



RISK ASSESSMENT IN FOOD REGULATORY DECISIONS

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Role of the Regulator

- ❑ Oversight on Managing the Interaction between Food Producers and Consumers
- ❑ Delegated Authority from Consumers as to Protect them (from Health Concerns and Fraud)
- ❑ Empowered to Make Decisions on behalf of the Public (Consumers)
- ❑ Is the Centre of Attention in Case of Deficiencies in Food Safety
 - e.g., Food Safety Incidents



What Does a Regulator Do ?

- ❑ Competent Authority Making Decisions to Ensure Consumer Protection and Fairness in Food Production and Trade
- ❑ Primary Risk Manager
- ❑ Decisions Made are not always in the Form of Regulatory Measures



Trust in its Integrity

Predictability

T r a n s p a r e n c y
S t r u c t u r e



Risk Analysis Provides Structure to Food Regulatory Decisions ⁵

- ❑ Risk Analysis is the logical framework that underlies decision-making concerning all kinds of risks (not only for food safety and nutrition)
- ❑ Applicability to Food Safety and Nutrition Decision-Making Developed through the FAO/WHO Food Standards Program and particularly the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)



Definition of Food Risk Analysis

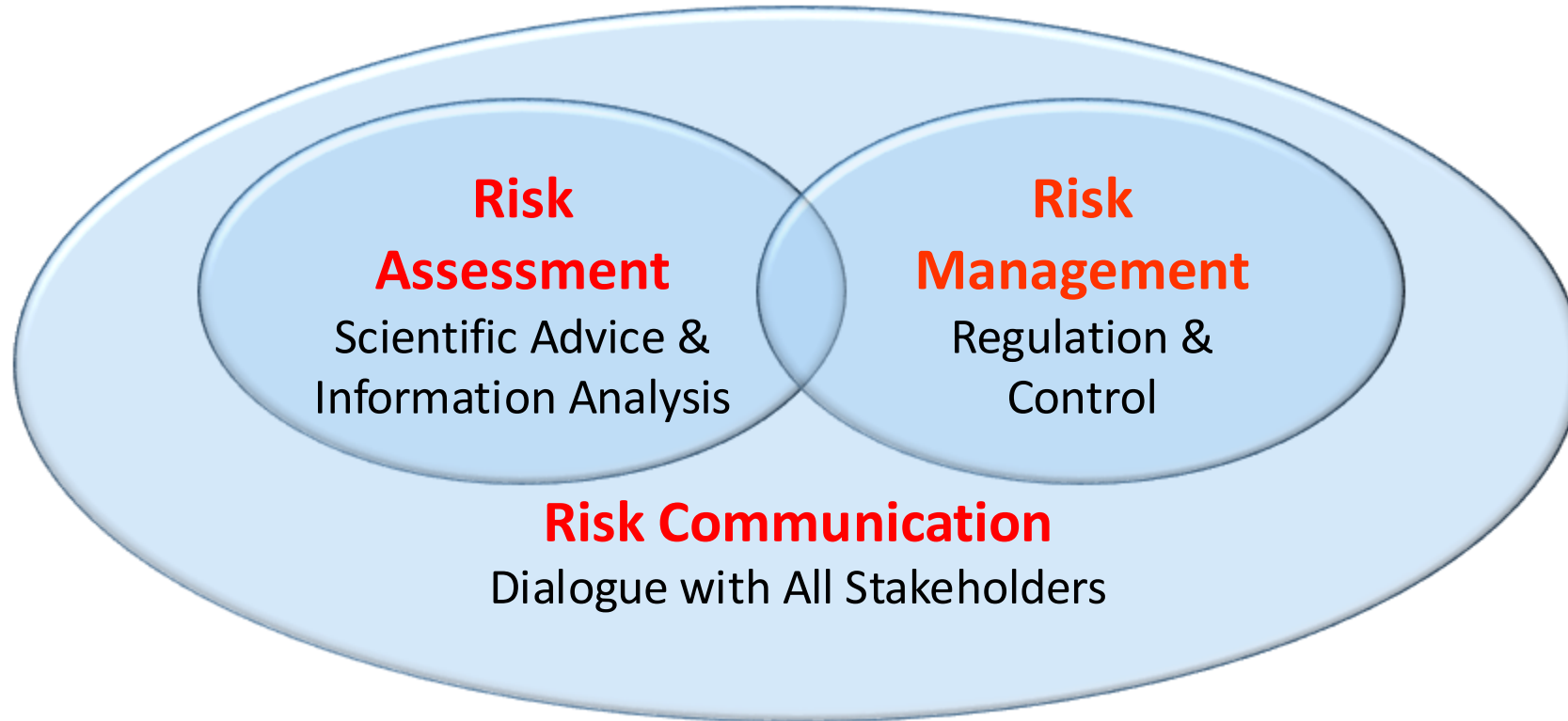
An Iterative and highly interactive process that should be followed by food decision-makers to address food safety and nutrition issues, using robust evidence, including scientific information and regular exchange with all parties and stakeholders involved

Comprises 3 components:

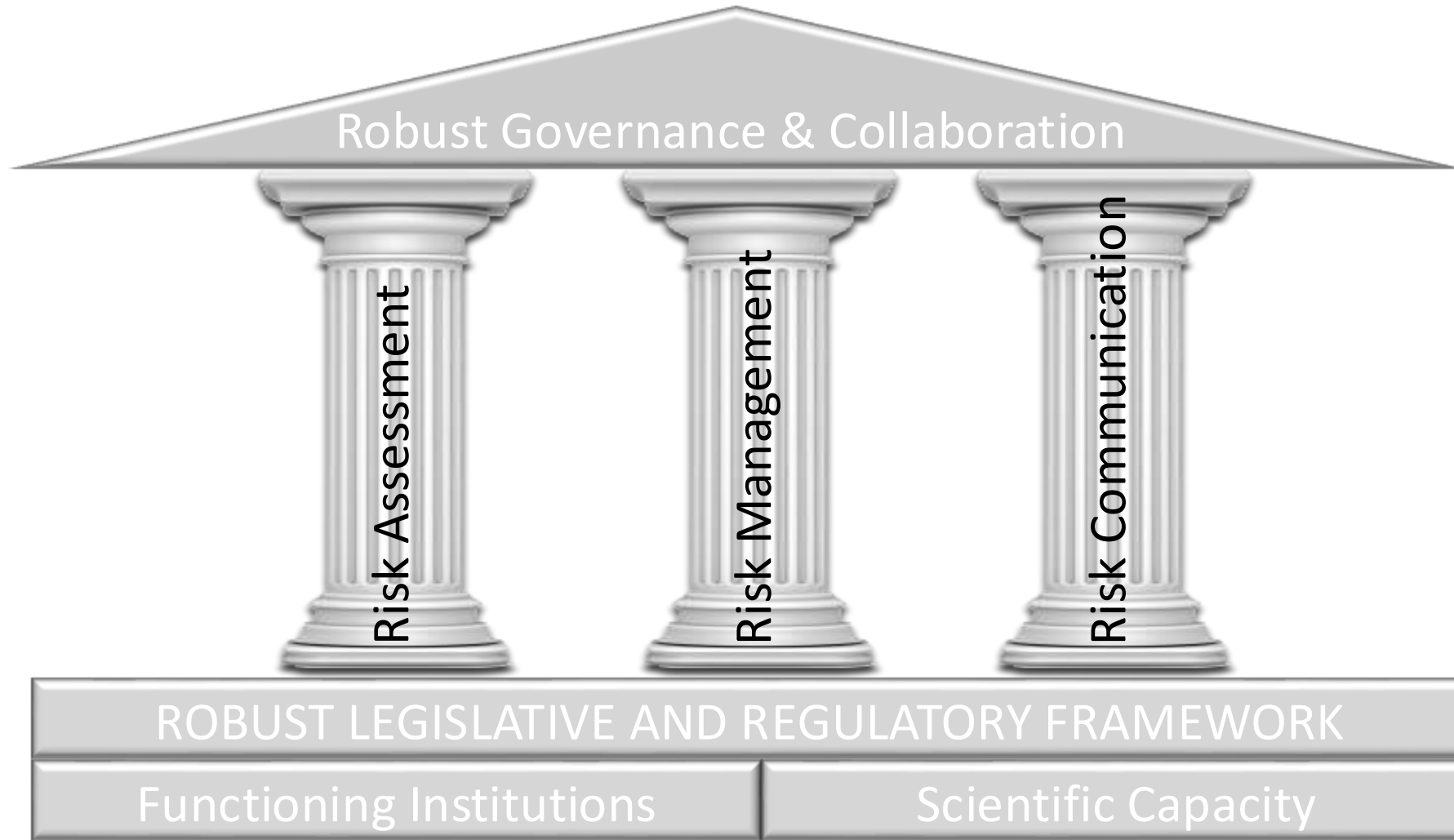
- Risk Assessment
- Risk Management
- Risk Communication



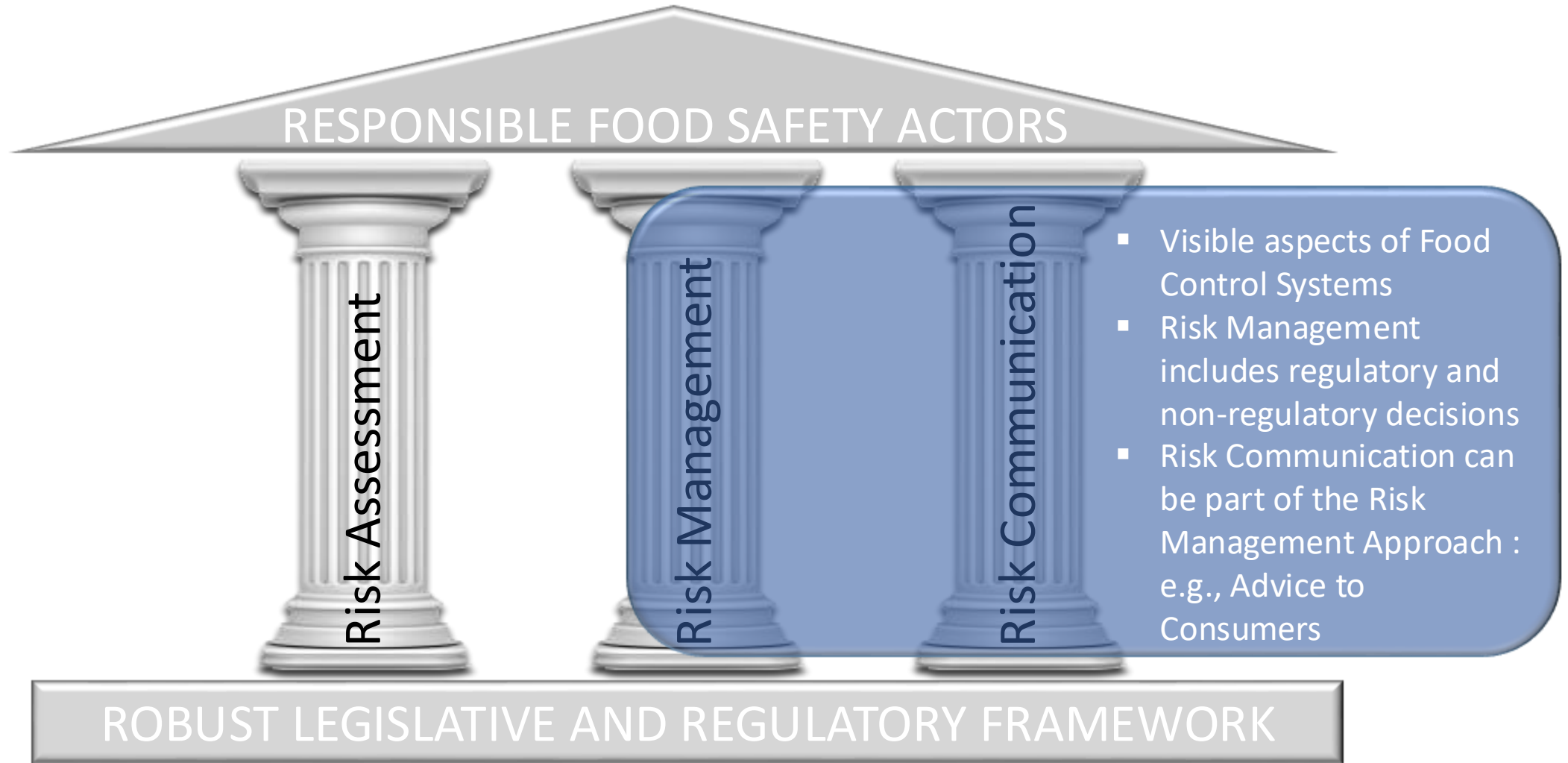
Robust Food Decisions



A Functioning Food Control System



Risk Analysis Pillars



Article 5: Assessment of Risk and Determination of the Appropriate Level of Sanitary or Phytosanitary Protection

1. Members shall ensure that their **sanitary** or phytosanitary **measures** are based on an assessment, as appropriate to the circumstances, of the **risks to human**, animal or plant life or health, taking into account risk assessment techniques developed by the **relevant international organizations**.
2. In the assessment of risks, Members shall take into account **available scientific evidence**; relevant processes and production methods; relevant inspection, sampling and testing methods; prevalence of specific diseases or pests; existence of pest- or disease-free areas; relevant ecological and environmental conditions; and quarantine or other treatment.



Article 5: Assessment of Risk and Determination of the Appropriate Level of Sanitary or Phytosanitary Protection

4. Members should, when determining the appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection, **take into account the objective of minimizing negative trade effects.**
5. With the objective of achieving consistency in the application of the concept of appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection against risks to human life or health, or to animal and plant life or health, each Member **shall avoid arbitrary or unjustifiable distinctions in the levels it considers to be appropriate in different situations, (...)**



□ The Development of Standards/ Regulatory and Non-Regulatory Requirements

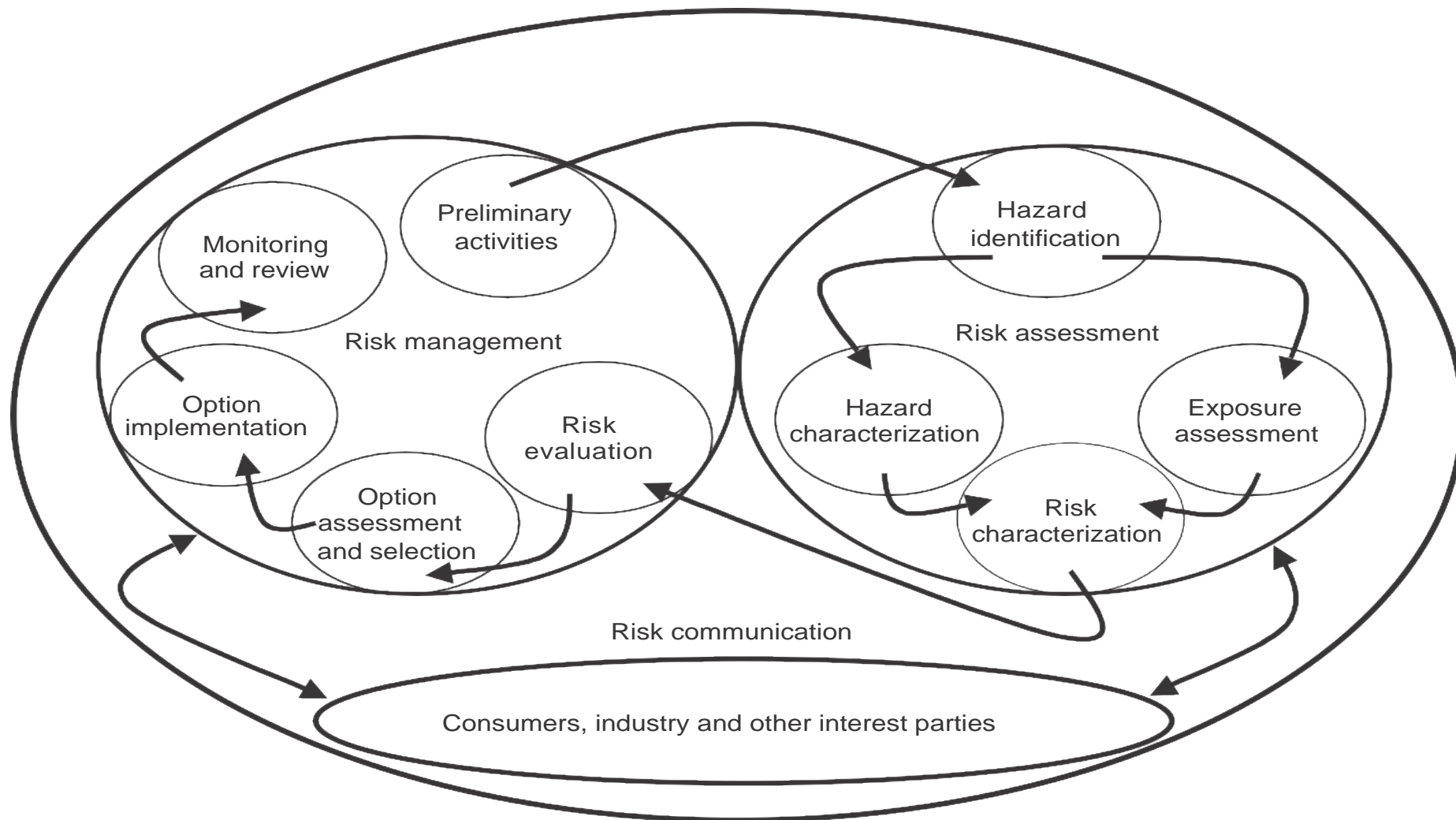
- The development of a standard: A maximum residue level for use of pesticides or veterinary drugs, maximum level of contaminants in food (generally through regulatory decision)
- The Development of a guideline / code of practice: conditions of production that help minimize microbiological or chemical risks
- Consumption advice for a specific food (e.g., fish consumption for pregnant women)

□ Managing a Food Incident

- Mandating the recall of a food product



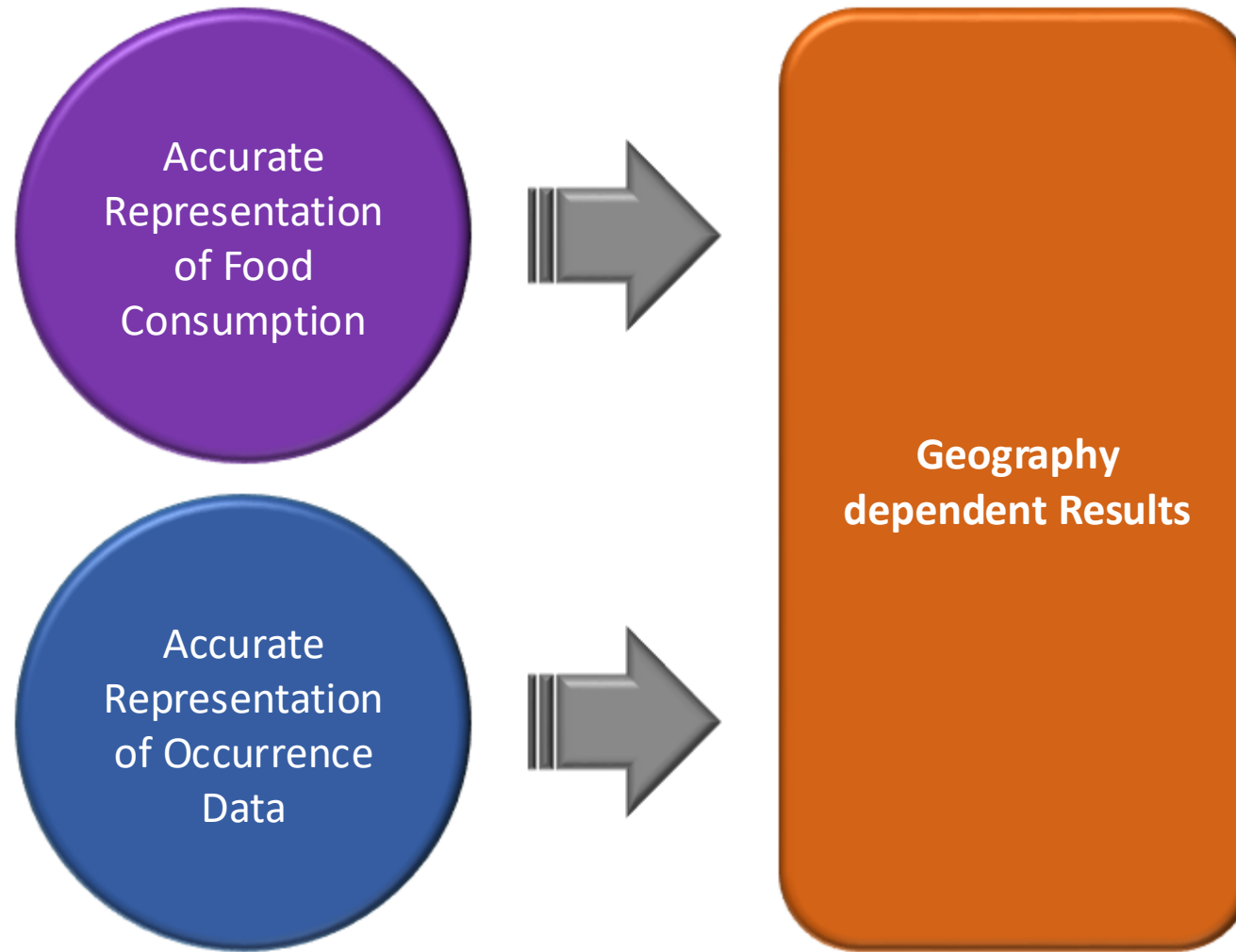
Iterative, Non Linear Approach





**Is a Risk Assessment
Conducted Internationally
Valid for Every Country**

What Makes a Risk Assessment Representative ?



Requirements of Continued Investment

