



Priorities, Challenges and Opportunities of Food Regulatory Authorities in Africa

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Ph.D.

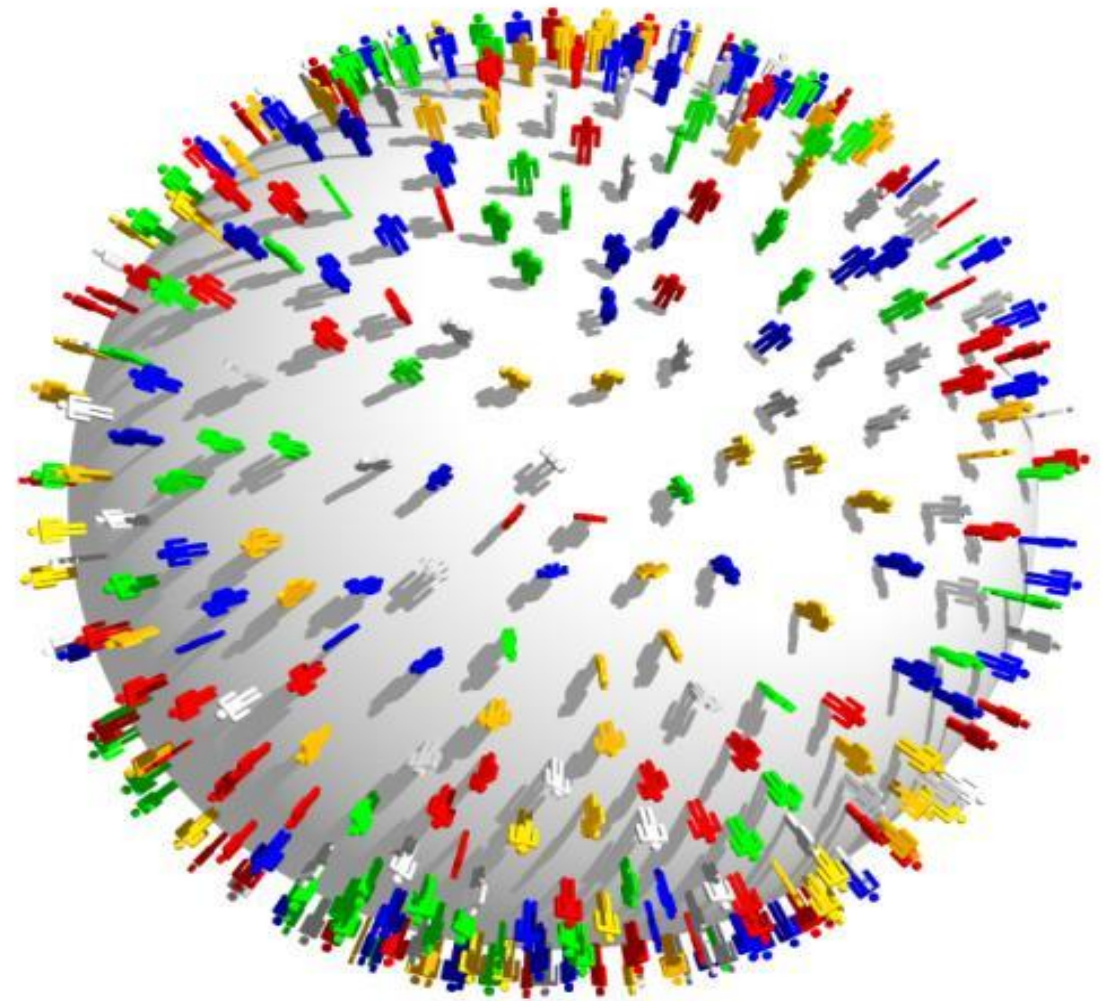
Université Laval, GForSS/IUFoST

THE AFRICAN FOOD REGULATORY AUTHORITIES FORUM (AFRAF)

Food Security : An On-going Challenge

By 2050 the World
Population will reach an
estimated 9.6 Billion
individuals

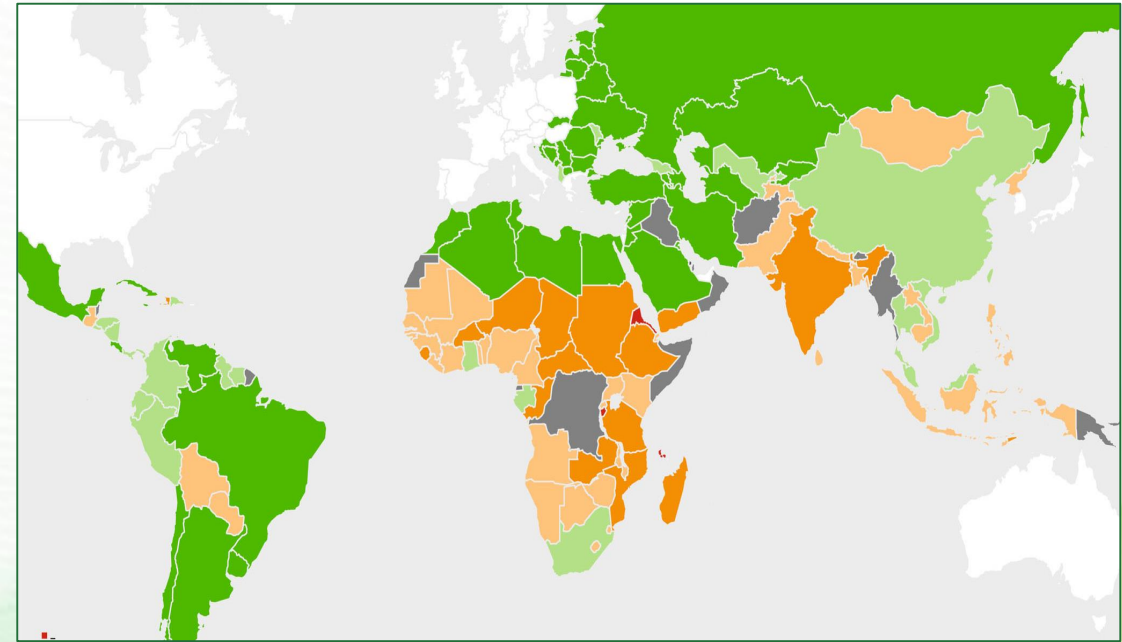
UN report 2013: World population prospects: the 2013 Revision – Highlights and advance tables, Working paper NO ESA/P/WP228, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, NY



Areas of Population Growth

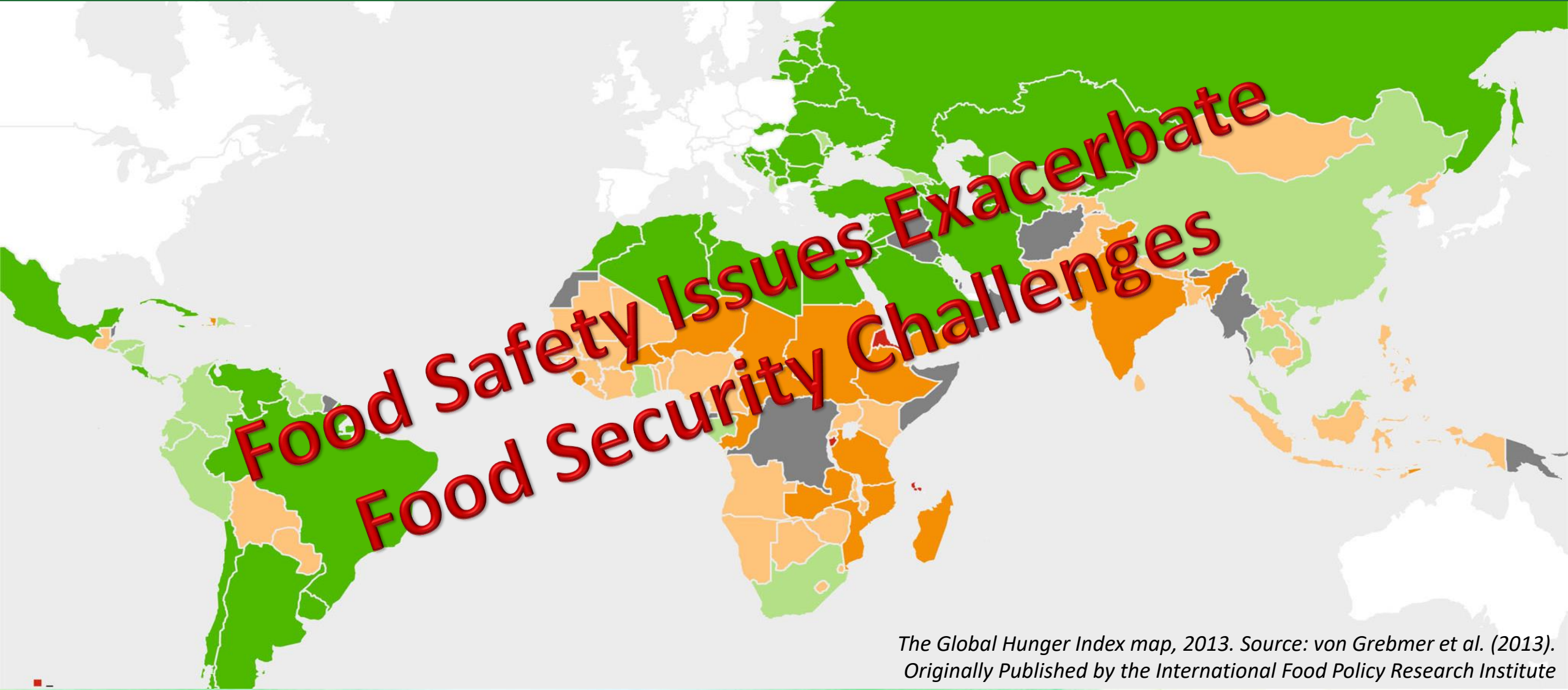
Areas Suffering from Food Security Issues

- ❑ Current 7.2 Billion will grow by one third (1/3)
 - Highest areas of growth will be witnessed in developing nations
 - e.g. Sub-Saharan Africa has one of the highest levels of fertility
 - Same areas currently suffering from malnutrition and hunger will be subject to highest population growth



The Global Hunger Index map, 2013. Source: von Grebmer et al. (2013). Original publication International Food Policy Research Institute

World Hunger Index Map



*The Global Hunger Index map, 2013. Source: von Grebmer et al. (2013).
Originally Published by the International Food Policy Research Institute*

Costs of Food Safety on Africa's Human & Economic Development

- ❑ **30% of death in Africa** are associated with Foodborne Illnesses:
 - Over 137,000 Deaths annually and **91 million cases of Foodborne Illnesses**
 - Stronger impacts on the most vulnerable : Children under 5, pregnant women,
- ❑ Annual cost of treating foodborne illnesses is estimated at **US\$ 15 billion/ Year**
- ❑ Inefficiencies in the Food Value Chain (associated with Food Safety) result in major food waste and losses
- ❑ Eliminating food loss and waste is expected to feed **870 million** undernourished people worldwide - *Da Silva, JG. (2013)*



Total Productivity Loss (associated with foodborne disease) in low-income and middle-income countries:
US\$ 95.2 billion per year

The AFRICAN Potential

75% of Trade in Africa is Dominated by Agriculture Products.....

Less than 30% of Trade is Intra-Continental



Food Safety CONNECTS Agriculture, Health and Trade

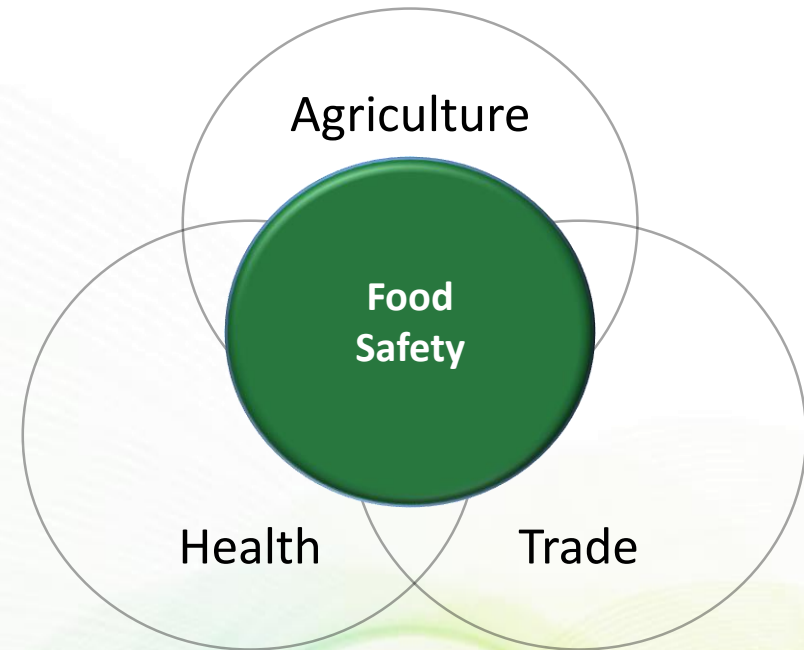
Burden of foodborne disease:

- **1 in 10** people sick due to food
- **420,000 deaths**

WHO source - December 2015

Food and Agriculture Trade:

☐ **OVER 1.9 Billion USD**



*Enhancing Food Safety Management is KEY to
Human and Economic Development*

Food Safety is a Shared Responsibility

Ensuring the Safety, Quality and Authenticity of Food is a Shared Responsibility:

❑ Industry – Primary Responsibility:

- Sourcing ingredients
- Safe & sanitary conditions of production & sale
- Honest representation to consumers

❑ Consumers

- Choice of food and consumption as per direction
- Food handling and conservation as per recommendation to avoid spoilage and contamination (including cross-contamination)

❑ Regulators

- Delegated authority from consumers to oversee “food” on their behalf



Food Competent Authorities

Also identified as Regulators

*Contribute to building, administering and sustaining a National /
Regional Food Control System*



Food Control Programs According to CXC82-2013

Control programs are the collective actions and activities in place to manage specific food safety hazards, assure quality and safety of food and fair practices in the food trade



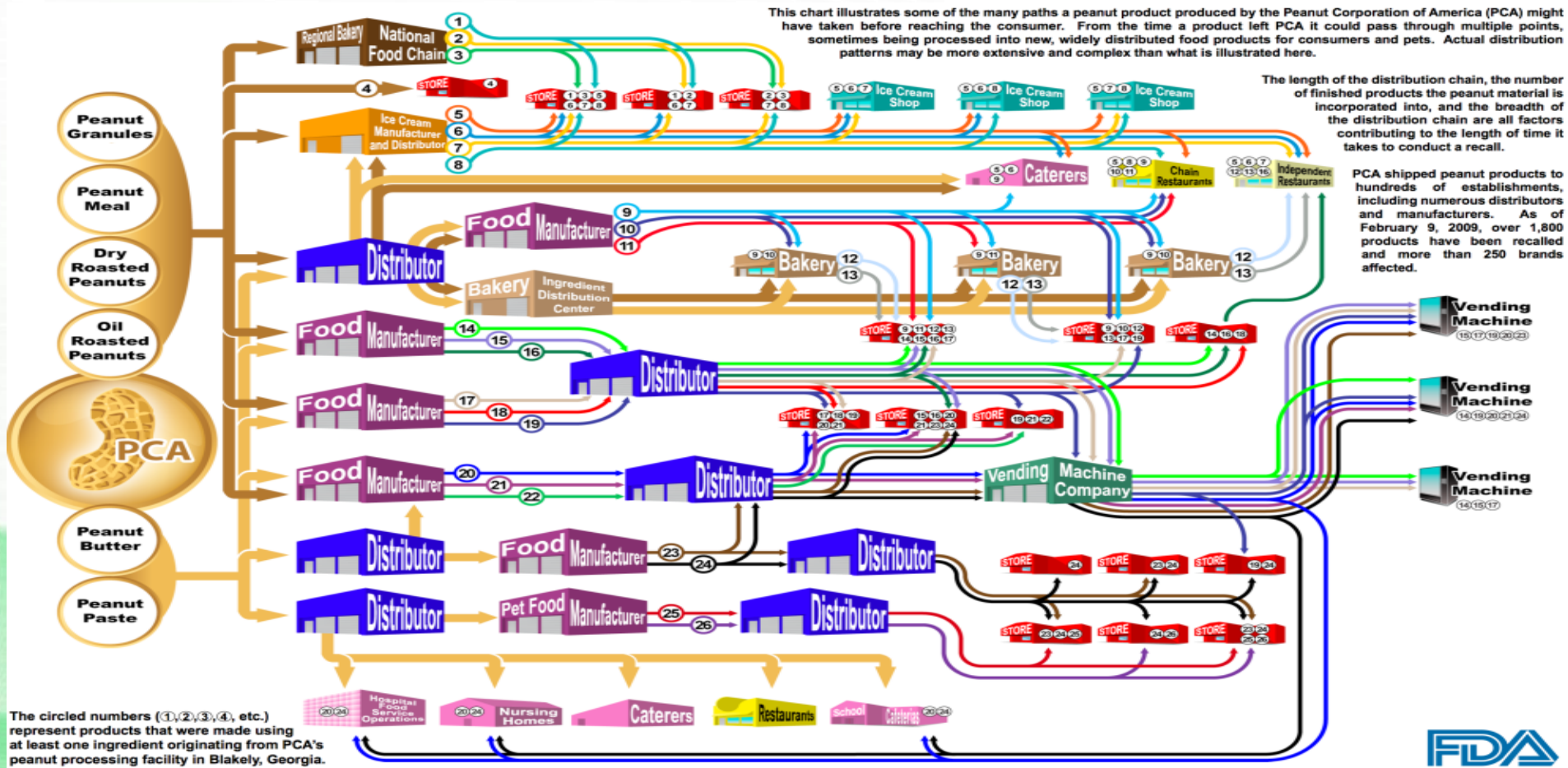
Regulators in Africa Face Increasingly Complex Environments

- ❑ Addressing Contradictory Risk Paradigms: Populations Suffering from Food Insecurity and Obesity at the same time
- ❑ Food Safety and Nutrition in the Smart Phone
- ❑ Emerging Issues :
 - New “Contaminant / Food Vehicle” pair
 - Anti-Microbial Resistance linked to aspects of food production
 - Climate Change



Regulators in Africa Face Increasingly Complex Environments (2)

Ever more Complex Supply Chains = We have Never been More Interdependent



- ❑ Expectation to Contribute to Creating a Favorable Environment of Food Production (and Trade)
 - E.g. Supporting Food Innovation



Witnessing Changes to Food Regulatory Environments Globally

- ❑ Preventive measures enshrined in several food safety regulatory measures:
 - “Food Hygiene Package” adopted in Europe in Mid 2000s
 - FSMA in 2011
 - Safe Food for Canadians Act in 2012 in Canada
- ❑ Stronger Emphasis on Nutrition Rules
 - e.g. labelling rules



Regulating Food – A Collaboration



Promoting a Culture of Compliance ... Before Enforcement

Paradigm Shift: Promote Compliance – **VADE** Approach

Promote Behavioural Change

Assisted compliance

Interventions heavily reliant on **monitoring, support to compliance**

Voluntary compliance

Achieved through **education, engagement, communication**



Enforced compliance

“Iron fist” / application of full extent of the law

Directed compliance

Range of tools to direct a desired behaviour change :
Corrective Action

An Effective Food Competent Authority... Guidance

- ❑ Codex provided guidance on the development and operations of a National Food Control System
 - This guidance (CXG82-2013) is offered to regulators / competent authorities to follow in support of more consistent and convergent food measures



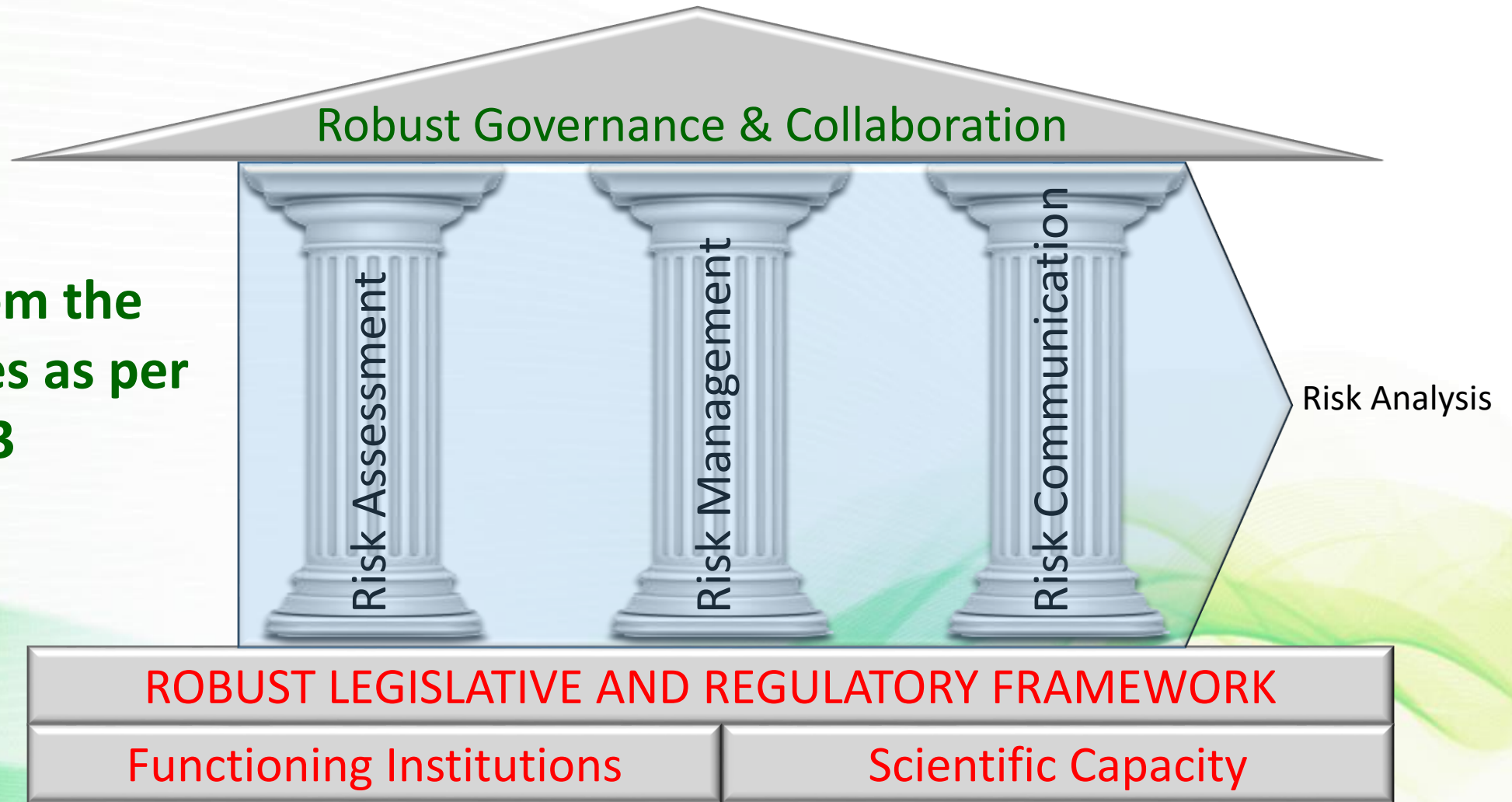
An Effective Food Competent Authority

- ❑ Anchors its actions and operations in a *robust legislative and regulatory framework* that enables it to “develop, establish, implement, maintain and enforce a national food control system”.
- ❑ Bases its food safety decisions on the application of the *Risk Analysis Principles*.
- ❑ Ensures effective *food regulatory operations* both for ***standard setting and compliance and enforcement***
- ❑ Is supported by **focused:**
 - ***Scientific capacity***

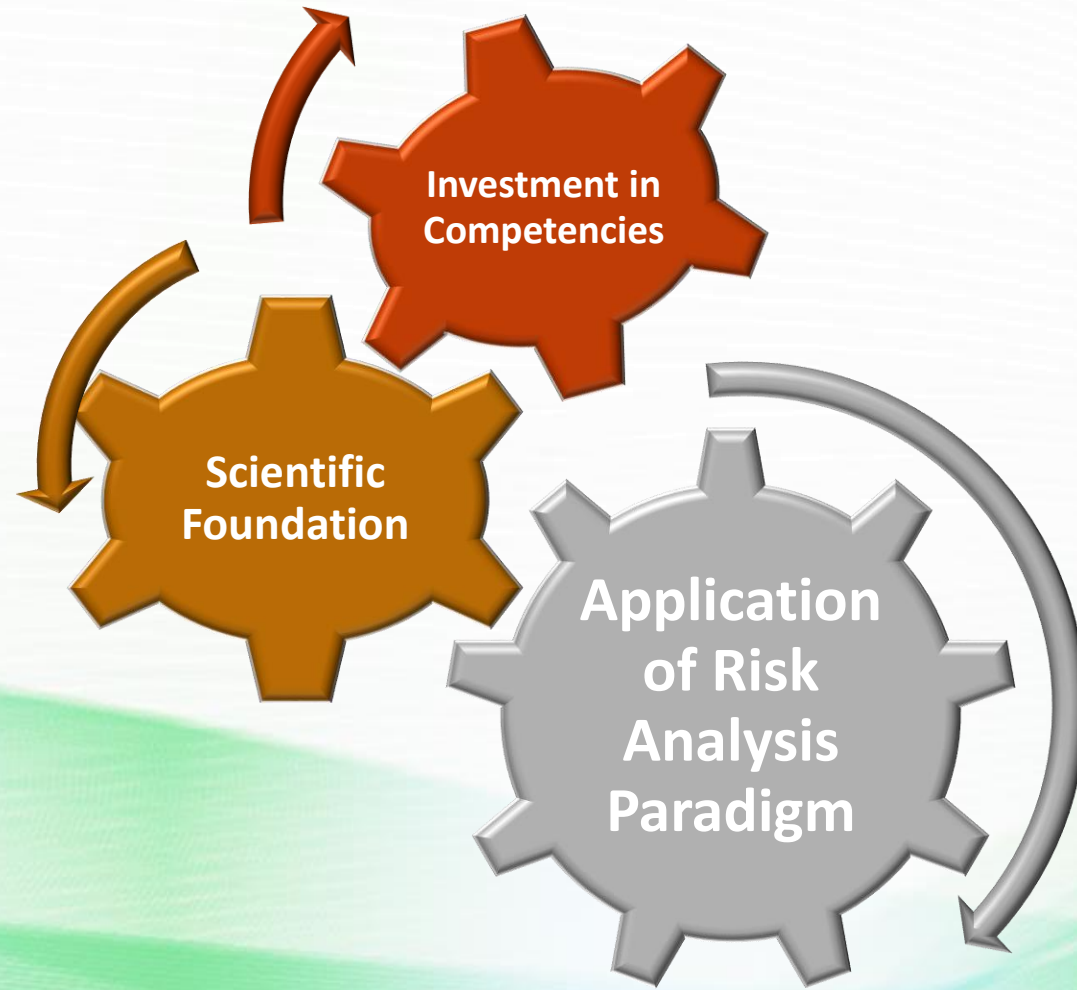


Design and Operation of a Food Competent Authority


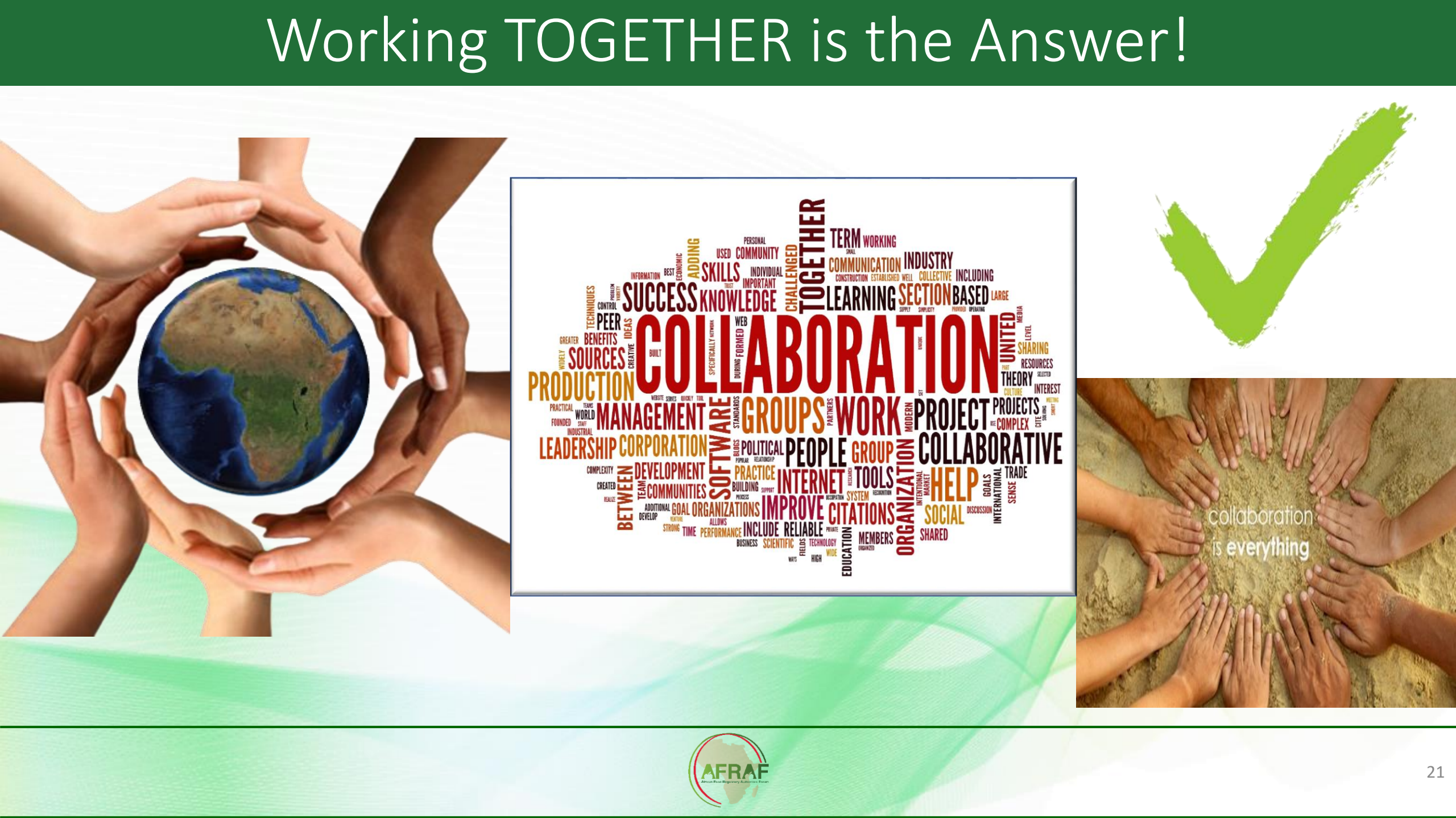
Inspired from the
13 principles as per
CXG82-2013



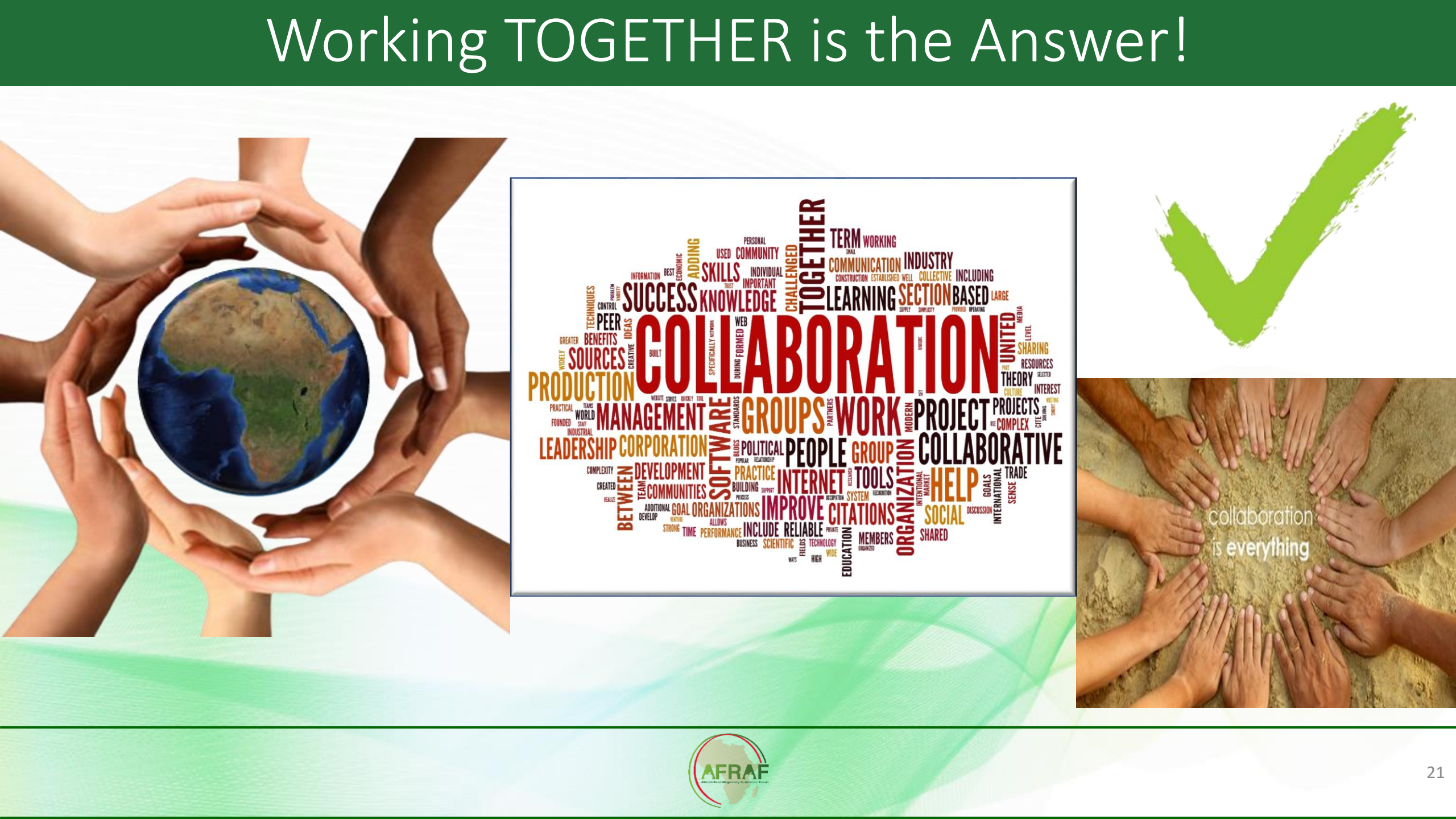
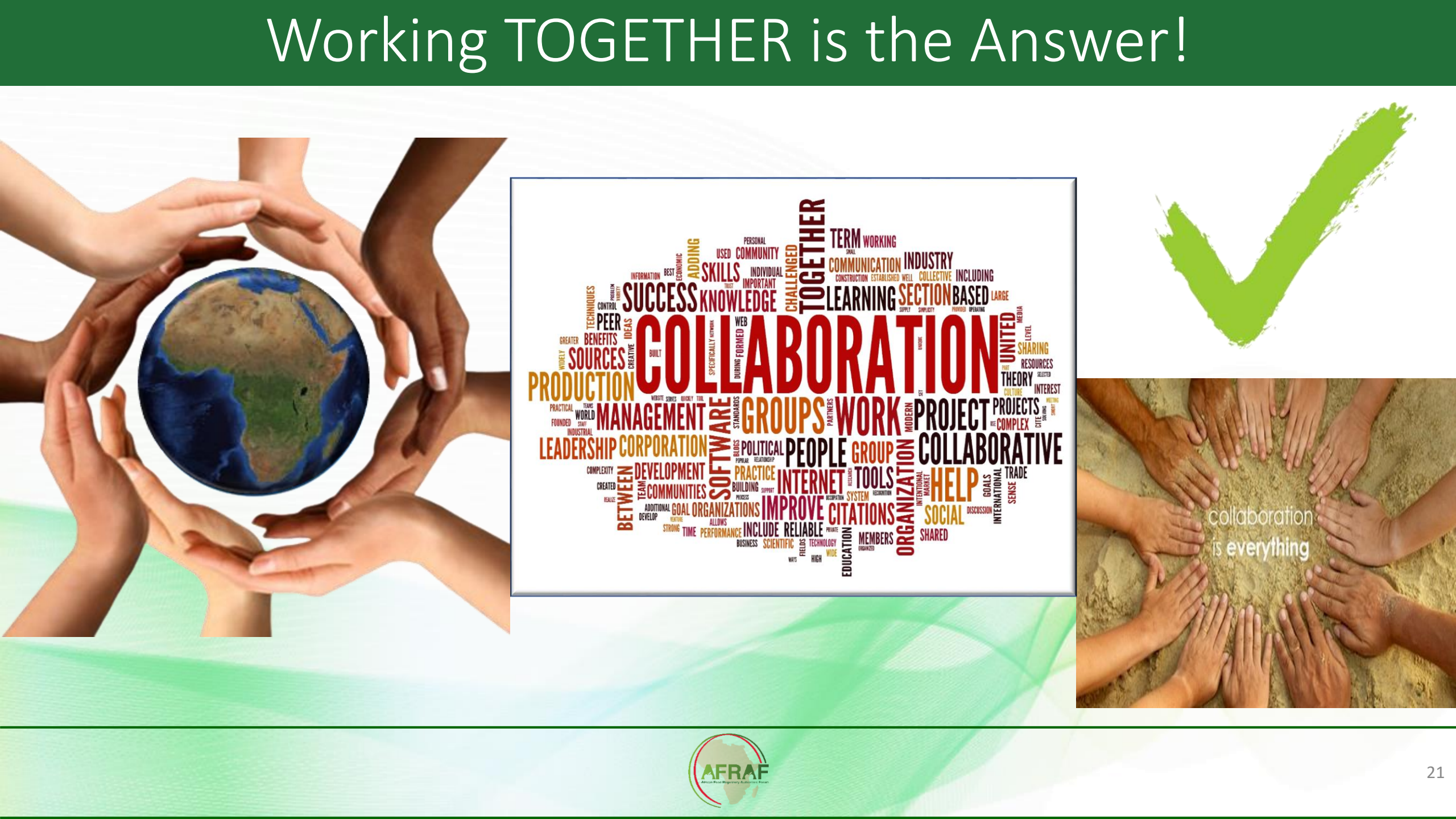
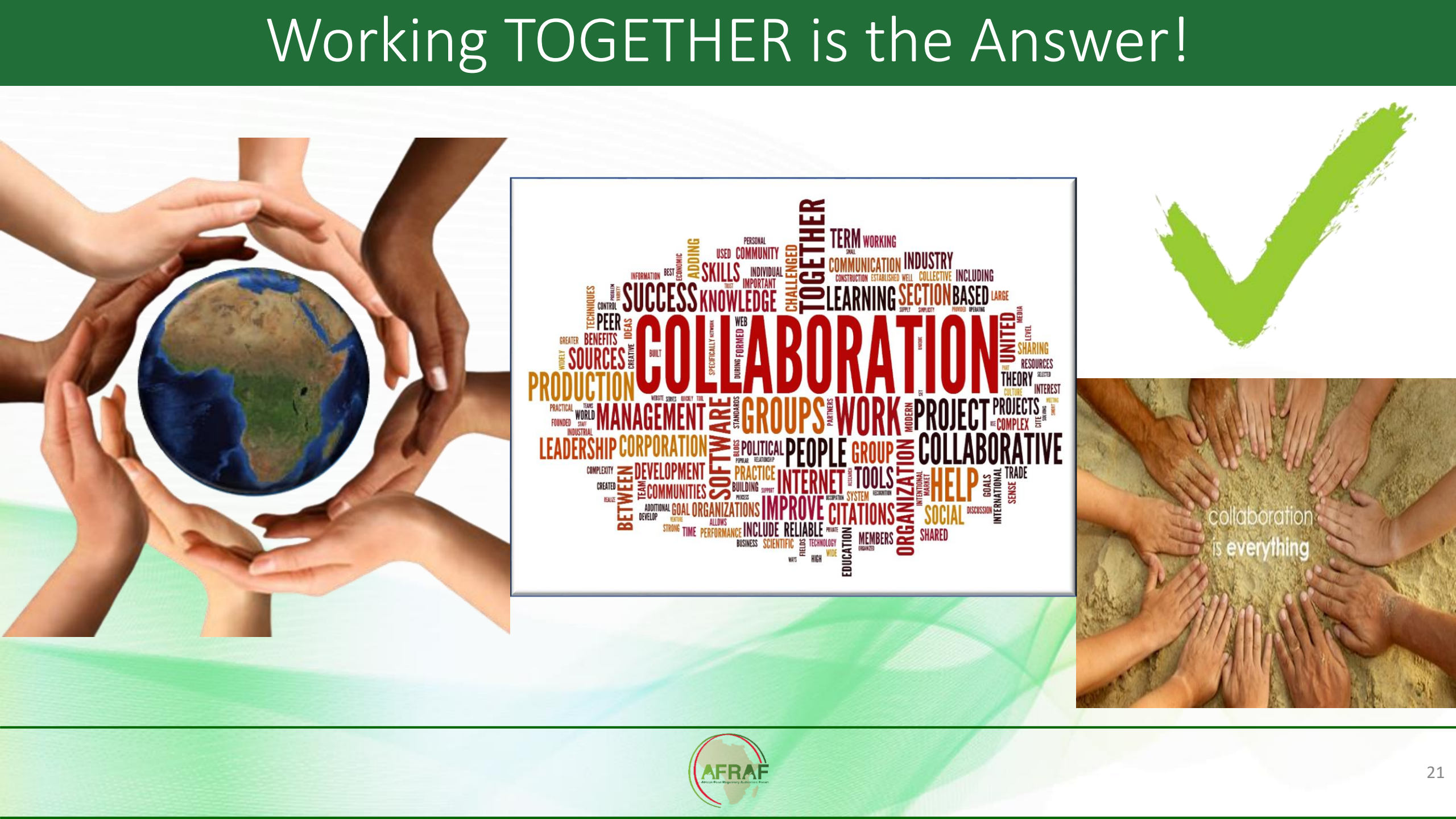
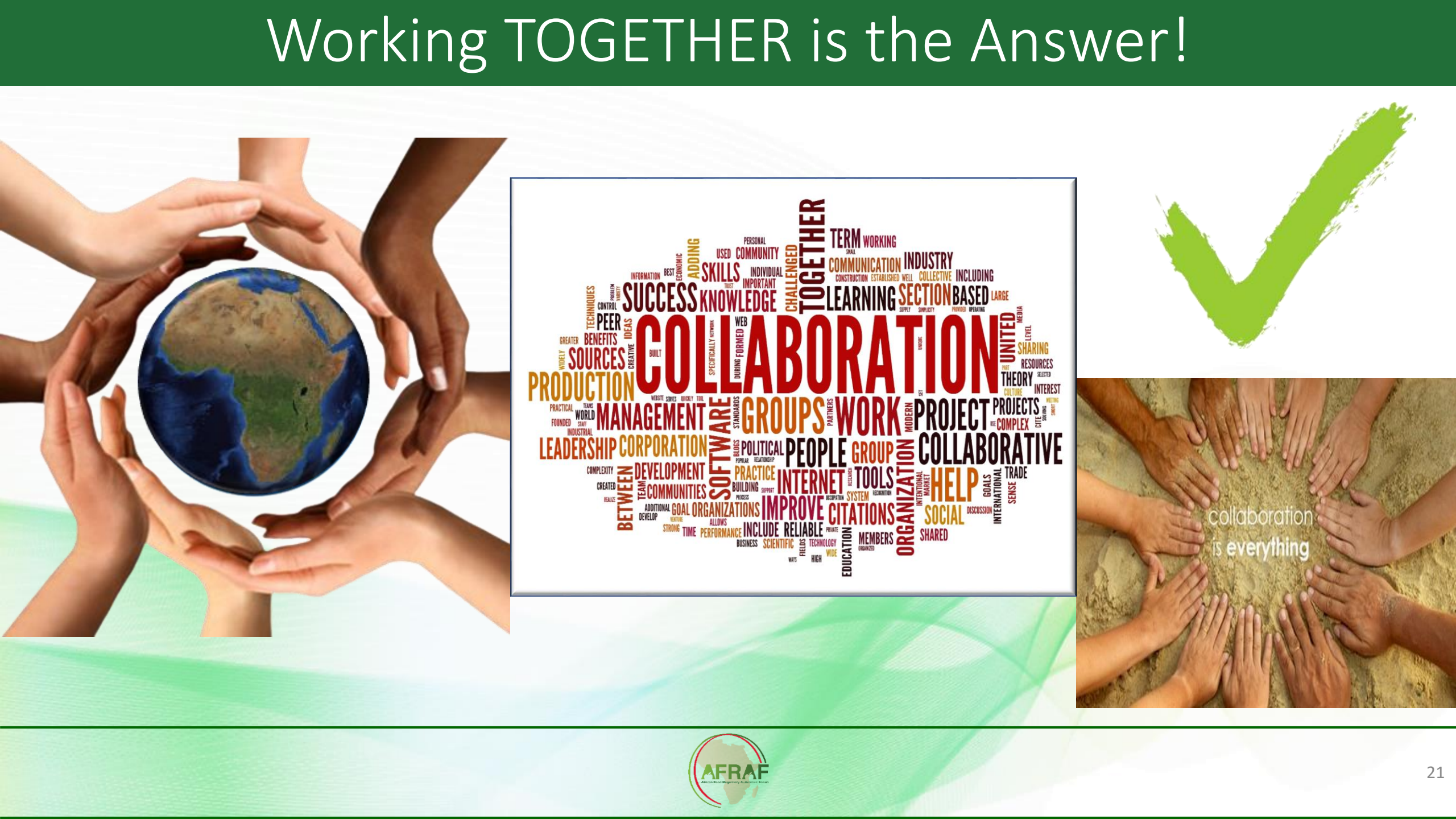
Several Foundational Aspects Require Major Investments



Working TOGETHER is the Answer!



21



Sharing Resources: Data, Competencies, Tools

- ❑ E.g., Generation of data in support of decision making :
 - Monitoring, surveillance / Biomonitoring data
 - Food Consumption data
 - Targeted Research (e.g., effectiveness of food safety mitigation measures adapted to the continental environment or its subsets)



Enabling Food Regulatory Scientific Disciplines

Food (Safety) Risk Assessment Capacity

Food Safety Testing: Network of Reference Laboratories

Capacity Building: Incremental Development of a Competent Workforce



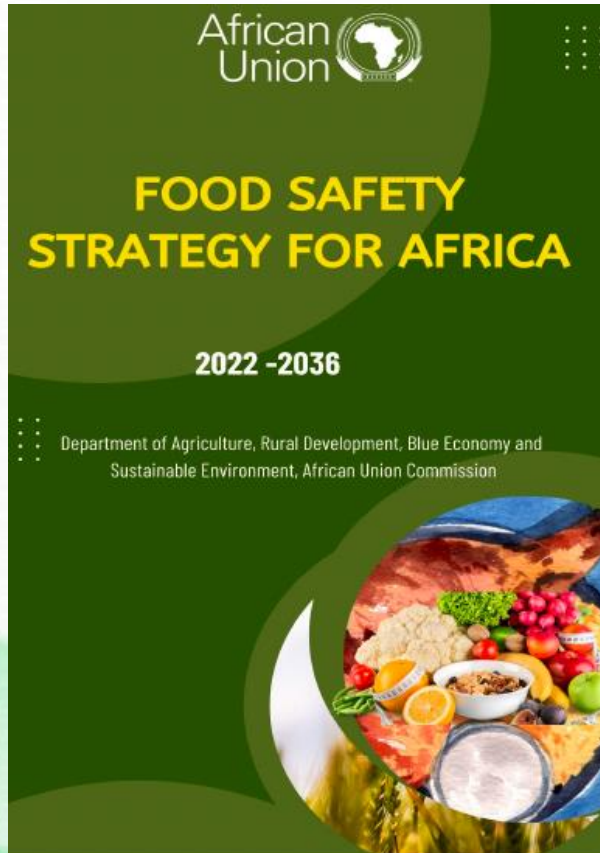
Learning from Other Regional Experiences



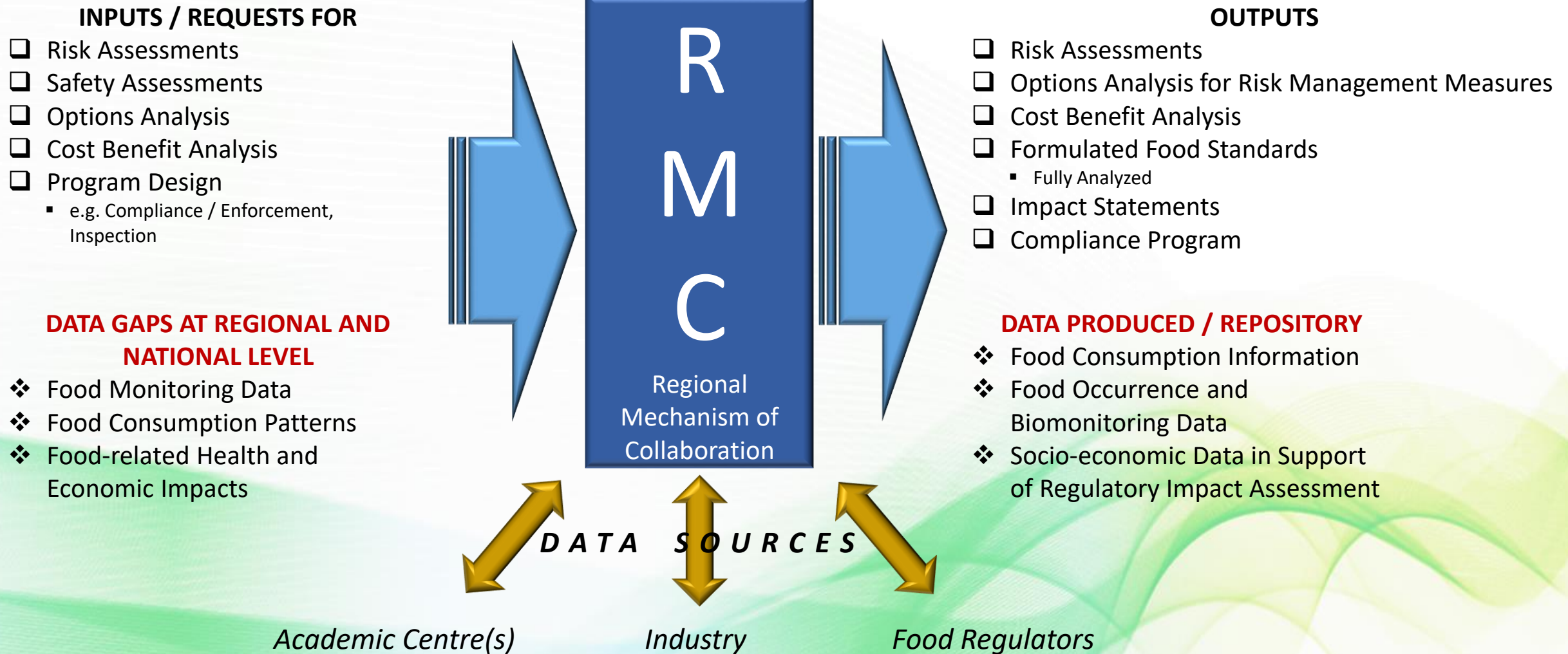
*Enhanced coordination and resource-sharing
towards common standards*

THE OPPORTUNITY

Favorable Drivers of Continental Food Regulatory Cooperation



Regional Collaborative Mechanism in Food Regulatory Science



SUPPORTING
SUSTAINABLE
AND RESILIENT
FOOD CONTROL
SYSTEMS IN AFRICA



28