# Food Safety and the SPS Agreement

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#### Health Risks

- "All diseases are products of interaction between human-being and environment."
- Human perception of risks
  - injury versus disease risks
  - hereditary vs. non-hereditary risks
  - voluntary vs. forced risks
  - pharmaceutical vs. food risks
  - old vs. novel risks

## 1. Precaution

#### Precaution

- Environment
- "Vorsorge" 1970s 1980s
- Rio Declaration (1992)
  - National legislation and regulation
- Applicable to food safety ?
  - Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)
  - -Risk assessment or risk management?
  - -SPS Agreement Article 5:7

#### Precaution in human health issues

- Transportation speed exceeding 30 miles/hour
- Gas-light in the streets

- Blood donation and v-CJD?
- Mobile phones and brain tumour?

## 2. GMO

#### **GMO**

- Definition
  - Recombinant DNA technology and cell fusion
- Naming gene technology, biotechnology
- Plants, microorganisms, animals (fish)
- Characteristics
- Environmental concern
  - Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- Food safety concern CAC

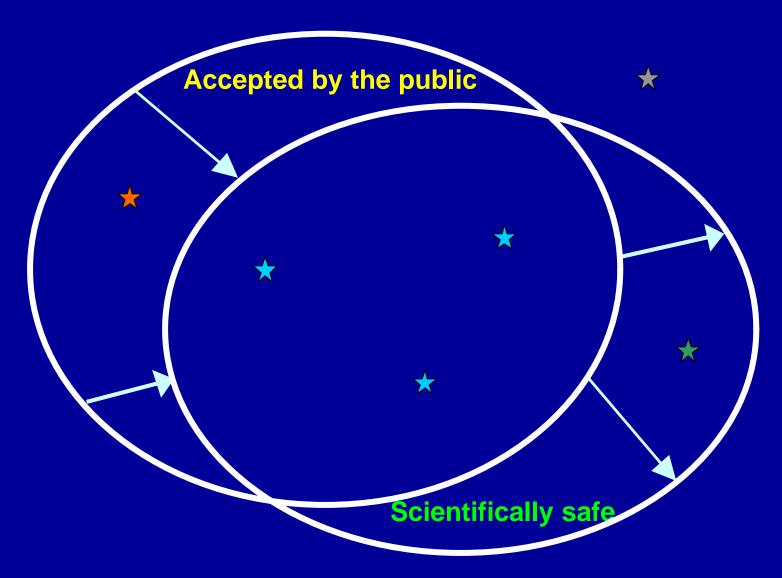
### **Environmental Human Health** Concerns Concerns **Agricultural** and Aquatic **Products** -Foods and **Feeds**

# 3. Developing Country Concerns

#### DCC

- Least developed countries developing countries - industrialised countries
- Food importing countries food exporting countries ....
- SPS Agreement
  - Article 9: Technical assistance
  - Article 10 : Special and differential treatment
  - Article 14 : Final provisions

### Public Health Objective -Bridging Gaps between Perceived and Real Risks



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