

# **REGULATION OF IMPORTED FOOD IN INDIA**

**Dr. D. Chattopadhyaya**

**MD,MRC Path (UK), FRC Path (UK)**

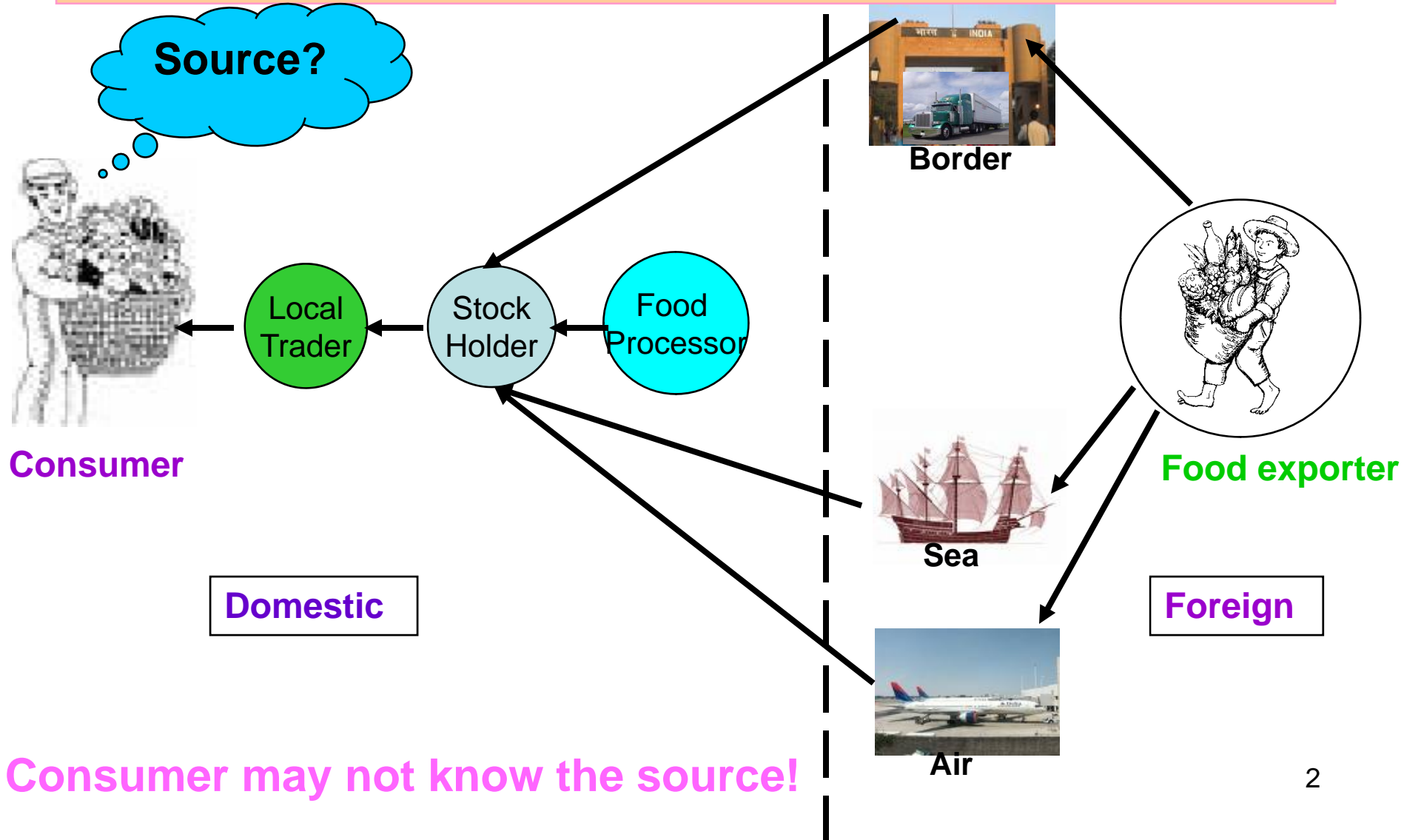
**Assistant Director General (International Food )**

**Directorate General of Health Services**

**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

**Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi-110011**

# The long food chain: need for testing of imported food

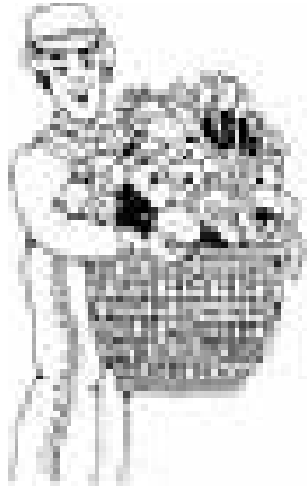


# Fair trade practice: basic principle



**Standard/specifications of imported food = Standard/Specification of domestic food**

# Fair trade practice: The two supporting pillars



**Harmonisation**

**Transparency**

# Import of Food: Harmonisation

Harmonisation with internationally accepted standard setting body i.e. Codex:

## Examples

- **General Provisions for Food Additives**
- **Fish and Fishery Products**
- **Sugar, confectionaries, chewing gums, bubble gums.**
- **Labelling Provisions:**
  - **General e.g. Dates of manufacture and expiry**
  - **Specific e.g. Adopting International identification system e.g. International Numbering System (INS) for food additives**
- **Definitions e.g. infant food and infant milk substitutes**
- **Guidelines/Code of Practice: Good manufacturing Practice**

## There may be exceptions however

### Non harmonisation: Examples

- Pesticide Residues in crops
- Level of colouring agent in sweets

Basis: Different consumption pattern for the variety of food in the country.

# SPS Enquiry Point at MOHFW

**Directorate General of Health Services  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi-110011**

**E-mail:- [adgif-mohfw@nic.in](mailto:adgif-mohfw@nic.in)**

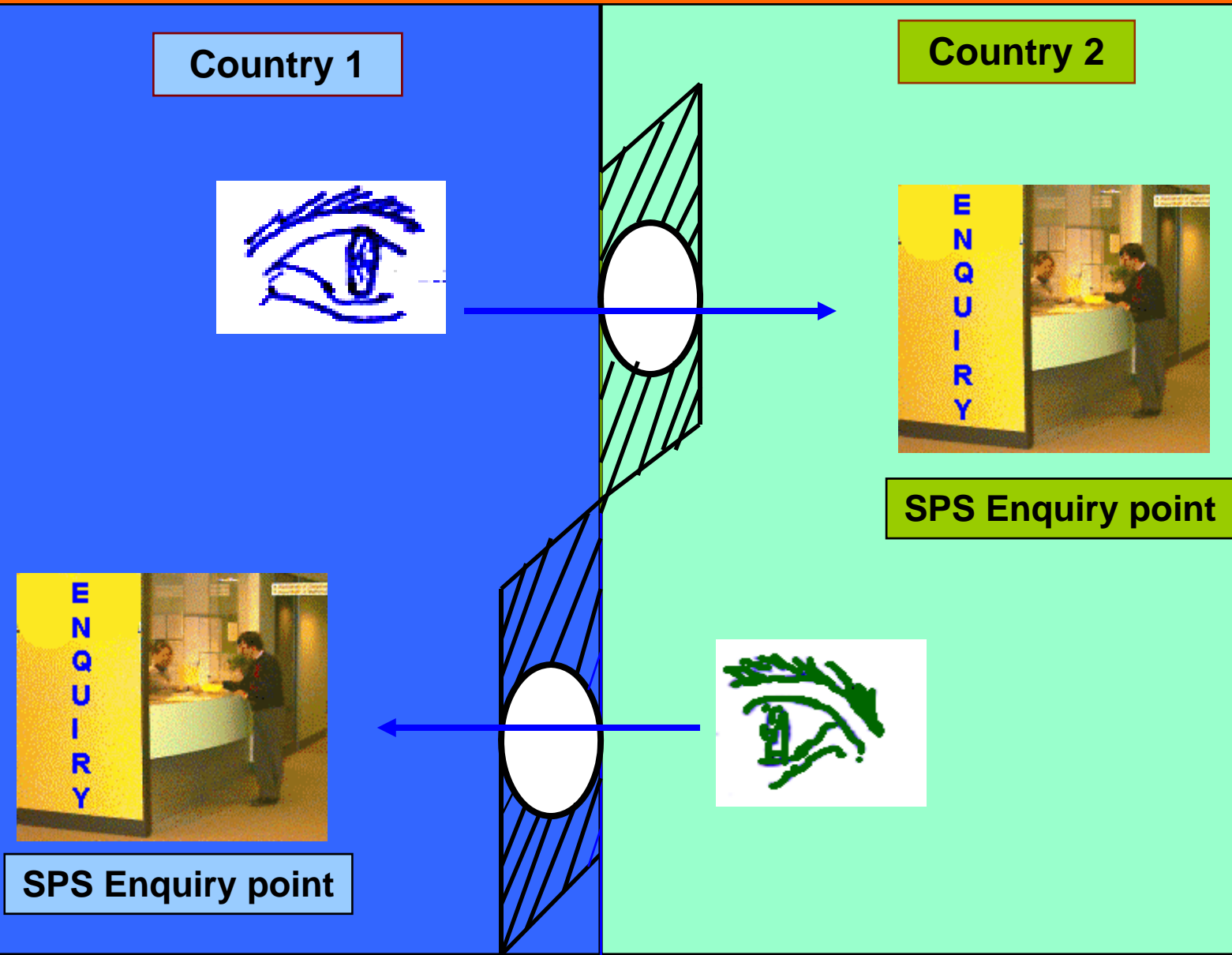
**Website:- [www.mohfw.nic.in/pfa.htm](http://www.mohfw.nic.in/pfa.htm)**

**Tel: +91-11-23061968**

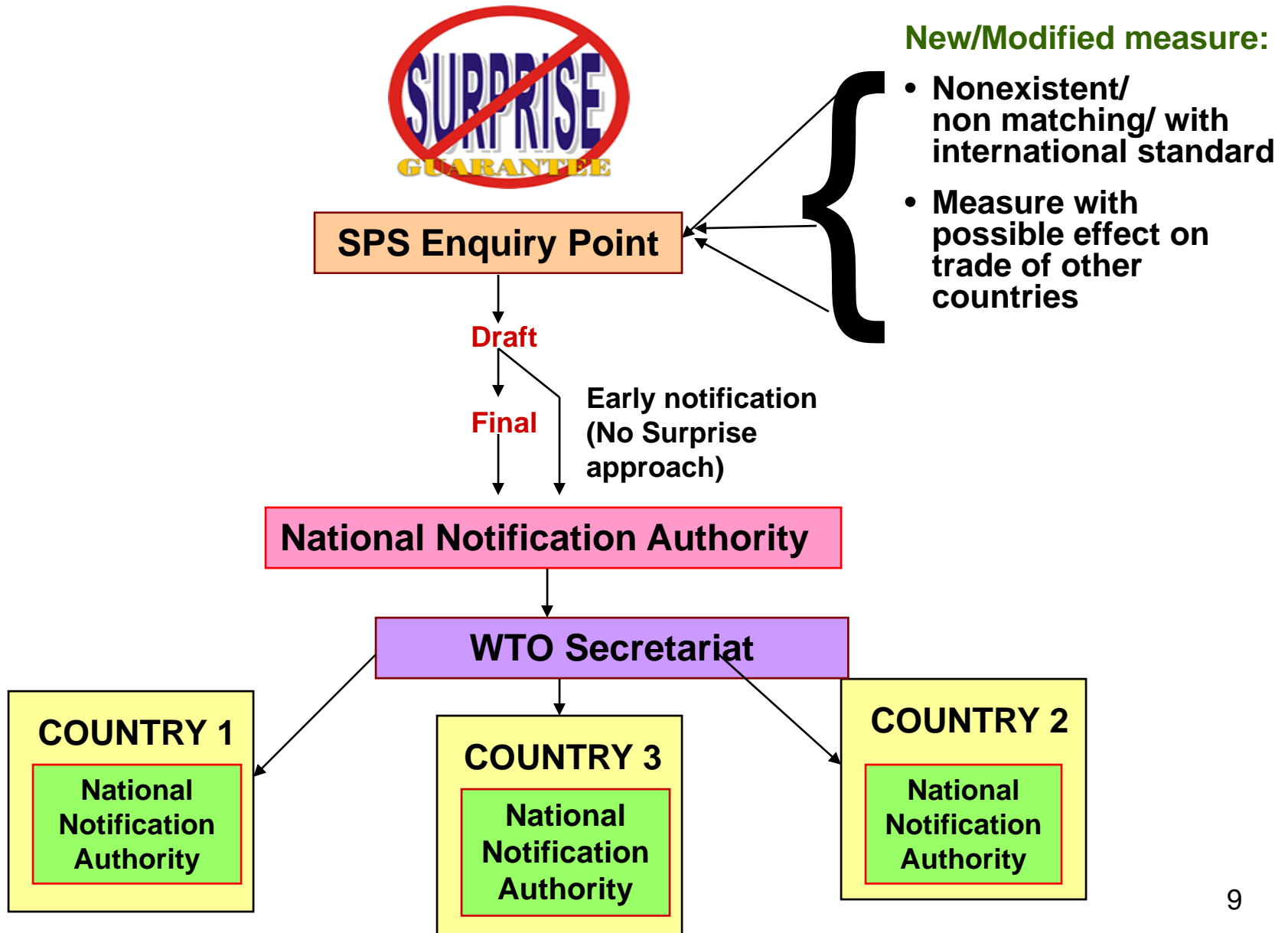
**Fax: +91-11-23061083**

# Basic requirement of smooth import of food: Transparency

## Unrestricted access to notifications/guidelines at SPS enquiry point



# Operation of Transparency and 'No Surprise' approach



# National Codex Contact Point (NCCCP)

Directorate General of Health Services

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi-110011

Tel/Fax: +91-11-23061968

Email: [Codex-India@nic.in](mailto:Codex-India@nic.in)

Website: <http://www.codexindia.nic.in>

**Chairperson:** Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

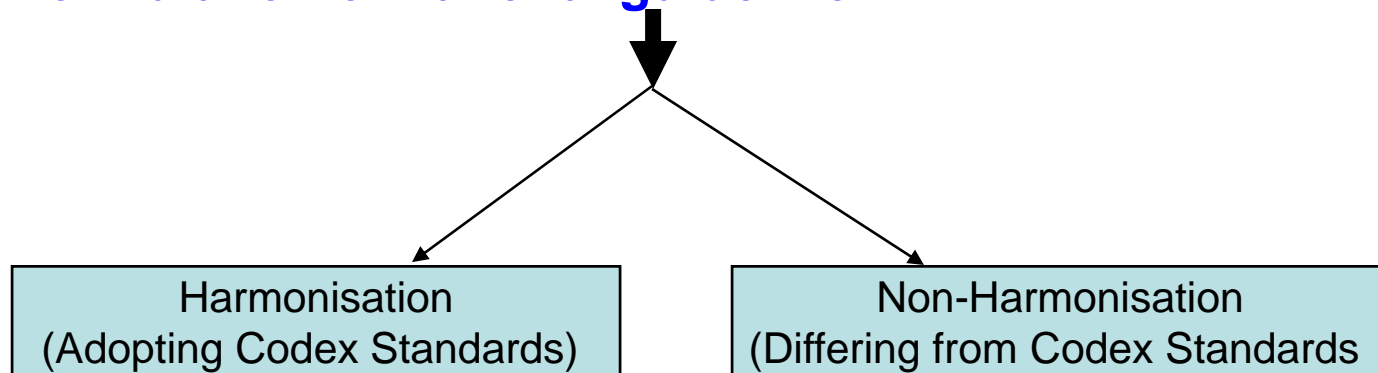
**Liaison Officer:** Dr. D. Chattopadhyaya, ADG (IF), Dte. G.H.S., Room No. 526 'A' Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

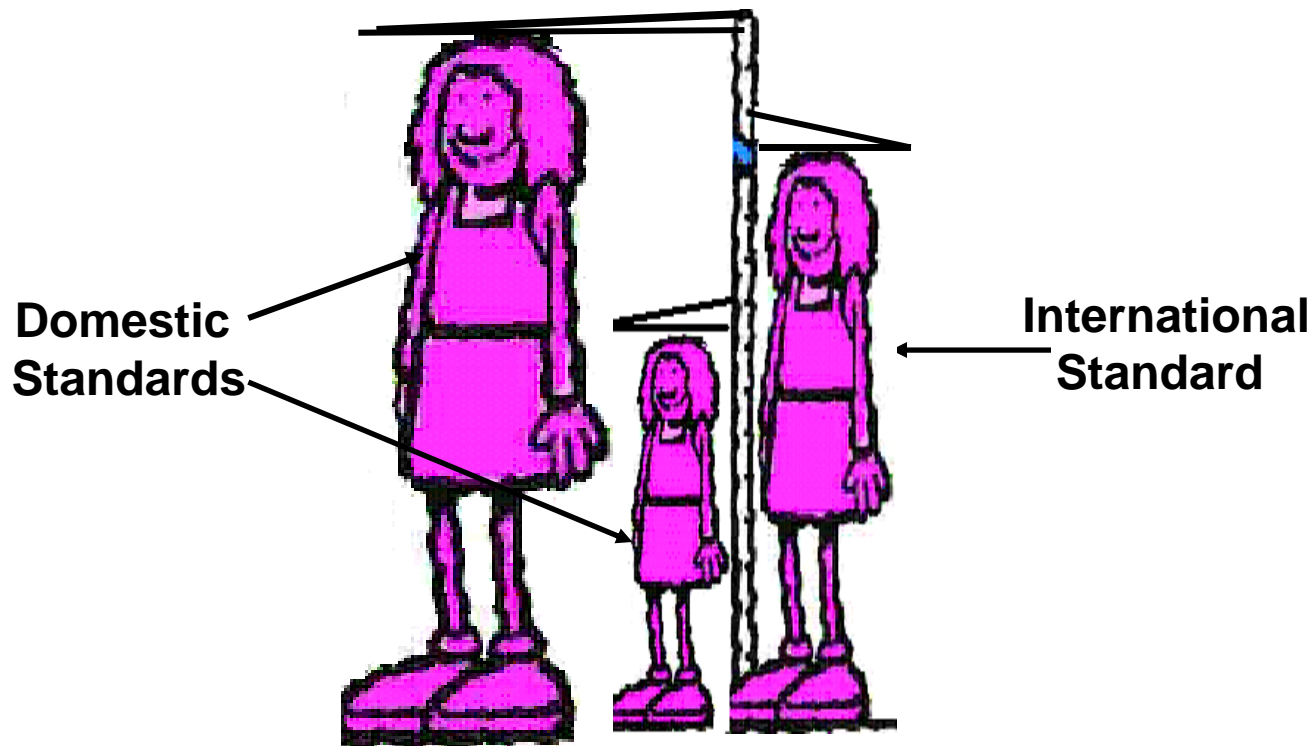
# NCCP: Functions and Responsibilities

## Broadly:

- To study Codex documents related to guidelines / standards
- To study scientific rationale of Codex guidelines / standards
- Evaluate relevant national guidelines and standards in the light of Codex guidelines/standards

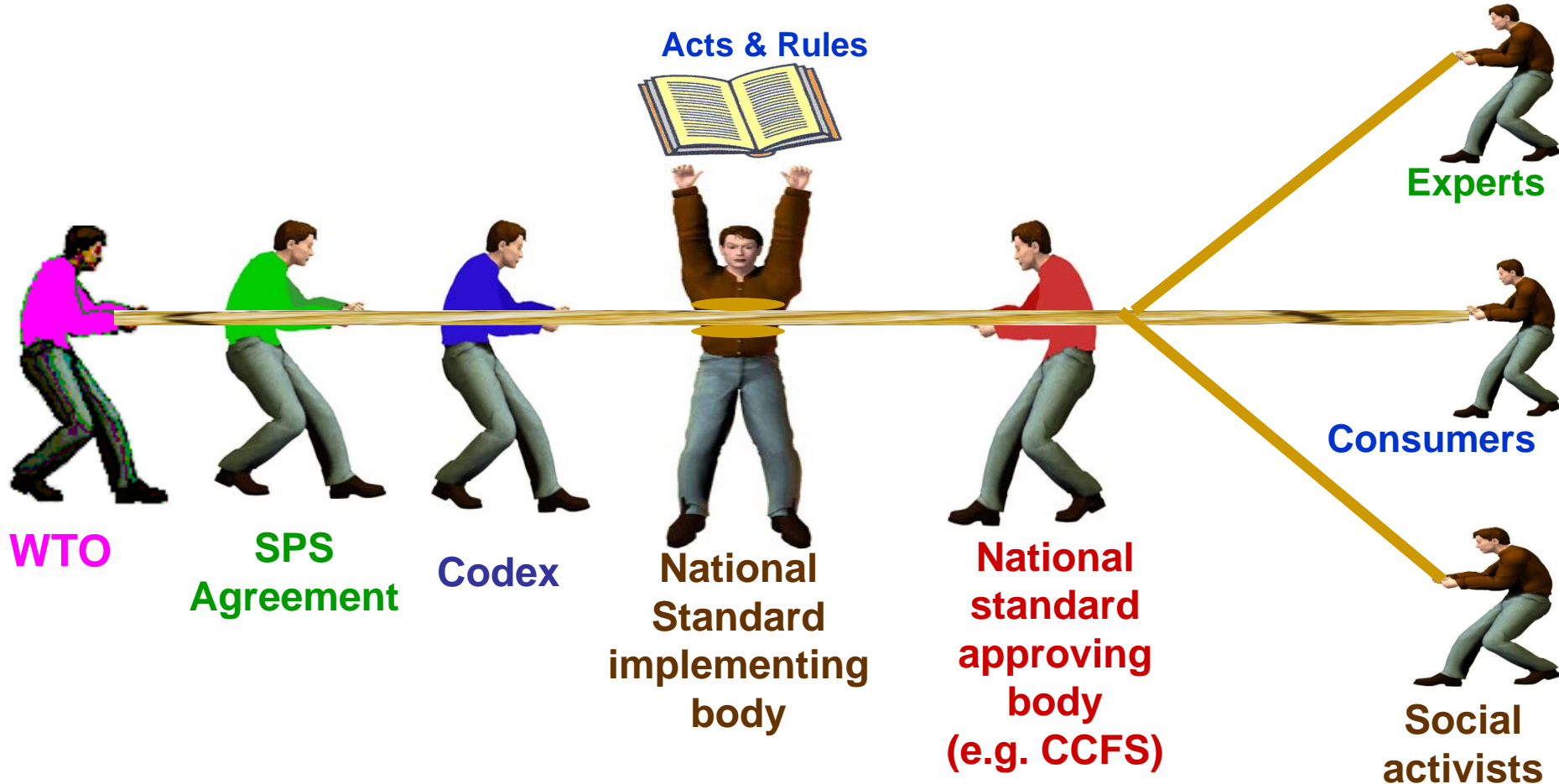
## Formulation of national guideline



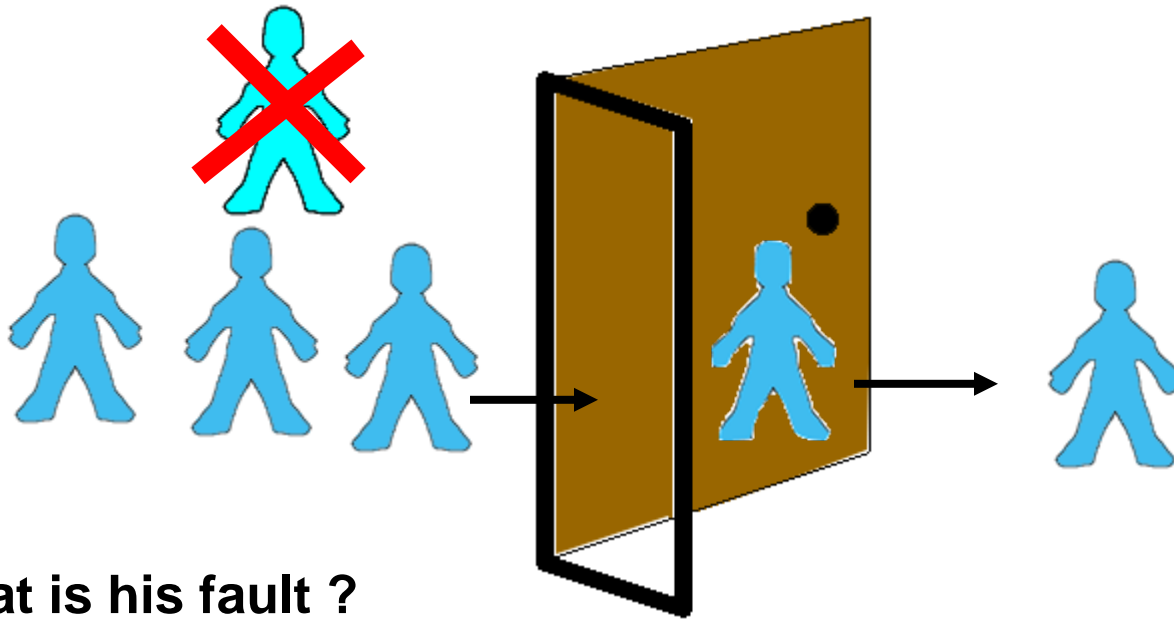


**Difference in Standard ?**  
**Never mind ! So long it is Science based or Rational**

# Non matching with standard: Not an easy task to defend Case of Shiny Apple



# Barriers in trade: tubular vision



**What is his fault ?**

**He has not knocked the door !**

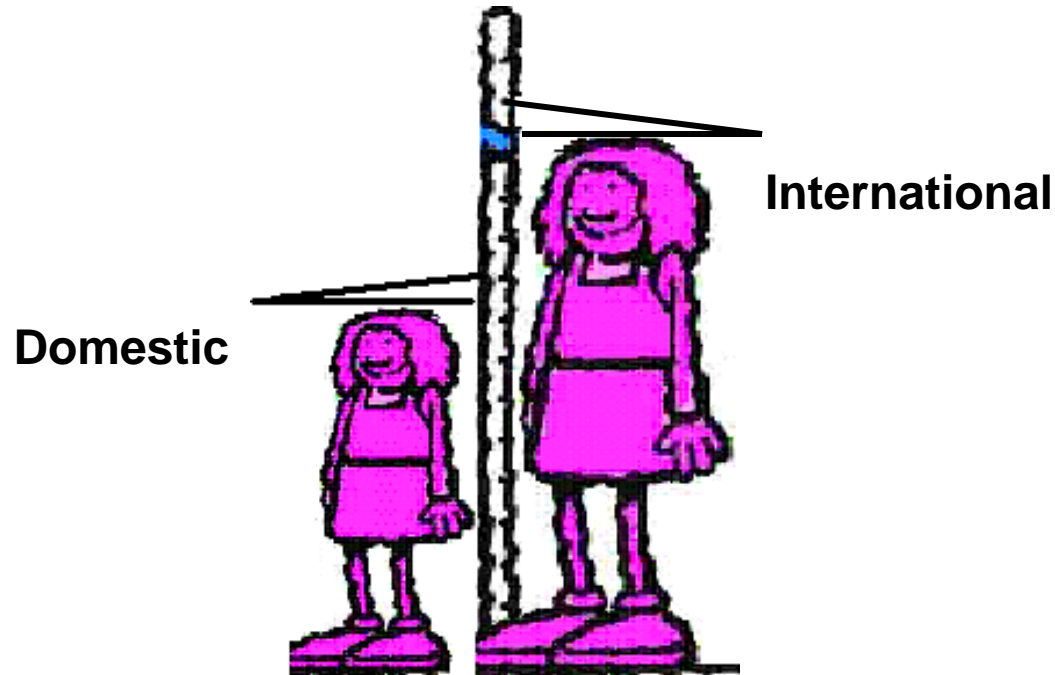
**Approval considered only to the selective food item requested by importer/ domestic producer**

**Other closely related food items covered under same food category are not considered even when internationally accepted standards are available**

# Barriers in trade:

## Differential standard setting

not based on science or rational judgement



Apparent or disguised

# Barriers in trade: multiple players but target not focused



- **Involvement of multiple agencies:**
  - **Duplication, Confusion**
  - **Asynchronised approach**
- **Over regulation, increased bureaucracy, time loss**

# **Reducing barriers in trade:** **Strengthening of laboratory testing network**

## **Food Testing facilitation at Ports :**

**Objective:** to reduce time consumption in sample testing in food testing laboratories so far carried out in Central Food Laboratories (CFLs) only.

# Reducing barriers in trade:

## Manpower development: Training of Port Health Personnel

### Port Health Officers need updated information on :

- Categorization of food items
  - High risk
  - Routine
- Frequency of testing
  - 100% testing
  - Random testing
- Transport of sample to laboratories
- Reporting of results
- SPS/TBT Measures

*Thank you*

