

# Role of Codex standards in International Trade

*Codex and its Relevance,  
Practical examples of use of Codex*

Sanjay Dave  
International Consultant  
(*food safety*)

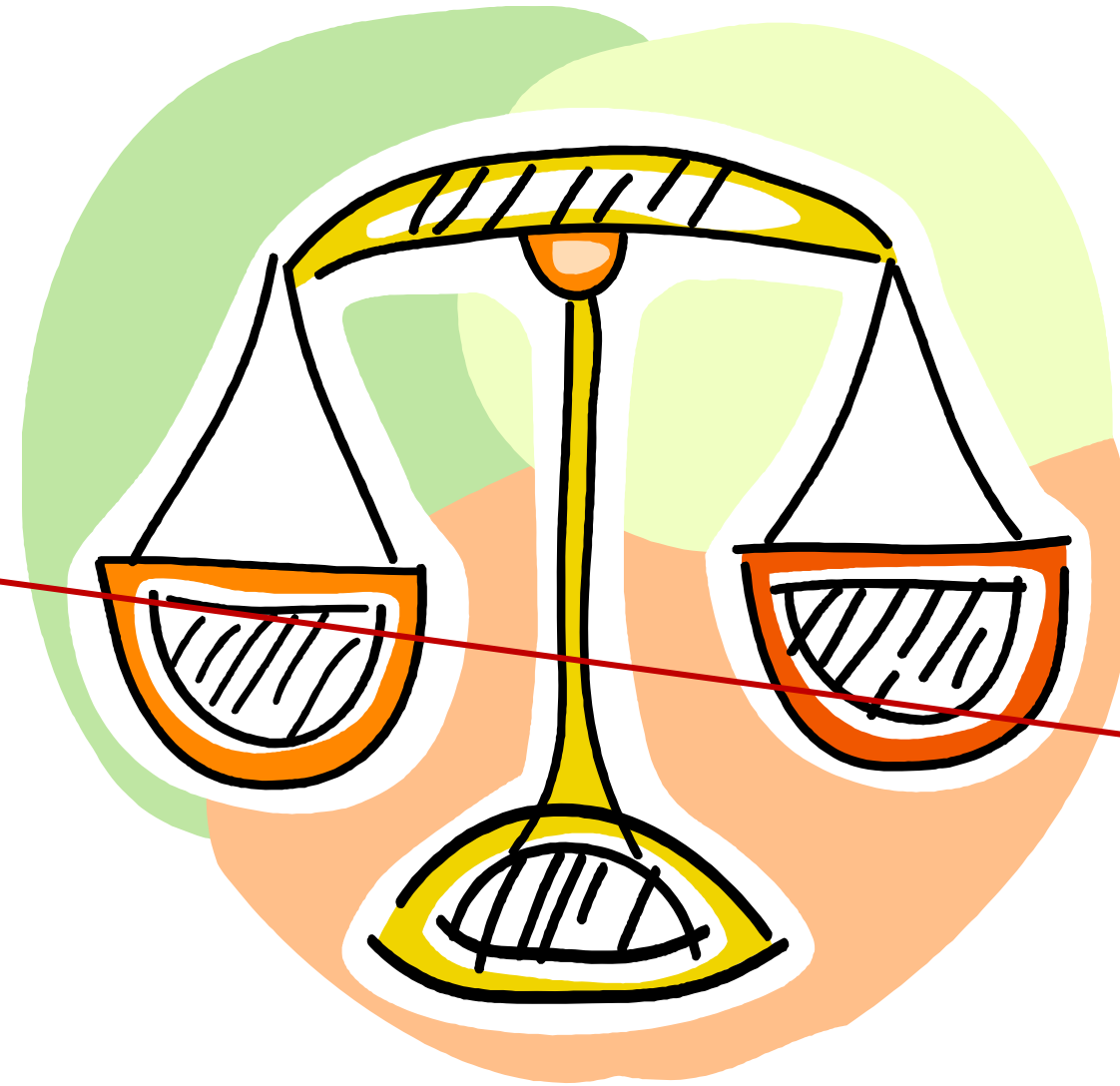
Regional Roundtable Meeting  
**Advancing the Implementation  
of Framework for Action  
on Food Safety**

25-28 October 2021



# Purpose of the SPS Agreement?

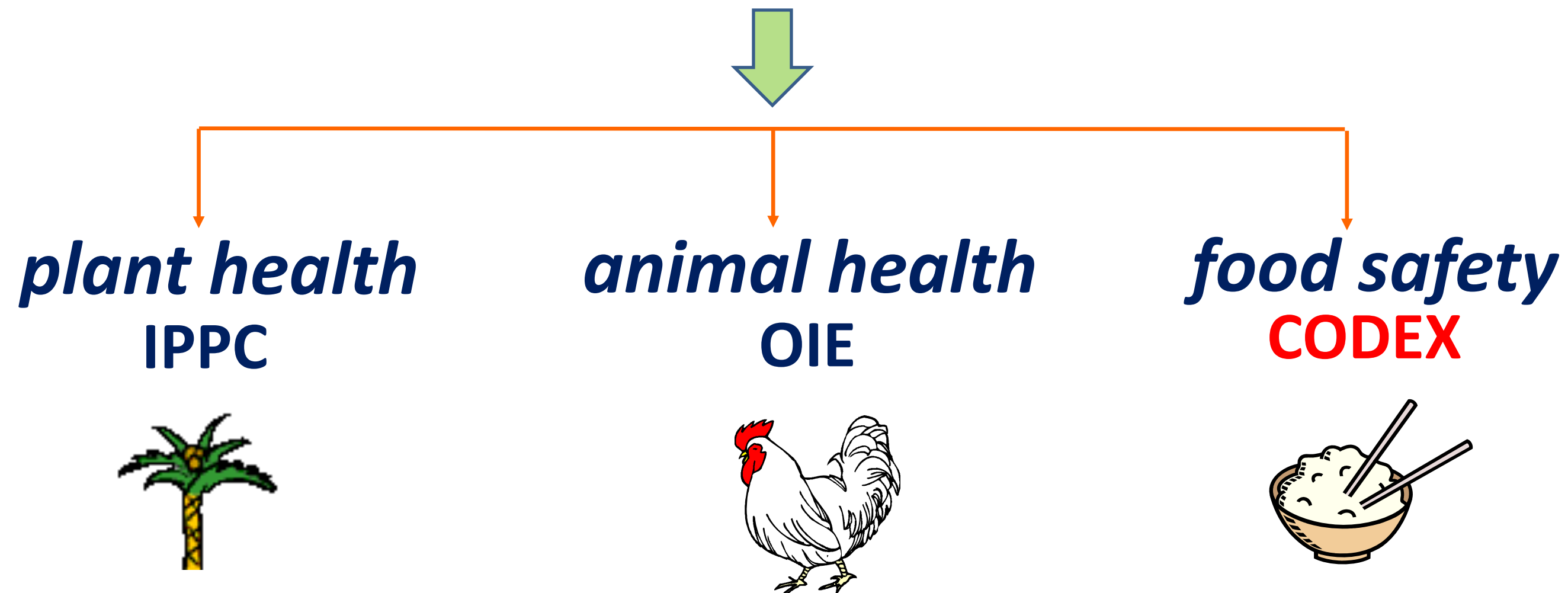
The right to  
protect  
**human,  
animal  
or plant** life or  
health



Avoiding  
unnecessary  
barriers  
to **trade**

# International Standards

## Standard-setting organizations (the three sisters)



# What does Codex do...?

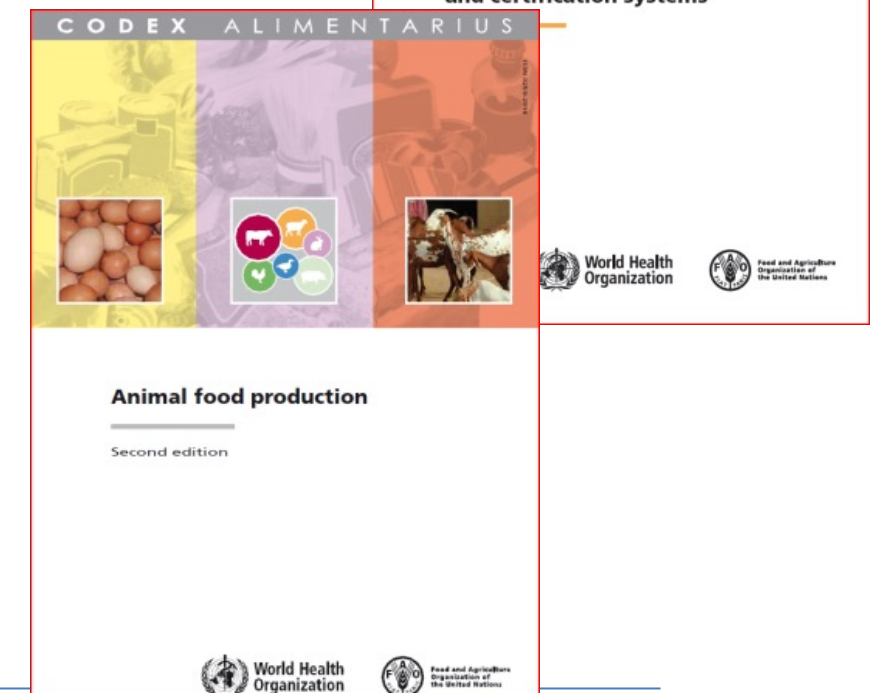
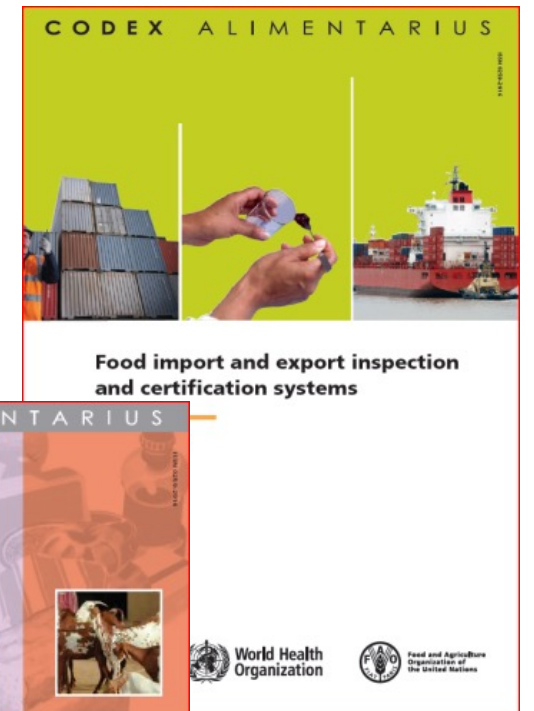
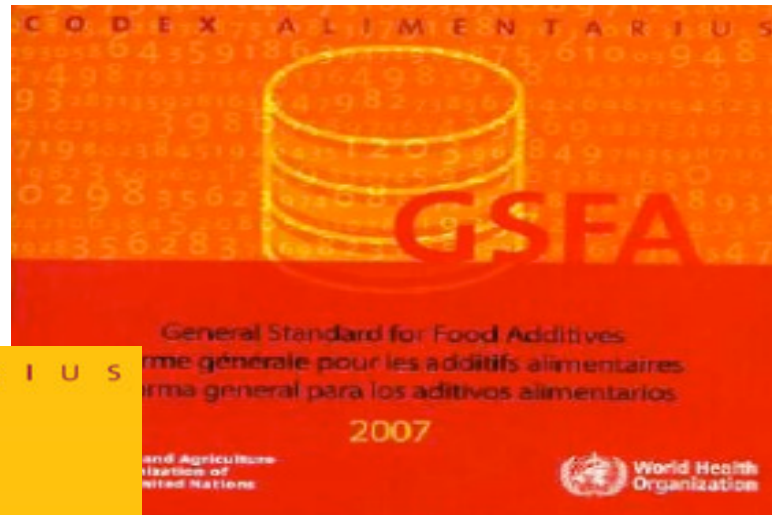
- adopts standards;
- codes of practice; *and*
- guidelines.

- GSFA (*food additives*)
- GSCTFF (*mycotoxins, heavy metals, etc.*)
- On-line database on Pesticide MRLs
- MRLs / RMR for Vet. Drug residues
- Food Hygiene (*GPFH, Codes of Practice*)

*apply to all  
commodities*

*science-based  
standards*

*Codex standards are voluntary*



# ***FAO / WHO Scientific Advice***

- **Long Term Joint Expert Committees:**
  - JECFA (*Jt. Expert Committee on Food Additives*)
  - JMPR (*Jt. Meeting on Pesticide Residues*)
  - JEMRA (*Jt. Expert Committee on  
Microbiological Risk Assessment*)
  - JEMNU (*Jt. Expert Meeting on Nutrition*)

# Work relevant to Developing Countries... (some examples)

- Mycotoxins, Melamine, Dioxins, Heavy Metals (CCCF)
- General Standards for Contaminants & Toxins (CCCF)
- MRLs for Pesticides and Vet. Drugs (CCPR, CCRVDF)
- General Standards for Food Additives (CCFA)
- Codes of Practice and Control of Viruses in Food (CCFH)
- National Food Control System (CCFICS)
- ➡ ➤ Foreign on-site Audits & Assessments (CCFICS)
- ➡ ➤ Judgment of Equivalence (CCFICS)
- ➡ ➤ Principles of Risk Analysis (CCGP)
- GM and Nutrition Labeling (CCFL)
- Several Nutrition (CCNFSDU)
- Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)
- Several commodity standards *etc. etc...*

# **Use of Codex standards for supporting international trade**



# ***Two trade-related situations...*** ***(when India utilised Codex standards)***

- Regaining a lost market
- Enhancing market access



# Monitoring Pesticide Residues in Table Grapes

*CCFFV, CCFH, CCPR, CCMAS, CCFICS*

# What did India gain...!

- Self confidence among farmers
- Culture for food quality (*CCFFV*) and safety (*CCFH*)
- Increased implementation of GAP (*CCFH*)
- Implementation of Traceability (*CCFICS*)
- Farmers earned more value
- Benefits went to 40,000 farmers and 150 exporters
- Increased FOB realization per carton of 5 kg.
- Value - addition through improved packaging
- World - wide acknowledgement of our labs. (*CCMAS*)
- No rejections for the last **18 years** (*CCPR*)
- Zero paper-work and transparency



**3000 MT** ➡ **250,000 MT**

# Promoting Export of Organic Products to Developed Markets

*CCFL, CCFICS*



# STATE WISE MAJOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION IN INDIA



## Major Items

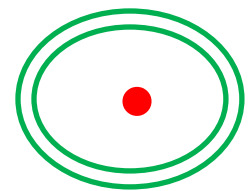
Tea, Honey  
Rice, Pulses  
Spices, Walnuts  
Sesame seeds  
Pineapple products  
Jaggery  
Cotton  
Medicinal Plants

# ***The Challenge: 20 years ago***

- Whose standards to be followed ?
- Acceptability of Indian Certification Bodies
- Certification costs too high (*exports not growing*)

# ***What did India do ?***

- Framing the National Standards for Organic Production, Accreditation and Certification (*CCFL*)
- SOP for Accreditation (*CCFICS*)
- SOPs for Conformity Assessment (*CCFICS*)
- Ensured uniformity in certification by Certifiers
- Implementation of the NPOP for *Exports*

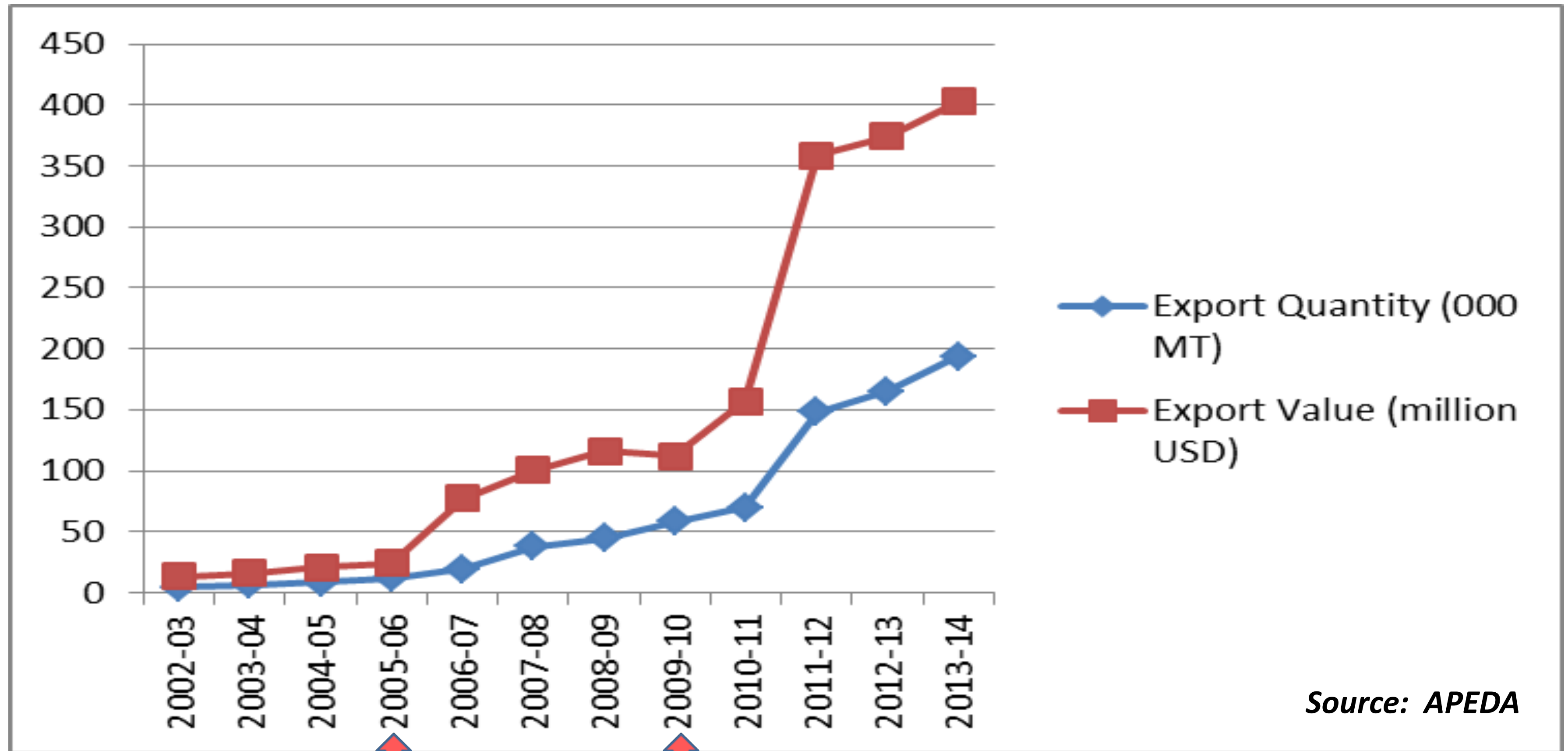


Negotiation with Trading Partners -  
***Judgment of Equivalence (CCFICS)***

**Also implemented  
Traceability (*CCFICS*)**



# Export of Organic Products from India



*Source: APEDA*

*Collaboration*

*Cooperation*

*Coordination*

*Team-work*



*alignment with, and use of  
Codex ensures food safety  
everywhere  
and facilitates trade  
between countries as the*

*exchange of information is standardized;  
helps settle differences; saves time; saves cost*

