



# FAO SPS Related Activities in Region

Brainstorming Meeting on Sanitary/ Phytosanitary  
Priorities and Challenges in SASEC Member  
Countries

24–25 November 2013

Bangkok, Thailand

# FAO Vision

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- **Achieving food security for all** is at the heart of FAO's efforts – to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

**Food security:** all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. [World Food Summit, 1996]

# Coverage

- Food safety
- Animal Health
- Plant Health

# Food Safety Approaches

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❑ **Food chain approach** – hazards may arise at different stages of the food supply

❑ **Preventative risk-based approach** is followed rather than a reactive one based on sampling & testing (GAP, GMP, HACCP)

❑ **Sound national food control & regulatory** systems essential – standards & implementation

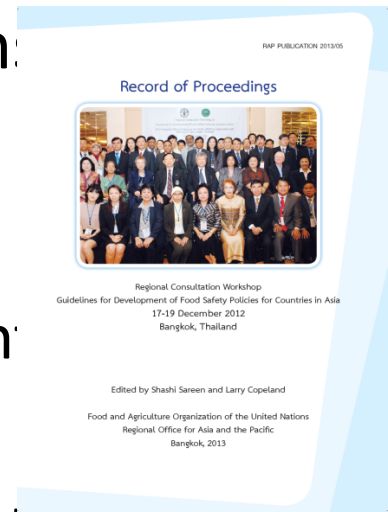
❑ **Roles and responsibilities** for food safety - all actors in the food chain namely- farmer or producer, processor, handlers, government, consumer

# Food safety & quality programme

- **Food safety policies, legislation, governance** (including coordination mechanisms)
- **SPS/standards & norms/ Codex** related activities
- **Enforcement & surveillance** (inspection, testing, certification, FBDS)
- Food safety in various agro food supply chains (**commodity issues**) - linkage to **primary production**
- Food safety **emergency** management/ recall systems
- Certifications and accreditation
- Trainings/ awareness/ education

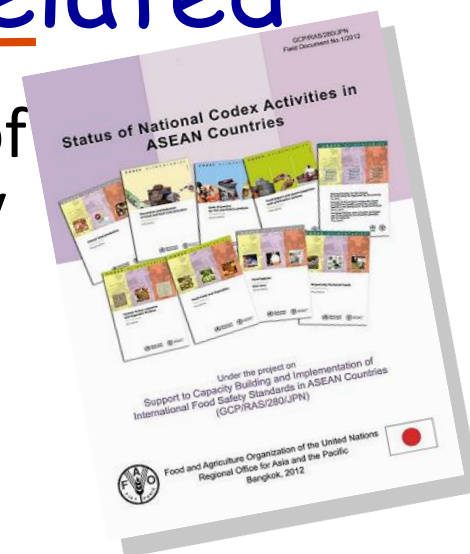
# Food safety Policies, Legislation & Governance

- Focus: Review of food legislation, developing food safety policies, coordination mechanism, action plans
- Activities
  - Regional Consultation on GLs for Development **Food Safety Policy** for countries in Asia
  - Study of the food safety scenario in countries for strengthening coordination b/w departments
  - Legislation – Bangladesh, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia
  - Policy assistance for bio-secure agro-food supply chain for enhanced market access & food security(**Nepal**)



# SPS/Standards/ Codex related

- **Focus:** Strengthening NCC, harmonization of standards activities in countries, setting up/adopting Codex standards
- **Activities**
  - **Regional Project ASEAN** - Support to CB & Implementation of International Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries” (*WS, training course, case studies, guidance documents*)
  - Country Projects – **Mongolia, Bangladesh, Bhutan**
  - Regional Consultation on Equivalence/**MRAs** to Facilitate Trade of Safe & Q Food (SAARC)
  - **Trainings:** Chemical risk analysis in the food chain; RA for SAARC



## Recommendations of Regional Consultation on Equivalence/MRAs to Facilitate Trade of Safe & Q Food (SAARC)

- Continue the development and enhancement of food control infrastructure and systems as a foundation for food safety and trade facilitation
- Develop, within already existing SAARC framework, common regional standards based on international standards for
  - identified products (fruits & vegetables, honey, fish & fp, meat/products, dairy products, peanuts & spices
  - food inspection & control systems for above identified products
  - GAP and organic agriculture standards
  - official certificates
- Recognition arrangement / agreements for acceptance of products traded within region & with countries outside region
- Establishment of a regional mechanism for accreditation of inspection, testing, certification bodies (to support countries that do not have accreditation bodies)



# Recommendations of Regional Consultation on Equivalence/MRAs to Facilitate Trade of Safe & Q Food (SAARC) - Sept 2011

- Establishment of a center of excellence for information, education, training, research and communication for food safety and quality matters
- Regional training on implementation of RMP for animal & plant products
- Regional training on risk assessment for identified products
- Training and assistance to support participation of SAARC countries in international standard setting bodies on SPS matters
- Regional training on inspection, certification, accreditation as per international norms
- Feasibility study on establishment of regional conformity assessment body for promoting organic farming in SAARC region
  
- **South-South Cooperation**
- Learning from experiences of ASEAN on regional integration efforts in food sector, which includes harmonization, mutual recognition, etc
- Cooperation between SAARC and Latin America on lessons learnt on equivalence and recognition agreements

# Enforcement and Surveillance

- **Focus:** risk-based inspections, risk-based import control systems, certification systems, food-borne disease surveillance systems, laboratory capacity
- **Activities**
  - Guidelines for risk categorization of food & food establishments for ASEAN
  - Training on risk-based import controls (India)
  - Development of inspection guidelines, manuals, training, sampling guidelines
  - Development in inspection curricula
  - Projects in Bangladesh, Thailand (lab capacity), Myanmar (inspection & certification – fisheries)



# Food Safety in Value Chains

- **Focus:** Good Practices, GAP/GMP/FSMS, streetfood/ retail food safety, inspection & certification systems, GIs - linkage to primary production
- **Activities**
  - Improving safety & Q of fresh vegetables through value chain approach (**VN**)
  - Bangladesh – streetfoods, fruits & veg/ fishery/ poultry value chain
  - **Hygiene, safety and Quality** in food retail
  - Promotion of rural development through development of GIs at regional level in Asia
  - Enhancing SPS Capacity of Ginger Exports – Nepal through PPP



# Food safety Emergencies

- **Focus areas:** FSER planning, food safety recalls, early warning & horizon scanning, INFOSAN
- **Activities**
  - Pilots (Bangladesh, Thailand), WS Developing National **FSER** Plans - Sharing experiences (ASEAN)
  - **Food Recall & Traceability** -Application in National FS Control
- **Publications**
  - FAO/WHO framework for developing national food safety emergency response plans (2010)
  - FAO/WHO guide for application of risk analysis principles to food safety emergencies
  - FAO/WHO Guide for developing & improving National Food Recall Systems
  - Report of regional consultation



# Certifications and Accreditations

- Focus: Support in developing/ strengthening schemes certifications for government, private sector, internal control mechanisms; trainings
- Activities
  - Implementing **GAP** in F&V, its Certification & Accreditation
  - Training module
  - GI certification
  - Inspection & certification – fisheries (Myanmar)

# Training / Awareness/ Education

- **Focus:** Trainings/ training modules curricula/ IEC material/ national surveys/ communication campaigns/ newsletters/ consumer group activities
- **Activities:**
  - Trainings on risk analysis, GAPs, setting microbiological criteria, inspections, risk categorization, GHP/GMP
  - Diploma in Sanitary Inspector course
  - National survey of household food safety/ hygiene practices, knowledge & beliefs
  - IEC materials on food - Hand washing poster, TV and Radio spots, Materials for Bill boards/leaflets, Video Documentary on washing and cleaning, training modules on GHP for Street food/bakery /sweetmeat



# Information Exchange Mechanisms

- FAO Food Safety and quality home page  
<http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/home-page/en/>
- INFOSAN – International food safety authorities network – for dissemination of important global food safety information – INFOSAN Community Network  
<https://extranet.who.int/infosan/>
- Web page on Vet & Public Health, Feed & Food Safety;  
[www.fao.org/ag/AGInfo/programmes/en/A6.html](http://www.fao.org/ag/AGInfo/programmes/en/A6.html)
- Emergency prevention & early warning in area of food safety ([EMPRES Food Safety](mailto:EMPRES-FS@fao.org)): [EMPRES-FS@fao.org](mailto:EMPRES-FS@fao.org)
- FAO Regional office for Asia and the Pacific  
<http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/rap/home/en/>

# Future Food safety Priorities in the Region

- Strengthening food safety **coordination mechanism**
- Food safety indicators**
- Harmonization of standards – clear role of **regulatory & voluntary standards**
- Risk analysis – detailed trainings eg **risk profiling, exposure assessment, risk communication**
- Programmes to strengthen **food import control systems**

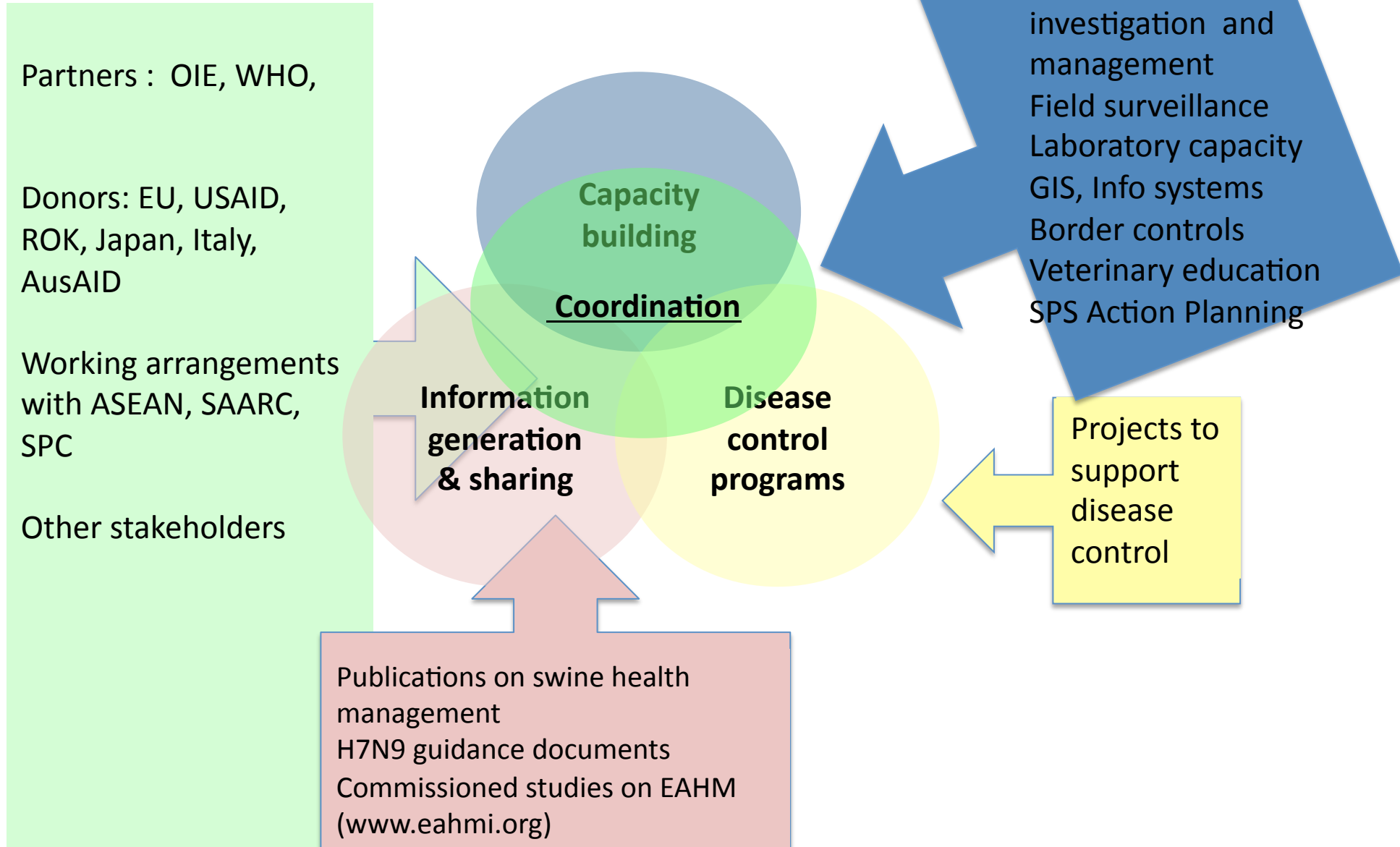


# Future Food safety Priorities in the Region

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- Food Recall & Traceability** –support countries for application in National FS Control- Regional guidance
- Regional network for safety in food retail**
- Regional guidance documents** in safety in food retail (street foods and organized retail)
- Support countries to **strengthen GAP in horticulture sector** (developing schemes & certification systems)
- Strengthening food safety through **PPPs**
- Increased collaboration for use of **regional expertise & knowledge** – info exchange, RA, lab facilities

# Animal Health

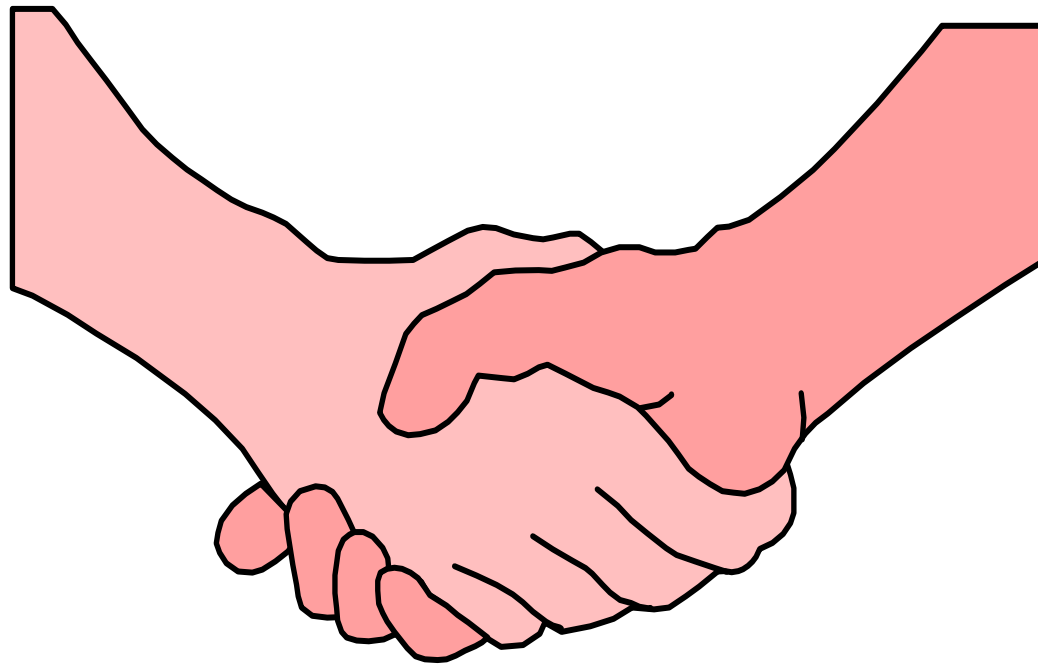


# **Capacity Building-Phytopsanitary measures**

- **Collaborate with IPPC and donors in helping national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) to develop a strategy / policy for effectively and sustainably protect plants and plant products**
- **Assists NPPOs in the improvement of capacity of pest surveillance, pest risk analysis (PRA), risk management, information exchange , implementation of ISPMs, etc.**
- **A number of various projects relating to above areas were implemented in South Asia countries in collaboration with donors concerned**

# THANK YOU

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**Any Questions?**