

7 June

World Food Safety Day



The role of the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) in facilitating exchange of information across borders and between members during food safety events.

**World Food Safety Day
2024**

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Globalization and food safety



- The increasing global connection of the food supply means that risks posed by unsafe food can quickly move from a local problem to an international emergency
- Slowing down the distribution of unsafe food has therefore become an essential element in limiting food-borne diseases
- This requires more effective information sharing between national food safety authorities in different countries



INFOSAN

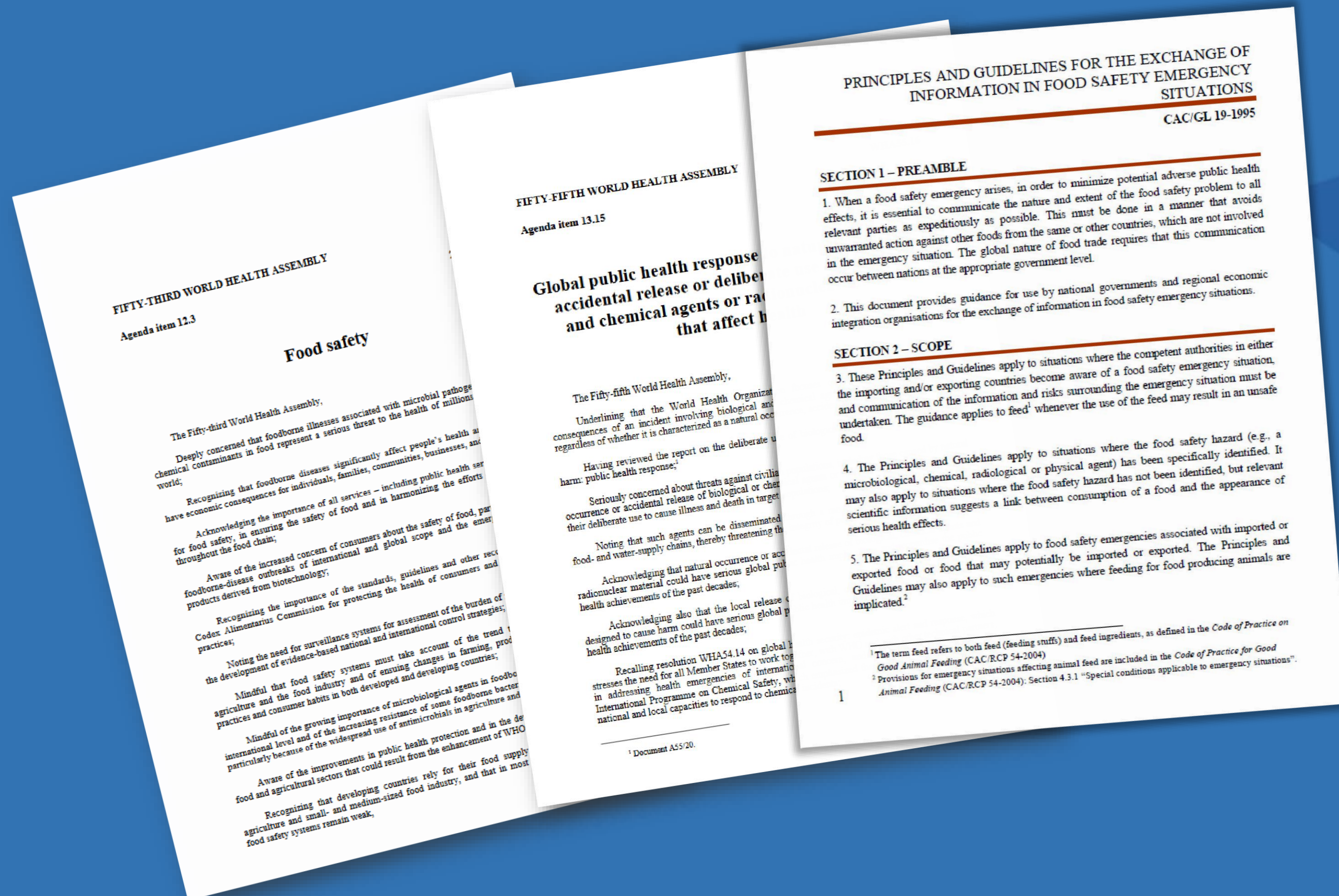


The International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) is a voluntary network of national authorities involved in food safety from around the world managed jointly by FAO and WHO



The foundations

- **2000** → **WHA 53.15**: call for improved communication among WHO and its Member States on matters of food safety.
- **2002** → **WHA 55.16**: serious concerns about health emergencies caused by natural, accidental or intentional contamination of food; request WHO to provide tools and support to Member States to increase their capacity to respond to such emergencies
- **2004** → **CAC/GL 19-1995**: MS recommended to designate official points of contact to exchange info during international food safety emergencies; Request WHO to maintain list of food safety emergency contact points as mechanism to ensure rapid exchange of info during such incidents



The beginnings

2004 → **INFOSAN** officially launched



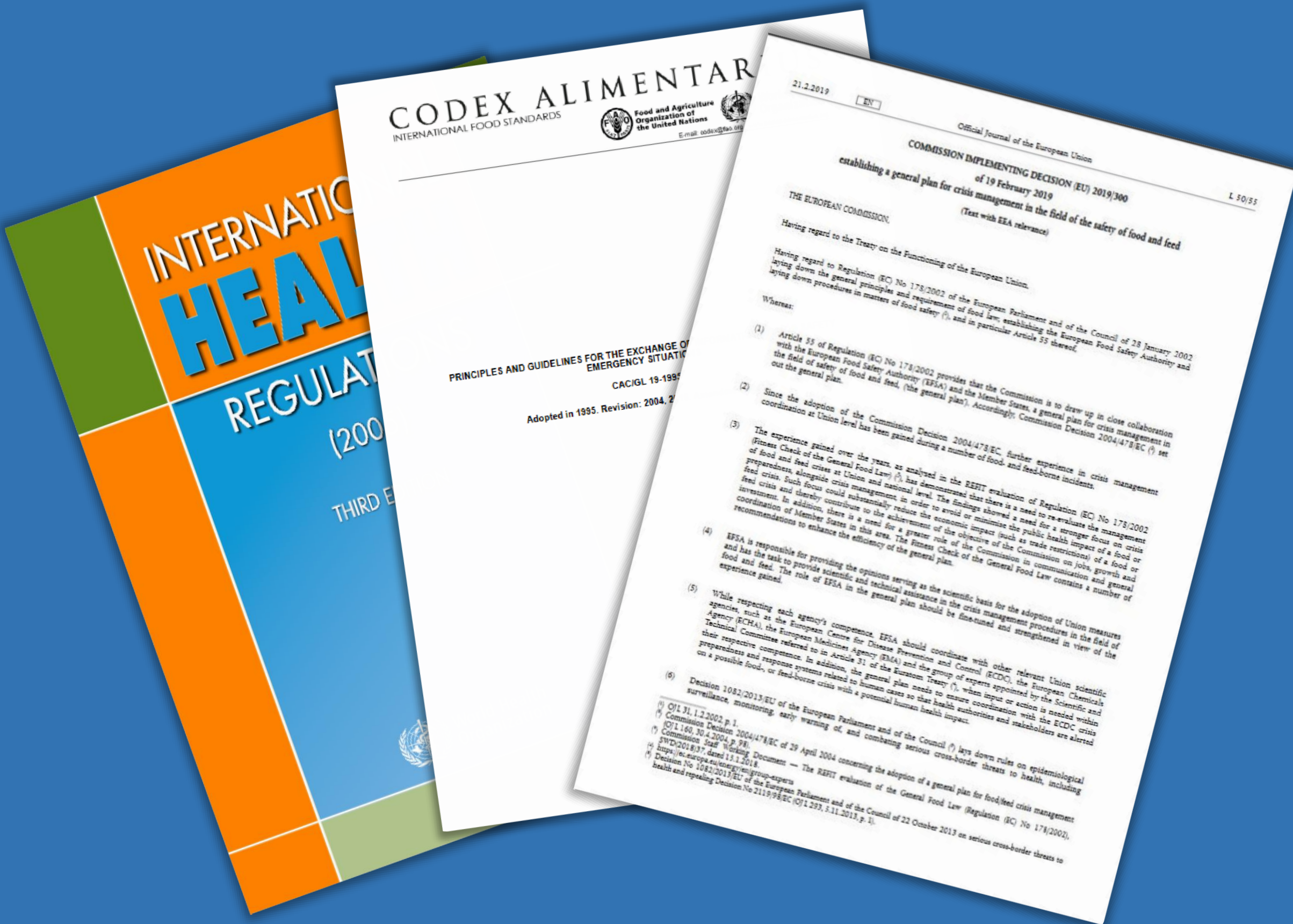
Then



Now

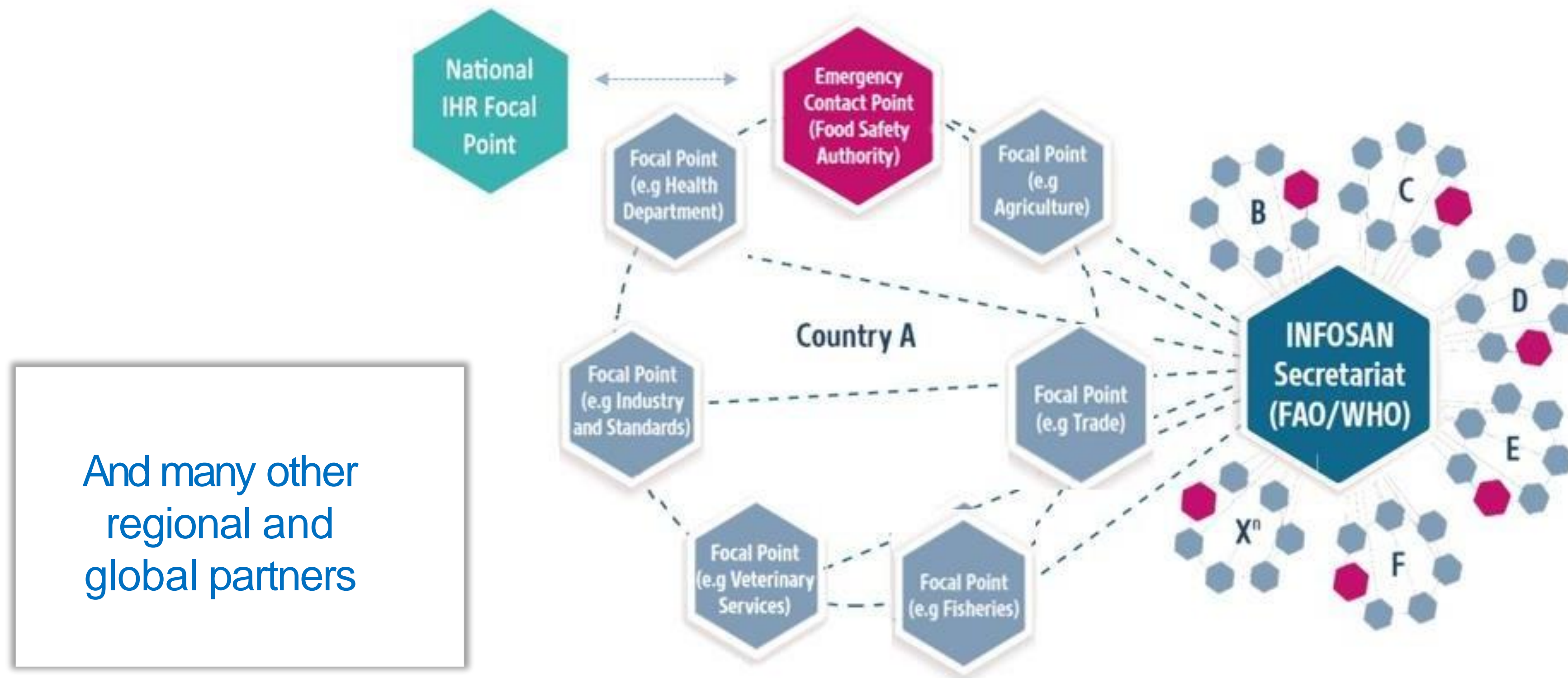


Development



- **2007 → IHR (2005):** recognizes INFOSAN as the tool to use for international communication during food safety emergencies; INFOSAN is also used to assist countries to develop their core capacities required for food safety emergency preparedness and response as required under the IHR
- **2016 → Revised CAC/GL 19-1995:** includes appropriate references to INFOSAN, underlining its increasingly important role
- **2019 → Commission Decision (EU) 2019/300 Article 21:** INFOSAN shall be used when trade from or to third countries is affected by the hazard involved without prejudice to the need for additional bilateral exchange of information with trade partners and competent authorities in third countries

INFOSAN Structure



INFOSAN types of members



Emergency Contact Points (ECPs) of the national authority responsible for coordinating food safety emergency activities

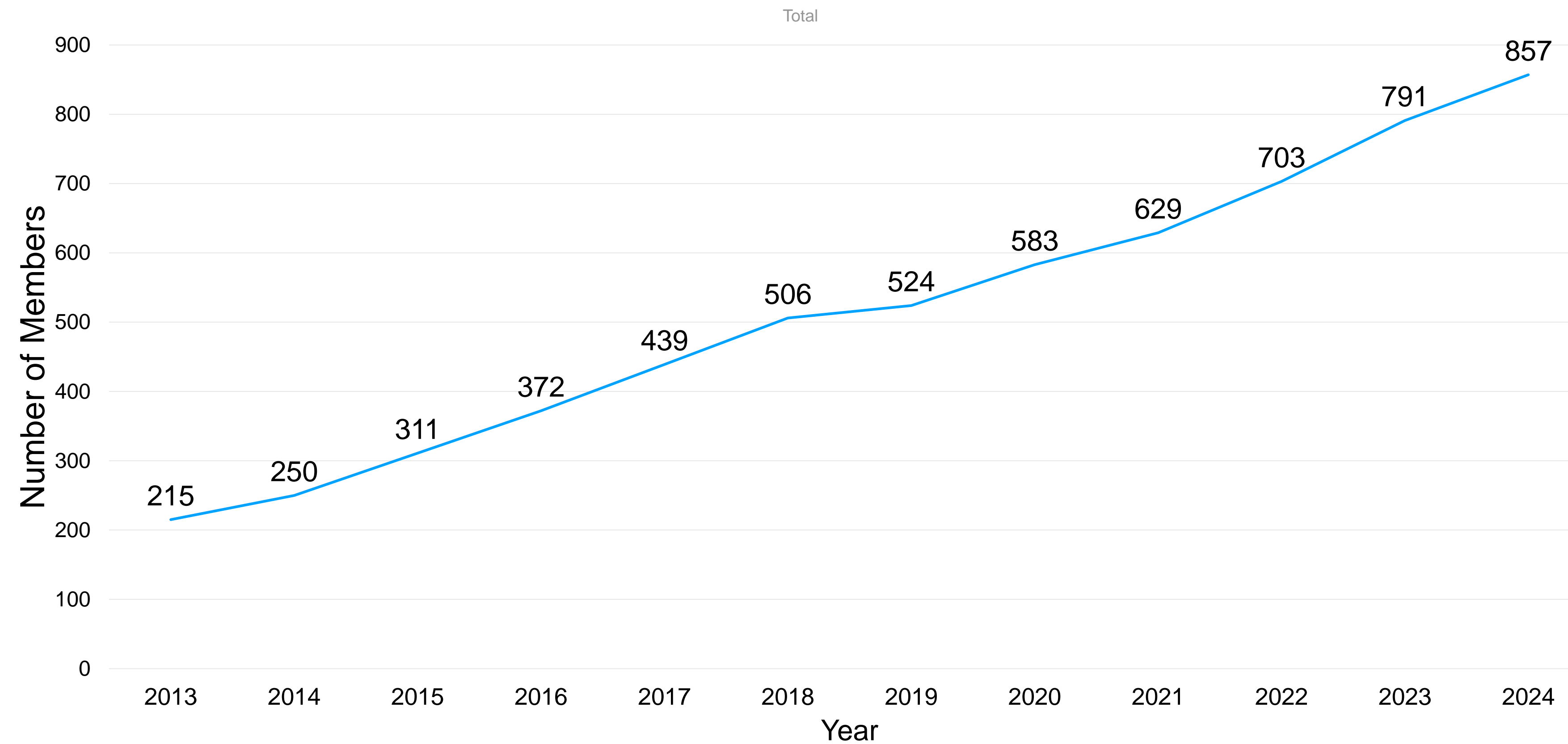


Focal points (FPs) Other national authorities concerned with food safety (i.e. human health, veterinary services, agriculture, trade, fisheries, etc.)

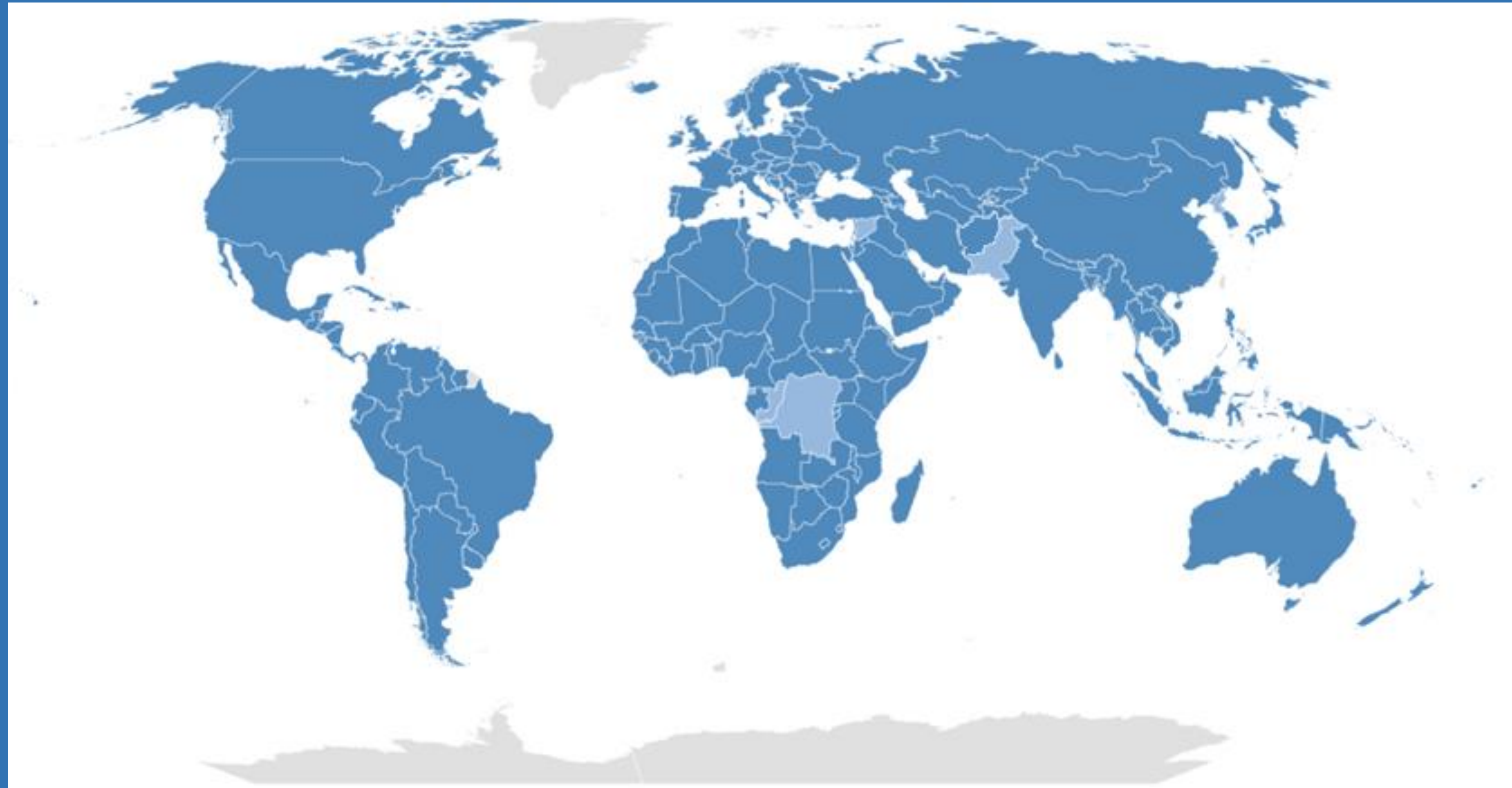


Other Members WHO and FAO Regional Food Safety Advisors and Officers; Regional Food Safety Authorities and Collaborating Centres

Number of Registered INFOSAN ECPs and FPs, 2013-2024

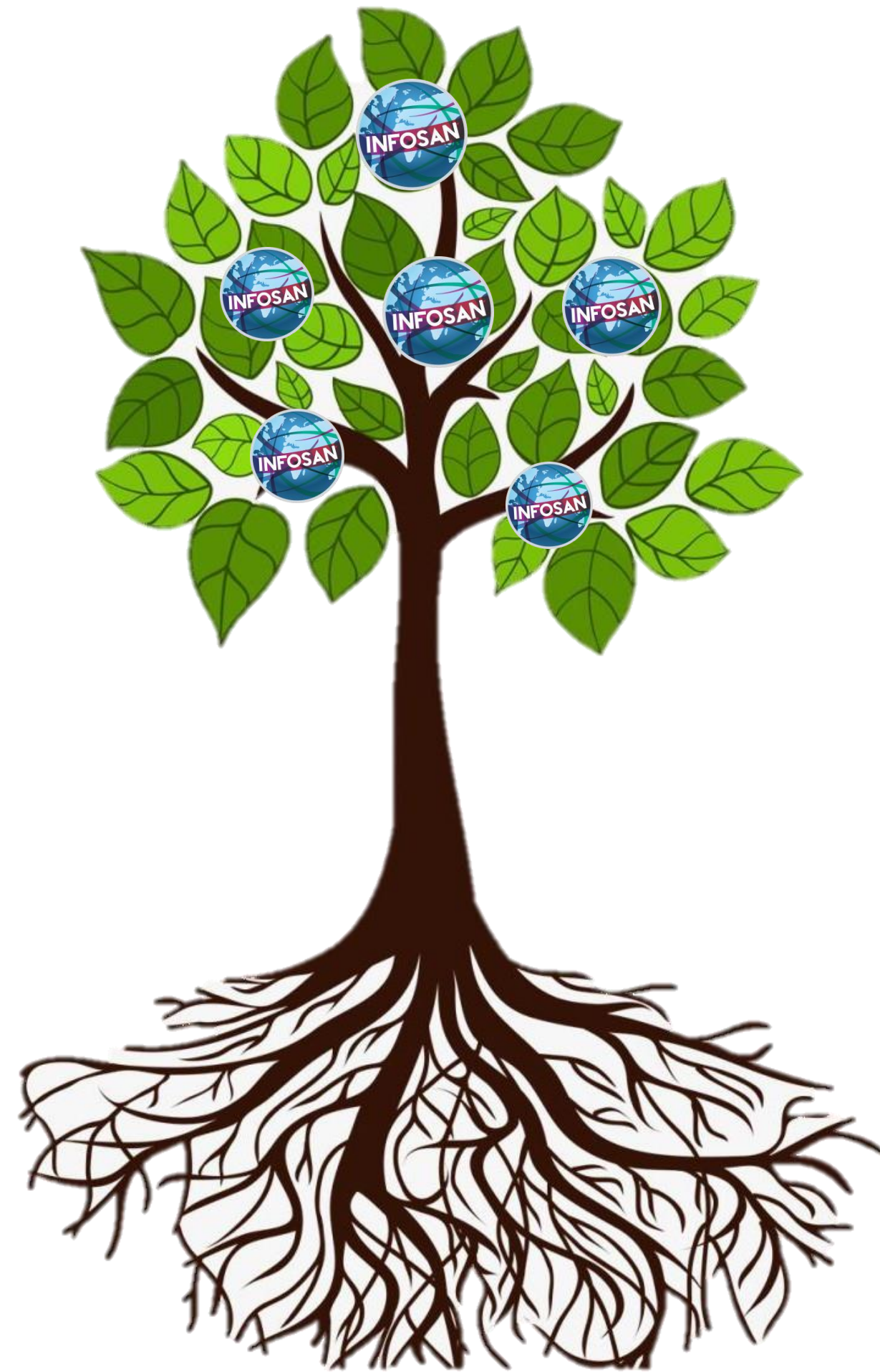


INFOSAN Coverage



189/194 WHO Member States

- We aim to have full INFOSAN coverage of 194 WHO Member States in the following years



20 years of growing together



INFOSAN Objectives

- ① Promote the **rapid exchange of information** during food safety incidents
- ② **Share information and resources** on important food safety related issues of global interest
- ③ **Promote partnerships and collaboration** between national agencies, between countries, and between networks
- ④ Help countries **strengthen their capacity** to manage food safety emergencies



Mission of INFOSAN

- To Halt the international spread of contaminated food, prevent foodborne disease outbreaks, and strengthen food safety systems globally to reduce the burden of foodborne disease.



INFOSAN during food safety events

The INFOSAN Secretariat, reacts to food safety events by:



Assessing reports and signals of food safety events of potential international significance;



Requesting WHO Member States information for verification and assessment of such events;



Responding to requests for international assistance to respond to food safety events of international public health concern



Disseminating INFOSAN Alerts and summarize incidents on the INFOSAN Community Website



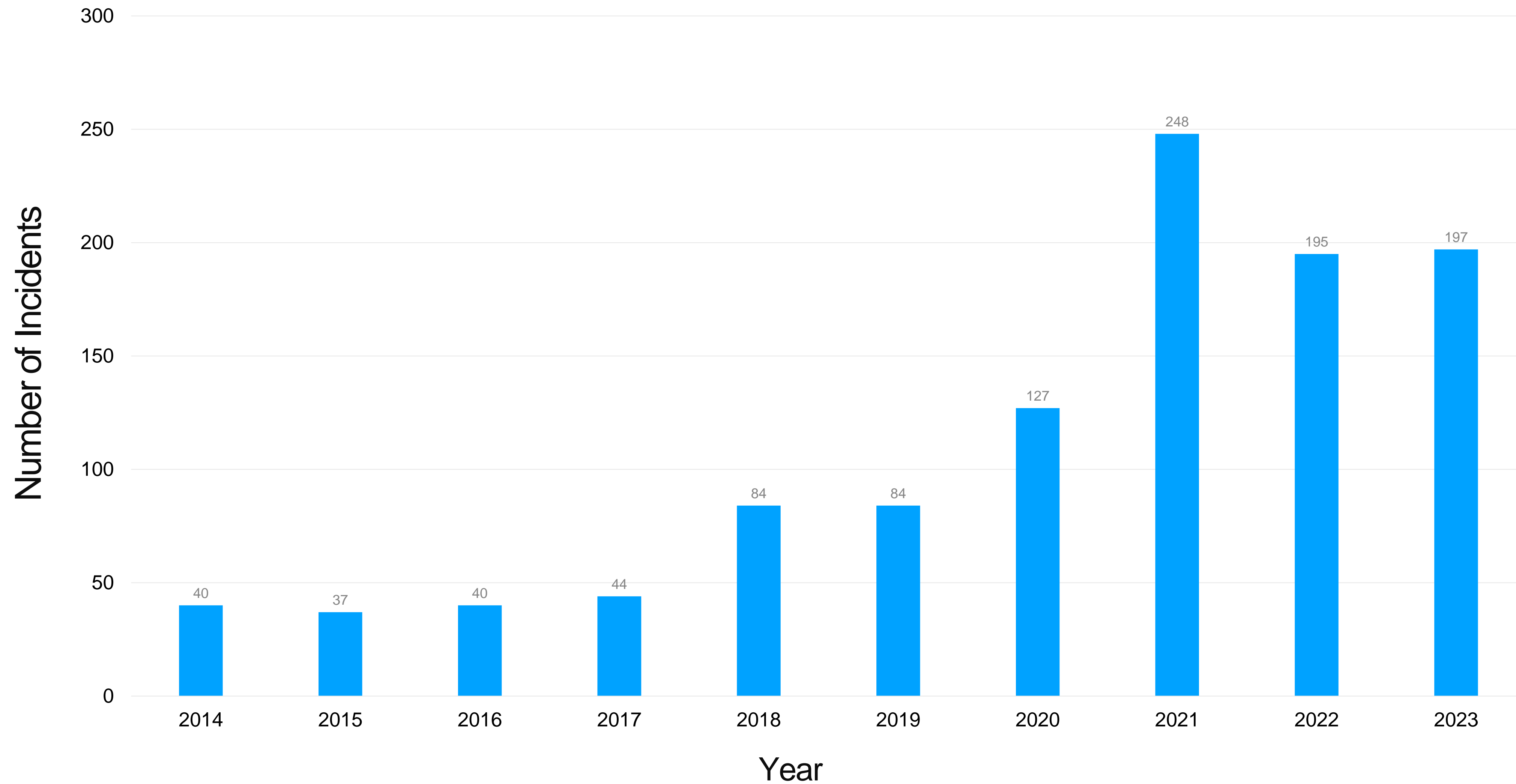
Encouraging multisectoral collaboration at the national level, including the IHR National Focal Point



Promoting experience and best practices sharing to food safety emergency management



Total Food Safety Incidents where the INFOSAN Secretariat intervened



Conclusion

As we celebrate 20 years of INFOSAN, we reflect on its remarkable achievements in enhancing global food safety. The network has grown significantly in terms of size and activity level in the last 20 years. INFOSAN has been crucial in managing food safety emergencies through rapid information exchange and international cooperation.

Looking ahead, INFOSAN's mission is more vital than ever. In an increasingly interconnected world, swift information sharing is crucial. INFOSAN will continue to evolve and continues strengthening the network and partnerships.



INFOSAN – International Food safety Authorities Network

