



Providing the scientific basis for Codex Alimentarius

Adjusting to current circumstances

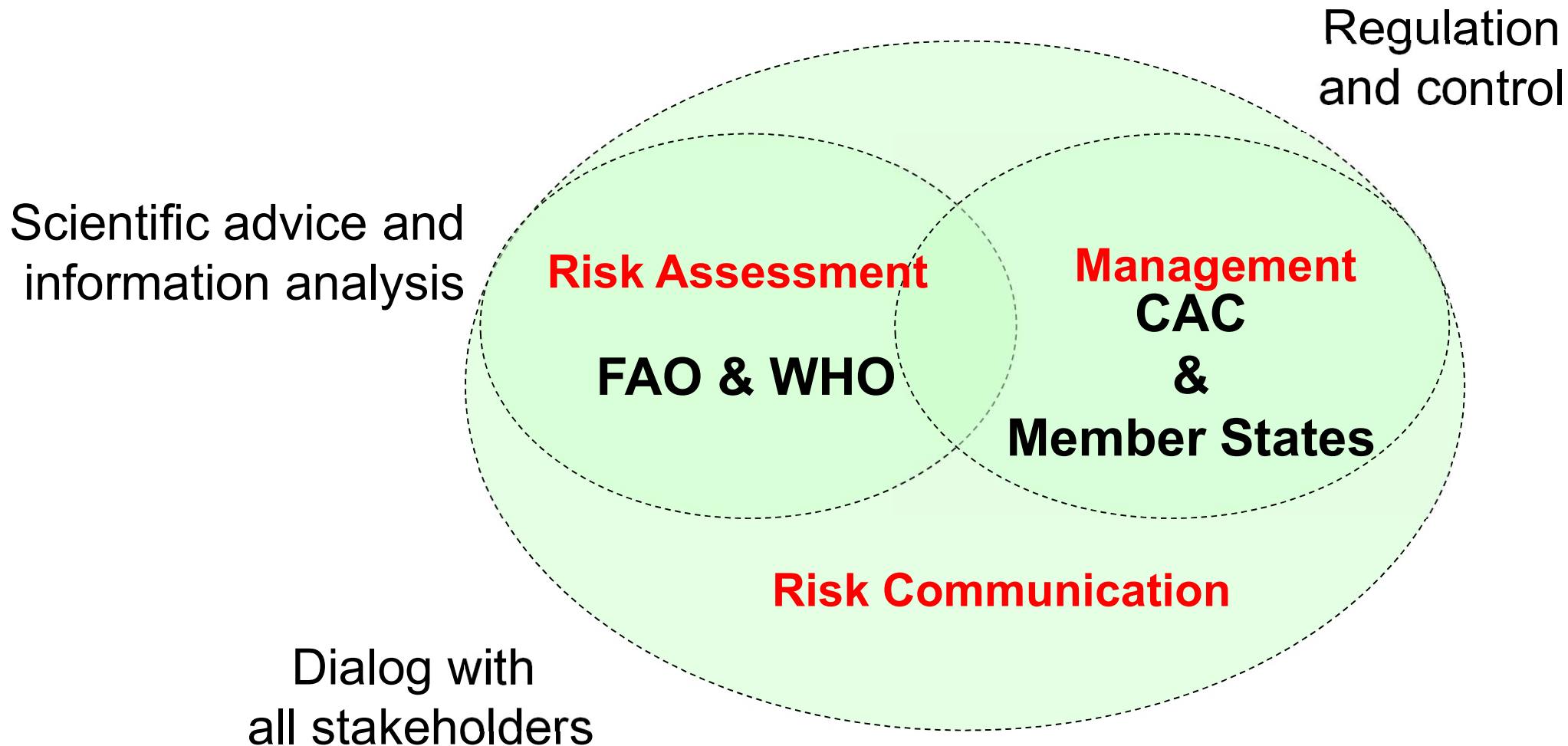


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Risk Analysis Paradigm



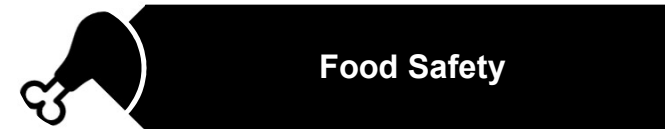
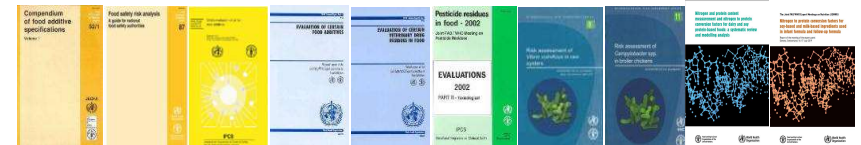
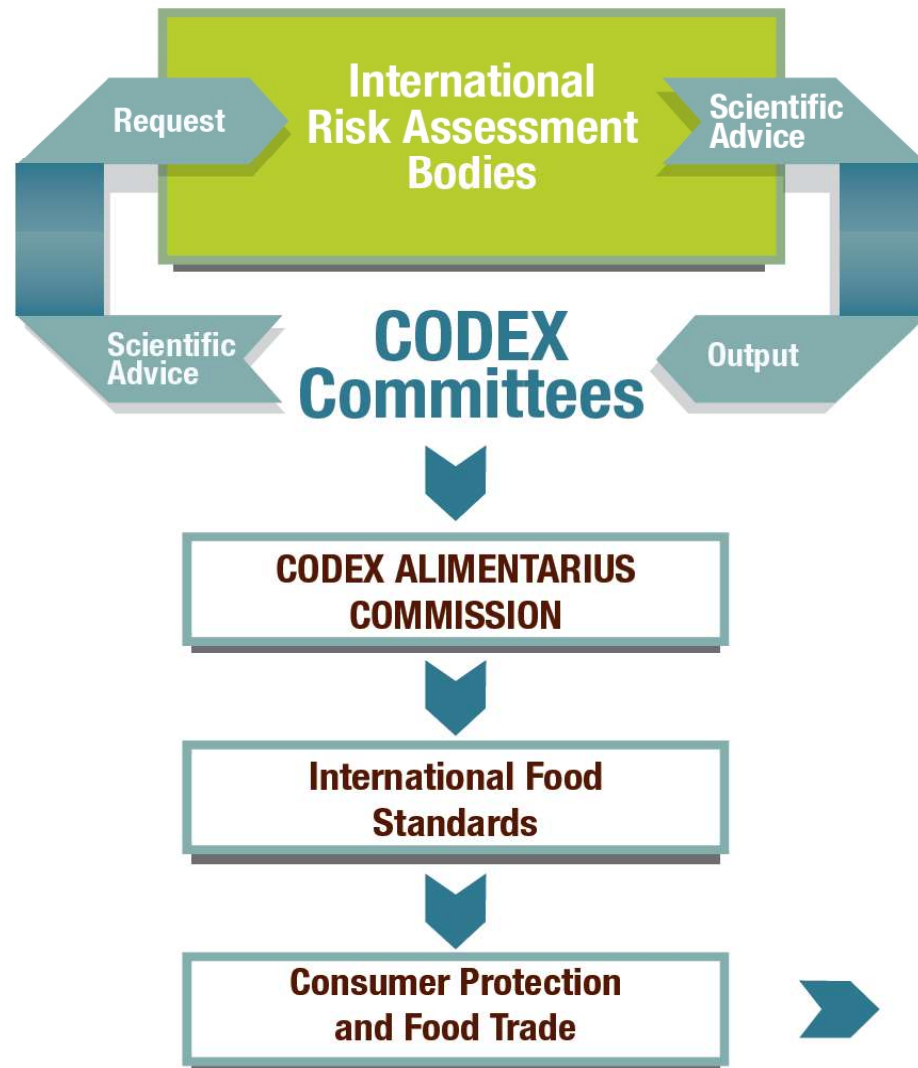
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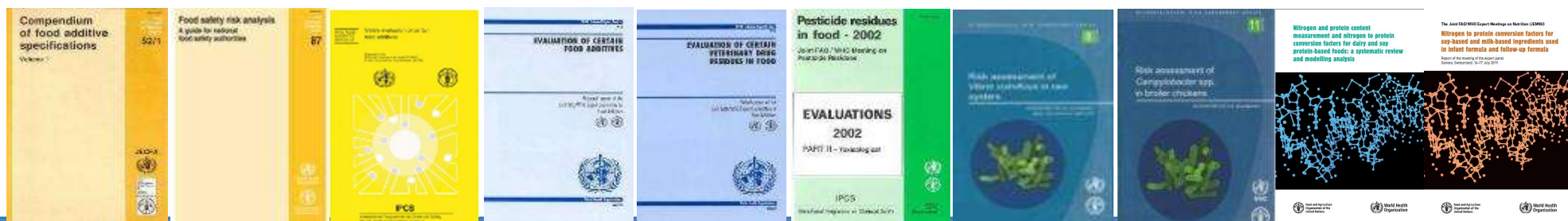
The Scientific Basis of Codex

Joint FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Programme



Scientific Advice in Food Safety and Nutrition

- **Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)**
- **Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)**
- **Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultations on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA)**
- **Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Nutrition (JEMNU)**
- **Ad hoc expert meetings**
- **Methods development and harmonization**



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New Challenges for expert meetings in 2020

JECFA	<p>Held Session of JECFA 89 (food additives) meeting in a virtual format in June 2020 to focus on specific topics in a reduced agenda</p> <p>JECFA 90 (contaminants) will be held virtually from 26 Oct to 6 Nov 2020</p> <p>Preparations are underway for an additional JECFA meeting in early 2021</p>
JMPR	<p>To prepare scheduled evaluations of pesticide residues to the extent possible by written and virtual meetings. Finalization of evaluations postponed to 2021</p>
JEMRA	<p>Held JEMRA meeting on STEC in June 2020 in a virtual format - extended meeting period</p>
ad-hoc Expert Meeting	<p>Held ad-hoc Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Tropane Alkaloids on 30 March-3 April 2020 in a virtual format</p>
Diet and nutrition-related expert meetings	<p>Held virtual meeting of the NUGAG Subgroup on Diet & Health in June 2020 (to finalized guideline on total fat) and several other meetings being planned before the end of 2020, to finalize other guidelines (i.e. CHO, non-sugar sweeteners, PUFA) and review the outcomes of systematic reviews on 1) dietary patterns and use of low sodium salt substitute</p> <p>Held the 1st joint FAO/WHO guideline meeting on Nutrient Requirements for 0-36 months in a virtual format during March/April 2020 and the 2nd meeting is being planned before the end of 2020</p>



Challenges and Further considerations

- Virtual expert meetings are not able to fully replace face-to-face meetings – but they are available options to ensure business continuity (despite partially) under the current circumstances
- A focused meeting agenda is required for effective virtual meetings
- Longer meeting sessions required – even with a focused agenda
- When experts are familiar / have the knowledge of the methodologies used for assessing evidence and providing scientific advice, it facilitates discussions and achievement of results in limited time available



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Challenges and Further considerations

- When experts know each other, they participate actively and the progress is easier
- Time zone differences cause disproportional high burden to some experts and for many experts, participating virtual meetings add increasing workload (i.e. on top of their daily work)
 - Experts participate on a voluntary basis
 - An important motivating factor being able to meet and debate technical and scientific issues – establishing stimulating global professional network
- There are challenges with IT technical issues connectivity



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Everything is publicly available

JECFA at FAO:

<http://www.fao.org/food-safety/scientific-advice/jecfa/en/>

JECFA at WHO:

http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/jecfa/en/

JMPR at FAO:

<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/jmpr/en/>

JMPR at WHO:

http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/jmpr/en/

JEMRA at FAO:

<http://www.fao.org/food-safety/scientific-advice/microbiological-risks-and-jemra/en/>

JEMRA at WHO:

<https://www.who.int/activities/assessing-microbiological-risks-in-food>

NUGAG Subgroup on Diet and Health at WHO:

https://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/guideline-development/nugag_dietandhealth/en/

FAO/WHO nutrient requirements for children aged 0–36 months:

<https://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/nutrient-requirements-children-overview/en/>



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A special Thank You to our
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The Scientific Advice
Programme



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