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National Food Control Systems: Challenges and Opportunities

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Outline of Presentation

- Introduction: foodborne diseases in Africa
- Management of hazards
- Pillars of a National Food control system
- FAO/WHO Assessment tool
- State of national food control systems
- Case of Nigeria: challenges and opportunities
- Conclusion

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Introduction: WHO Report on the Global Estimate of Foodborne Diseases (launched on 4.12.2015)

- **Foodborne diseases are a Global concern**
- **Approximately 600 Million (almost 1 in 10 people in the world) fall ill every year from eating contaminated food.**
- **There a an estimated 420 000 deaths foodborne diseases related per year.**
- **1/3 of children under 5 years old.**

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Introduction: WHO Report on the Global Estimate of Foodborne Diseases (launched on 4.12.2015)

- **Foodborne diseases are a Global concern**

- 31 foodborne hazards resulted in ***33 million DALYS*** (Disability Adjusted Life Years) in 2010

- WHO (2012) – key hazards & risk factors:

  Malaria: 55 million DALYs
  Tuberculosis: 44 million DALYs
  (HIV/AIDS: 92 million DALYs)

- The burden of FBD at 33 million DALYS is of similar magnitude to at

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Causes:

Contaminated foods containing:

- **harmful bacteria,**
- **viruses,**
- **parasites,**
- **toxins or**
- **chemical substances**

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Introduction: WHO Report on the Global Estimate of Foodborne Diseases (launched on 4.12.2015)

- **Foodborne diseases in Africa**

- **Africa has the highest burden of foodborne diseases per population and the highest rate death rate.**

- **More than 91 million fall ill each year from foodborne diseases**

- **137000 foodborne disease related –deaths (1/3 of the global death toll)**

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Introduction: WHO Report on the Global Estimate of Foodborne Diseases (launched on 4.12.2015)

- **Foodborne diseases in Africa**

- **70% of the foodborne diseases are due to diarrheal diseases caused by:**

  - non-typhoidal *Salmonella*,
  - *E. coli* and
  - foodborne cholera.

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Introduction: WHO Report on the Global Estimate of Foodborne Diseases (launched on 4.12.2015)

➢ **Foodborne diseases in Africa**

➢ **Chemical hazards cause 25% of the deaths from foodborne diseases in Africa are specifically due to:**

❖ **cyanide: paralysis (Konzo) caused by cyanide in cassava, is unique to the African Region. It leads to the death of 20% of those affected.**

❖ **aflatoxin in nuts, maize (PACA)**

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WHO Report on the Global Estimate of Foodborne Diseases (launched on 4.12.2015)

HOWEVER,

the risk of getting foodborne diseases is higher and most severe in low- and middle- income countries than in high income countries

WHY ???

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WHO Report on the Global Estimate of Foodborne Diseases (launched on 4.12.2015)

Risk Factors:

- preparing food with unsafe water
- poor hygiene
- poor food production and storage conditions
- low levels of literacy and education
- insufficient food safety legislation
- lack of enforcement of food safety legislation

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National Food Control systems

Pillars of a National Food Control System: Government Responsibility

- ❖ **Legislative framework**
- **Food Safety policy**
- **Food safety law and regulations**
- ❖ **Institutional Framework**
- **Competent authorities**
- **Inspection activities**
- ❖ **Laboratory Support**
- ❖ **Food Safety and Quality Information, education and communication(IEC)**

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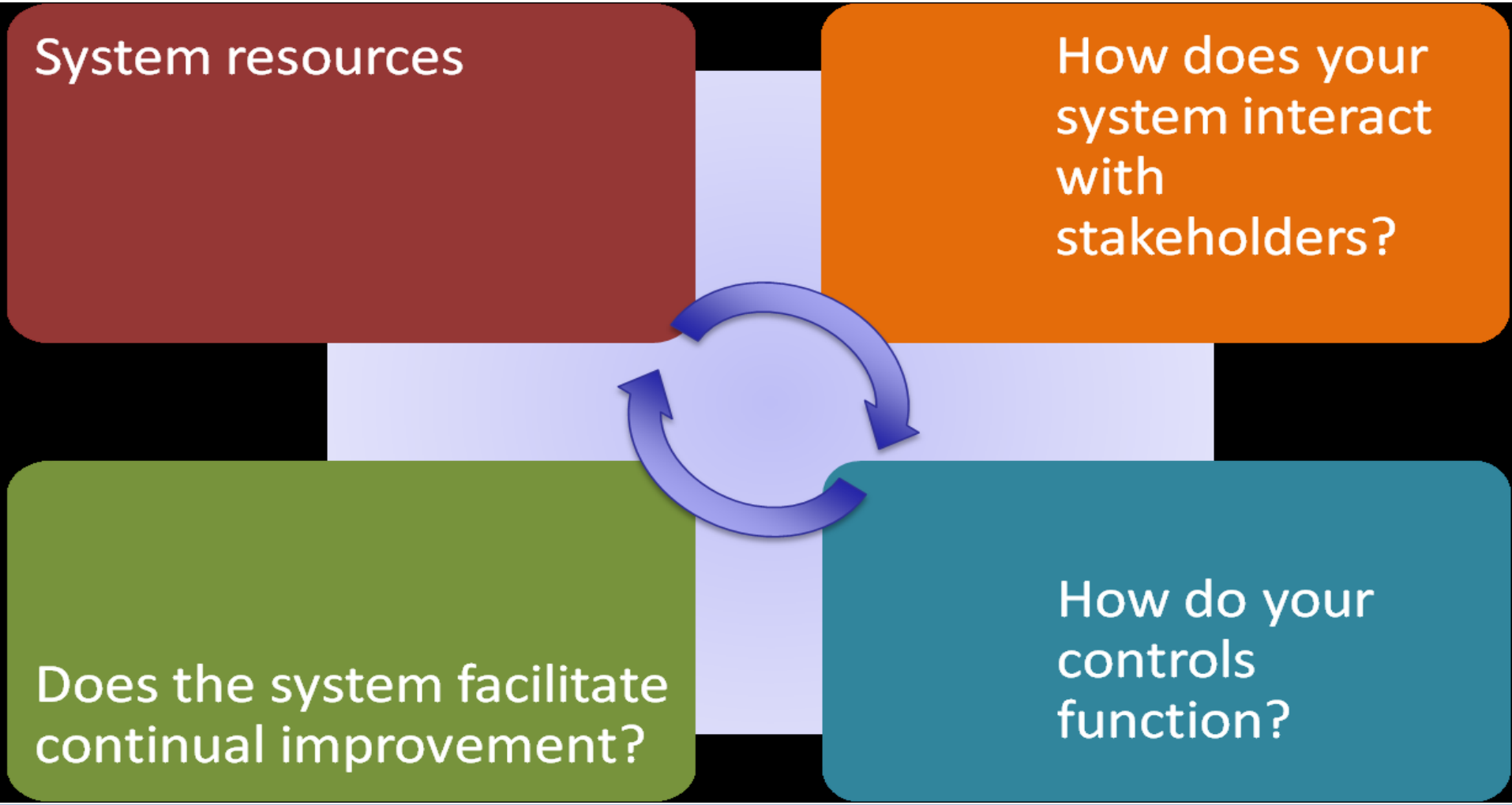
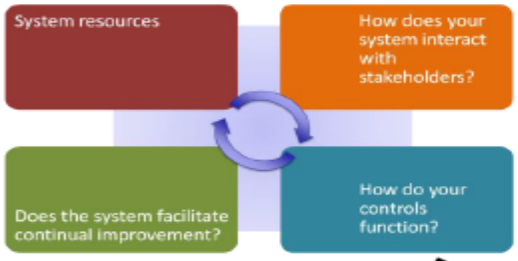
Foundations for FAO/WHO tool



How do your controls function?



Control functions

Competencies

- *Routine domestic controls*
- *Food monitoring and surveillance programmes*
- *Food safety emergencies management*
- *Public health surveillance*
- *Import controls*
- *Export certification*

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Competencies are measured through specific criteria

Each criteria is either "not achieved", "partially achieved" or "fully achieved"

Criteria are "unpacked" to allow measurement of progress

Evidence based assessment to measure progress

Example criteria

1. *The country is an active member of Codex and other relevant international organizations (WTO, OIE)*
2. *An inclusive and transparent consultation mechanism is in place of Codex related matters*
3. *The country provides Codex (and its relevant scientific advice bodies) with relevant scientific or technical information*
4. *Codex standard and other relevant guidance is appropriately used at national level*

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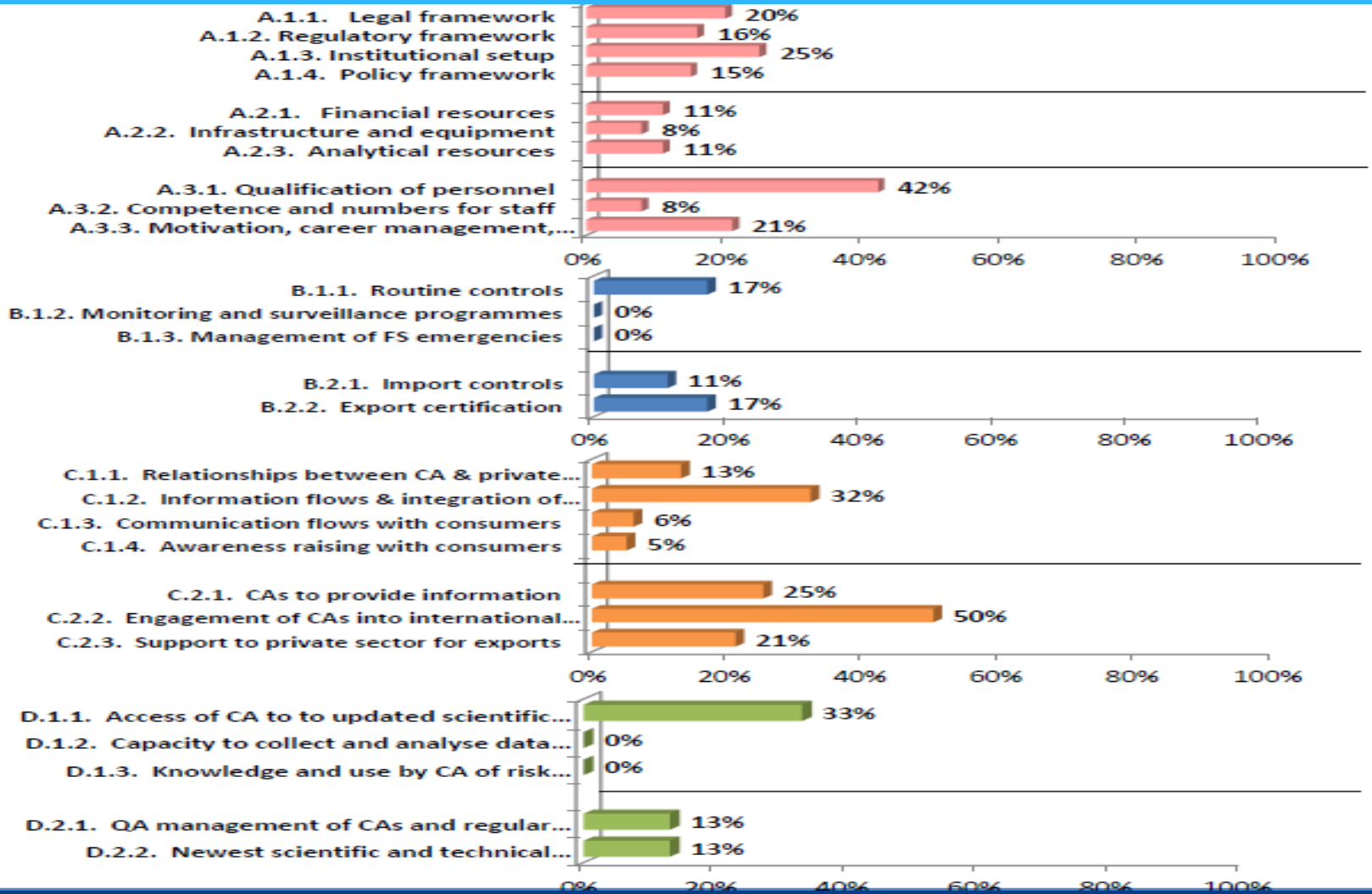
Example of summary feedback provided to field tested country



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National Food control systems: African situation

- Different levels of development: South Africa versus South Sudan
- Outdate laws
- Weak enforcement authorities
- Low level of inspection activities: in some countries used for collection of taxes than protection of consumers
- No linkage and association made between illnesses and a particular food. No stool samples take and tested. No food testing

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National Food control systems: African situation

- Industry not under pressure to invest in food safety (considered unnecessary cost)
- When inspections done: not science or risk based (salmonella in raw poultry)
- Poor or lack of laboratory support. Most have lab and equipments thanks to donors for photos but no consumables for lab testing
- Poor or lack of training and no information for consumers

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National Food control systems: Nigeria Case(challenges)

- Outdate law: Food and Drug act - No food safety law

- Multiple food safety authorities who are:

  • Uncoordinated
  • Weak enforcement activities, gaps, overlaps of mandates and duplication of work

- Relatively good laboratory infrastructure

- Training and information for consumers

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National Food control systems: Nigeria Case(Opportunities)

- With an FAO TCP we were able over 2 years (2014-2016) to:

- Develop an agreed upon standalone Food Safety and Quality Bill For Nigeria. Separate from the FDA, Cover quality issues and cover the food chain to include food and feed.

- Propose an agreed upon institutional reform:

•Better clarification of mandates: roles and responsibilities for the various Food Safety Authorities to avoid overlaps and duplications

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National Food control systems: Nigeria Case(Opportunities)

➢ **Institutional Reforms:**

• **Creation of a National Food Safety Management Committee (NFSMC) to coordinate all food safety activities of CAs – Representatives from all government CAs, states, academia, private sector and consumer associations**

•**NAFDAC whose mandate will change to provide Secretariat to NFSMC**

• **Setting of a Council of 5 most important Ministers in food safety: Health, Agriculture, Trade, Environment and Science + 1 Rep of private**

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National Food control systems: Conclusions

- African food control systems are diverse and at different level of development
- Characterized in general by outdated legislations and non science based regulations
- Weak or lack of enforcement activities by various uncoordinated CAs with gaps in the coverage of the food chain, overlaps and duplication of mandates
- Poor or lack of laboratory infrastructures and support
- Poor or lack of IEC activities

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National Food control systems: Conclusions

- Poor or lack of laboratory infrastructures and support
- Poor or lack of IEC activities
- However, with the support of regional and international partners, awareness and political will at country level, it is possible to turn the situation around.
- Building efficient and performent National Food Control Systems: Long term undertaking which requires both human and financial resources

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Thank you for your kind attention