



# Capacity Building Program



## Foundations of Codex Work

# Learning Objectives – Part One

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## OBJECTIVES



Introduce the need to  
International Standards



Introduce the make-up of the  
Codex Alimentarius Commission



The Importance of International  
Standards (Codex standards) in  
International Trade :  
•Relationship to WTO agreements

# Food Security – An Ongoing Challenge

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# A Multinational Loaf

Many food ingredients from a number of countries



**INGREDIENTS:** ENRICHED BLEACHED FLOUR (WHEAT FLOUR, MALTED BARLEY FLOUR, NIACIN, IRON, THIAMIN MONONITRATE (VITAMIN B1), RIBOFLAVIN (VITAMIN B2), FOLIC ACID), WATER, WHOLE GRAINS (WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR, BROWN RICE FLOUR (RICE FLOUR, RICE BRAN)), HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP, WHEY, WHEAT GLUTEN, YEAST, CELLULOSE. CONTAINS 2% OR LESS OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING: HONEY, CALCIUM SULFATE, VEGETABLE OIL (SOYBEAN AND/OR COTTONSEED OILS), SALT, BUTTER (CREAM, SALT), DOUGH CONDITIONERS (MAY CONTAIN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: MONO- AND DIGLYCERIDES, ETHOXYLATED MONO- AND DIGLYCERIDES, ASCORBIC ACID, ENZYMES, AZODICARBONAMIDE), GUAR GUM, CALCIUM PROPIONATE (PRESERVATIVE), DISTILLED VINEGAR, YEAST NUTRIENTS (MONOCALCIUM PHOSPHATE, CALCIUM SULFATE, AMMONIUM SULFATE), CORN STARCH, NATURAL FLAVOR, BETA-CAROTENE (COLOR), VITAMIN D3, SOY LECITHIN, SOY FLOUR.

## GUAR GUM India



Guar gum is used to keep bread moist. This white powder is ground from guar plant seed pods primarily grown in India.

Source: Sara Lee

## CALCIUM PROPIONATE Netherlands



Calcium propionate is a mold inhibitor. This powdery preservative is manufactured in many countries.

## HONEY China, Vietnam, Brazil, Uruguay, India, Canada, Mexico, Argentina



Honey is increasingly used as a natural sweetener, and domestic supplies can fall short. It is produced by small-scale beekeepers, so Sara Lee purchases it from multiple countries to meet its needs.

## FLOUR ENRICHMENTS China



Flour enrichments are required to replenish the vitamins lost in the milling process. According to Sara Lee, the industry has consolidated, limiting its options for suppliers.

## BETA-CAROTENE Switzerland



Beta-carotene is added to provide a color to the bread and crust. This artificial coloring is available from many countries.

## VITAMIN D3 China



Vitamin D3 is a supplement used to aid in calcium absorption. China is one of the leading suppliers of vitamins.

## WHEAT GLUTEN France, Poland, Russia, Netherlands, Australia



Wheat gluten is added to the bread to help keep its structure and shape. Sara Lee uses many suppliers to meet its needs.

Photograph by Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

# Consumer Expectations

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Vision

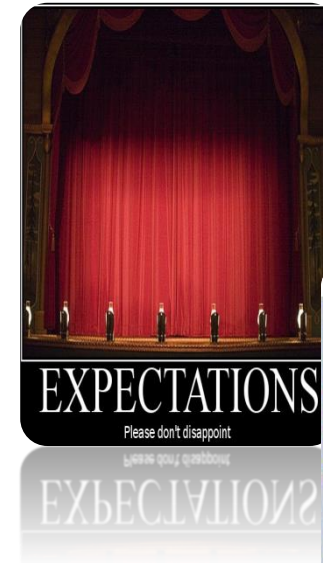
1. A safe, nutritious, high quality, abundant, affordable, and varied food supply

Mission

2. Governments operate effective food control systems

Values

3. Imported foods are produced to acceptable food standards comparable to domestic products





**“Where the world comes together to create food safety and quality standards to protect everyone everywhere.”**



**“Protect consumer health and promote fair practices in the food trade by setting international, science-based food safety and quality standards.”**



1. INCLUSIVENESS
2. COLLABORATION
3. CONSENSUS BUILDING
4. TRANSPARENCY





# There is a Need ...for International Standards



# International Standards : Leadership for Change

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Served the international community for close to 6 decades:

- Leveling the playing field between nations
- Addressing emerging issues
- Supporting consumer protection and removing undue impediments to trade

Led the way in transforming food regulatory measures

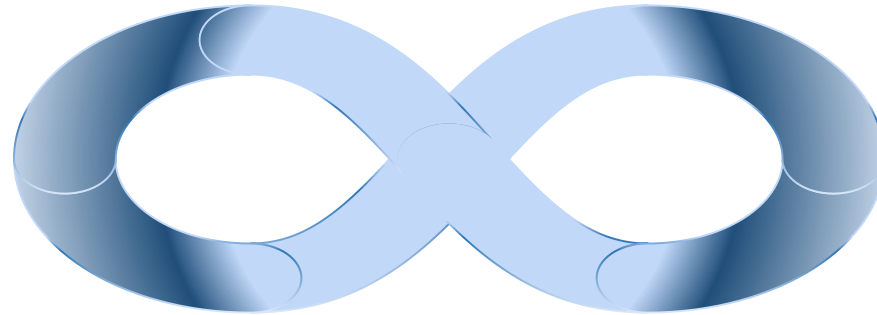
Developing and Adopting Risk Analysis Principles

❖ Leading role in :

- Allergen management
- GMO assessment
- Nutrition labeling requirements

❖ Addressing Emerging issues :

- Assessment of radionuclides
- Addressing Melamine incident, etc



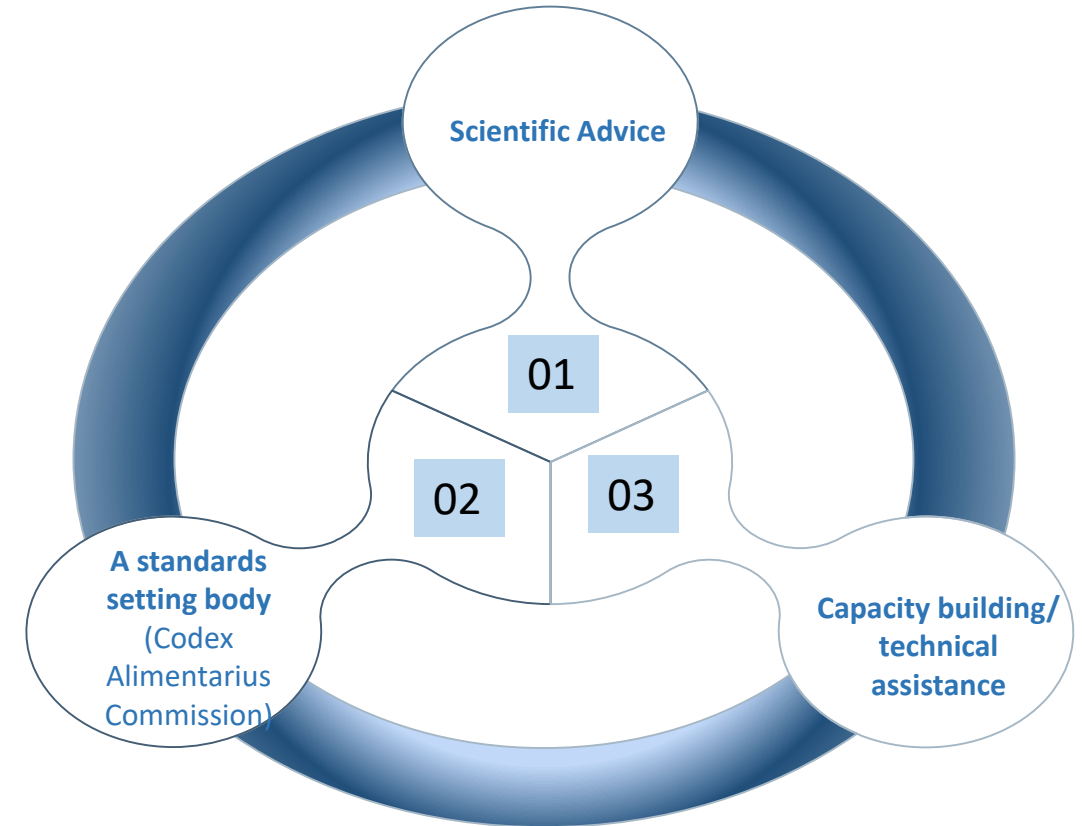
# Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program

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FAO and WHO  
collaborated to establish a joint food standards program



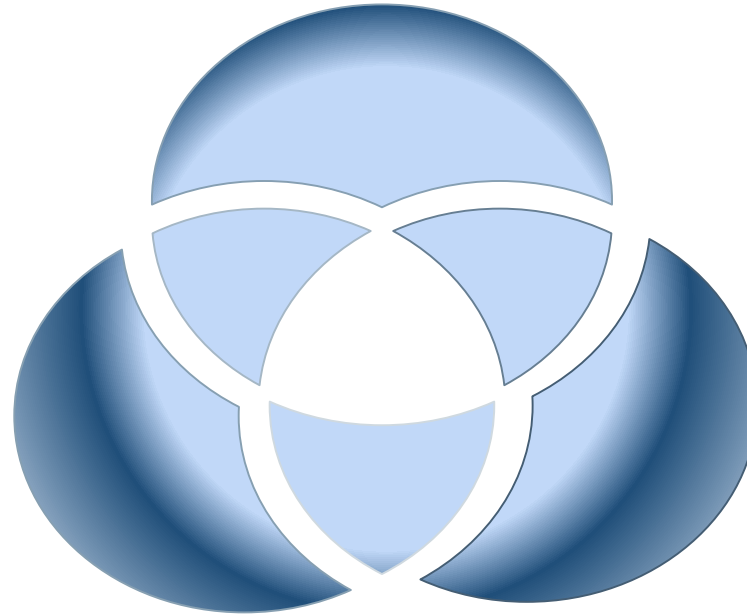
The program consists of three independent  
but complementary elements:



# What is Codex?

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) is:

An intergovernmental body established in 1963



Currently consists of : 189 members

- 188 member countries
- one member organization (EU)



Members vs. Observers:

239 Observers -

- 59 IGOs,
- 164 NGOs,
- 16 UN



# What Does Codex Do?

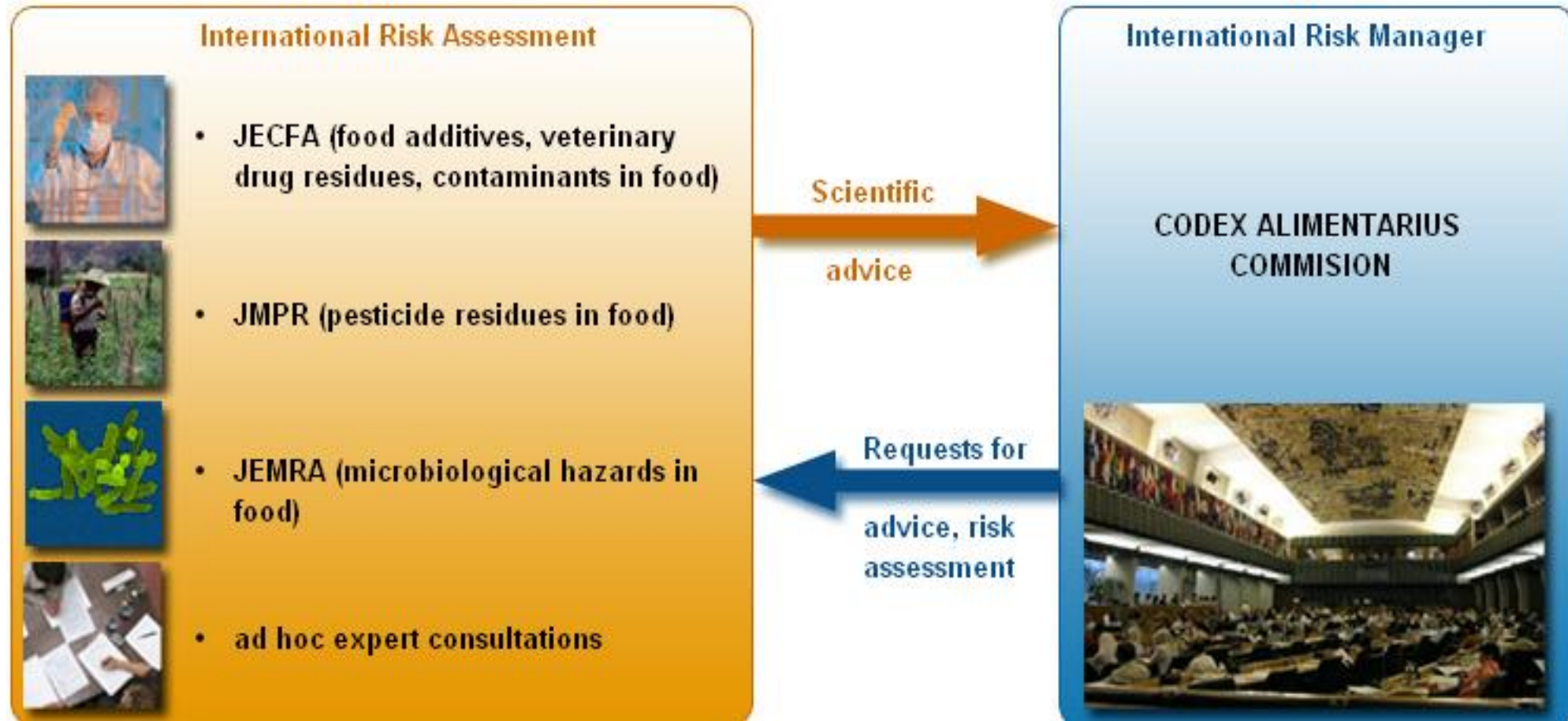
The Codex Alimentarius Commission is mandated to develop international food standards to :

- Protect the health of consumers
  - Ensure fair practices in the food trade
- E.g.: Fraud, misinformation, misrepresentation

Coordinate all food standards work at the international level

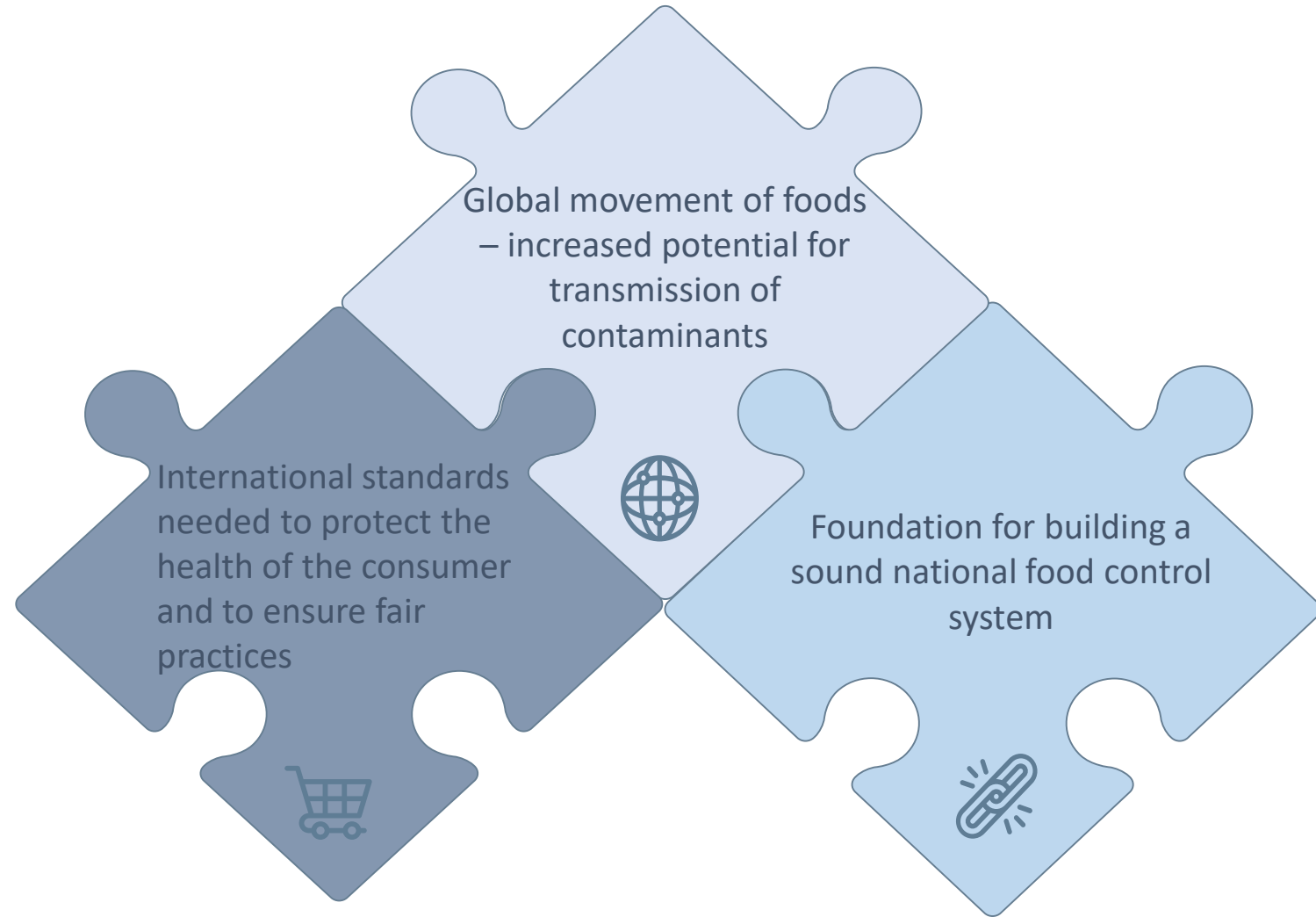


# We owe to Codex the Scientific Foundations of Decisions <sup>14</sup>



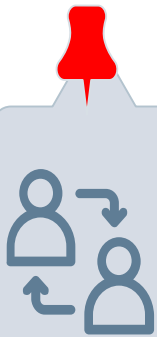
# Why are Countries Involved?

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# Forum for Exchange of Information

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Opportunities to exchange information/ share views/ appreciate challenges faced by developing countries



Opportunities to keep apprised of technological and regulatory/policy developments



Opportunities to influence development of standards



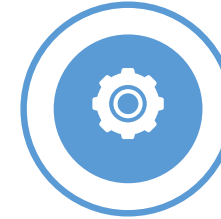


# International Regulatory Framework



World Trade Organization (WTO) - International Court that judges trade disputes:

- Uses Codex standards to evaluate claims of disputing parties
- Use of Codex standards confers assumption of WTO compliance



Countries have right to not use Codex standards; however,

- Non-Codex based regulation must be based on solid science and health risk assessment



If country fails to demonstrate this then

- WTO may conclude country's standard is arbitrary and likely a trade barrier intended to unfairly block imports from other countries



# Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement & Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

## Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement)

Refers to technical regulations/conformity assessment procedures for protecting human safety and health

Applies widely (not just food)

Regulations falling under TBT aim to protect consumers through information (mainly labelling regulations when not related to food safety) and promote fair trade practices;

Regulations related to classification/essential composition quality factors to avoid deceptive practices

Under TBT, **Codex is not explicitly references**. More broadly "Standards developed by relevant organizations"

## Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement (SPS Agreement) – Protects Human/Animal/Plant Health

SPS identifies Codex standards & guidelines as international benchmark

Measures taken by countries that **"conform to" Codex standards** are **"presumed" to be consistent with SPS obligations;**

Members are strongly encouraged to base their national measures on international standards (where they exist);

Members invited to participate in relevant **International standard Setting Bodies (ISSBs)** to the greatest extent possible.

**TBT Key linkages to Codex**

**SPS Key linkages to Codex**

**GF**  **RSS** | GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY  
SCIENCE SOCIETY