

# Implementing risk-based border management in North Macedonia



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# Outline

- Background
  - Drivers for change
- Trade Facilitation Agreement
- Risk-based border management – best practices



# Background

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North Macedonia is accession country to EU

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Legislation is in line with EU requirements in plant health

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North Macedonia is CEFTA Party

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Economy is highly reliant on agriculture (8.5% of GDP and 17% of the labor force). Trade in agricultural goods is key component of the economy

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North Macedonia is member of WTO and Implementation of the WTO TFA is facilitating the trade.

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Keen to modernize trade-related border procedures and to align them with those in EU

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Significant trade with CEFTA Parties, the EU and with other partners (Russia, Turkey, etc.)

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Objective to develop consistent, harmonized, operational procedures that balance trade facilitation with security and safety

# Factors affecting the change



Limited resources



Increased demand for new/innovative products



Increased need to manage risks before entry



Need to expedite trade



Better prioritization



Increased alignment of activities with risk



Recognition of the role of risk-makers to manage risks

# Strategy

- What: procedural framework aligned with obligations/mandates
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - General procedures
  - Specific commodity-based procedures
  - Technical level guidance
- How: risk categorization process
  - Review data and experience of staff
  - Develop a prioritized structure for border interventions

# TFA articles apply to all border agencies

## Transparency Articles



**Article 1**  
Publication & Availability  
of Information



**Article 2**  
Comment  
and Consultations



**Article 4**  
Procedures for  
Appeal or Review



**Article 5**  
Measures to Enhance  
Impartiality, Non-Discrimination  
& Transparency

## Fees, Charges and Formalities Articles



**Article 6**  
Disciplines on Fees  
and Charges



**Article 7**  
Release and Clearance  
of Goods



**Article 8**  
Border Agency  
Cooperation

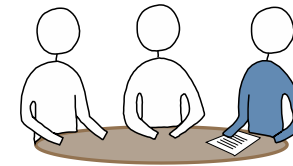


**Article 10**  
Import, Export  
& Transit Formalities



**Article 11**  
Freedom  
of transit

## Institutional Arrangement Article



**Article 23**  
Institutional  
arrangements

# Border management

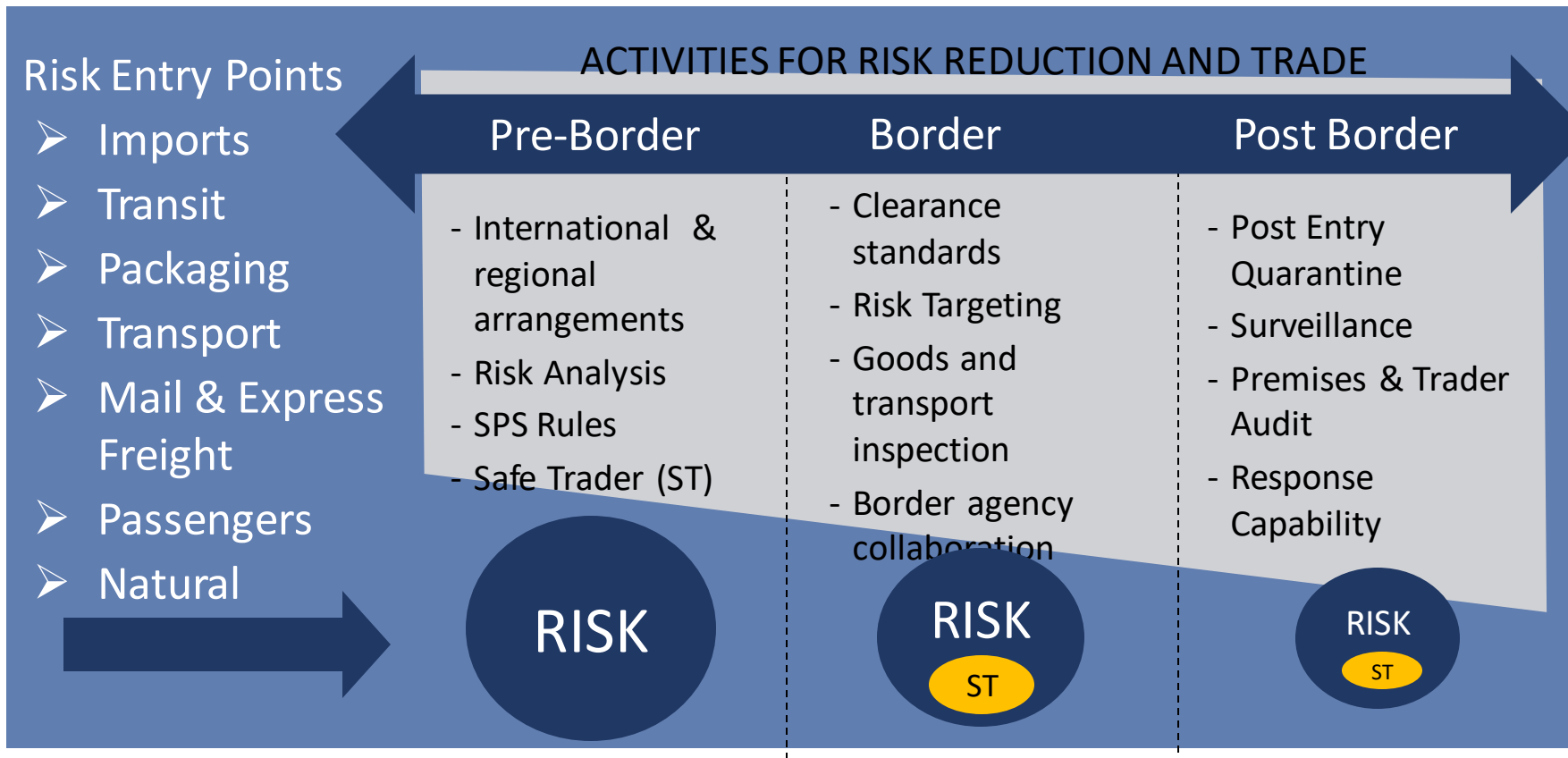
## Historically

- Prescriptive
- Hardcopy documents – difficult to analyze data
- Lack of consistency
- Focus on the commodity
- Non-compliance focus

## Modernized processes

- Outcome-based
- Use of digital information to inform activities
- Centralized consistent approach
- Focus on the evolving information
- Compliance focus

# Framework for Managing SPS Risk



Adapted from Ministry of Primary Industries New Zealand  
[http://www.mpi.govt.nz/mpi-surveillance-guide/?url=/mpi-surveillance-guide#/ready/ready\\_01](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/mpi-surveillance-guide/?url=/mpi-surveillance-guide#/ready/ready_01)





# Operational Data

Data sharing

Strategic intelligence

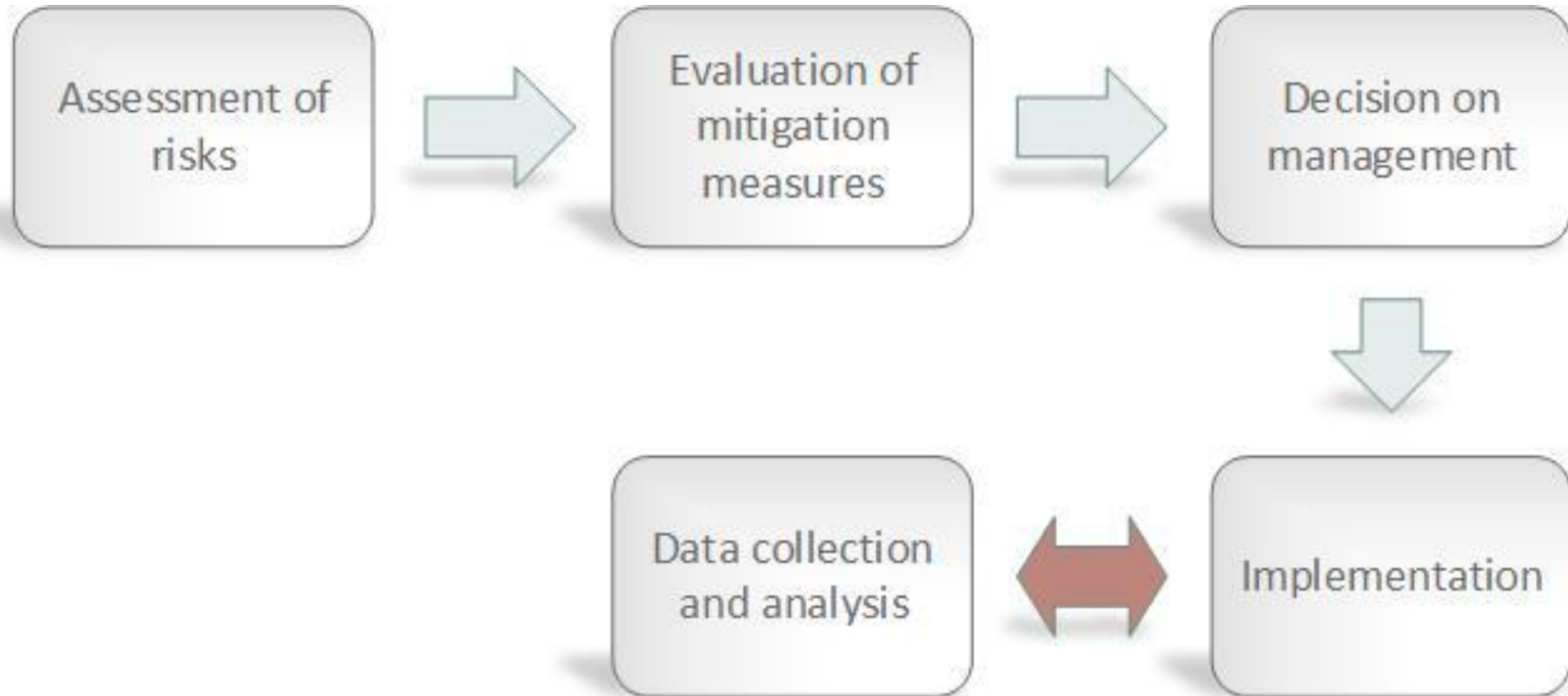
Compliance

- Importer
- Exporter

Pest stage at the time of import

Outbreaks

# Risk analysis and risk-based border management



# Developing a risk categorization of commodities

- Data analysis
  - Not all data was available
  - Inspection data collection was inconsistent
  - Data collected was not necessarily informative
  - Inspectors have a lot of experience that can fill gaps
- Prioritization of on a commodity basis
  - Reviewed origins, sources, import compliance, etc.
  - Establish a prioritization on a commodity basis
- Developing documented procedures
  - Based upon the plan develop identify the interventions needed
    - Lower risk – reduced border interventions
    - Medium risk – intermediate border interventions
    - Higher risk – greater border interventions



# Other phytosanitary capacity development needs to support risk based border management

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New Lists of plants, plants products, objects and other subjects prepared ;

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Preparation of the legislation with introduction of risk based border phytosanitary inspection;

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Appropriate IT system for import, export an re-export;

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Available human and technical resources Inspection services and Laboratories due to:

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- Increased number of visual inspections on BIPs;
  - Increased number of samples taken on BIPs (Increased financial costs for sample analysis);
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# Putting it together

- More than 2 years due to Covid
- Combination of in-person and virtual team collaborations
- Output – comprehensive manual identifying procedures on a commodity basis
- Structure
  - Provides guidance on inspection of imports and exports
  - Commodity and risk-based procedures
  - Comprehensive information tool for inspectors – consistent application
  - Inspection, sampling, certification and clearance
  - Responsibilities of SAI
  - Responsibilities of traders



# Standard operating practices

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Provides guidance on inspection of imports and exports

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Commodity-based guide

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Risk-based procedures and processes

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Comprehensive information tool for inspectors – consistent application

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Inspection, sampling, certification and clearance

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Responsibilities of SAI and traders

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Thank you



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