



Science in the service of humanity

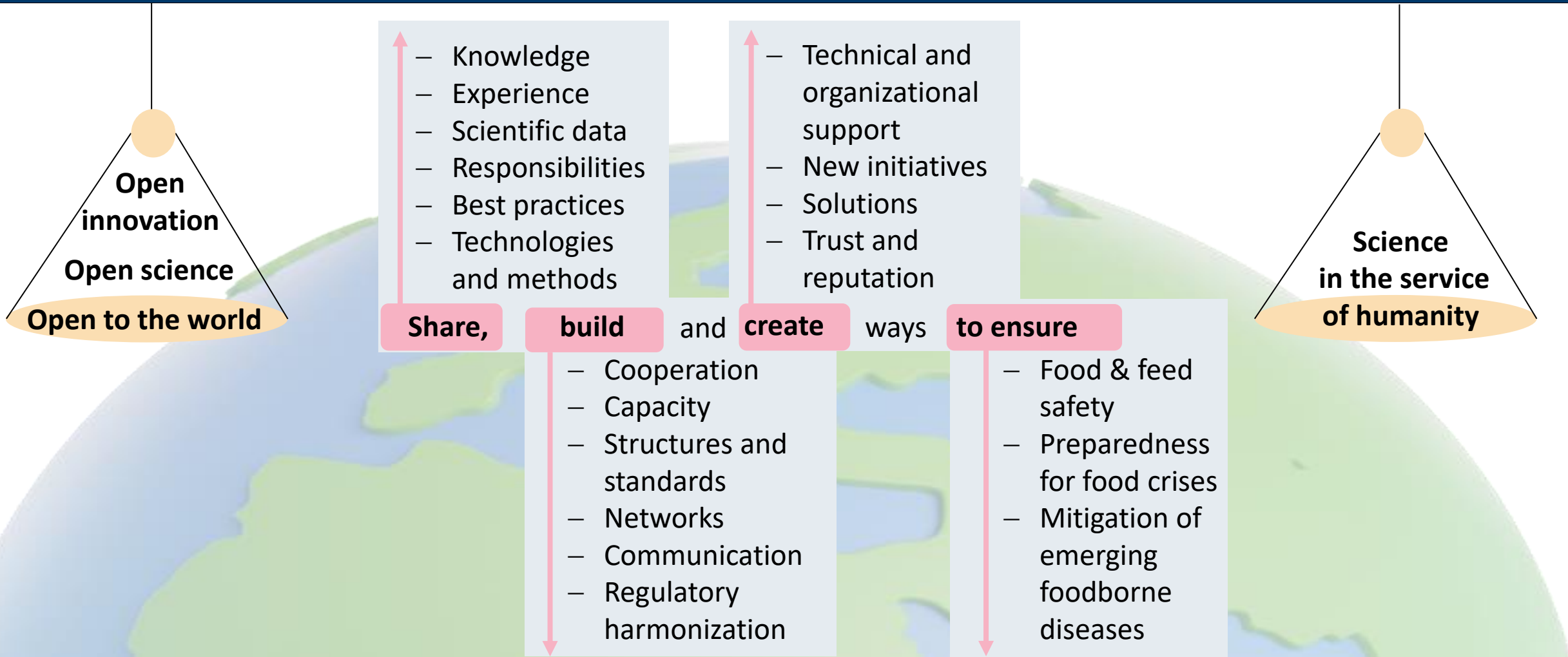
Global cooperation for sustainable
food safety

04.10.2023, 89th EFSA Advisory Forum Meeting

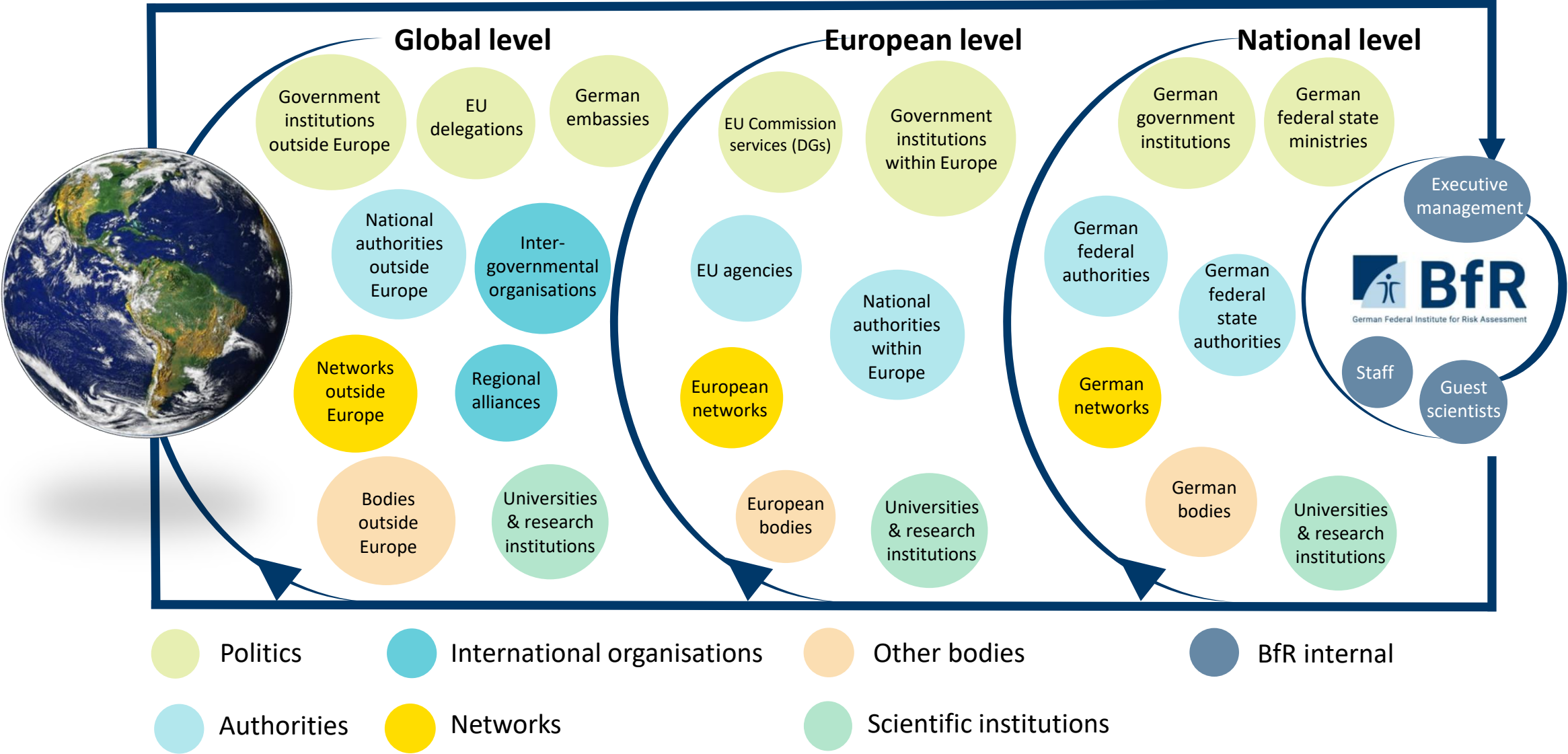
Andreas Hensel
President

Vision

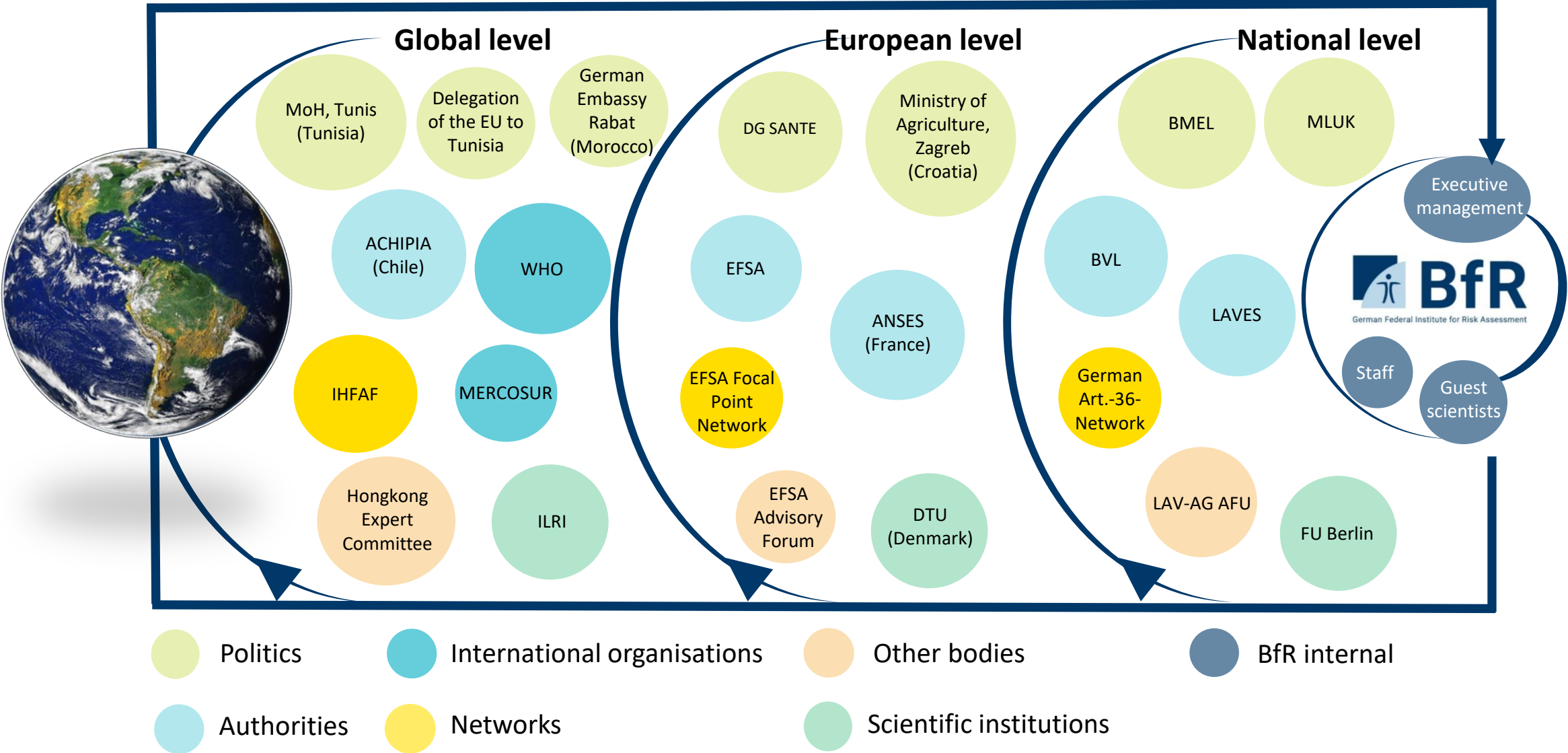
“The protection of human health globally is at the centre of our work.”



BfR Stakeholder groups



BfR Stakeholder examples



Inputs

- BfR International Summer Academy
- BfR World Food Safety Almanac
- RAKIP & other platforms
- Food Chain Lab & other softwares
- Know-how
- etc...

- EU Instruments and Programs for Technical Support & Information Exchange (TSI, Twinning, TAIEX, ENP)
- EU partnerships (EJP, One Health, PARC),
- etc...

BfR Tools

Instruments

Formalized formats: Joint (Research) Projects, Joint Guest Scientist Programs, Declarations of Intent, etc...

Other formats: tailor-made activities (workshops, symposia, study visits), global panels & networks, etc...

BfR Outputs

Open science and open innovation

Research - new findings

New knowledge and technologies

New RA methodologies (NAMs) / Next-Generation Risk Assessment (NGRA)

New structures for food & feed safety

Fit-for-purpose communication

Conferences

Integration of social science in risk analyses

Open to the world

Knowledge & technology transfer

Data sharing

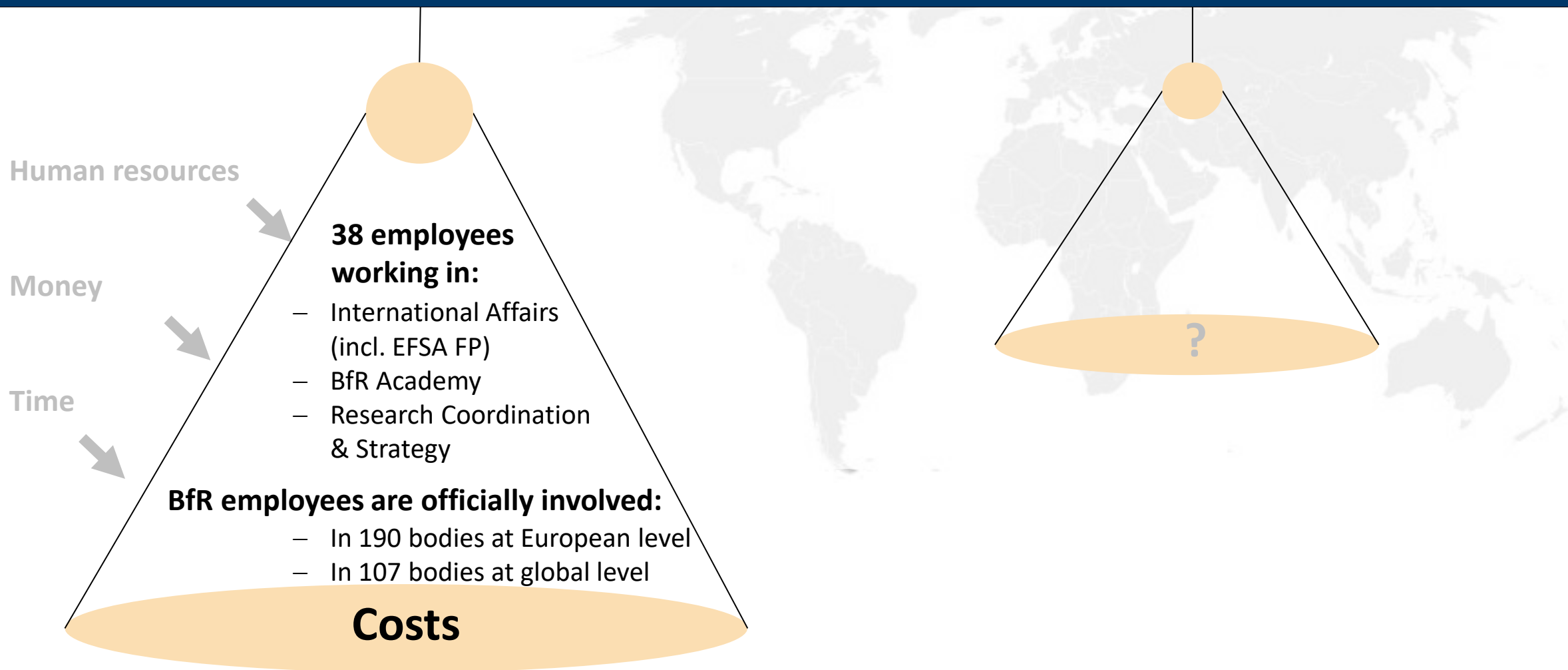
Capacity building

Linking regulatory and scientific communities

Establishing structures for food safety

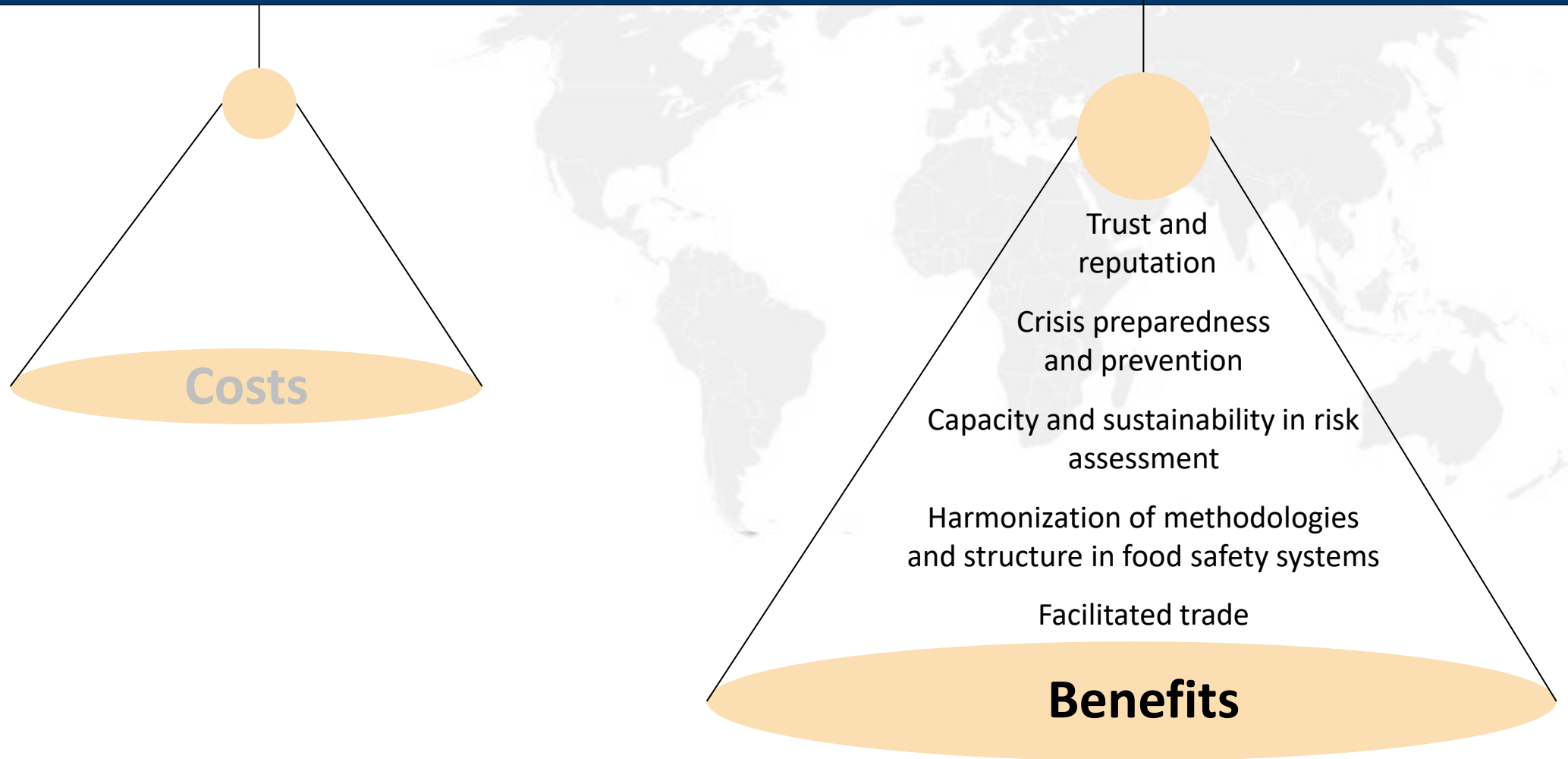
Investment in international activities

Example: costs of BfR's international activities in 2022



Benefits of international activities

Return on Investment (RoI): long-term benefits outweigh costs

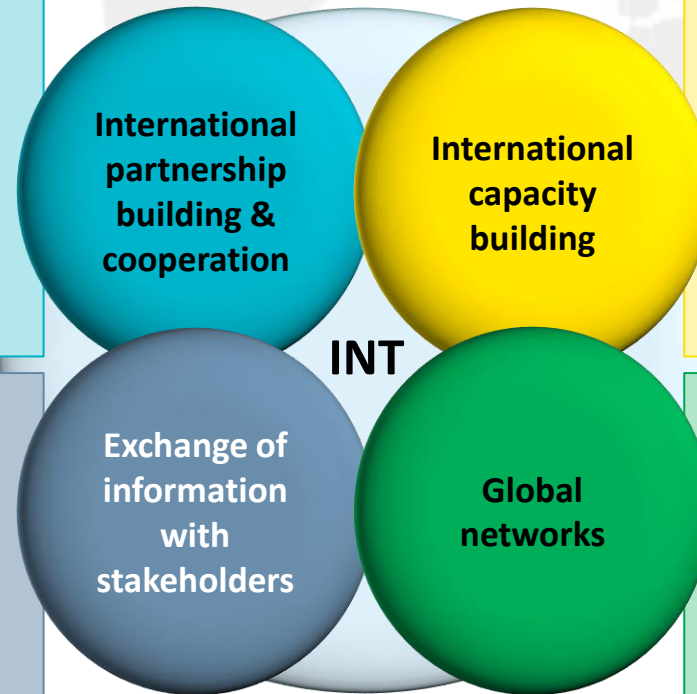


International Affairs Unit at BfR

Four core working areas within the unit International Affairs (INT)

The unit oversees cooperation with other institutions & organisations with a focus on establishing long-term and active partnerships. It provides strategic advice to the BfR management & drafts cooperation documents & work plans in collaboration with the BfR's staff & its international partners. The unit supports the exchange of experts, e.g. in the context of delegation visits.

The unit coordinates information exchange between international stakeholders. For example, the German EFSA Focal Point, located in the Unit, is an important interface between EFSA, national food & feed safety authorities and members of EFSA's scientific networks.



The unit conceives of, coordinates and implements training activities with the involvement of BfR experts. These activities can be short- or long-term and include guest science programs, customised classroom training and multi-year development cooperation projects.

The unit provides support to the BfR management in its participation in (inter)national networks, committees, etc. This support includes conception and coordination tasks as well as preparation for scientific meetings. The meetings in turn serve as a platform for exchange with (inter)national partner institutions and organisations.

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Consumer health protection to go

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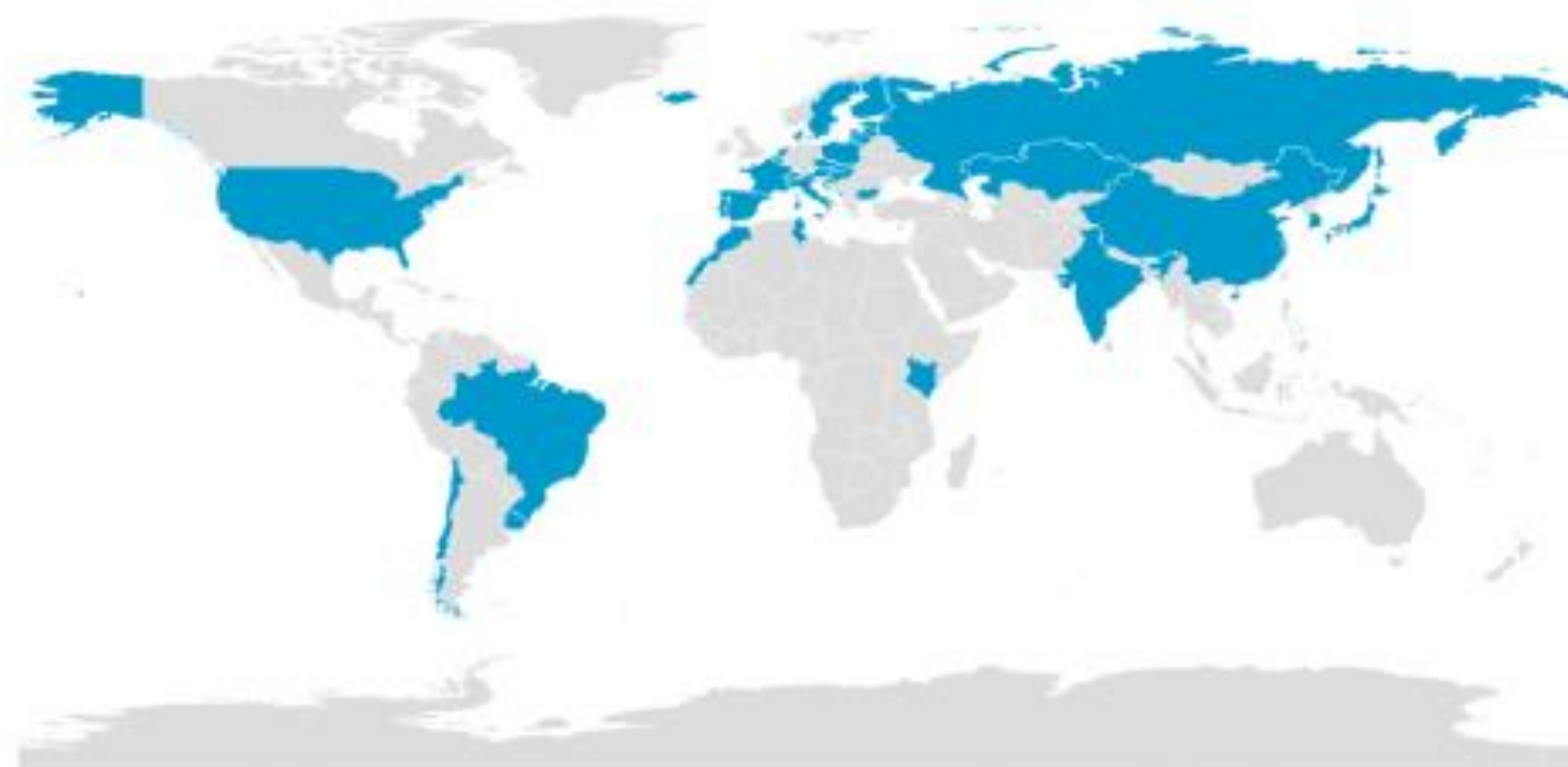
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Example: Overview of cooperations worldwide

50+ Declarations of Intent (DoI) and Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) worldwide



Europe:	31
Asia:	11
Africa:	3
North America:	1
Latin America:	3
International Organisations:	4

Inaugural Meeting of the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF), 11 – 13 October 2023 in Cairo, Egypt

- Background:** – Initiative by the National Food Safety Agency of Egypt (NFSA) in partnership with the African Union Commission, African food competent authorities & international partners
- Objectives:**
- **Shape an agenda of collaborative initiatives** to contribute to African food regulatory harmonization & integration (as part of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA)
 - **Deliver on some of the commitments** of the recently adopted Food Safety Strategy for Africa (FSSA), through supporting the operation of a science-based and efficient food regulatory environment in Africa
 - **Develop a foundation for the governance structure** of the soon to be established African Food Safety Agency
- BfR participation:**
- BfR will be represented by Prof Schwerdtle (Vice President), Dr Gollnick (Head of International Affairs) and Dr Lahaniatis (Deputy Head of International Affairs)
 - BfR will report back in December

Example: Cooperation with World Health Organization (WHO)

Partnership Objectives:

- Joint mentoring function for countries with low/middle income
- Promotion of information exchange, development of new methods & further development of best practices
- Global risk assessment network to provide scientific advice
- Joint training programs

Focus: Innovative risk assessments to address current & future challenges in the field of food safety and nutrition

Example: Development of an integrated approach for risk-benefit assessment taking into Consideration of nutritional, safety and sustainability aspects



Prof. Dr. Dr. Hensel and Dr. Moez Sanaa on 17.08.2022

Example: Latin American Risk Assessment Symposium (LARAS) 2019 and 2021

Alignment by:

- 2019: Uruguayan Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP)
- 2021: Food Safety and Quality Agency (ACHIPIA)

Goals for Latin America:

- Building a new approach to food safety in Latin America
- Analysis and further development of the official structures of food safety and consumer health protection
- Expansion of risk assessment as a modern element of food safety
- Possibility to exchange experiences and create perspectives for cooperation



Example: Sino-German Summer School, 16-19 September 2019 in Tianjin, China

In Cooperation with Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)

Objectives:

- Better understanding the definition and basic concepts of risk assessment
- Better understanding the system for food quality and safety in EU and China
- Learning methods to evaluating risks of pesticides or veterinary drugs, illegal additives, persistent organic pollutants etc. in agricultural products
- Enhancing technical skills of risk assessment



Approximate 280 participants from 27 Chinese provinces:

- Researchers, technicians and graduate students
- Laboratories of Agro-food Safety and Quality & Risk Assessment of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)
- Central (CAAS) and provincial academies of agricultural sciences
- Scientific research institutes and universities



Example: Strengthening Food Safety and Consumer Health Protection in Tunisia

Project Objective:

„The structures for food safety and consumer health protection in Tunisia have been strengthened.“

Funded by



Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
und Entwicklung



Budget

5 Mio. €

Project partner



Implemented by



Bundesamt für
Verbraucherschutz und
Lebensmittelsicherheit

Example: Strengthening Food Safety and Consumer Health Protection in Tunisia

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„The structures for food safety and consumer health protection in Tunisia have been strengthened.“

Project Outputs:

**Strategic
partnerships, policy
advice**



**Organisational
development**



**Staff and processes
development**



**Sustainable
capacity building**



Example: Strengthening Food Safety and Consumer Health Protection in Tunisia

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„The structures for food safety and consumer health protection in Tunisia have been strengthened.“

Milestones & achievements:

- a) Publication of stakeholder analysis
- b) Crisis simulation workshop
- c) Workshop ,Risk analysis from A to Z‘
- d) Establishment of working group on risk based control in the milk sector
- e) ITS Food
- f) Summer Academy
- g) Delegation visit in Berlin



Example: BUILD Project - Boosting Uganda's Investments in Livestock Development

Promoting the development of agricultural animal husbandry in Uganda (Term: 2019-2023, funded by BMZ)

Project Management:

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) of Consultative Group on Internat. Agricult. Research (CGIAR)

Objectives:

Improving the health of food-producing animals as well as the health of people engaged in the production & processing of food of animal origin.

Subprojects:

- Support of current campaigns for the eradication of the "plague of the small ruminants" as a transboundary disease
- Control of zoonotic diseases
- Surveillance of antibiotic resistance
- Improved health care at slaughterhouses



Example: Overview of cooperations and activities in Africa

Cooperation agreements with:

- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- Cape Verde
- Morocco
- Tunisia

Projects in / with:

- Tunisia (2021 -2025, BMZ project)
- ILRI in Uganda (BMZ project)
- Jomo Kenyatta University in Kenya

Research projects in:

- Zambia
- Norway, Uganda, Kenya, Ghana
- Mozambique & South Africa

Other activities:

- Visiting scientists from Africa
(e.g. from Kenya, PhD project)
- "German African Innovation Incentives Award"
in cooperation with South Africa

Example: Cooperation with World Health Organization (WHO)

Partnership Objectives:

- Joint training programs
- Joint mentoring function f. Countries with low/middle income
- Global risk assessment network to provide scientific advice
- Promotion of information exchange, development of new methods & further development of best practices

Focus:

Innovative risk assessments to address current & future challenges in the field of food safety and nutrition

Example:

Development of an integrated approach for risk-benefit assessment taking into Consideration of nutritional, safety and sustainability aspects



Prof. Schwerdtle with the risk-benefit assessment working group on 16.06.2023

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Funding source and duration: BMZ, term: 2019-2023

German partners:

- Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute (FLI)
- Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
- Free University of Berlin (FUB)
- Veterinarians without borders e.V.

