



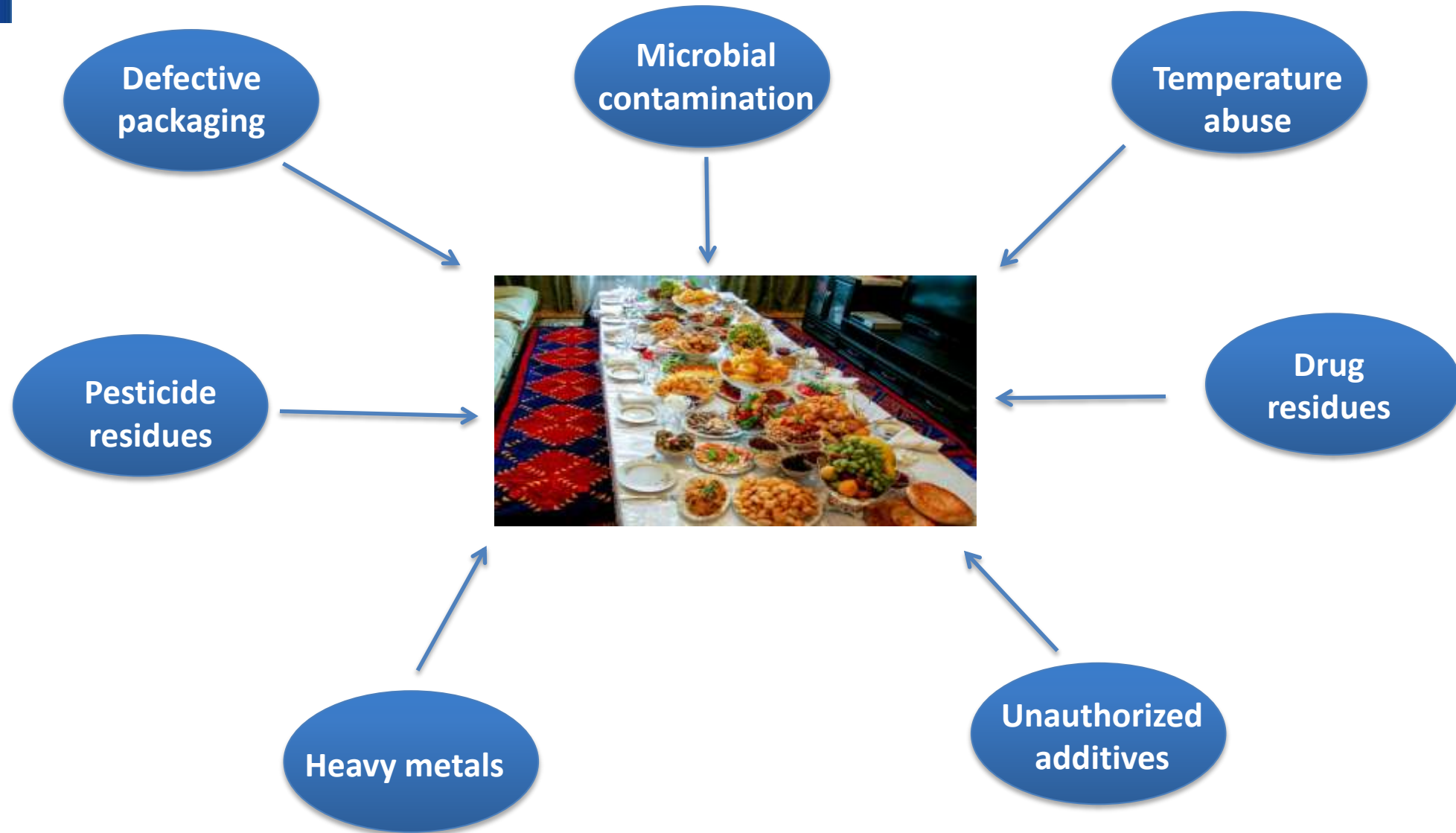
Proposed Establishment of the CAREC Regional Food Safety Network

Supported by TA 9274–REG: Strengthening International Standards in Agricultural Value Chains in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Member Countries (administered by CWER)

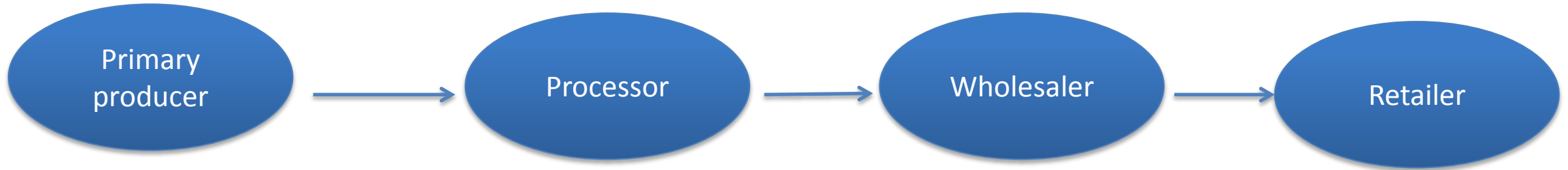
Food safety problems affect both public health and trade

- According to WHO estimates, about 600 million (almost one in 10) people fall ill and 420,000 die every year due to foodborne illnesses. This is equivalent to loss of 33 million healthy life years.
- Countries like the US, Canada, EU, Australia, NZ, and Japan have *substantially* lower rates of food borne illnesses than others

Multiple factors impact food safety



Who is responsible for food safety?

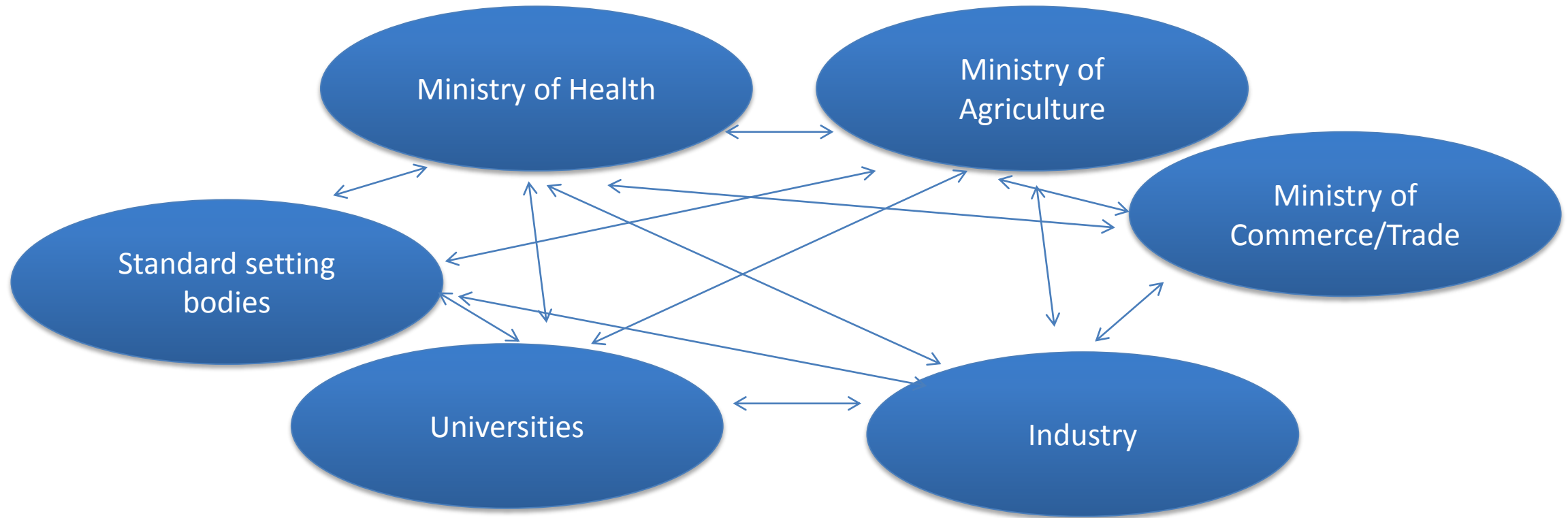


=> All those involved in food production – across the food chain – given that food safety risks can arise at any of these points

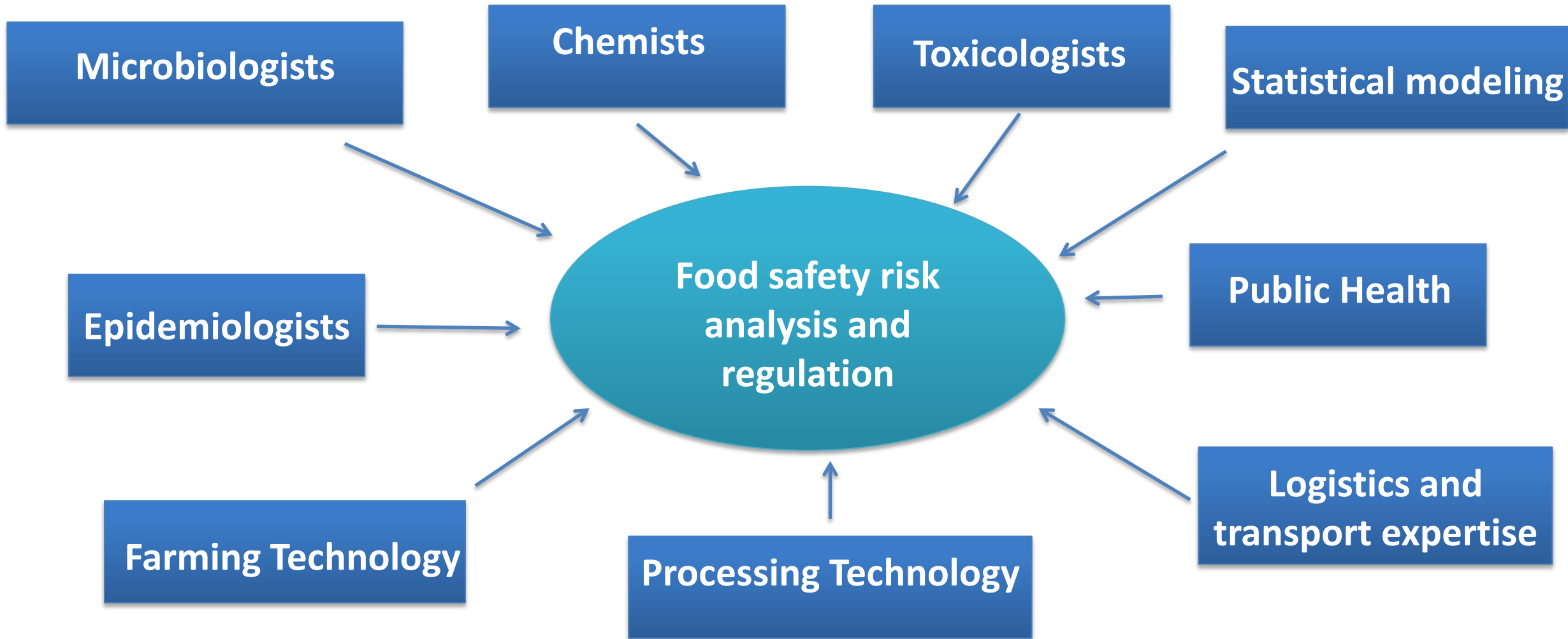
Modern food safety regulatory systems



Multi-institutional food safety arrangements need coordination



Multi-disciplinary expertise needed for food safety regulatory systems



Under WTO Rules - Food Safety Standards have to be based on science – role of Codex

- WTO SPS agreement recognizes Codex Alimentarius Commission as the international standard setting body for food safety.
- Scientific advice for standard setting comes from Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees:
 - Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA)
 - Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
 - Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide residues (JMPR)
- Codex standards can be adopted as national standards by countries
- In areas where Codex standards do not exist, countries can have national standards based on risk assessments carried out as per Codex Guidelines.



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Sanitary and phytosanitary measures



Regional approach to food safety – food safety networks

- Regions throughout the world benefit from Food Safety Networks
 - European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
 - ASEAN Regional Food Safety Framework
 - African Food Safety Network (AFoSaN)
 - Latin American food analysis laboratory network (RILAA)
- Regional food safety networks can:
 - share experience, expertise and laboratory testing capacities/expertise,
 - collaborate on standards development and
 - coordinate action to prevent non-compliant food being traded around the region

CAREC 2030: Objectives for Agriculture and Trade

- Develop a **CAREC food safety network and a common quality control system** to broaden access to export markets, particularly horticultural exports, by managing the use of pesticides and improving food safety standards.

Tashkent May 23-24 Workshop of CAREC food safety representatives

- ✓ Representatives from the key food safety agencies in 11 CAREC countries met to discuss options for improving co-ordination and collaboration in country and across the region
- ✓ Discussed options for establishing regional food safety network
- ✓ **Agreed in principle** to recommend establishment of a **Regional Food Safety Network**



Proposed Terms of Reference for the CAREC Regional Food Safety Network



Primary focus: assisting in the adoption of Codex standards by CAREC member countries

Proposed TOR:

- Assisting with the harmonization of national standards with Codex standards, and the development of regional standards;
- Coordinating input into Codex committees
- Sharing of information on:
 - Authorized food safety and/or customs agencies contact points and contact details, and INFOSAN contact points;
 - Scientific data and risk analysis information;
 - National legislation, regulations and control systems—including, traceability, and introduction of management systems in food safety (GHP, GMP, and HACCP);
 - Key technical specialists in areas including microbiology, chemical and physical analysis, toxicology, and food-processing technologies;
 - Experiences from national operations; and
 - Training
- Sharing of expertise on risk analysis, traceability, introduction of food safety management systems (GHP, GMP and HACCP) among member countries.

Proposed logistics of the regional network

- To share information by email and electronic discussion groups and post public information on the CAREC food safety web portal
- To meet once a year – with the chairing/hosting to rotate in accordance with CAREC norms
- ADB to finance the first meeting, proposed for early 2020
- Cost of subsequent annual meeting and maintaining electronic discussion platform to be shared by member countries (estimated to be in the range of US\$70,000-US\$80,000 per annum)

Guidance sought from SOM

- On the proposed TOR for the CAREC Regional Food Safety Network (as presented in **Slide 13**) with its focus on **Codex input and standards**
- On the host/chair country of the Network in 2020 based on expression of interest. Subsequent hosting/chair of the Network could be rotated among CAREC countries based on certain criteria agreed by all.
- For post-2020 consideration:
 - either the host country (to be determined annually) to finance the cost of administering the Network including its website and electronic discussion platform (estimated to be in the range of US\$70,000–US\$80,000 per annum);
 - or each member country to contribute an equal share of the Network administration cost through the office of its CAREC focal point; and
 - each member country to finance the cost of sending national representatives to attend the Network annual meetings, and associated training when required.