



Impact of Aflatoxins on Trade

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Overview

- Implications of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures on food safety and trade (safe trade)
- Challenges in regional and international trade
- Recent cases of aflatoxins in the EU & Lessons learnt
- Priorities for PACA



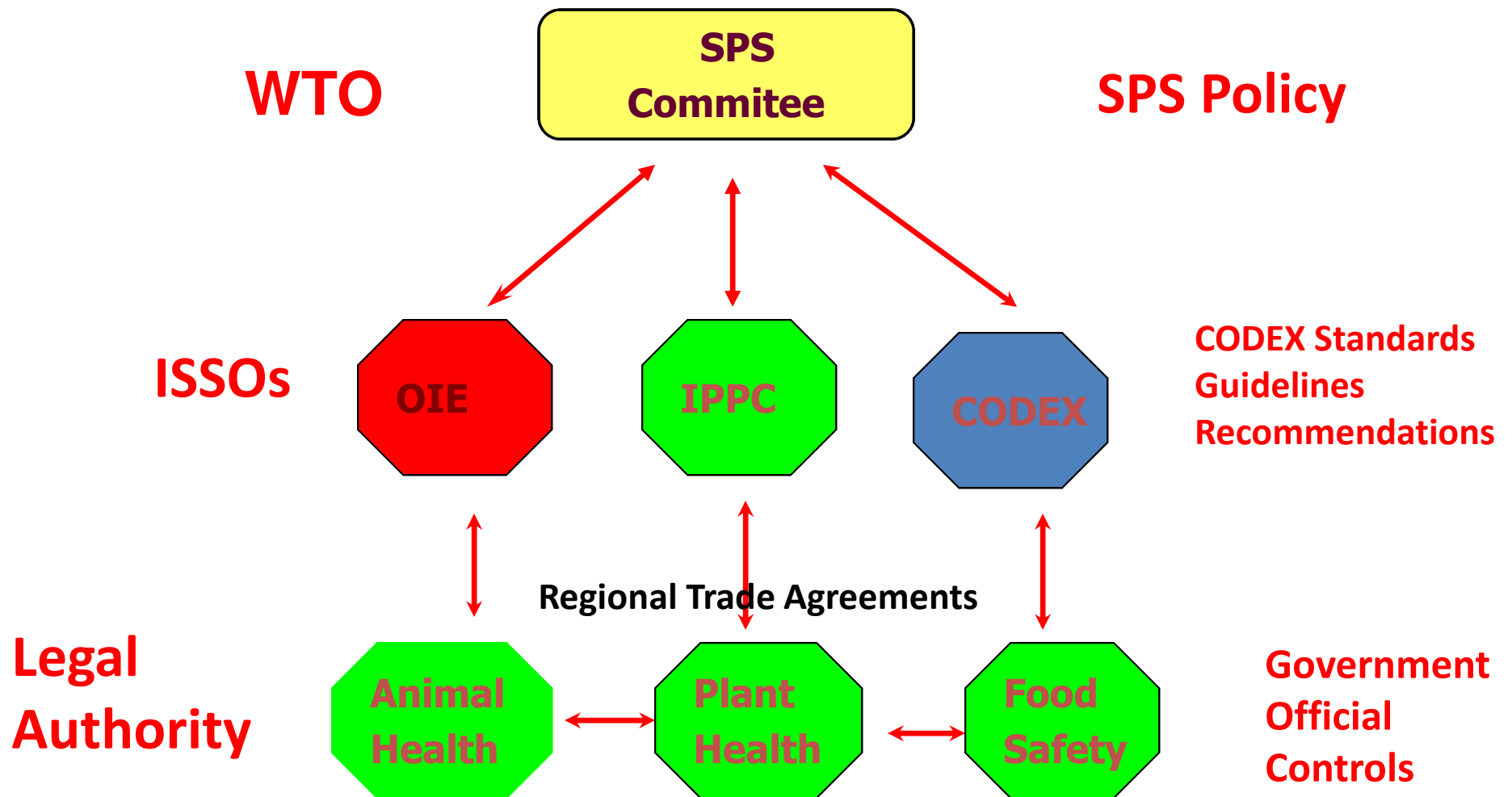
The WTO SPS Agreement

Objective - human, plant and animal health

In terms of food safety, key provisions that underpin national food safety systems are:

- **Article 3** – Role of International Standards (Codex)
- **Article 4** - Equivalence of food safety systems
- **Article 5** – Risk analysis, i.e. risk assessment, risk management and risk communication
- **Article 7** – Transparency in both domestic and external trade

The WTO SPS Agreement (Governance)





Mycotoxins/aflatoxins challenge in regional trade

- Mobilizing public / private investments
- Legislation & institutional framework
- Varied sampling and testing protocols (scientific data for establishing FSO and negotiating equivalence)
- Varied laboratory competencies, rejection of certificates of analysis
- The result in mistrust and **restrictions on trade in aflatoxin sensitive foods**
- Maize, peanuts, cassava, and value added products e.g. peanut butter, cassava flour etc



Challenges in international trade

EU 178/2002 – (a) places legal obligations on food operators (producers, food & feed processors) to ensure food safety, to review and control critical control points for mycotoxin contamination (**systems**), supplemented by;

(b) maximum limits for mycotoxins in food stuffs **Reg 165/2010** amends Reg. 1881/2006, **total aflatoxin from 4 to 8 ppb for ready to eat, 10-12 ppb for further processing, aflatoxin M1/ 0.05 ppb**, (c) OC methods for sampling and analysis of mycotoxins **Reg 178/2010** amends Reg 401/2006, bringing EU legislation in line with Codex (from 30 kg to 20 kg sample size)

COUNTRY	Total Aflatoxins	COMMENTS
Republic of South Africa	10 - 15 ppb	Cereals, peanuts, other nuts
Zambia	10 ppb	Cereals, peanuts, other nuts
Malawi	5 ppb	Cereals, peanuts, other nuts
Zimbabwe	5 ppb	Cereals, peanuts, other nuts
Kenya	10 ppb	Cereals, peanuts, other nuts
Egypt	10 ppb	Cereals, peanuts, other nuts



Challenges in international trade

- The World Bank estimates that Africa loses over US\$750 million in export trade earnings annually due to aflatoxin contamination'
- Reference : *Otsuki, T., Wilson, J. S. & Sewadeh, M. (2001) saving two in a billion: quantifying the Trade effect of European food safety standards on African exports. Food Policy, 26 (5), 495-514.*
- *RASFF notifications; 2000-2010 (10 notifications), 2011-2012 (9 notifications)*



Recent cases in the EU (Feb – Mar 2013)

- **Romania, Serbia, Croatia** - aflatoxins in milk
- **Germany:** Aflatoxin in animal feed traced to a shipment from Serbia
- **Belgium:** High levels of aflatoxin in milk and feed - suspected source, maize imported from Romania
- 2001-2011 – EU RASFF had 9 notifications
- 2012-2013 – EU RASFF had 10 notifications
- While in the past aflatoxin was a problem with imports, increasingly these are problems in the EU
- **China** – consumer rejection of infant formula



Lessons Learnt & Priority actions for PACA

Lessons Learnt – (1) A food safety problem in one country easily becomes a regional problem , (b) The EU early detection, emergency response systems & RASFF, **Priority Actions (1)** evidence to identify & pilot best practice /policy, regulatory, equivalence, mitigation technology **(2)** Utilize the convening power of AU/RECs **(3)** utilize existing financing mechanisms (IF, CAADP,CC) to scale up best practice in policy, regulatory, mitigation etc