

Food safety research for development in sub-Saharan Africa: Tapping the expertise of German partners

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Background

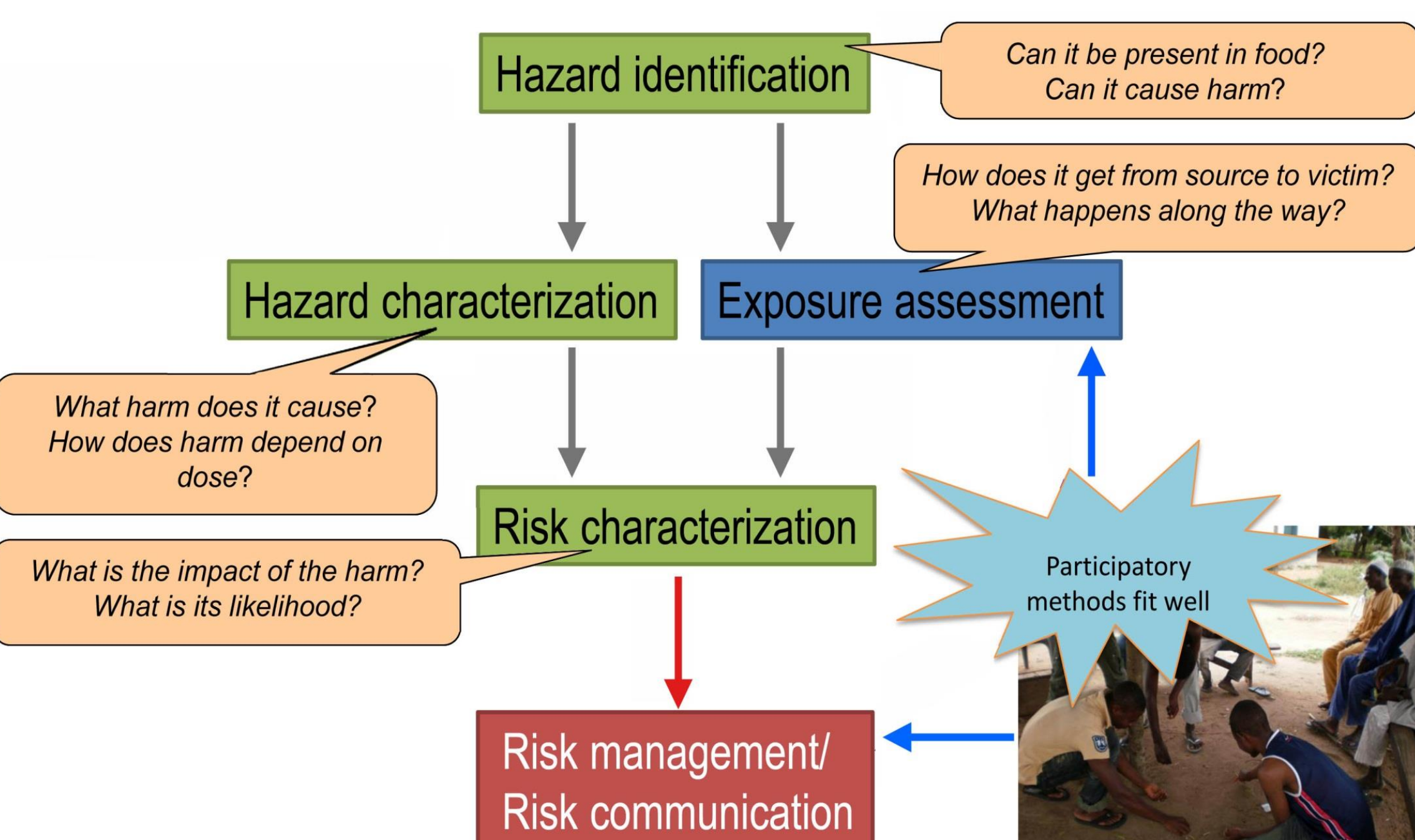
- Global burden of foodborne diseases is equivalent to that of HIV/Aids or tuberculosis or malaria;
- Up to 90% due to microbes in perishable foods;
- More than 80% perishables are sold in informal markets where actors are not trained, not licensed, not paying taxes;
- Lack of data on hazards, burden and exposure;
- Policies are currently hazard-based.

Key Findings

- Informal markets are integral to food, nutrition and job security in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Although hazards are often common in informal markets risk to human health is not necessarily high;
- Risks in the informal food chains have been under-researched and need attention;
- Risks vary and may not be as serious as perceived: food safety policy should be based on evidence not perceptions;
- Participatory methods are useful in studying food safety risks in informal food chains;
- Simple interventions could lead to substantial improvements: potable water, electricity, training, standards, appropriate hygienic supervision etc.;
- Food safety needs a multi-disciplinary (OneHealth) and multi-sectoral approach;
- Comprehensive, jointly developed and implemented policies are prerequisites for food safety assurance.

Collaborative outputs

- >200 key stakeholders from >35 institutions in 12 countries trained on the concepts of risk-based approaches and (participatory) risk assessment;
- >30 food safety practitioners, students and scientists were trained in specific laboratory methods for hazard identification, at German partner institutes or in their home countries;
- Best bet interventions tested;
- Field isolates archived in German partner institutes;
- >15 joint peer-reviewed journal publications and >200 other joint outputs.



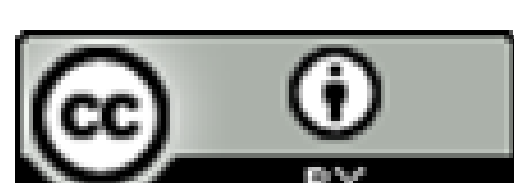
The Safe Food, Fair Food project

aims to improve the livelihoods of poor producers and consumers by reducing the health risks and increasing the livelihood benefits associated with meat, milk and fish value chains in sub-Saharan Africa.

The project was implemented from 2008-2015 and funded by BMZ/GIZ.

Please visit us at safefoodfairfood.ilri.org

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