

INFOSAN alert and notification in the South-East Asia Region

Raul Garcia

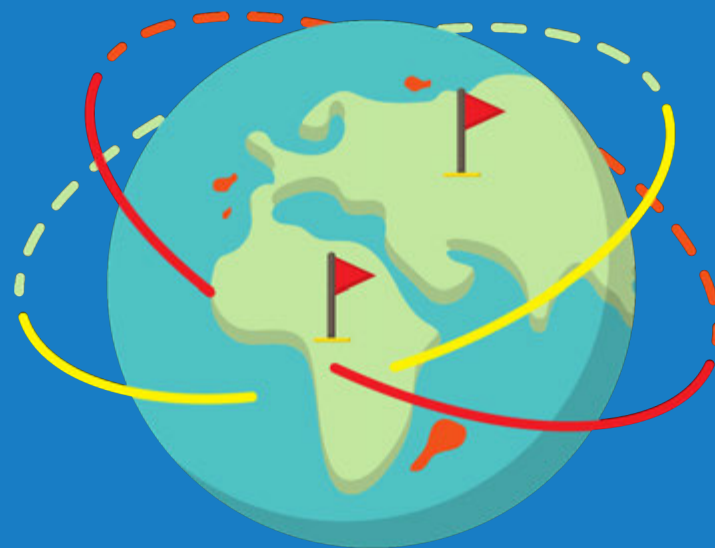
INFOSAN Secretariat

Department of Nutrition and Food Safety

WHO HQ

INFOSAN Overview

Connecting Food Safety
Authorities from all around
the globe during food
safety emergencies



Vision of INFOSAN

A global community of practice working together for safer food around the world

Mission of INFOSAN

Halt the international spread of contaminated food, prevent foodborne disease outbreaks, and strengthen food safety systems globally to reduce the burden of foodborne diseases

INFOSAN Objectives

- Promote the rapid exchange of information during food safety incidents
- Share information and resources on important food safety related issues of global interest
- Promote partnerships and collaboration between national agencies, between countries, and between networks
- Help countries strengthen their capacity to manage food safety emergencies

INFOSAN Structure

INFOSAN is also connected to several other regional networks working during Food Safety Emergencies

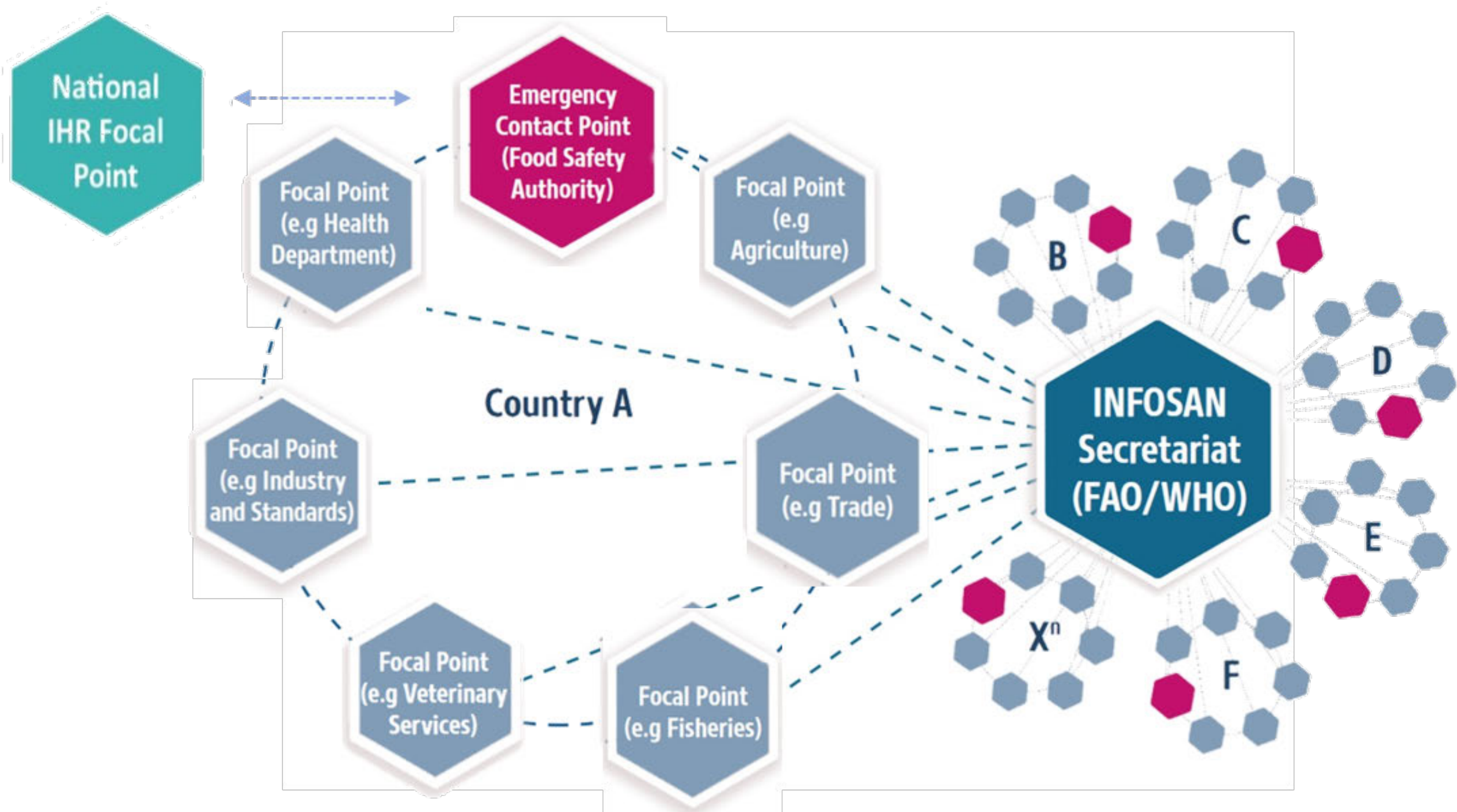


and several more!

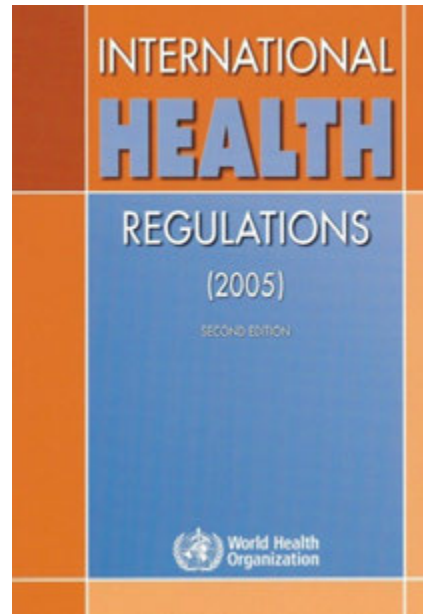
INFOSAN ECP:
Main contact
between WHO
and MS during
food safety
emergencies

INFOSAN FP:
Collaborates
and provides
technical
support to ECP

Other members:
Advisory
Group,
Regional
Advisors,
Collaborative
Centers.



INFOSAN and the International Health Regulations (2005)



The work of INFOSAN is carried out in the context of **Global Health Security**, in order to strengthen national infrastructures for food safety and related country obligations under the International Health Regulations (2005)

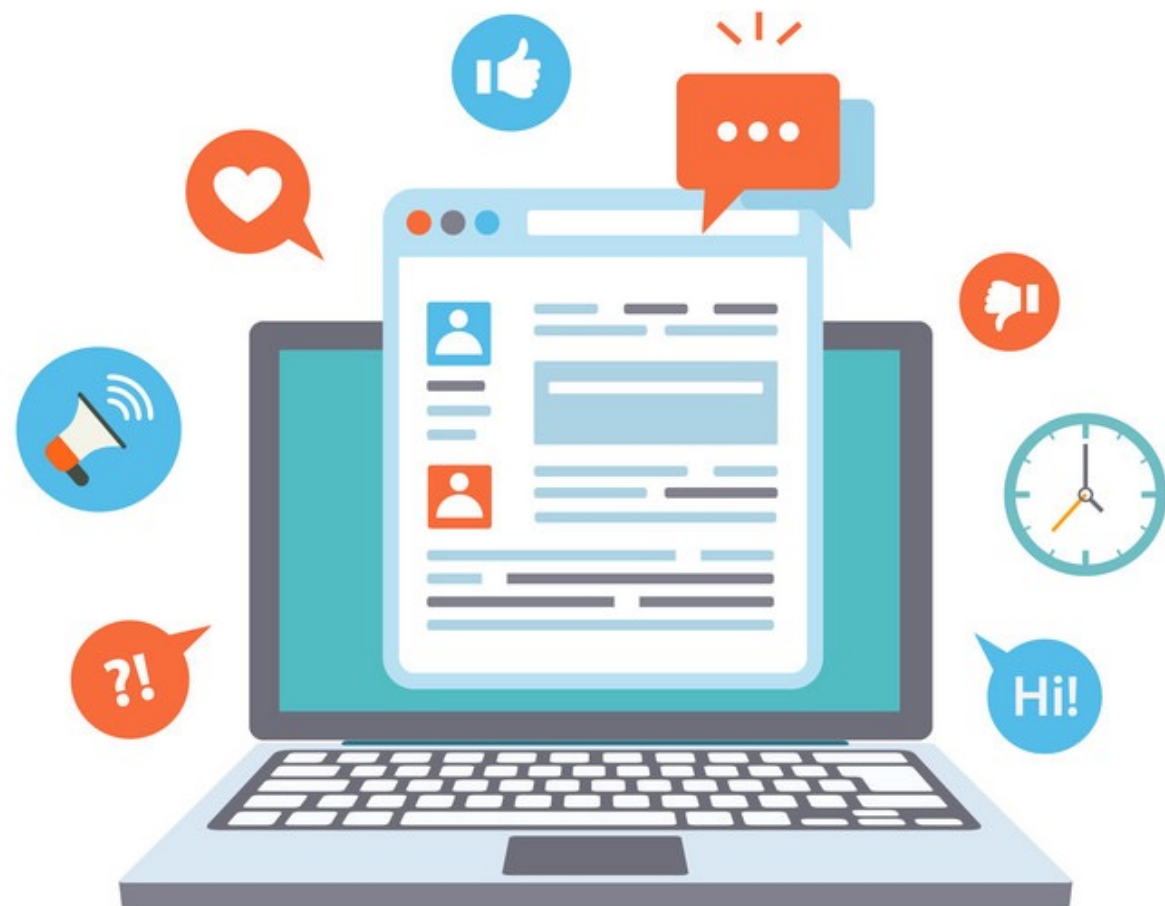


What is to be considered urgent communication through INFOSAN?



- Food recall associated with imported or exported food product, with or without associated cases of human illness;
- Cases of human illness associated with food product (identified or unidentified), pending test results and subsequent risk management (e.g. no recall underway yet or unable to recall product);
- Awareness of food safety issue, including food fraud, following investigations and testing (e.g. routine surveillance work) and potential for international relevance (e.g. internet sale of contaminated product); or
- Adulterated food product discovered in one country with potential for international relevance.

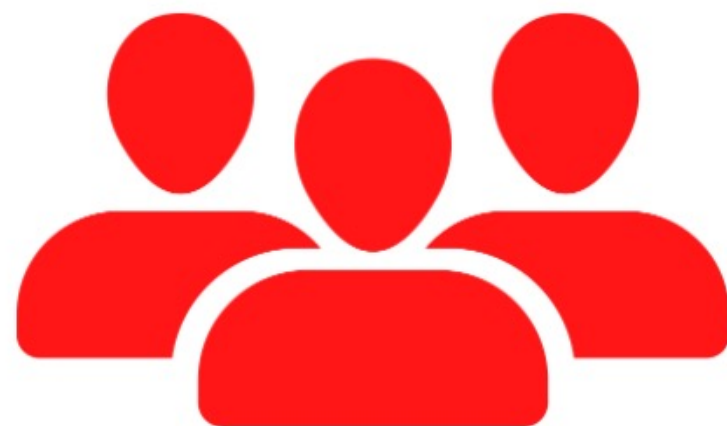
What is the INFOSAN Community Website?



- The ICW is our primary tool for disseminating food safety information to members during emergency situations.
- Recently updated in 2021.

INFOSAN in South-East Asia Region

INFOSAN Membership in SEAR



10/11 Member States in
SEAR have designated an
**INFOSAN Emergency
Contact Point**



6/11 Member States in
SEAR have designated an
INFOSAN Focal Points

INFOSAN in South-East Asia Region



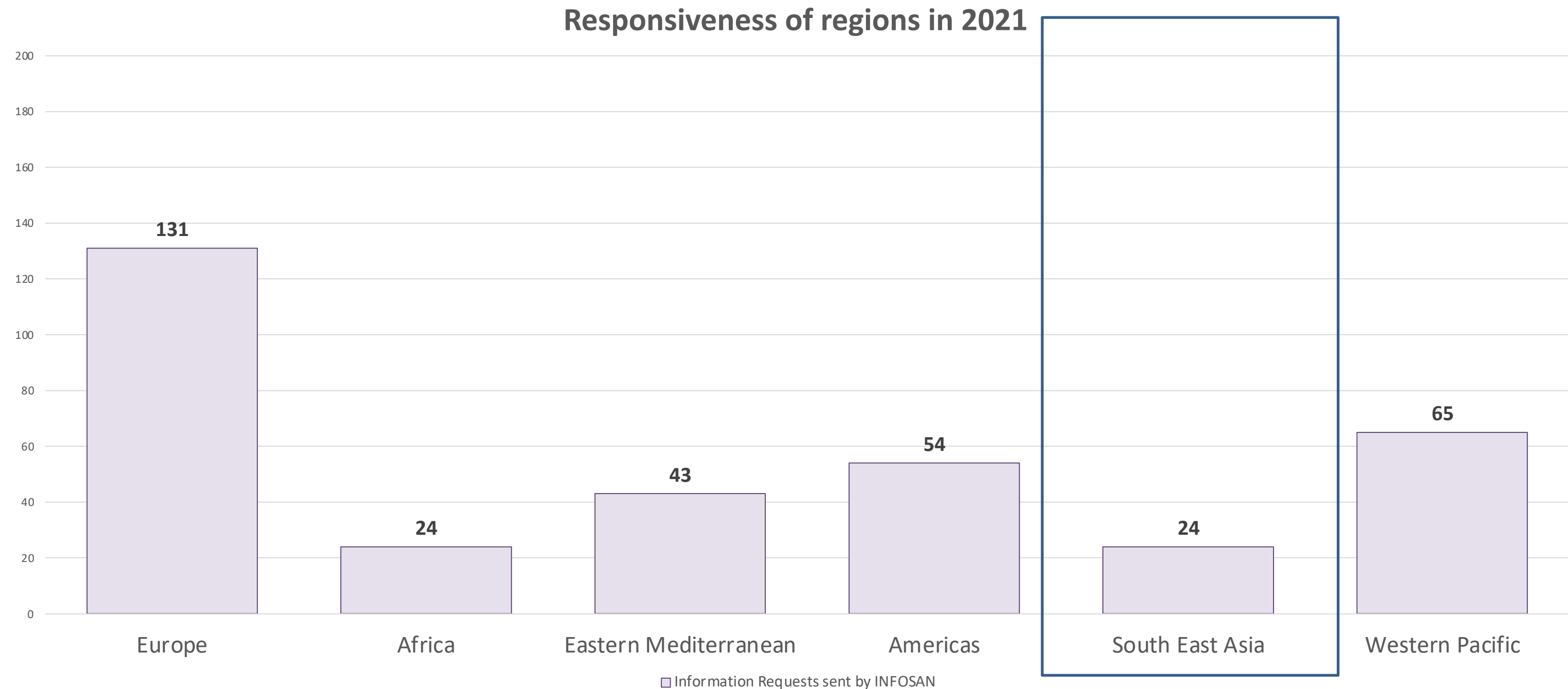
22/124 incidents involved **at least one**
Member State from South-East Asia
Region



One country from SEAR is among the **top**
10 most commonly involved countries in
INFOSAN incidents

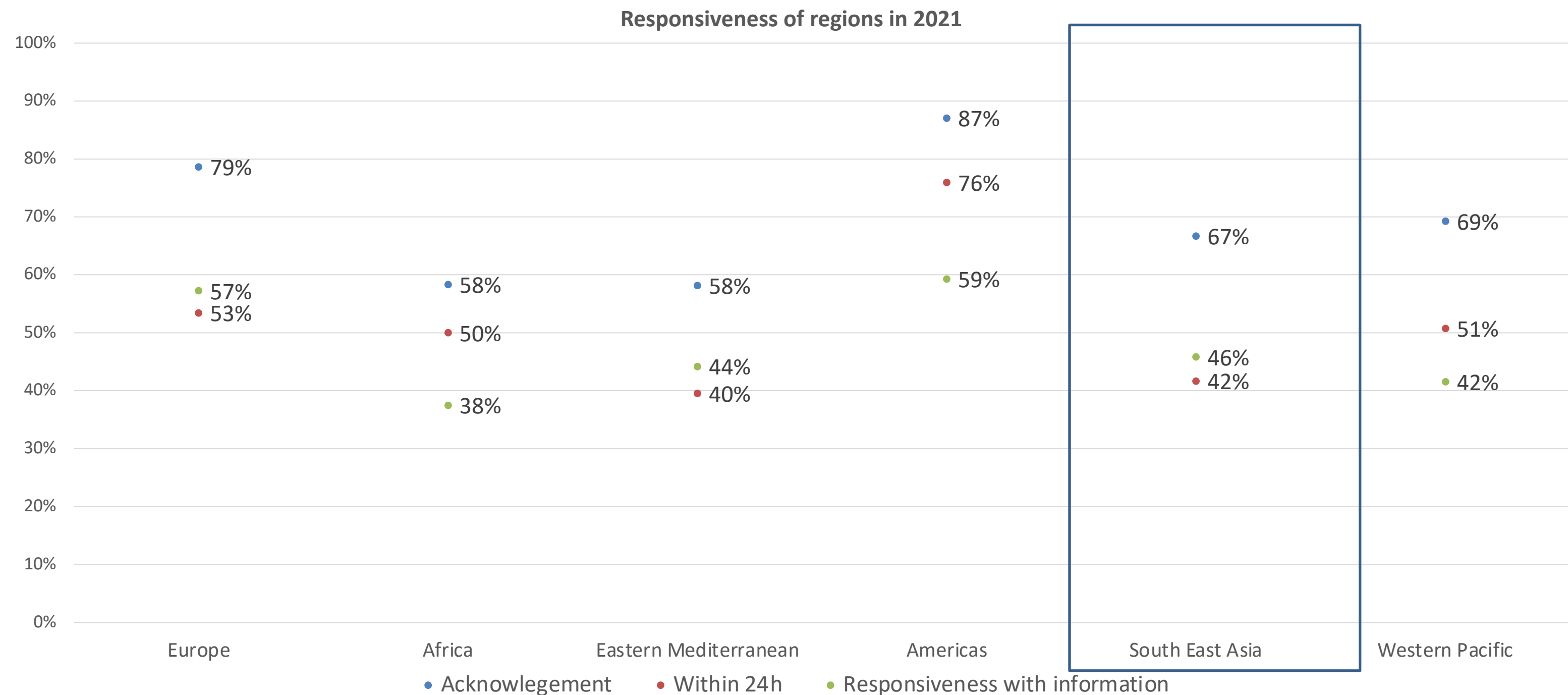
INFOSAN Incidents

Number of INFOSAN Global Incidents: 198 (as of October 22, 2021)



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INFOSAN in Action

Multi-country outbreak of Listeriosis
linked to enoki mushrooms imported
from the Republic of Korea

Multi-country outbreak of Listeriosis linked to enoki mushrooms imported from the Republic of Korea



- In March 2020, the INFOSAN Secretariat was notified of an outbreak in the USA (n=36; 4 deaths) of Listeriosis through ECDC (EPIS) possibly linked to the consumption of enoki mushrooms from the Republic of Korea (ROK).
- A recall in the USA was initiated by the company in the USA.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency also reported an isolate recovered from a food sample of enoki mushrooms from the Republic of Korea in 2019 that was genetically associated to the cluster of cases in the USA – which allowed the identification of the source for this outbreak.



Multi-country outbreak of Listeriosis linked to enoki mushrooms imported from the Republic of Korea

- INFOSAN Secretariat contacted the Emergency Contact Point (ECP) in the RoK to request potential international distribution
- The CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) and the FSANZ (Food Standards Australia New Zealand) both notified the INFOSAN Secretariat and the ECP in the RoK of a series of recalls of enoki mushrooms in Canada and Australia due to the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes*.
- Cases identified in Canada between 2017 and 2019 = 6.



Sun Hong Foods, Inc. Recalls Enoki Mushroom Because of Possible Health Risk

This recall has been announced because

When a company announces a recall, the company is responsible for

More Recalls, Market Withdrawals, & Safety Alerts

Recalls, Market Withdrawals, & Safety Alerts

Recall Resources

Enforcement Reports

Industry Guidance For Recalls



Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

MENU

Canada.ca > Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Notice

This archive of previous notices is available for users to consult. Users should note that the information is not necessarily current and should be used for informational purposes only. The information is produced at a later date than the original notice.

Food Recall recalled due to Listeria contamination

From: [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#)

Recall date:

March 24, 2020

Reason for recall:

Microbiological - Listeria

Hazard classification:

Class 1

Company / Firm:

Goldenway International Trade Co. Ltd



Food businesses

Food recalls

Current food recalls

Consumer

Our science

About us

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

Food and medicine regulation

Food incidents

Food labelling

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Current food recalls

How to recall food

State and territory contacts

Food Industry Recall Protocol

Food recall templates

Major Australian newspapers

Food recall statistics

Frequently asked questions for food businesses

Food safety standards

Imported foods

Novel foods

Nutrition Panel Calculator

Green Co. Enoki Mushrooms 200g and 300g

UPDATE 14 April 2020

Product information

Choi's Mushrooms is conducting a recall of Green Co. Enoki Mushrooms 200g and 300g. The product has been available for sale at Asian supermarkets in NSW, ACT, VIC, QLD and SA.

Date markings

220420, 050520, 120520, 190520, 260520 (both products).



Problem

The recall is due to microbial (*Listeria monocytogenes*) contamination.

Food safety hazard

Listeria may cause illness in pregnant women and their unborn babies, the elderly and people with low immune systems.

Country of origin

South Korea

What to do

Any consumers concerned about their health should seek medical advice and return the product to the place of purchase for a full refund.

For further information please contact:

Multi-country outbreak of Listeriosis linked to enoki mushrooms imported from the Republic of Korea

International distribution



- The ECP in RoK informed the INFOSAN Secretariat that the products were also distributed to Hong Kong SAR (China), the Netherlands, Philippines, Myanmar, Singapore and Indonesia
- The INFOSAN secretariat directly notified the Emergency Contact Points in these countries and shared with them the WGS details

Multi-country outbreak of Listeriosis linked to enoki mushrooms imported from the Republic of Korea

Response in recipient countries



- Australia reported five new cases phylogenetically linked to the cluster of cases in the United States of America (USA) and linked to consumption of enoki mushrooms from RoK
- ECPs in the Netherlands and the FP in Hong Kong SAR informed (China) that no matching isolates from human or food samples were identified in relation to the outbreak of listeriosis cases.
- The ECP in Indonesia informed that *L. monocytogenes* was detected in implicated products. Products were destroyed.

Multi-country outbreak of Listeriosis linked to enoki mushrooms imported from the Republic of Korea

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Number of countries involved: 10



Number of cases = 47

Deaths = 4



Source of the outbreak:

Enoki mushrooms



Platforms: ICW, ECDC-EPIS, NCBI

Strengthening INFOSAN in Asia



- INFOSAN Secretariat is currently organizing a regional meeting with INFOSAN Members in Asia in 2021:
 - Overview of INFOSAN Activities in Asia
 - New features of new INFOSAN Community Website
 - Discussions covering food safety issues of interest for the region

Take-home messages



Main Message 1

INFOSAN detects and assess international food safety incidents and subsequently facilitates rapid information exchange across national borders to allow implementation of risk management measures

Main Message 2

While good progress has been made globally in terms of INFOSAN membership, there are still efforts that can be made in SEAR to strengthen active participation in the network.

Main Message 3

INFOSAN has a key role in sharing information (WGS, epidemiological, etc.) that can help countries in the identification of cases and sources of international foodborne outbreaks

Main Message 4

INFOSAN collaborates with other food safety regional networks, complementing and supporting the response to international foodborne outbreaks (e.g. ASEAN RASFF)

Many thanks!

Raul Garcia

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INFOSAN Secretariat

Department of Nutrition and Food Safety

WHO HQ

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

25-28 October 2021