

Needs for Better Understanding on risk perception in developing countries

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Situation of Risk Perception in Developing Countries

- Varied, polarization between access and availability vs safety and nutrition
- Lack of scientific information, limited local scientists involvement and capacity for research
- Regulators/government gives higher priority for combating malnutrition and food safety
- Information of risk perception mostly coming from media or “individual”

Areas of Issues

- microbial contamination (aflatoxin, birds flu, typhoid, hepatitis);
- residue of chemicals and animal drugs;
- food additives (artificial sweeteners, flavor enhancers, colorant, preservatives) vs non food grade additives
- Irradiation and nuclear contamination
- GMO/GMF, Biotechnology
- Malnutrition: Vitamin A deficiency, Iodine disorder, degenerative diseases
- Processed vs natural foods

How to approach and manage risks of risk perception?

- Improve availability and access to scientific information → food intelligence network
- Strengthen scientific cooperation between government-scientist-industry, improve the image of partnership for the benefit of public health
- Dissemination and training for research methods on risks of risk perception
- Capacity building for regulatory personnel
- Empower media for more balanced information