



Ministry of Agriculture,
Nature and Food Quality

Codex Alimentarius: Netherlands and the EU

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28 Member States of the European Union

=

500 million consumers





China and THE NETHERLANDS

1. The Netherlands, EU and Codex
2. Food Safety in The Netherlands





Agri-Food export figures 2017

Total export from the Netherlands

€ 101 billion

Top 5 export products

Materials and technology
€ 9.1 billion



Flowers **€ 9.1 billion**



Dairy and eggs **€ 8.9 billion**



Meat **€ 8.3 billion**



Vegetables **€ 6.7 billion**



Top 3 destinations

	Germany	24.7%
	Belgium	11.2%
	United Kingdom	9.2%



- The Netherlands is the EU's biggest agri-food exporter
- And the second biggest in the world



The EU or European Union

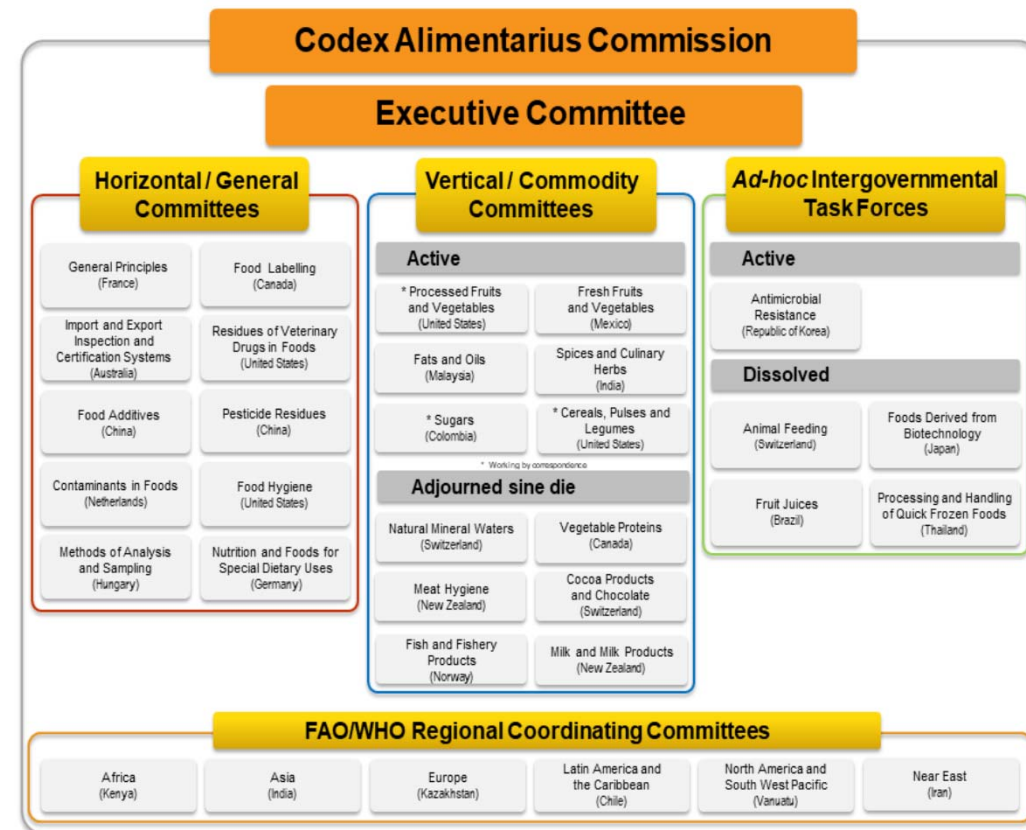
- 28 member states in the European Union (EU)
- Shared legislation on food safety
 - Food hygiene
 - Plant health, pesticides and pests
 - Animal health and welfare
- Imports have to meet EU Standards





Importance of CODEX for the EU

- › Globalisation
- › Codex Alimentarius is the global reference point in the international food trade
- › Large impact of Codex Standards on the EU legislation
- › EU/non-EU trading partners: importance of building alliances on issues of common interest





EU legislation and CODEX standards

- › Importance of Codex standards when drafting EU legislation
- › When EU legislation is based on Codex no risk assessment is required
- › Scientific evaluation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)





General Food Law = Regulation 178/2002

Objective

- to ensure a high level of protection for human health and consumers' interest in relation to food

Basic principle

- the primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with food law, rests with the food business operator (FBO)

Key points

- Risk analysis and scientific basis (EFSA)
- Traceability systems
- Crisis management (RASFF)
- The precautionary principle



Food safety in the EU

Where specific consumer protection is justified, there may be special rules on e.g.:

- › Use of pesticides, food supplements, colourings, antibiotics and hormones
- › Food additives such as preservatives and flavourings
- › Labelling of ingredients that may cause allergies
- › Health claims such as 'low-fat' or 'high-fibre'





Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

- Health policy
- Food safety in the food chain
- Risk management





Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

- › Food safety in agriculture (e.g. pesticides)
- › Animal health and welfare, animal feed, animal slaughter
- › Agricultural policy
- › Risk management





NVWA = Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority

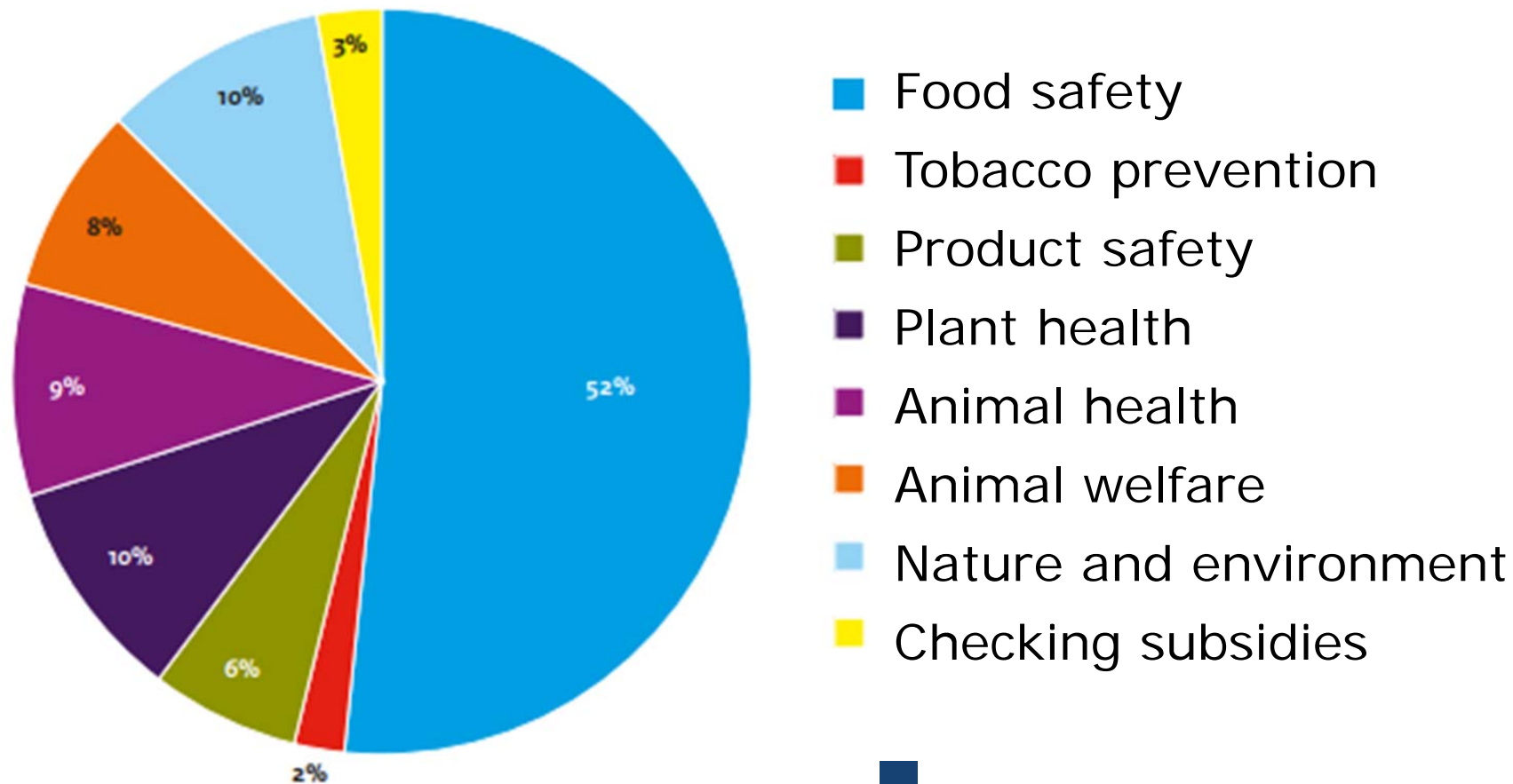
The food producer is responsible for a safe product. He has to ensure permanent quality control. The government supervises this control system (risk based).

- Risk assessment & Risk communication
- Inspection and enforcement, investigation of fraud
- EFSA and RASF Contact points



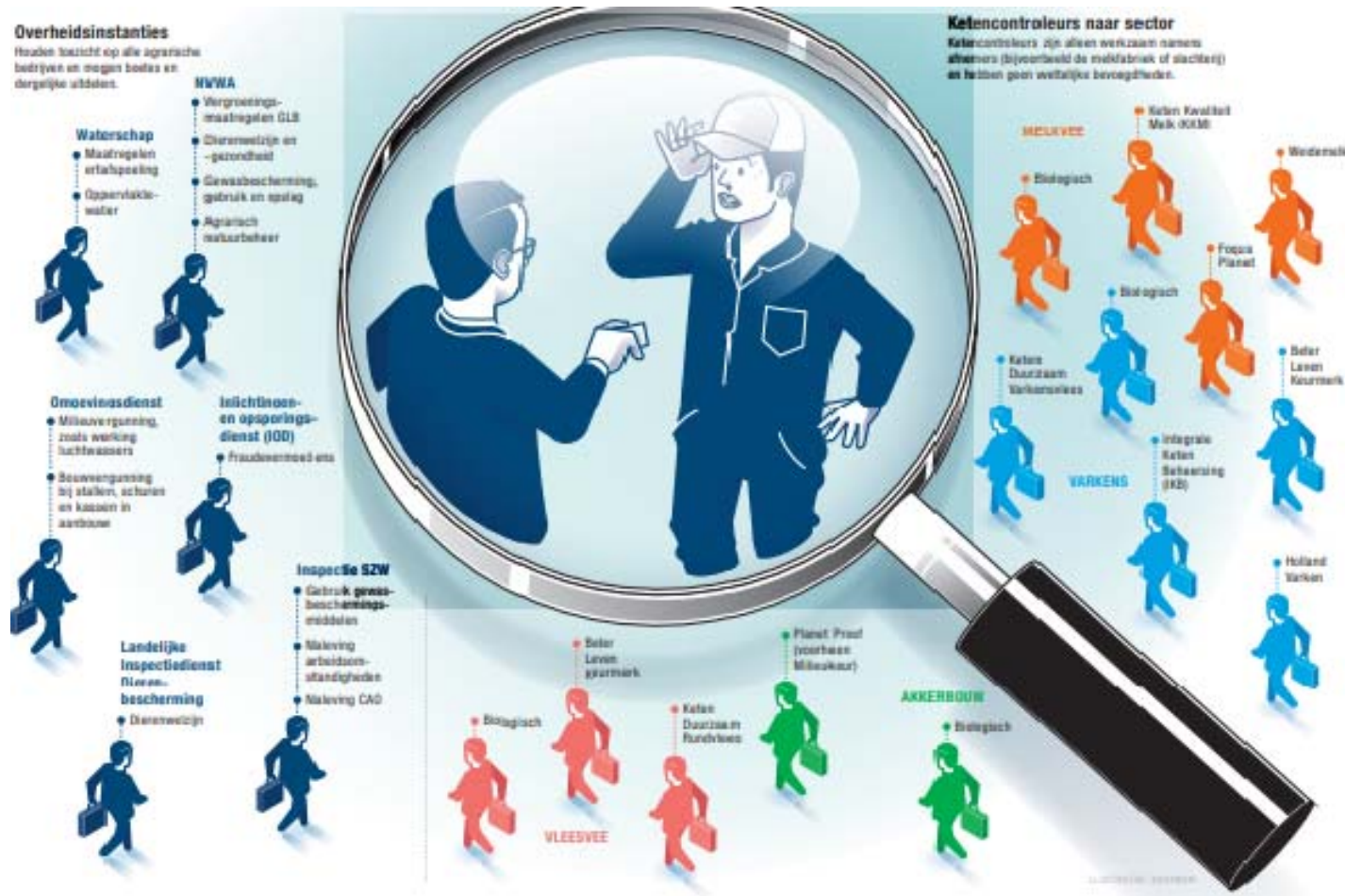


NVWA Division of hours for public safety 2019





Example: Farmers inspected (in Dutch)





Extra: A guide on how food safety is organised in many European Union countries

The (German) EU Food Safety Almanac explains how food safety is organised in:

- The European Union
- ALL its member states

It exists in Chinese!





Conclusions

- › The Netherlands is part of the European Union
- › Food safety legislation is harmonised in the EU
- › Codex Alimentarius is the global reference point in the international food trade
- › Food safety is science based
- › Food producers are responsible for food safety
- › Ministries and Inspection (NVWA) oversee food safety





Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Marie-Ange Delen

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