

STRENGTHENING FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN WEBINAR

ESTABLISHMENT OF CARIBBEAN TASK FORCE FOR FOOD SAFETY

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OVERVIEW

- Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
- Regional Achievements
- Establishment of Caribbean Food Safety Task Force
- Level of Control for Safe Food

Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency

- Regional Inter-governmental Organization – signed Agreement among CARICAOM Member States in 2010
- Governed by Board of Directors representing each Member State. In 2016, permanent CAHFSA office, Paramaribo Suriname
- Three Departments –Plant Health, Animal Health and Food Safety - Food Safety Specialist – 1st April 2022
- Mandate: Enhance regional agricultural health and food safety by performing a coordinating and organizing role in actions and activities for regional harmonized SPS mechanism

Dr. Gavin Peters
CEO ,Animal Health
Specialist



Mrs Juliet Goldsmith
Plant Health Specialist



Dr. Suzan McLennon-Miguel
Food Safety Specialist



Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)

- Regional coordination on strategic SPS issues and participate in meeting on WTO SPS Committee and at the International Standard Setting Bodies
- Technical Advisory Committees – CPHD, CCVOs
- Collaborate with other regional committees, trade partners, nongovernmental organizations
- Database national Focal points – Codex, IPPC, WOAHA and WTO / SPS

Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
Strengthened Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures
Plant / Animal / Food Safety
IPPC / WOAHA / CODEX – Standard Setting Bodies

LAYERS OF CONTROL - SAFE FOOD



Caribbean
Member States

Official Control
Systems

Food Control Manuals

System Audits

Farmers and Food –
Handling Businesses



Documented Self-
Controls

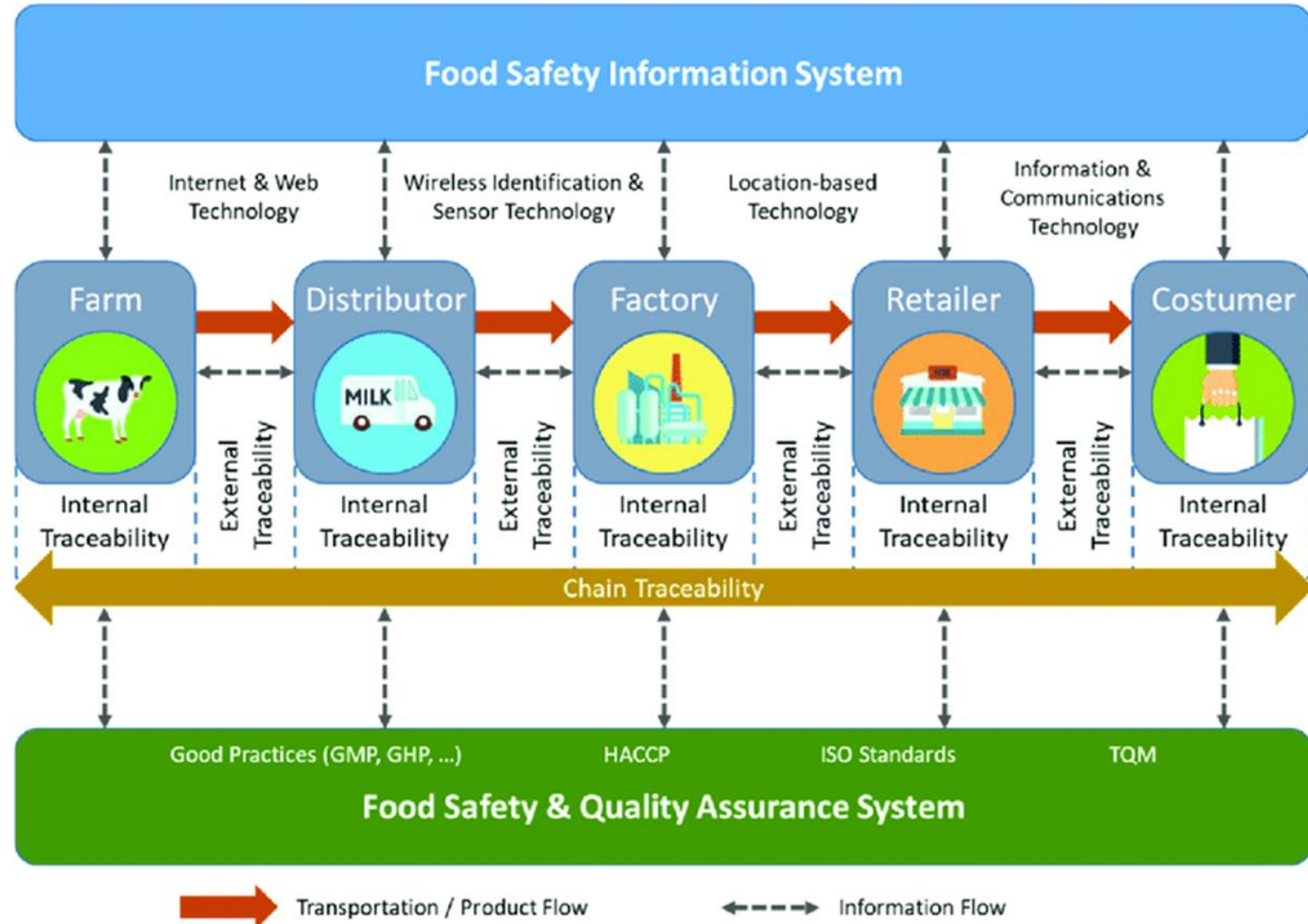
Food Safety
Management Systems

Good Agricultural
Practices

Harmonized Regional Food Safety Strategy

Regional Achievements

- Good Agricultural Practices(GLOBAL GAP) – Jamaica - export to USA, Canada, EU, Region(Honey, Fishery, Meat, Milk and Eggs, Plant Products
- GMP – Packing Houses
- Processing plants –FSC
- National Codex Committees
- National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Committees
- CAHFSA
- Plant and Animal trade policy
- 19 guidelines in plant and animal products
- Regional Risk assessments
- Technical Advisory committees – Plant and Animal



TECHNICAL
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
FOR
FOOD SAFETY



Caribbean Workshop on Food Safety Standards Coordination— Suriname 23- 25 July 2019

- Jointly organized Government of Suriname, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Caribbean Agricultural, Health and Food Safety Agency(CAHFSA)
- Common Food Safety challenges and prioritize interventions
- Coordinated Mechanism for Food Safety Standards setting environment
- Common Food Safety(Standards) Action Plan for the Region
- Recommendation: Caribbean Task Force on Food Safety:

Source: Report on the Caribbean Workshop on Coordinated Food Standards Setting
Held: Paramaribo, Suriname 23 – 25 July 2019
SAMAP/FAO – Suriname Agriculture Market Access Project

Caribbean Task Force on Food Safety



- Two members nominated from Member states to sit on this task force – Ministries of Agriculture, Health or Food Safety Agency
- Act as Standing technical advisory support to CAHFSA in fulfilling its food safety mandate to regional and international trade
- Advise CAHFSA on the coordination of Food Safety programmes and the development of food safety standards
- Set and operated according to best practices of food safety regional coordination mechanism

Summary Functions and Areas of interventions

Proposed CTFS functions - advisory capacity to CAHFSA

- **Coordination** of food safety programmes
- **Support** to collective research and data generation
- **Coordination** and enhance impacts of food safety capacity building initiatives
- **Development and maintenance of roster** of food safety experts, food regulatory science expertise, laboratories
- **Advise** to government/food competent authorities on food safety programmes and initiatives
- Facilitation of **information exchange** and rapid alert system for food safety incidents

Proposed thematic areas of Food Safety Interventions

- Analysis of gaps in **food safety legislations** and development of a common framework of Food safety legislations and regulations
- **Coordination of Codex positions** and effective participation of food regulators from the region in international food standard setting processes
- **Frameworks** and options for the operation of National Food Safety competent authorities
- **Development of common standards** for pesticides, food additives and other substances and processes used in conjunction with food production

SEPTEMBER 2022 LAUNCH OF CARIBBEAN FOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE



Caribbean Food Safety Task Force

- Endorsement by the Ministerial Council of Trade and Development (COTED)- Establish and operationalize a technical committee to provide advice to CAHFSA on food safety issues
- July 2022 - Letters of invitations for nominations to the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Food Safety Agencies 30 members from Member states - to be confirmed
- Taskforce meeting convened first meeting
- Governance structure determined – Chair, vice chair, secretariat(CAHFSA)
- TOR and Rules of procedure reviewed and adopted



Proposed Work programme

- Task Force / Committee ?
- Develop Work programme - Advise CAHFSA and Governments:
- Functions
- Food safety capacity building initiatives
- New technologies
- Human resource development in food safety
- Food Laboratory operations
- Food risk assessments
- Educational training for food safety specialists

WHAT'S
NEXT?



THREE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

PLANT

Chief Plant Health
Directors
CPHD



ANIMAL

Caribbean Chief
Veterinary Officers
CCVOs

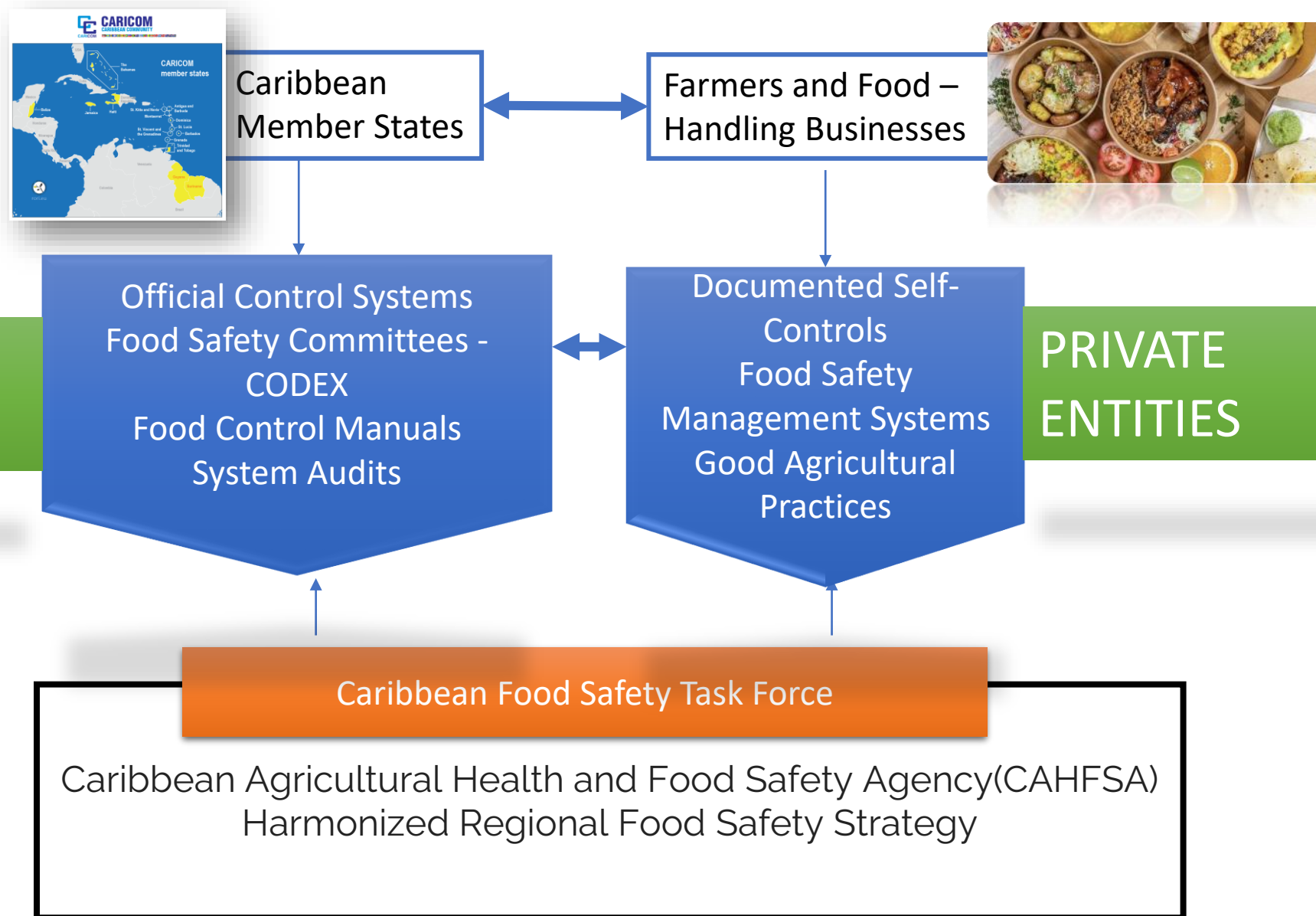


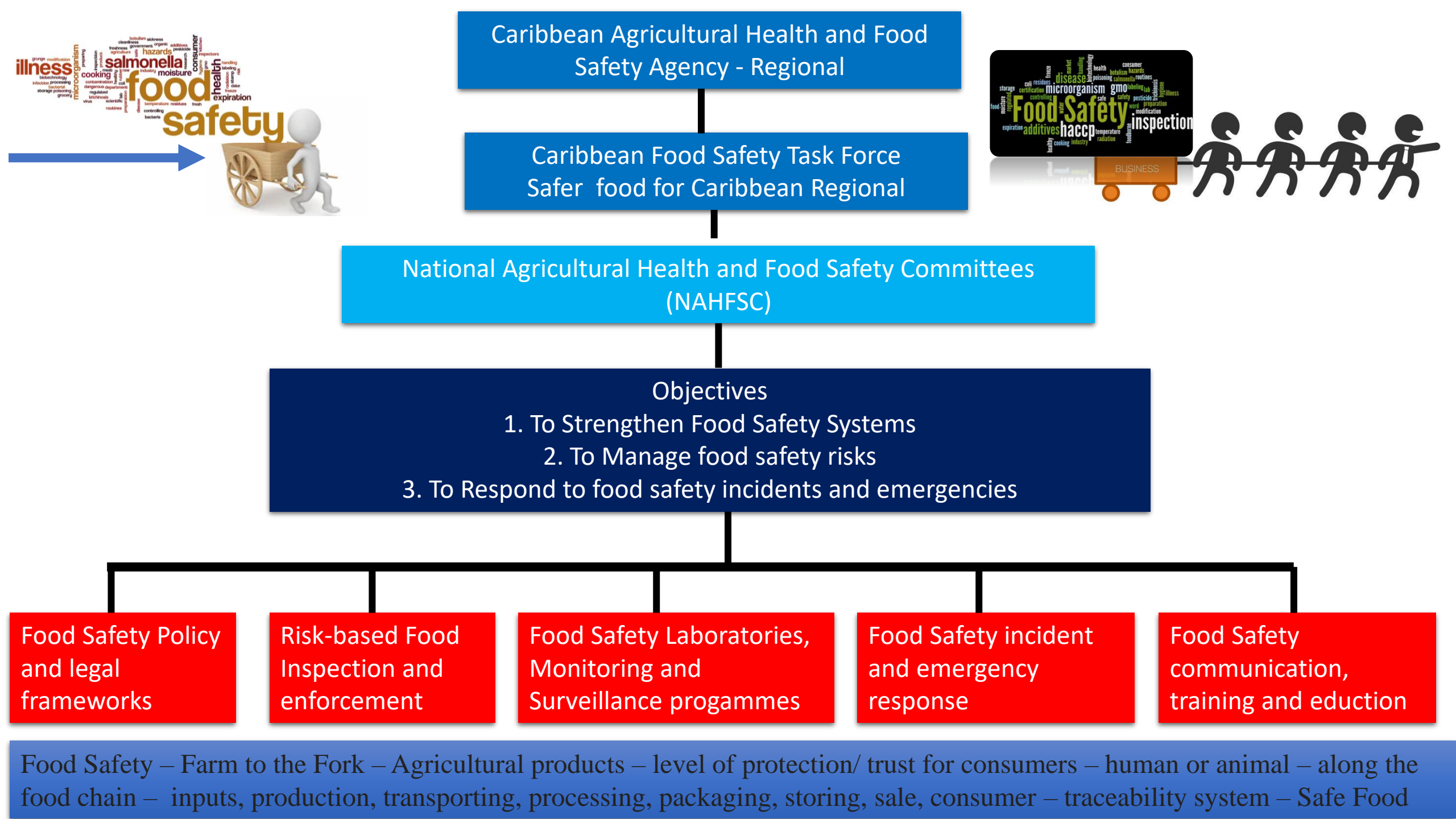
FOOD SAFETY

Caribbean Food Safety
Task Force
CFSTF



LAYERS OF CONTROL –SAFE FOOD – PARTNERSHIP





CARIBBEAN FOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE REGION





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