Holistic and resilience approach to food safety management

Ine van der Fels-Klerx

Wageningen Food Safety Research & Wageningen University

GHI conference, Rotterdam 25 June 2025





Let me introduce my selves

- Principal scientist Wageningen Food Safety Research
- Professor Food Safety Economics, Wageningen University
- Content wise working on food safety in the supply chain, predictive modelling, early warning





Changes in our environment...

WHAT IS AN 'EMERGING FOOD RISK?'

A risk resulting from a newly identified hazard to which a significant exposure may occur, or from an **unexpected new or increased** significant exposure and/or susceptibility to a known hazard.







Example: mycotoxins

Factors contributing to mycotoxin production:



INCREASED TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY





ALTERED PRECIPITATION PATTERNS Mitigation strategies:



CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES



ENHANCE STORAGE & DRYING TECHNIQUES



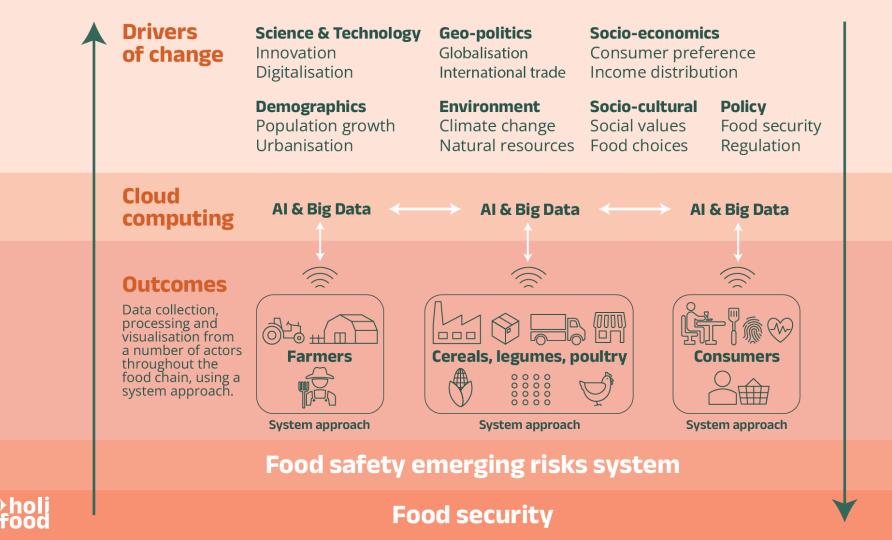
DEVELOP EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS



SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES







Food safety management

Known Food safety hazards

Management systems like HACCP

Call for pro-active, anticipatory approach



FoodsafeR and HOLiFOOD

European projects, funded in same call

Run 2022-2026

Focus on emerging risk identification and pro-active & holistic food safety management





Approaches for early identification

Predictive models for (emerging) known hazards

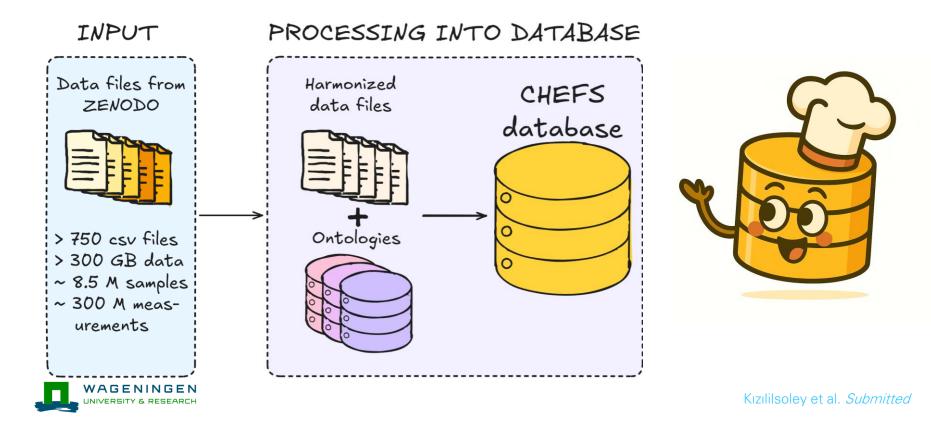
Pick up trends from media, scientific literature etc

Signalling trends, via contacts and networks

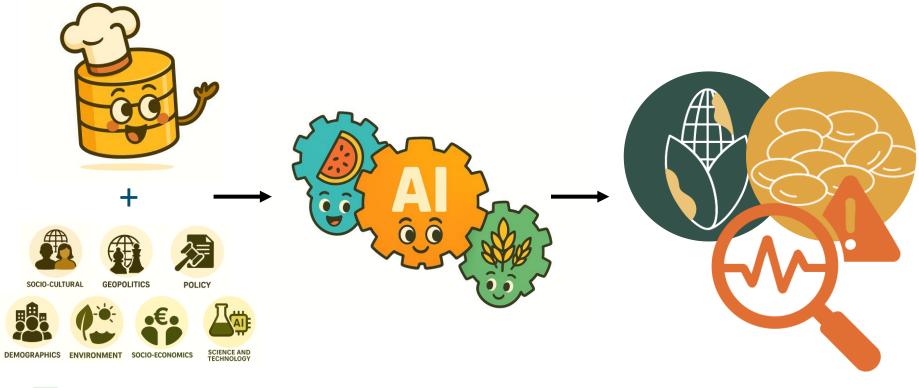




CompreHensive European Food Safety (CHEFS) database

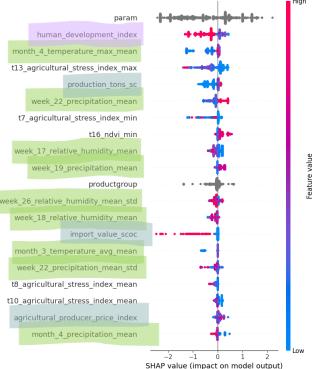


Prediction models



Mycotoxins in grains

Explainable Al



- Multiple cereal grains
- Multiple mycotoxins
- Multiple AI methods

Al performance 80 % (AUC)



XGBoost+SHAP



Korporaal et al. in preparation; van der Velden et al, MedIA, 2022

Feature value

Resilience of supply chains



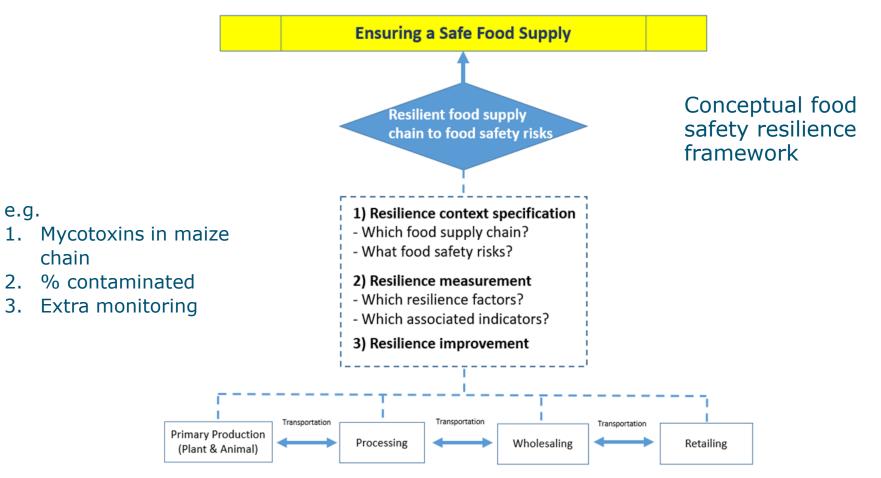
- Given the drivers, deal with the presence of hazards
- Resilience concept

"Recovery capacity of the food supply chain to unwanted disruptions related to the presence of food safety hazards to allow the delivery of safe food to consumers over a reasonable lead time"

- Resilience thinking VS Risk management thinking
 - Inevitable risks (endemic, emerging risks)
 - Pro-active



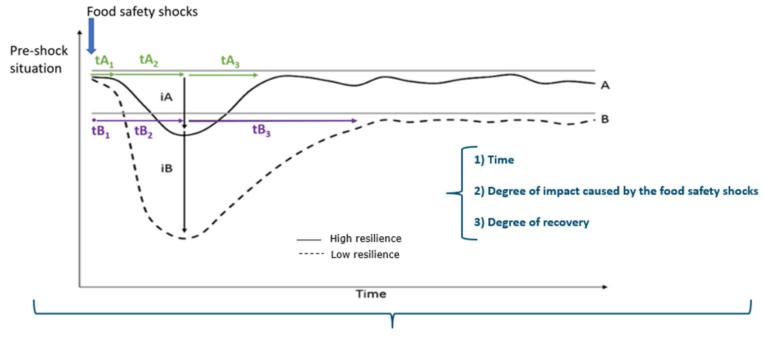






(Mu, van Asselt, van Wagenberg, van der Fels-Klerx, 2020)

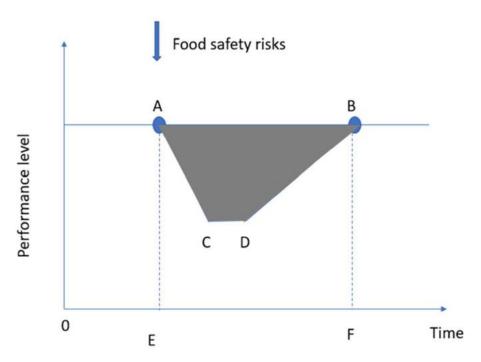
Resilience measurement



Each individual chain stage & Overall supply chain



Resilience model quantification





Resilience approach

Quantified for pork supply chain for various hazards:

- Salmonella
- Dioxins
- Hepatitis E
- Toxoplasma gondii

Risk Analysis AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL An Official Publication of the Society for Risk Analysis

ORIGINAL ARTICLE 🔂 Open Access

The resilience of the pork supply chain to a food safety outbreak: The case of dioxins

Marlous Focker 🔀, Coen van Wagenberg, Esther van Asselt, H. J. van der Fels-Klerx

First published: 04 September 2023 | https://doi.org/10.1111/risa.14205



Case: Dioxins in pork supply chain

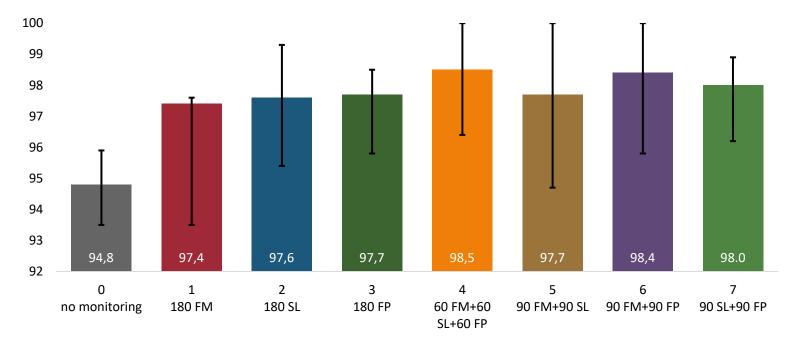
Aim: Evaluate monitoring strategies for Dioxins in pork supply chain Goal: all final products have concentration below ML

7 monitoring options: total 180 samples MC model, for Costs and effectiveness





Resilience for different monitoring options



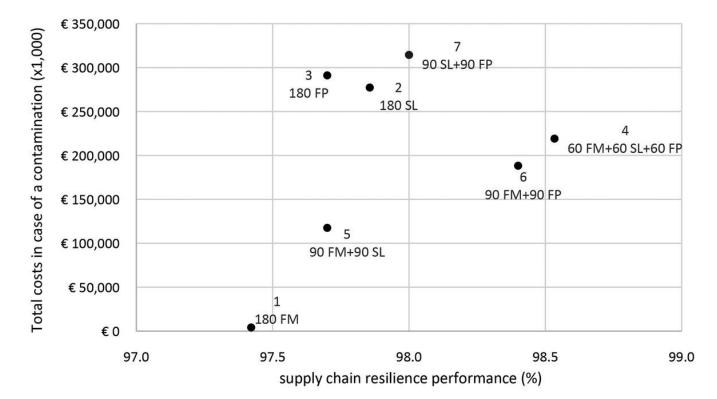
7 monitoring options (180 samples, 3 control points, fixed budget)

FM = Feed mills, SL = Slaughterhouses, FP = Fat melting facilities

Average and SD 1000 MC simulations



Cost and effectiveness



Costs and effectiveness of the different monitoring options (costs include monitoring and recall etc)

Take home messages

- Holistic approach for emerging food safety risks
- Resilience thinking

Improves capacity of safe food supply





Thank you for your attention !

Prof. Ine van der Fels-Klerx

ine.vanderfels@wur.nl

Wageningen Food Safety Research Wageningen University



