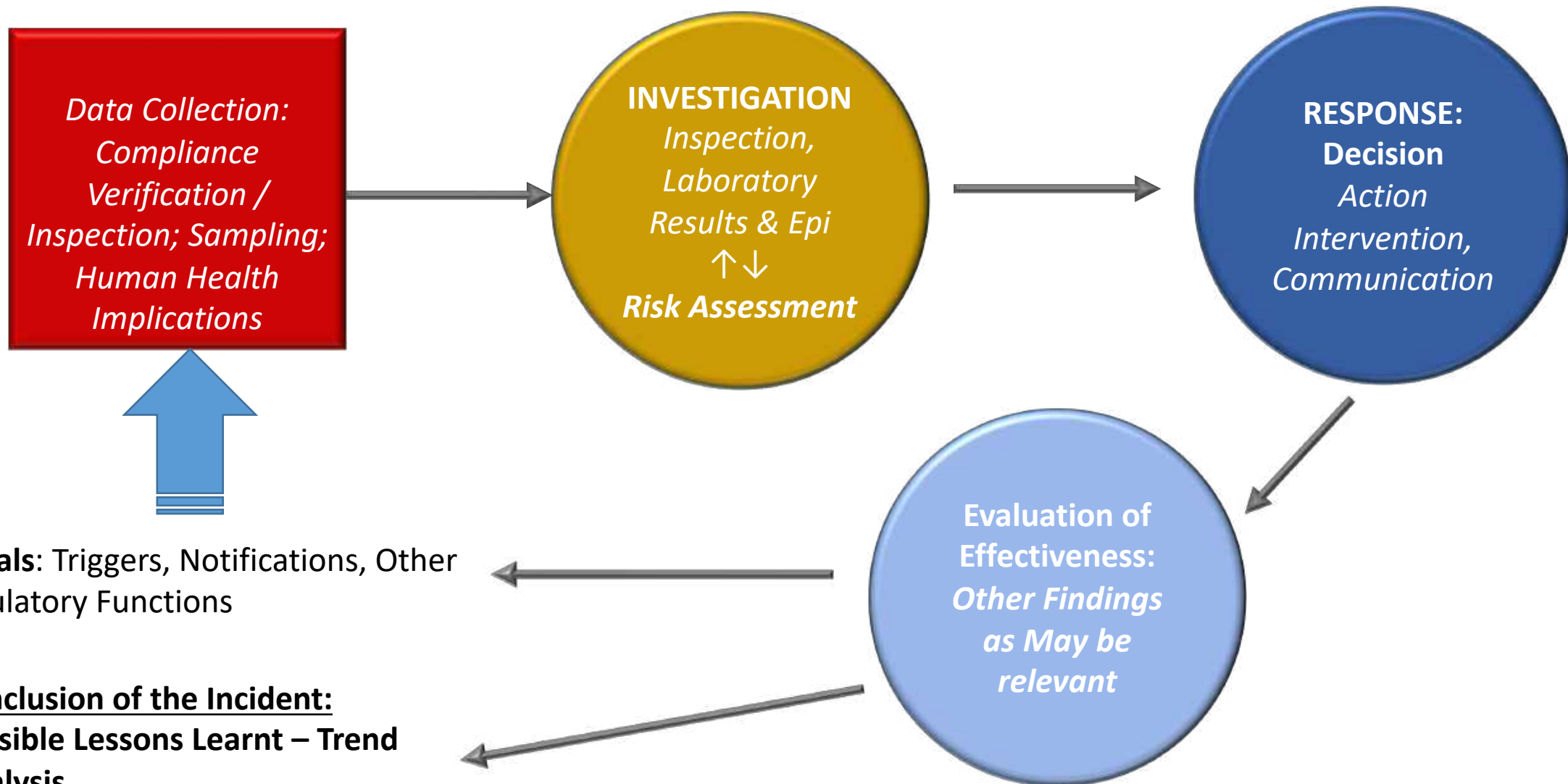
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Criterion	Incident	Emergency
The Level of Control of the Issue	Higher	Lower
The Expected Response / Deployed Resources	Normal	High Scale

General Operational Structure of Incident Management

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Responding to food safety emergencies (INFOSAN)

An increasingly interconnected global food supply means that risks posed by unsafe food have the potential to rapidly evolve from a local problem to an international emergency. Ensuring food safety is an essential component for achieving global health security and national food safety authorities must be able to share information quickly and efficiently worldwide.

Since its creation in 2004, the FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) has facilitated the rapid exchange of information across borders and between members, during hundreds of food safety events.

As a member-driven, global network, INFOSAN is a practical, effective and efficient tool for information exchange on food safety risks, including foodborne illness and food contamination.

Impact

160+
Member states

alerted through INFOSAN about
contaminated food exported to
their country in 2018



Download	Welcome to ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed	ASEAN Notification																														
<ul style="list-style-type: none">User GuideNotification FormCase Study	<p>This web-based application of regional scope enables Competent Authorities in Food Safety and Public Health of all ASEAN Member States to rapidly notify and exchange information on direct or indirect risks to human deriving from food or feed being traded in ASEAN and measures taken to prevent them entering the food chain. RASFF also collects and compiles essential data exchanged on the website and make them available to ASEAN Competent Authorities in Food Safety and Public Health.</p>	<table><tr><td>2020-08-06</td><td>MY-20200606-00227</td><td>Alert</td></tr><tr><td>2020-07-29</td><td>MY-20200729-00226</td><td>Alert</td></tr><tr><td>2020-07-21</td><td>MY-20200721-00225</td><td>Alert</td></tr><tr><td>2020-06-24</td><td>MY-20200624-00224</td><td>Alert</td></tr><tr><td>2020-05-04</td><td>MY-20200504-00223</td><td>Alert</td></tr><tr><td>2020-05-04</td><td>MY-20200504-00222</td><td>Alert</td></tr><tr><td>2020-05-04</td><td>MY-20200504-00221</td><td>Alert</td></tr><tr><td>2020-04-14</td><td>MY-20200414-00220</td><td>Alert</td></tr><tr><td>2020-03-30</td><td>TH-20200330-00219</td><td>Alert</td></tr><tr><td>2020-03-11</td><td>TH-20200311-00217</td><td>Alert</td></tr></table>	2020-08-06	MY-20200606-00227	Alert	2020-07-29	MY-20200729-00226	Alert	2020-07-21	MY-20200721-00225	Alert	2020-06-24	MY-20200624-00224	Alert	2020-05-04	MY-20200504-00223	Alert	2020-05-04	MY-20200504-00222	Alert	2020-05-04	MY-20200504-00221	Alert	2020-04-14	MY-20200414-00220	Alert	2020-03-30	TH-20200330-00219	Alert	2020-03-11	TH-20200311-00217	Alert
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Key Capacity Areas to Enable Food Incident Management¹¹

❑ Capacity to Investigate :

- *From trigger to data collection*

❑ Capacity to Integrate Results and Assess Risks:

- *Laboratory Capacity*
- *Risk Assessment Capacity*

❑ Capacity to Act in a Preventive Manner:

- **Ability to Trace and Recall Products**
- **Ability to Communicate to Consumers and FBOs**



Benefits from a Structured Approach

Front Line Response Functions

- ☐ Data Collection,
- ☐ Implementation of Risk Management Decisions
- ☐ Communication with FBOs and Consumers

Enabling Functions

- ☐ Laboratory Functions
- ☐ Epidemiological Assessment if Needed
- ☐ Risk Assessment Function

Review Incidents, Trend Analysis and Evaluation of Performance

- ☐ Maintains Preventive Nature of the Approach



❑ Institutional Response to :

- Consumer Complaints
- Industry Notification

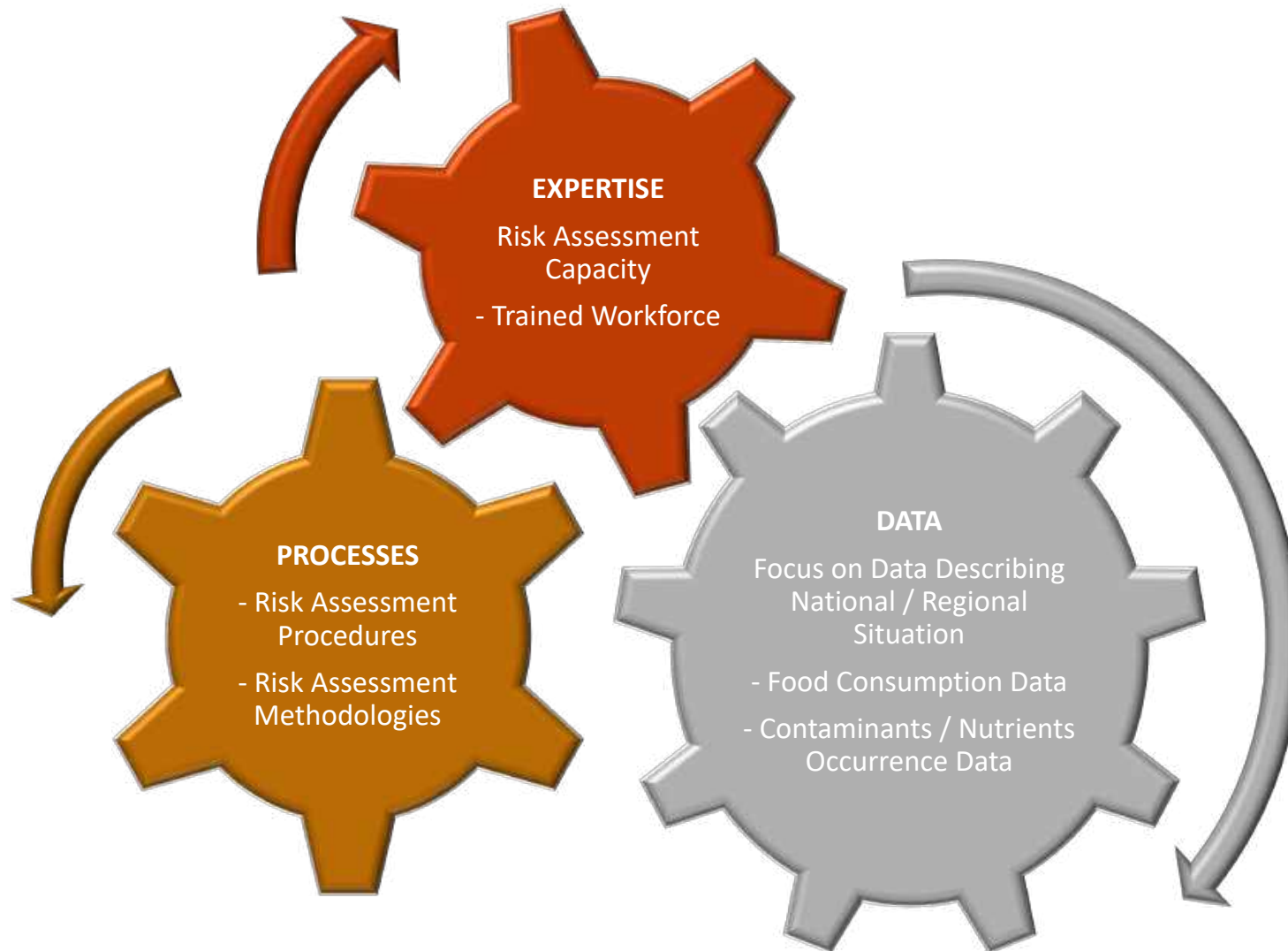
❑ Ability to collect information:

- Environmental scans.
- Networks:
 - ARASFF, INFOSAN, RASFF, etc.



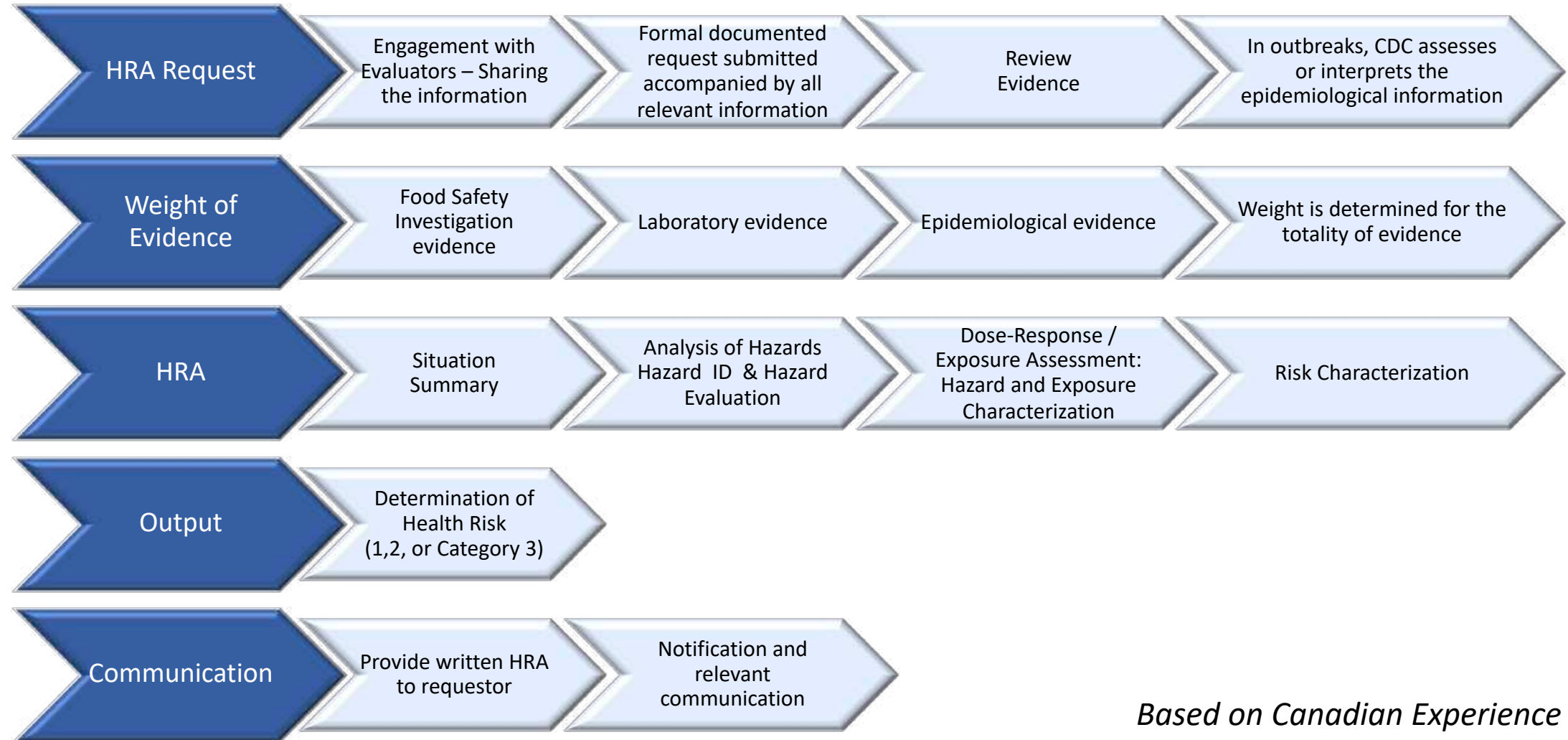
❑ Ability to **receive and analyse public health and epidemiological** information – related to foodborne illness.

Importance of Risk Assessment



Example of a Process Flow: HRA during Incident

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Based on Canadian Experience

Importance of Structure and Continued Improvement

