

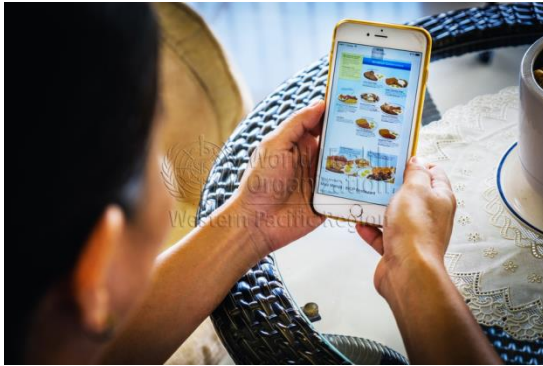
# Food safety modernization by economies at different stages of economic development

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# The Western Pacific Region



# The context of food safety is changing



New consumer habits

New technologies



Globalization of the food chain



Changing diets

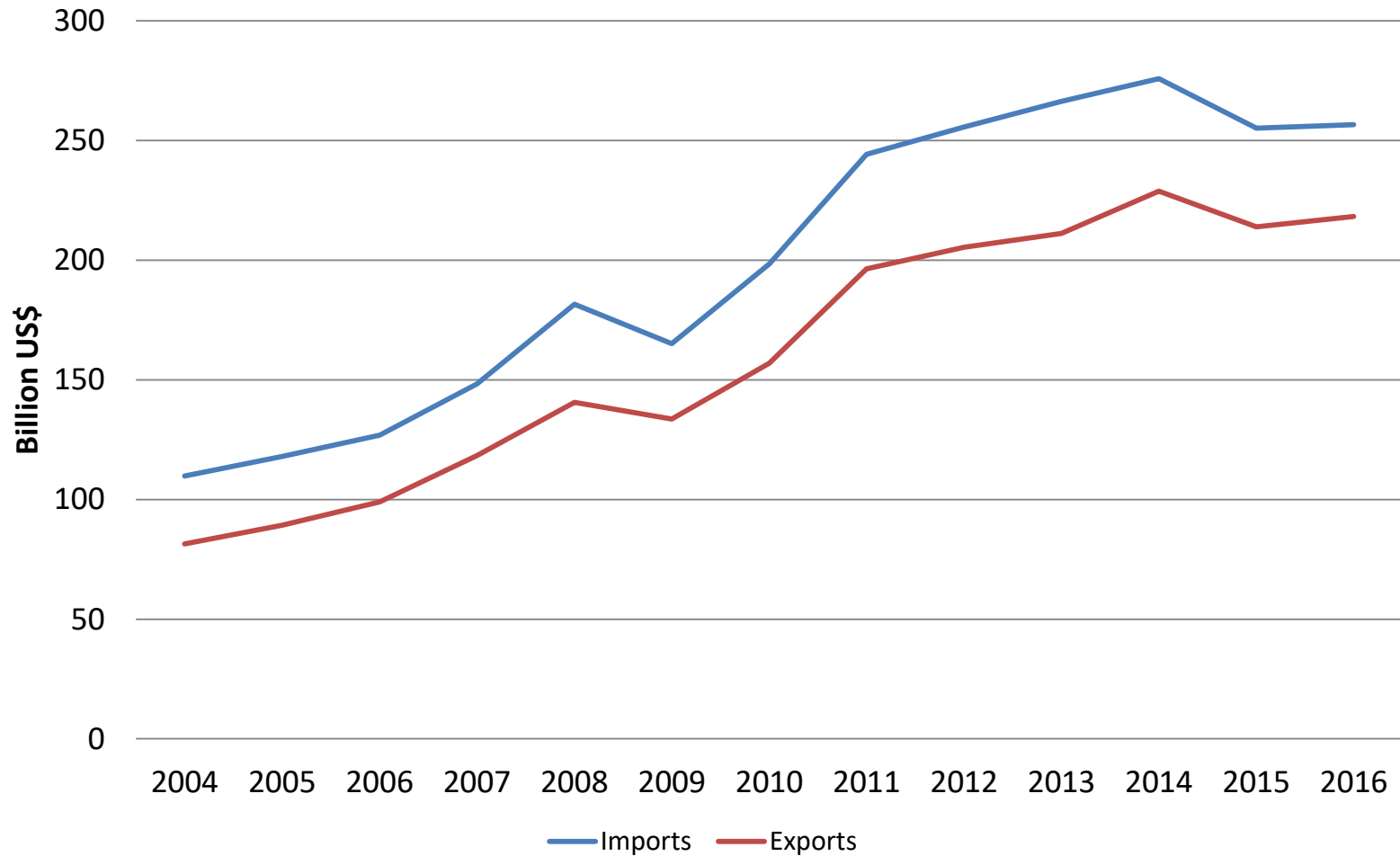


New ways of communicating



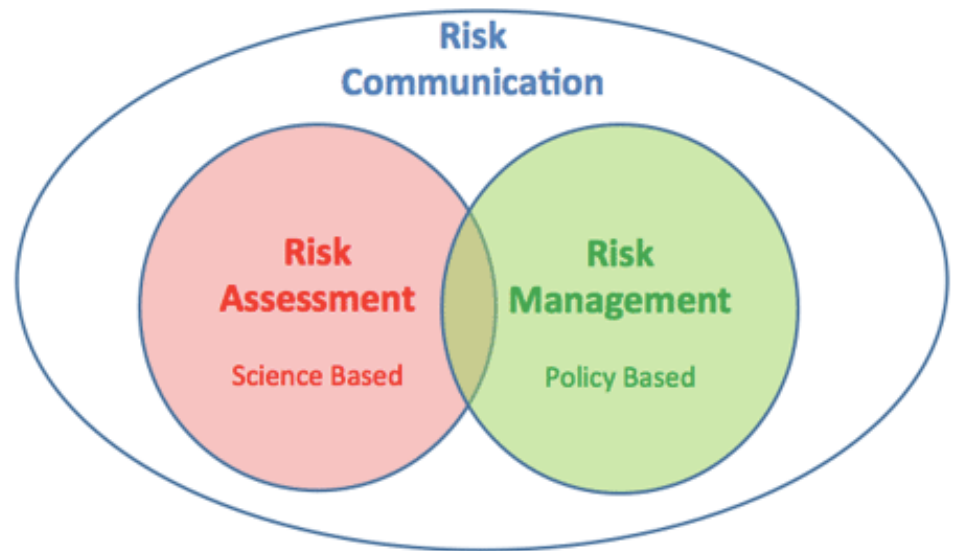
Urbanization

# Trade in food and live animals



# The changing context of food safety require countries to strengthen food safety systems

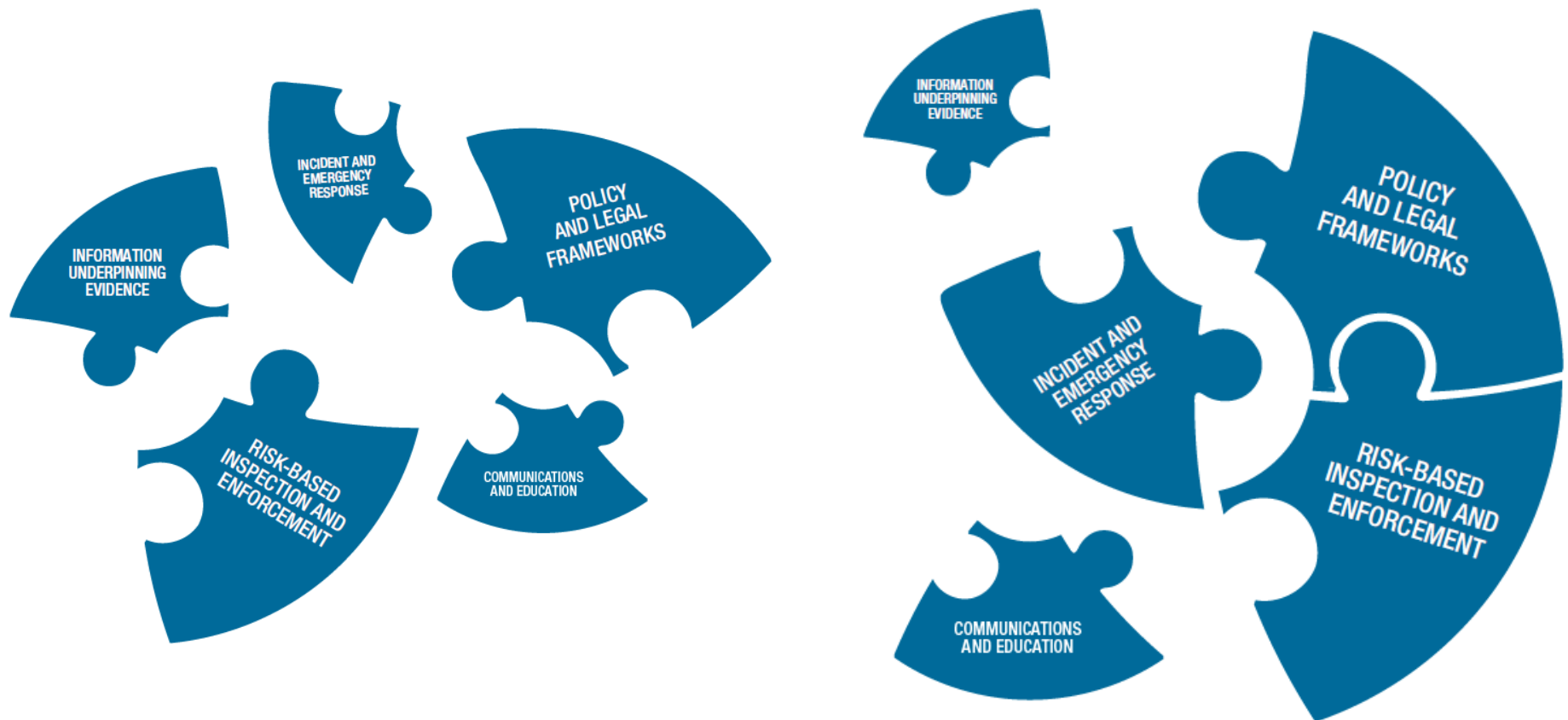
- The objectives of national food safety systems are to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in food trade
- Food safety systems must build on the principles of food safety risk analysis



# Food safety systems are at different levels of development

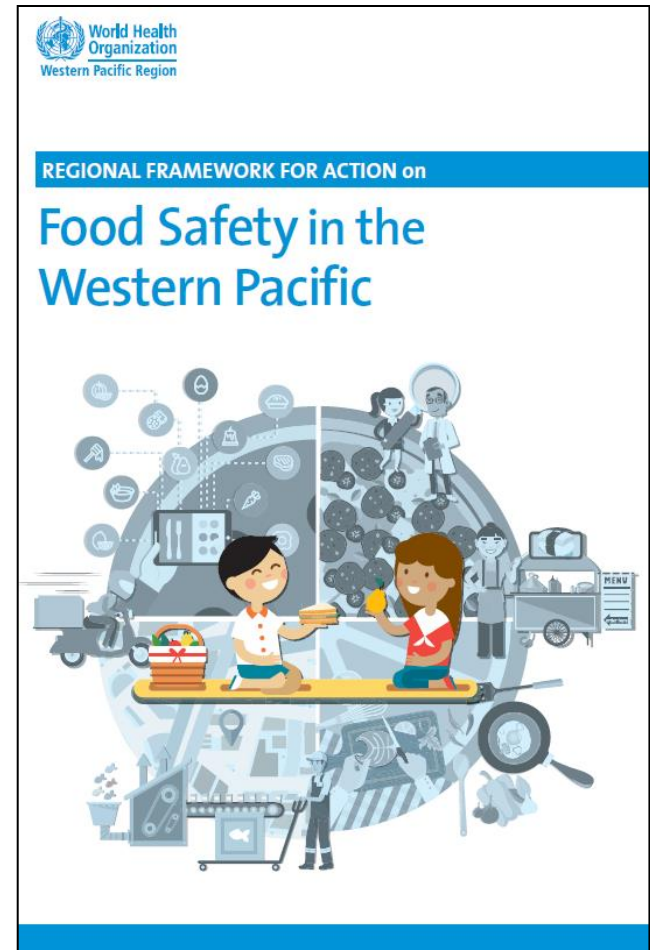
- The capacity, institutional arrangements and priorities of food safety systems vary from one country to another
- Countries have different means to address food safety issues
- Overall consensus about the key components and principles of food safety systems – Ref. Codex

# Different 'shapes' of food safety systems



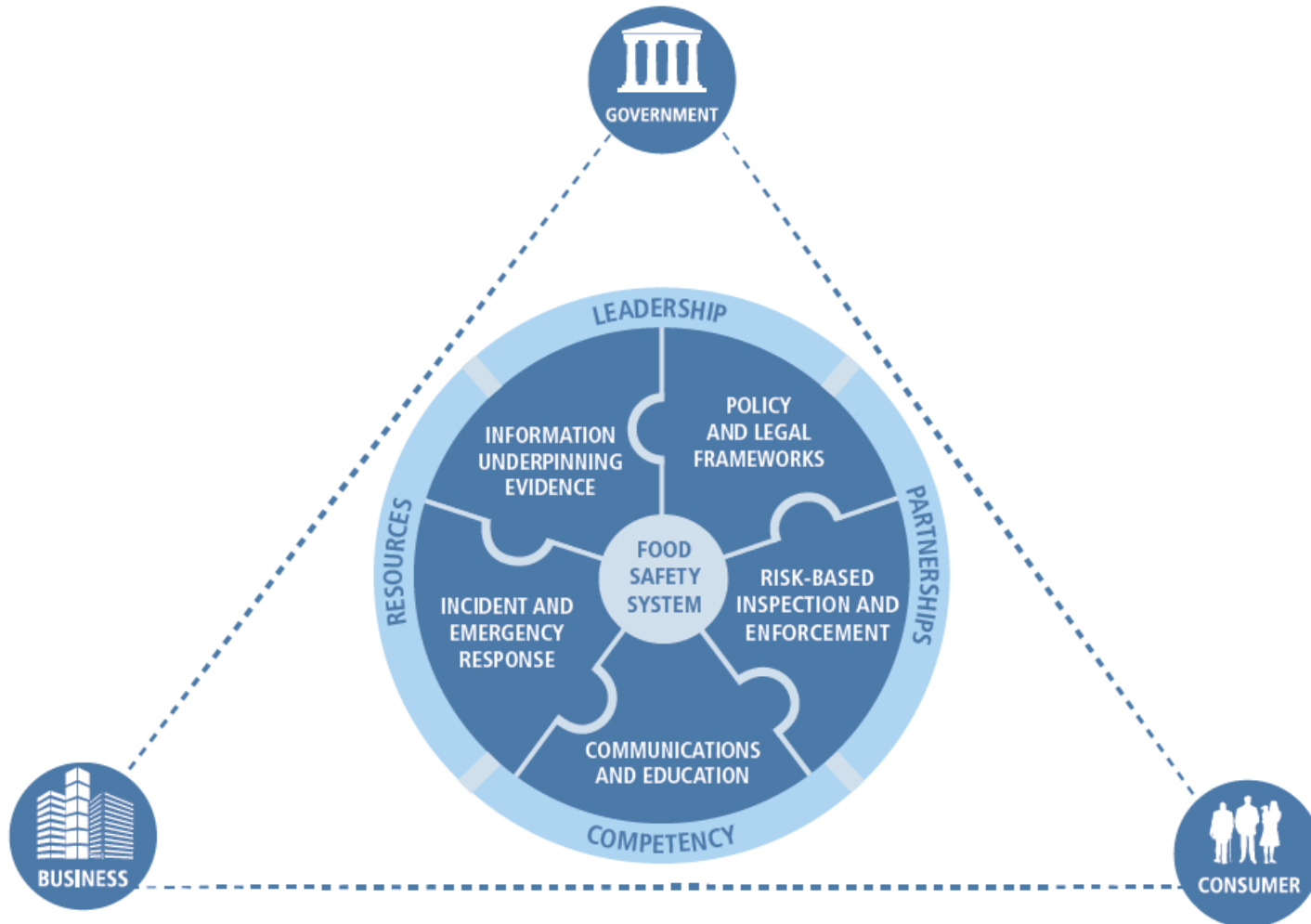
# Regional guidance

- Guides strategic action and a stepwise approach to strengthen food safety systems and cooperation between countries
- Targets national food safety authorities and partners working in the area of food safety





# Framework for action on food safety



# Considerations for strengthening food safety systems at different stages of development

- Tailor interventions to country-specific needs and priorities
- Align with international recommendations and obligations
- Focus on strengthening the uniformity and connectedness of components in the system
- Advance in a stepwise manner

# Stages of food safety system development

## STAGE 1

Strengthening the minimum legal and operational requirements for food safety risk management and response to food safety incidents and emergencies

## STAGE 2

Integrating risk-based approaches to food safety risk management and response to food safety incidents and emergencies

## STAGE 3

Striving to become fully documented and well-coordinated across sectors and stakeholders of the food safety system

# Stepwise approach to strengthen food safety systems

- Guides national food safety authorities to strengthen the uniformity of food safety systems at different stages of development
- Helps countries to prioritize interventions and to improve the overall performance of food safety systems as opposed to advancing specific components separately



# Stage 1: Strengthening the minimum requirements

Action areas	Components
1 Policy and legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the food safety system</li> <li>• Legal measures for food production, handling, storage, processing, marketing and distribution in line with Codex Alimentarius and international requirements</li> </ul>
2 Risk-based inspection and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated qualified food inspectors</li> <li>• Register of food businesses in the formal sector</li> <li>• Basic food inspection tools and equipment</li> </ul>
3 Information underpinning evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing indicator- and event-based surveillance systems include foodborne diseases or syndromes</li> <li>• Generic system for risk assessment and response to emerging diseases and public health emergencies include food-safety-related incidents and emergencies.</li> </ul>
4 Incident and emergency response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal authority by food safety authorities to enforce and conduct food recalls and risk management and other emergency-related risk management measures</li> <li>• Designated INFOSAN emergency contact point and established linkage to the National IHR Focal Point</li> </ul>
5 Communications and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spokesperson and guiding principles for coordination of food safety risk communications</li> <li>• Programme for basic food safety training for food handlers</li> <li>• Food safety awareness programme for consumers</li> </ul>

# Stage 2: Integrating risk-based approaches

Action areas	Components
1 Policy and legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanism for coordination of activities and functions across all agencies with responsibilities for food safety control</li> </ul>
2 Risk-based inspection and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk-based food inspection plan</li> <li>• Food business registry covering all food businesses</li> <li>• Access to reference food laboratories with capacity to test food composition and priority food safety hazards</li> </ul>
3 Information underpinning evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food consumption and food composition monitoring programmes</li> <li>• Programme for monitoring food safety hazards of public health concern</li> <li>• Ad hoc studies supplementing surveillance and response data</li> <li>• Availability of laboratory-based surveillance of foodborne diseases</li> </ul>
4 Incident and emergency response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food recall system</li> <li>• Procedures for investigation and response to food safety incidents and emergencies</li> </ul>
5 Communications and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Platform for food safety awareness programmes</li> <li>• National food safety education strategy</li> <li>• Food safety communications plan</li> </ul>

# Stage 3: Striving to become fully documented and well-coordinated

Action areas	Components
1 Policy and legal framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multisectoral national food safety plan</li> <li>• Procedures for conducting regulatory impact assessments incorporated into legislation</li> <li>• Clearly defined, risk-based and coherent food safety laws and regulations</li> <li>• Mechanism to monitor and evaluate performance of the food safety System</li> </ul>
2 Risk-based inspection and enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented system for consistent and impartial implementation of risk-based inspection and enforcement activities throughout the food chain</li> <li>• Procedures for food-premises hygiene grading</li> </ul>
3 Information underpinning evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated national surveillance system (indicator- and event-based food monitoring system and ad hoc studies)</li> <li>• Research and development to improve the availability of evidence-based food safety information</li> <li>• Estimates of the national burden of foodborne diseases</li> <li>• Total diet studies or equivalent</li> <li>• Mechanism for collection, evaluation and use of foodborne disease surveillance data to inform policy</li> </ul>
4 Incident and emergency response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedures to test and monitor the system for food safety incidents and emergency investigation and response</li> <li>• Documented food recall and traceability system</li> </ul>
5 Communications and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanism to review and evaluate the effectiveness of food safety communications programmes</li> <li>• System for monitoring media and other informal reports and public perceptions</li> </ul>

# Conclusion

- Food safety systems are essential to protect public health and facilitate trade in a changing food safety environment
- The Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific provides strategic guidance to strengthen food safety systems
- The diversity of countries calls for country-tailored and stepwise approaches focusing on strengthening the uniformity of systems





Thank you

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