



FAO GM Foods Platform

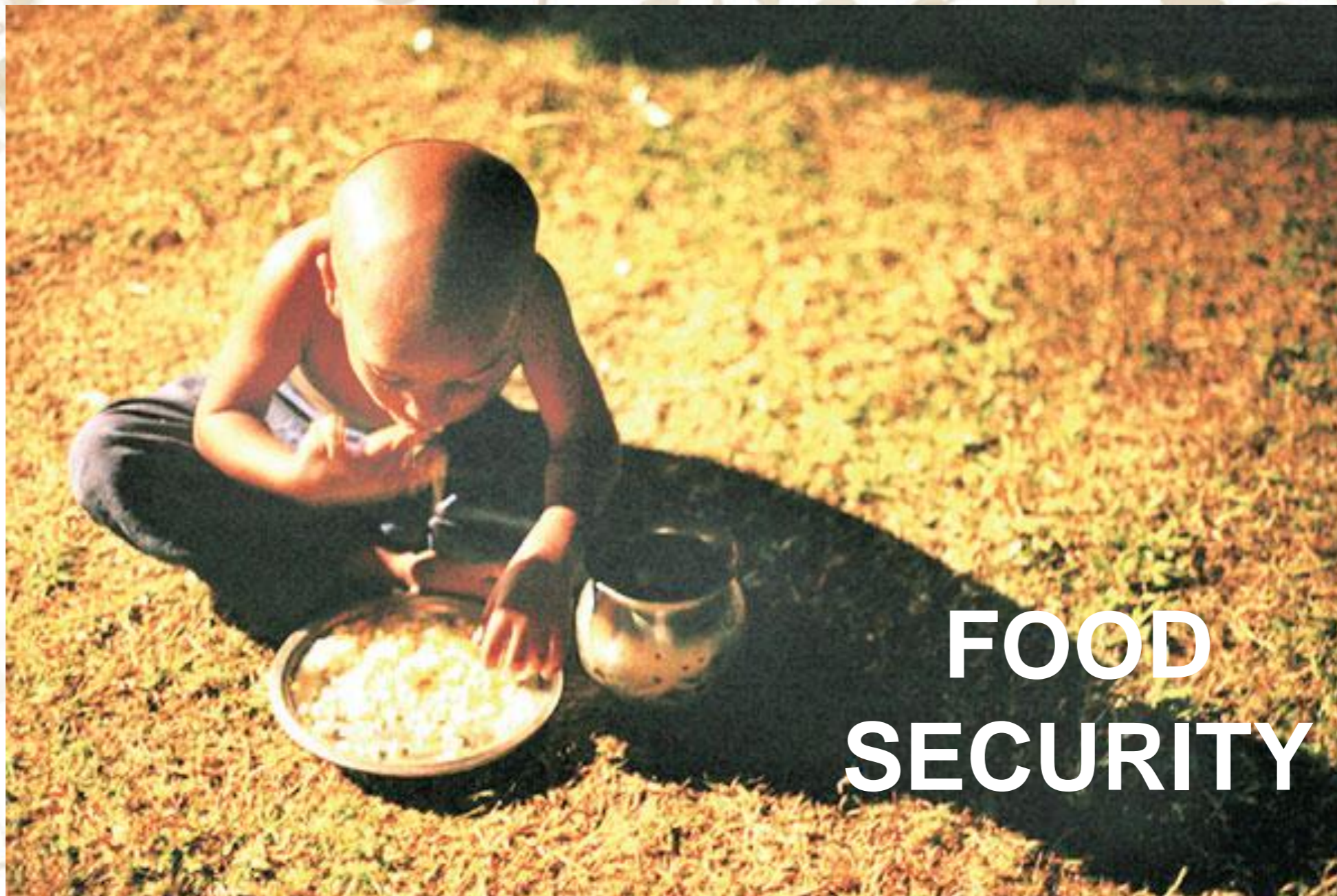
www.fao.org/gm-platform



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FAO's mandate



**FOOD
SECURITY**

Definition of “food security”



“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to **sufficient, safe and nutritious food**”

[FAO World Food Summit, 1996]

FAO GM Foods Platform

www.fao.org/gm-platform

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the FAO GM Foods Platform. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/gm-foods-platform/en/. The page features the FAO logo and the text "Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations" on the left. The main content area has a blue header with "Food safety and quality" and "GM Foods Platform". Below this is a large green banner with the text "FAO GM Foods Platform" and a stylized plant graphic. The main heading is "Welcome to the FAO GM Foods Platform". The text below describes the platform's purpose: "A platform for all" and "The FAO GM Foods Platform is a simple online platform to share information on safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA plants authorized in accordance with the Codex 'Guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA plants (CAC/GL 45-2003, annex III adopted in 2008)'. This Platform also facilitates the effective utilization of food safety assessment in situations of Low Level Presence (LLP) of r-DNA plant materials in food." It also includes a "How it works" section and a "Please note" section. A blue button labeled "Start browsing" is positioned at the bottom of the main content area. The footer contains links for "Contact us", "Terms and Conditions", and "Scam Alert", along with the copyright notice "© FAO, 2014".

Codex Alimentarius

- Intergovernmental Standards-setting Body established by FAO and WHO in 1961/63
- Ad hoc Task Force on Food derived from Biotechnology (TFFBT)
- Guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA plants
 - Annex III : Food Safety Assessment in Situations of Low-level Presence (LLP) of recombinant-DNA Plant Material in Food
 - The Annex specifies that Codex Members should make available to a **publicly accessible central database** to be maintained by FAO information on recombinant-DNA plants authorized in accordance with the Codex Plant Guideline.



Scope of the database



- Type of documents



- Type of assessment



- Type of organism

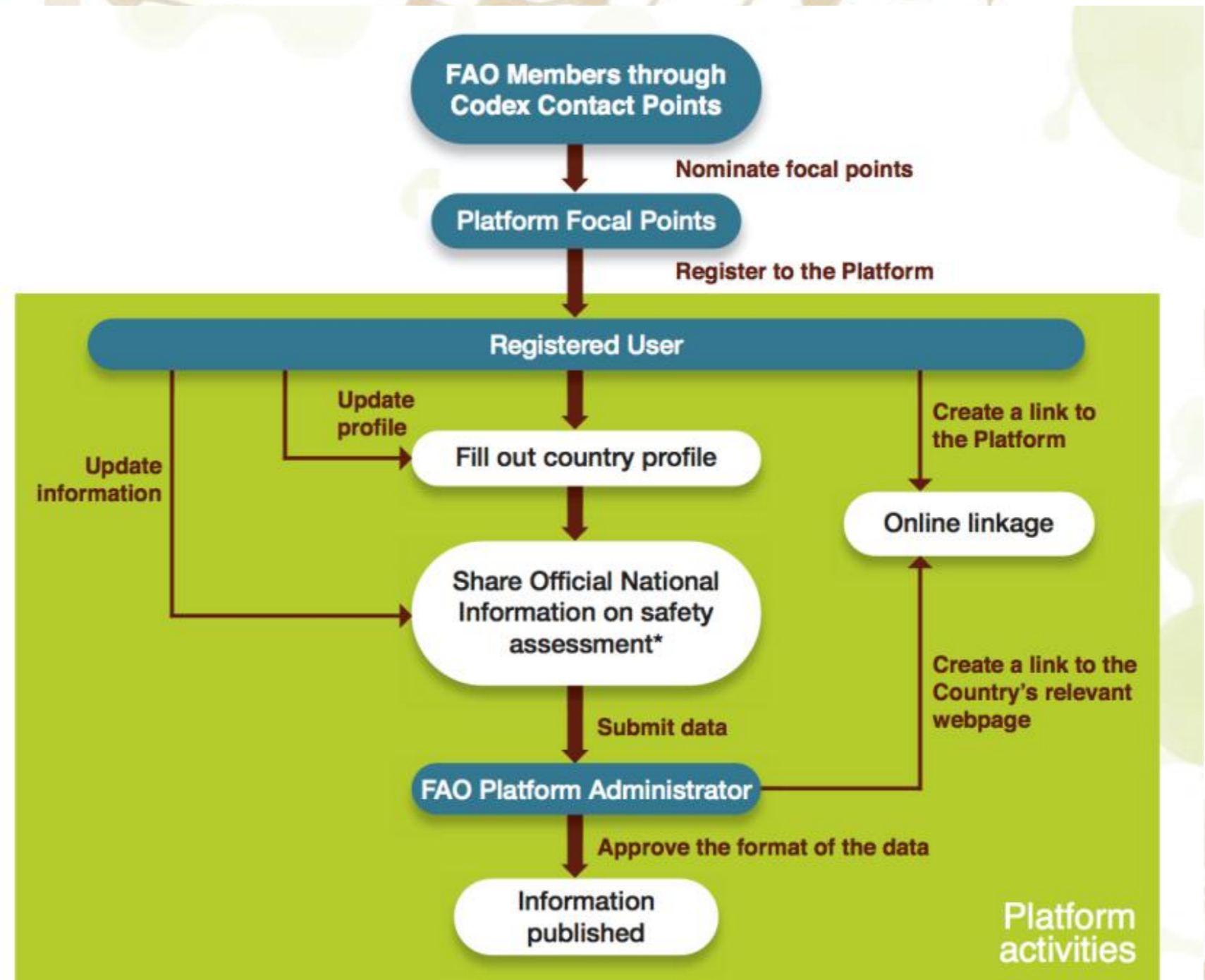


- Scale of assessment



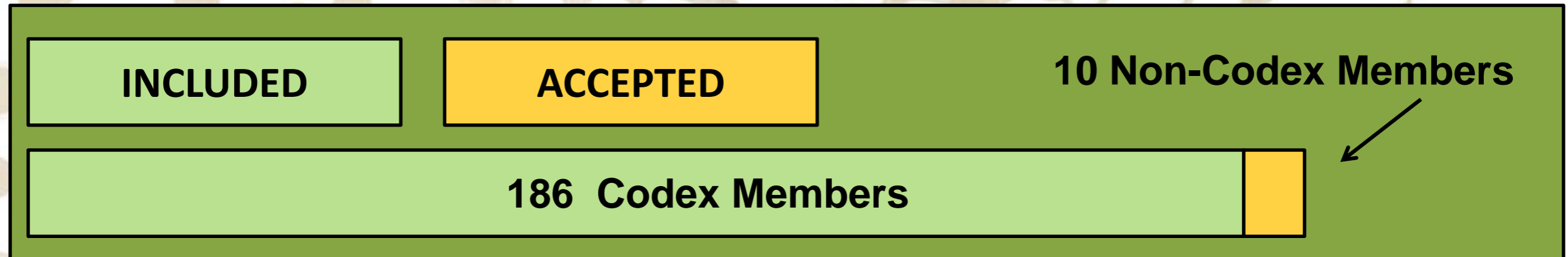
How it works

- Freely accessible for visitors
- Only Focal Points can upload data/information
- Focal Points are officially nominated by the FAO Member governments

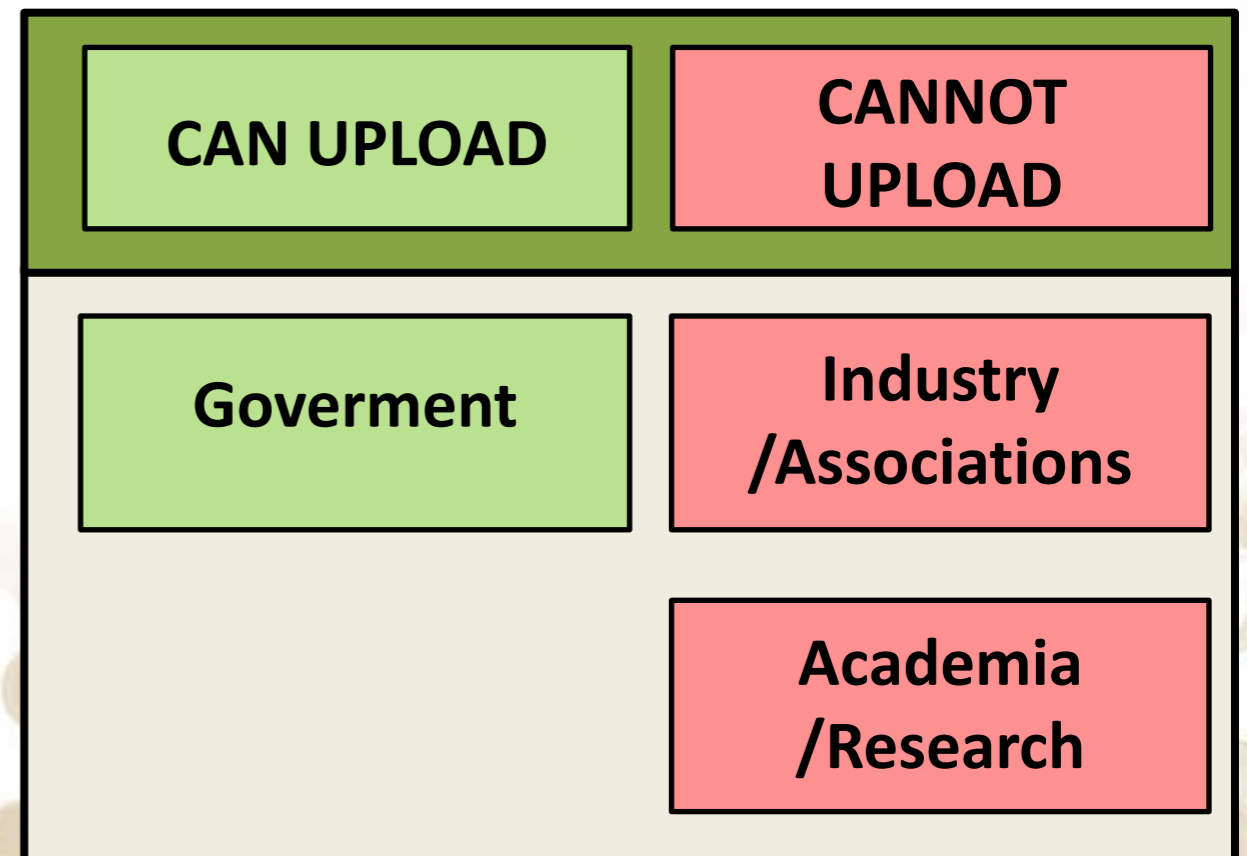


* Conducted according to the Codex Guidelines

FAO GM Foods Platform Community



- Focal Points to the Platform are government officials from FAO Member States that are officially nominated by their Codex Contact Point
 - To date, 156 Focal Points are nominated
- Focal Points are mostly from:
 - Ministry of Agriculture
 - Ministry of Health
 - Food Safety Competent Authorities



Uploaders of information

Current Challenges

- The Platform is not yet 100% up-to-date
 - Difficulties in the nomination of Focal Points due to multi-agency collaboration.
 - Priority conflicts at the national level (financial resources and time allocation) resulting in no/slow uploading of information.
- Official documents are in the original language of the respective country
 - Reservation to share the document in non-UN languages has been observed.
- Limited financial and personal resources available for maintaining the Platform



For more information

- **FAO – Food Safety and Quality website:**
<http://www.fao.org/food/food-quality-safety/food-quality@fao.org>
- **FAO GM Foods Platform:**
<http://fao.org/gm-platform/GM-Platform@fao.org>



FOOD
safety
at FAO