

Understanding & comparing food safety schemes: private benchmarking & government recognition

Food Safety Research Consortium Workshop
Assuring Safety of Imported Foods

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Presentation Outline

- Some Background
- The Players – who does what?
- Some Definitions
- The Rules – how do they do it?
- Outstanding Issues

Some Background

- This presentation originates out of work done for:
 - Canadian Commodity Groups (poultry, horticultural)
 - Canadian Government Departments (AAFC & CFIA)
 - Canadian On-Farm Food Safety (COFFS) Working Group (national commodity groups & general farm organizations)
 - Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition (national associations representing every segment of the supply chain)
 - Government departments (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, CFIA)
 - Joint Comparison Project (Canadian Horticultural Council, Canadian Produce Marketing Association, Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers)
- All of whom share an interest in ensuring that Canada's food safety programs meet the "emerging global expectations" through a collaborative approach
- The Views & Conclusions are, of course, my own

The Players – It's a big field!

- **Food Businesses implement food safety management systems** - input suppliers, service providers, producers, processors, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, foodservice, etc –
- **Organizations developing food safety standards guidance documents, etc** – Governments, Codex, FAO/OIE, ISO, national SDOs, industry associations, private businesses, NGOs –
- **Food Safety Schemes combine standards & conformity assessment systems**– NGO's, industry associations, certification bodies, private businesses, governments

The Players (2)

- **Conformity Assessment system** - involves auditors, certification bodies (CBs) (systems & personnel), accreditation bodies (ABs), mutual recognition agreements (International Accreditation Forum)
- **Private Benchmarking Schemes based on requirements (standards for schemes) & processes to assess them** – such as GlobalGAP, Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), International Feed Safety Alliance (IFSA)
- **Recognition Programs run by Governments (Canada, EU, US, NZ, etc)** – also establish requirements & processes to assess food safety schemes

The Challenge



On the Labels:

Valencia

Egypt

Climate Neutral

Organic

Fairtrade

Underneath:

Food Safety (7)

Environment

Occupational Health

Social Responsibility

Plethora of Standards & Certifications

- Launched in EU in March 2009 by Eosta (wholesaler in The Netherlands) & Magrabi Agriculture (Egypt)
- Valencia oranges – not a PDO (protected destination of origin)
- **Certifications**
 - **Organic** (SKAL), **Fairtrade** (FLO-Cert) & **Climate Neutral** (TUV-Nord)
 - Other: LEAF (UK environmental program – NSF/CMi), OHSAS 18001 (SGS), SEDEX (social responsibility – Intertek)
 - **Food safety**: on farm to **GlobalGAP** (SAI Global/EFSIS) & **Tesco Nurture** (NSF/CMi) // upstream to **BRC & IFS** (SAI Global/EFSIS), **ISO 22000** (SGS), **Marks and Spencer**, **McDonalds**, etc

Some Clarification: FSMS – Two Types

- **HACCP Program?**

- Facility/farm **site-specific** application of Codex HACCP approach using a full hazard analysis (biological, chemical & physical) to identify **all** control measures (prerequisites & CCPs) needed to produce safe food

- **Or, HACCP-based Program?**

- Where the hazard analysis is **generic** (i.e. covers all users/producers in a given commodity/segment) and results in a list of commonly accepted hazards (biological, chemical & physical) and related controls that are then translated into GAPs/GHPs/GMPs & CCPs to which user/producer shall adhere. (Canadian definition)

Food Safety Schemes

- There are hundreds of such schemes around the world
 - Europe (2006) – a major EU research project identified 386 most of which dealt with food safety
 - Carrefour – a major global retailer (30 countries) has 398 private label QA schemes (14 countries) – many of which integrated food safety requirements
 - GlobalGAP – is itself a scheme (with 16 commodity modules) has fully benchmarked 14 GAP schemes (10 in fruits & vegetables)
 - Joint Comparison Project looked in depth at 17 fresh produce schemes outside Canada – even though we import produce from over 160 countries

Food Safety Schemes in Canada

- Development started in mid-1990's
- Collaborative effort initially between national farm organizations & federal government
- Evolved to include full supply chain & provincial governments
- Major Principles
 - Consistent approach
 - National HACCP-based programs (Codex principles)
 - Industry-led, commodity or segment specific
 - Voluntary, market-driven
 - Technically sound & administratively effective
 - Government recognized

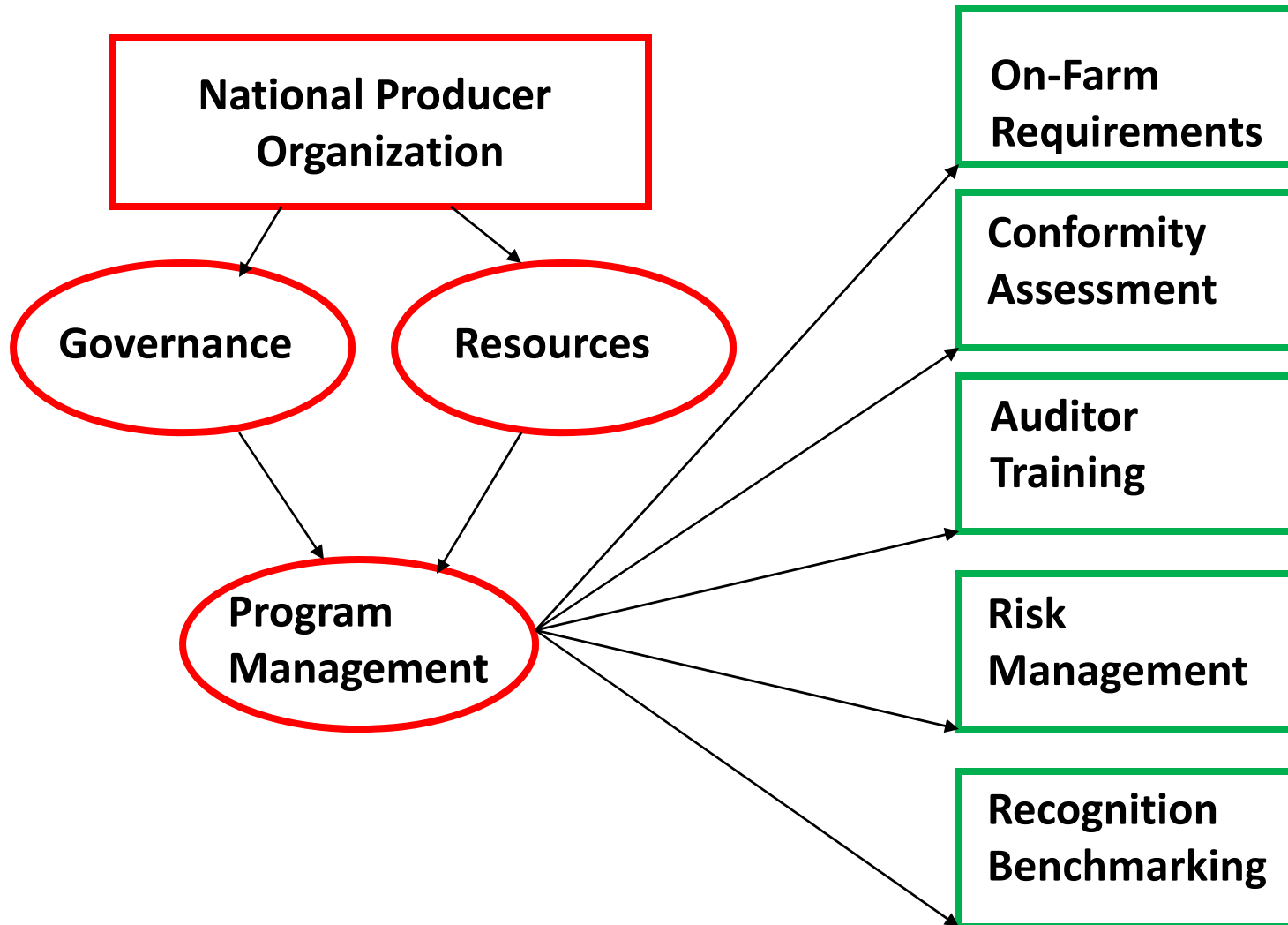
Industry-led Schemes in Canada

- On-farm: 22 commodity-based programs
 - Livestock (8), Poultry (6), Horticulture (4), Grains, oilseeds, pulses & special crops (1), Honey (1), Aquaculture (2)
- Off-farm (13):
 - Inputs (1): Feed mills
 - Food Products (5): Bottled water, Brewers, Vintners, Ice, Spices
 - Distribution (4): Fresh produce repackers/wholesalers, Retail distribution centres, Retail stores, Food banks,
 - Services (3): Trucking (10 modules), Packaging (6 modules), Water & wastewater

Other Schemes

- **Provincial Governments**
 - Ontario, Manitoba & Alberta have established HACCP (site specific) schemes for small & medium sized food processors or manufacturers
- **Federal Government**
 - Registered establishments (FSEP & QMP)
- **'Missing' Segments**
 - Large manufacturers

Essential Scheme Components



OFFS Scheme - CanadaGAP

- Owned by the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC)
- One (1) National program for **producers, packers & storage intermediaries** with 8 modules based on crop groupings:
 - Tree Fruit
 - Small Fruit
 - Greenhouse
 - Potatoes
 - Bulb & Root Vegetables
 - Leafy Vegetables & Cruciferae
 - Fruiting Vegetables
 - Asparagus, Sweet Corn & Legumes

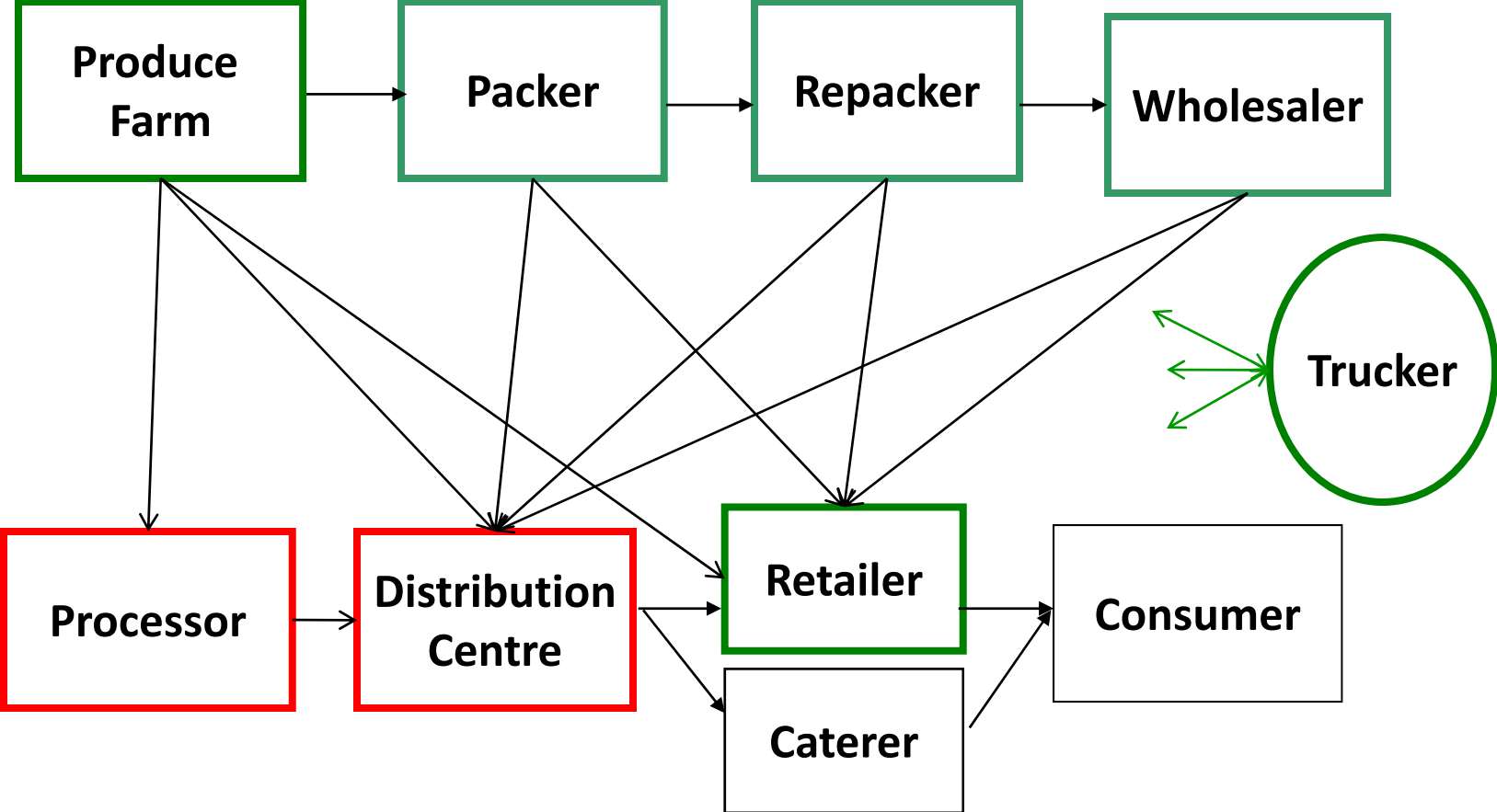
CanadaGAP (1)

- HACCP-based scheme
- Each module consists of:
 - Generic HACCP Model (B,C,P hazards)
 - Module-specific Manual for Producer/Storage Intermediary/Packer
 - Record-Keeping Forms
- Additional materials (generic to all modules):
 - Resources, Examples
 - Checklists, Training Aids
 - Recall Program
 - Communication Materials

CanadaGAP (2)

- Other Components
 - Auditor training requirements & program (generic & scheme specific)
 - Management system (designed to meet CFIA, GFSI & GlobalGAP requirements)
 - Conformity assessment
 - Uses accredited 3rd party CBs
 - Currently sole sourced
 - Expanding to include others
 - Working with three ABs (ANSI, SCC & JAS-ANZ)
- Recognition & Benchmarking
 - CFIA – Technical Review Part 1 – all 8 modules
 - GFSI – in progress
 - GlobalGAP – application submitted

Produce supply chain integration



- Site specific HACCP (red)
- HACCP-based Program (green)

Recognition

- Recognition: formal government acknowledgement
- Programs vary from country to country
 - USDA Process Verified Program
 - EU process for recognizing community-wide industry guidelines (3 in process, 4 in development)
 - EU member states parallel process (e.g. UK: 6 recognized, 4 in process, 8 in development)
 - New Zealand – will cover codes of practice
 - Canadian National Recognition Programs

Recognition – The Canadian Example

- **Recognition:** formal gov't acknowledgement of a HACCP system (site specific) or HACCP-based program (scheme).
- **Partners:** Federal (CFIA), Provincial & Territorial governments (food safety a shared jurisdiction)
- **Two (2) national programs:**
 - **On-Farm:** operational since 2002 using *On-Farm Food Safety Recognition Program Policy and Procedures* (protocol) & *On-Farm Food Safety Recognition Program Procedures and Ongoing Monitoring Manual*
 - **Post-Farm:** to be launched in 2010 using a protocol & procedures manual

Canadian OFFS Program Recognition

- Technical Review Part 1 – Program materials (generic model & producer manual)
 - Screening (CFIA)
 - Federal/Provincial/Territorial assessment team (document review) (size has varied)
 - F2F meeting between team & applicant (3-5 days)
 - Program changes (ANRs), if required, by applicant
 - Letter of completion – “technically sound”

Canadian OFFS Recognition

- Technical Review Part 2 - Management system
 - CFIA team
 - Gap analysis of written management system (covers program updating, conformity assessment, auditor training)
 - Completion of ANRs by applicant
 - Letter of non-objection issued

Canadian OFFS Recognition

- Scheme Implementation
 - Fully implementation (e.g. audits, certification, etc)
 - Internal audit, management review, etc
- 3rd Party Audit
 - “Accredited” 3rd Party audits scheme against Government requirements & written system
 - Scheme undertakes corrective actions, etc
 - Audit report filed with CFIA

Canadian OFFS Recognition

- CFIA National Assessment
 - CFIA visits NPO national office
 - Letter of Recognition issued
- On-going monitoring
 - Scheme files reports – 18 month cycle (updates to technical program, internal audits & management reviews)
 - 3rd Party audit of scheme – 5 years

Private Benchmarking Schemes

- Two major schemes
 - GlobalGAP (formerly EurepGAP) – process for determining if good agricultural practice (GAP) schemes are “equivalent” to its own standard
 - Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) – open to schemes from all segments of the supply chain

Private Benchmarking Schemes

- GlobalGAP
 - Scope – food safety, worker conditions, environment
 - Benchmarking process
 - Auditor Training program
 - Integrity management process
 - MOUs with ABs re accreditation of CBs
- GFSI
 - Scope – only food safety
 - Benchmarking process
 - Integrity management process
 - Relationship with ABs re accreditation of CBs

GlobalGAP Process

- Options:
 - Benchmarking: to full standard or to modified audit checklist
 - Schemes: individual farms (Option 1) or groups (e.g. co-ops, etc) (Option 2)
- Benchmarking – 7 steps
 - Application to GlobalGAP & to an AB (DAP or JAS-ANZ)
 - Independent Technical Review (DAP or JAS-ANZ)
 - Peer Review (GlobalGAP technical committee, e.g. produce)
 - Independent Witnessed Assessment by AB (Scheme & CB)
 - GlobalGAP review
 - Provisional Approval
 - Full Approval

GlobalGAP benchmarked schemes

- Fully approved - 14
 - Fruit & Vegetables - 10
 - Flowers & Ornamentals - 3
 - Cattle & Sheep - 1
- Provisionally approved – 3
 - Fruit & Vegetables - 3
- Applicant
 - Fruit & Vegetables - 5
 - Flowers & Ornamentals – 4
 - Aquaculture - 1

GlobalGAP Reach

- Countries – 100 plus
- Farms certified – 94,480 (July 2009)
 - Individual certificates – 33%
 - Group certificates – 67%
 - Benchmarked standards – est. 80% (2006)
- Regions
 - Europe – 81%
 - Asia – 5%
 - Africa – 4%
 - South America – 7%
 - Oceania – 2%
 - North America – 1%

GFSI Process

- Options:
 - Benchmarking: only to full requirements
 - Schemes: only for individual food businesses (no groups)
- Benchmarking – 4 steps
 - Application to GFSI
 - Screening
 - Technical Review – stakeholder committee
 - Acceptance of Compliance – GFSI board

GFSI Benchmarked Schemes

- **Benchmarked to version 5 – 30,000 firms (est)**
 - BRC Global Standard Version 5
 - Dutch HACCP (Option B)
 - FSSC 22000 (Conditional Recognition)
 - Global Red Meat Standard Version 3
 - International Food Standard Version 5
 - SQF 2000 Level 2
 - GlobalGAP (Fruit and Vegetable options 1 & 2)
- **Benchmarked to a previous version**
 - NewZealandGAP
 - SQF 1000
- **Applicants**
 - Reported to be between 7 & 12 in process

Outstanding Issues

- **Food safety – competitive or non-competitive**
- **Standards bundling**
- **Standards escalation**
- **Competency, Consistency, Credibility**
 - scheme auditors, witness auditors, even government auditors,
 - CBs & ABs,
 - Recognition programs & Benchmarking schemes
- **Resource availability**
 - To assist in implementation/training
 - Auditors etc in conformity assessment functions (private or government)
 - Capacity to benchmark or recognize

Outstanding Issues

- **Harmonization/Common framework**
 - Elements of a scheme
 - Segment/Commodity requirements
 - Conformity assessment
- **Scheme ownership** – public, private, multi-stakeholder
- **Governance of Benchmarking Schemes**
- **Supply chain commitment**
 - Only suppliers or All participants (e.g. are final marketers certified as well)
- **Collaborative dialogue**
 - **Scheme to Scheme**
 - **Supply chain participants**
 - **Industry-government**
 - **National - international**

Thank you

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Assisting Canada's Agri-food Industry to Adapt and Prosper