



Canadian Food  
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'inspection des aliments

## Canadian Food Inspection Agency



### **Our vision:**

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

### **Our mission:**

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

## ***Towards a Canadian Laboratory Network of Networks***

***CAHLN Meeting -- June 6, 2011***

***Presented by: Dr. Martine Dubuc***

Canada

## *Purpose*

- Define and frame issues – in the context of global trends and local events
- Identify gaps and challenges in the food and laboratory systems in Canada
- Report on collaborative thinking and areas of activity aimed at meeting the challenge of integrating food, animal and human health laboratories
- Demonstrate the value of an integrated network of laboratories

# Outline

- Scanning the Environment
  - Global/local
- Meeting the Challenge
  - Towards a Network of Networks
- Beginning the Conversation
  - Network of Networks Workshop
- Seeking a Way Forward

# *Environmental Scan - Forces Trends and Drivers*

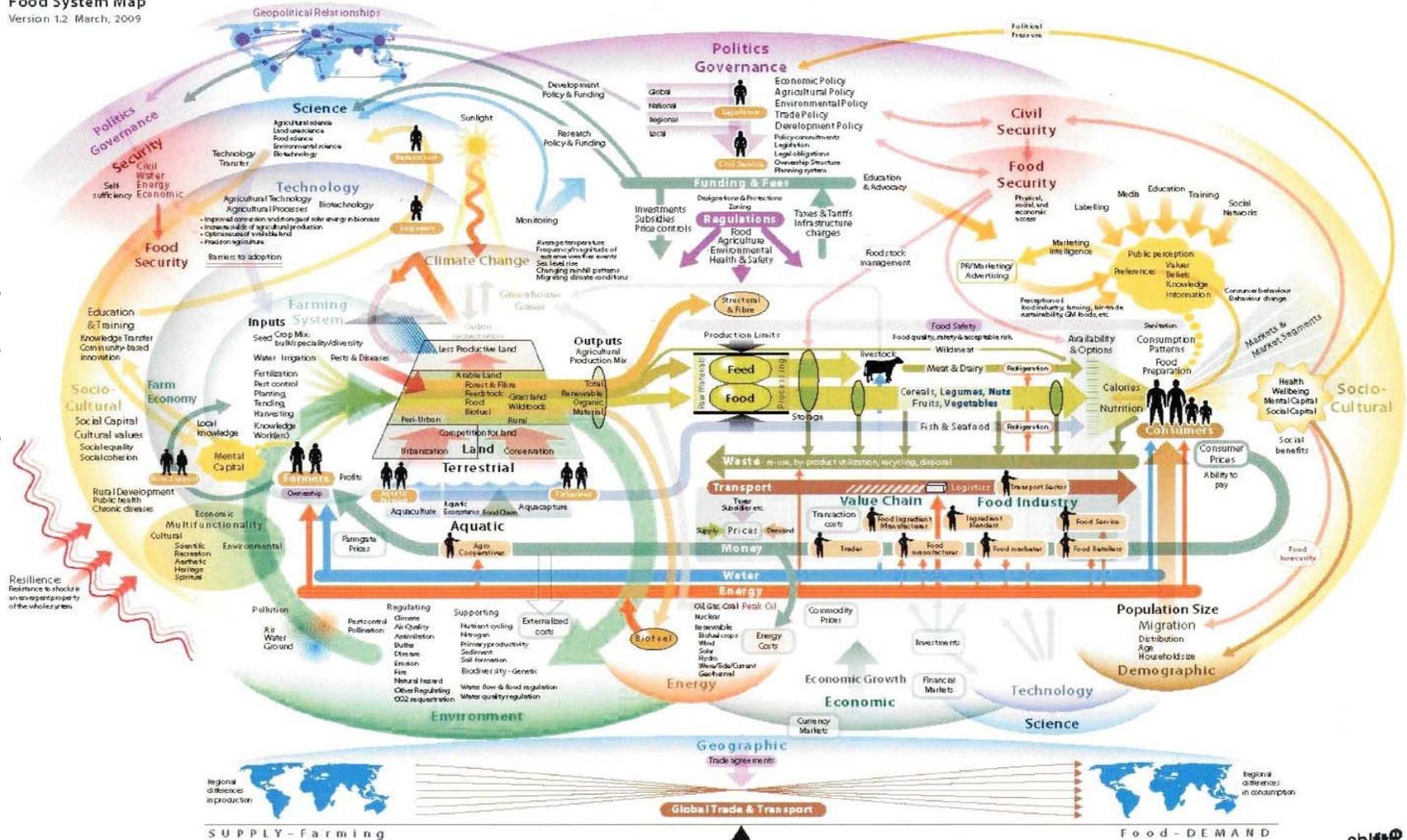
- *Globalization and growing international competition*
- *Borders are no longer barriers*
- *Borders are boundaries to our jurisdiction but not barriers to our realm of activities*
- *Changes to industrial production of food*
- *Increased availability of information*
- *Rapid development and convergence of technologies*
- *Risk Intolerant society*
- *Increasing constraints on government spending - expectations unmatched with resources*

# Complexity : The food system... a different view

## The Global Food System

Food System Map  
Version 1.2 March, 2009

Source: Shift clarity in complexity www.shiftn.com



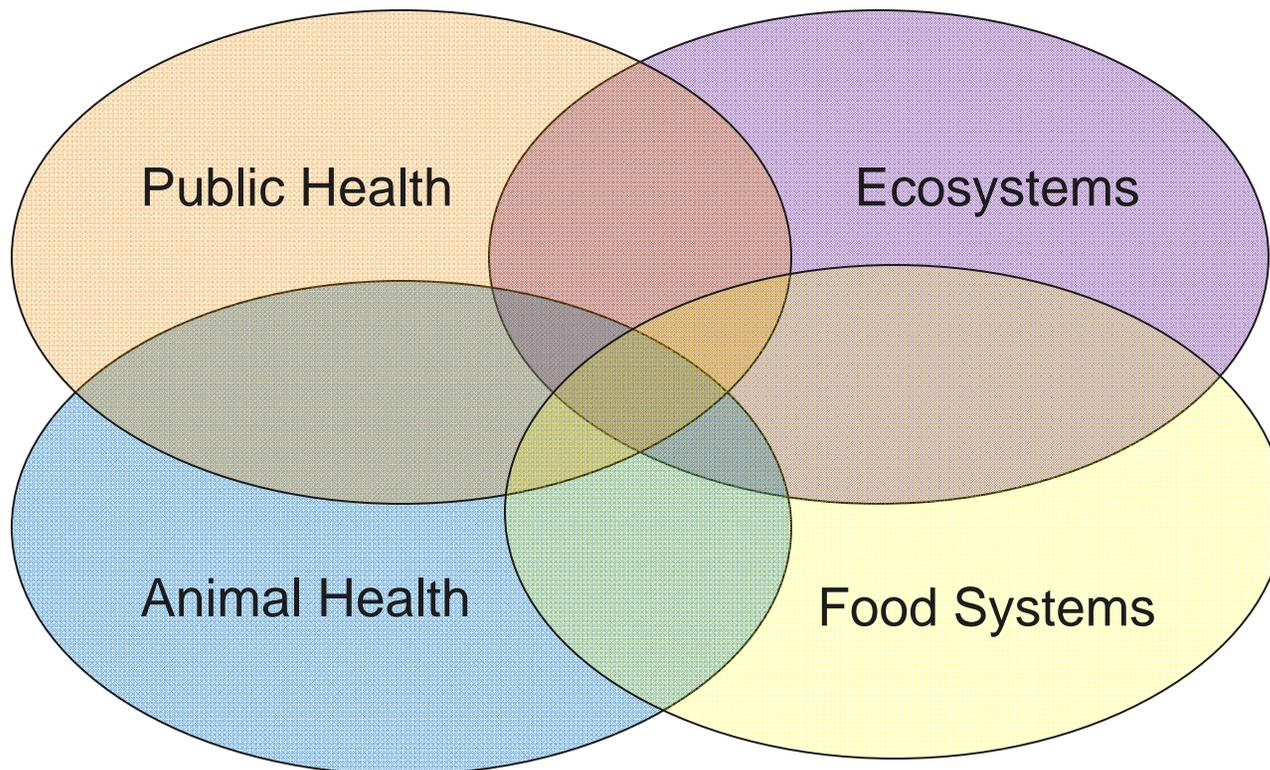
SUPPLY - Farming

Food - DEMAND

copyright © 2009 shiftn.com

shiftn  
clarity in complexity

# Convergence: One Health Concept



Source: Lonnie King, CDC

# A Case for Collaboration

## *Example: E.coli outbreak in spinach, 2006*

- *Viewed through public health lens: focus on morbidity, mortality, diagnosis, treatment*
- *Viewed through animal health lens: organism found in cattle and wild swine in spinach-producing region*
- *Viewed through ecology/hydrology lens: irrigation system strained due to weather anomalies*

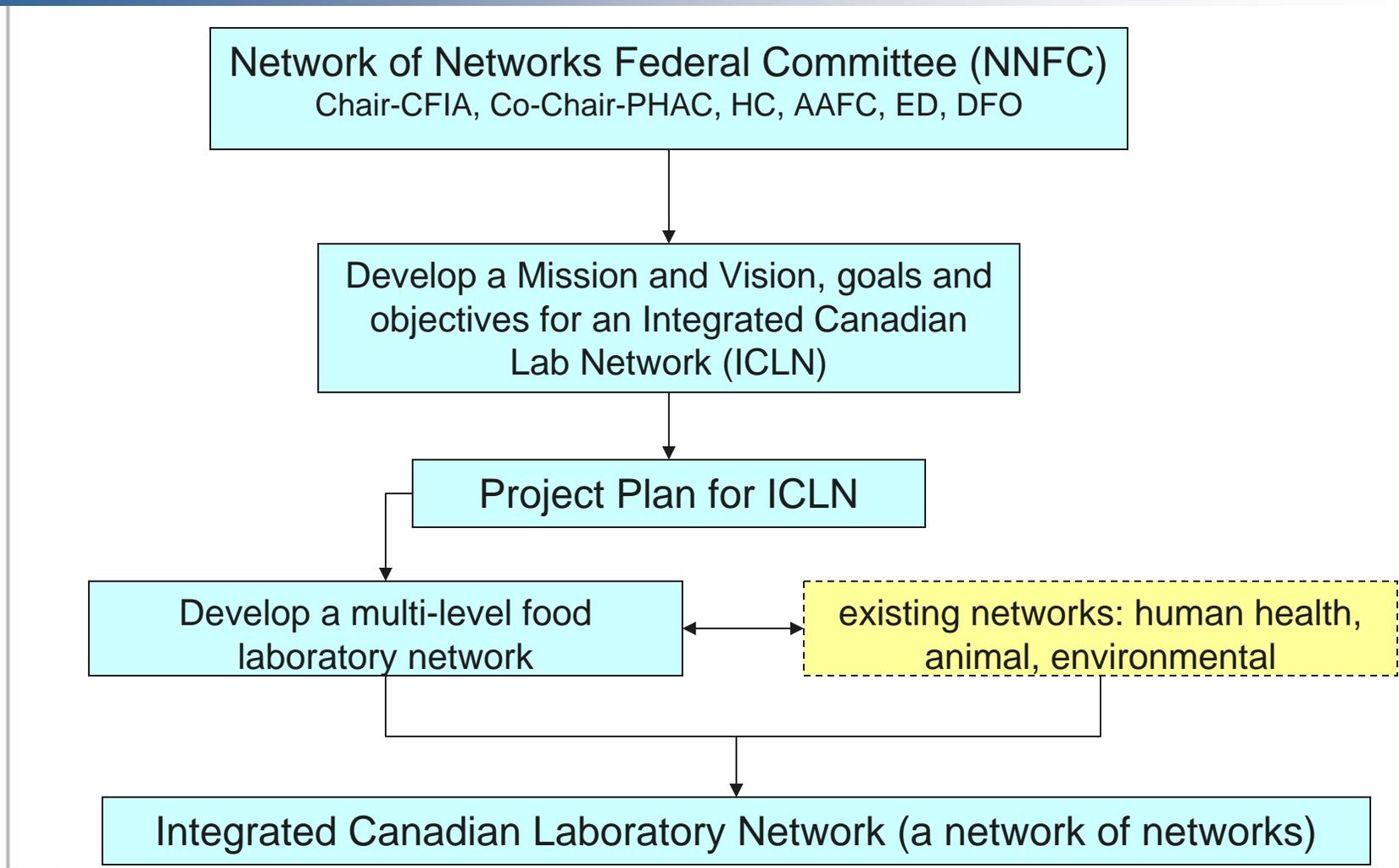
**Investigation succeeded only when information was integrated.**

Source: Lonnie King, CDC

## 2008 Listeriosis Outbreak

- “Report of the Independent Investigator into the 2008 Listeriosis Outbreak” (aka: the Weatherill report) revealed:
  - Gaps in the laboratory system
  - A complex system of human biological labs not fully networked
  - Few labs with the capacity and certification to test food products for *L. Monocytogenes* and none of those were networked
  - Many provinces did not have capacity to test for Listeria
  - Methods to collect, retain and test food samples not standardized
- Resulting in Weatherill recommendations 33 and 34.

# Meeting the Challenge -The Federal Response

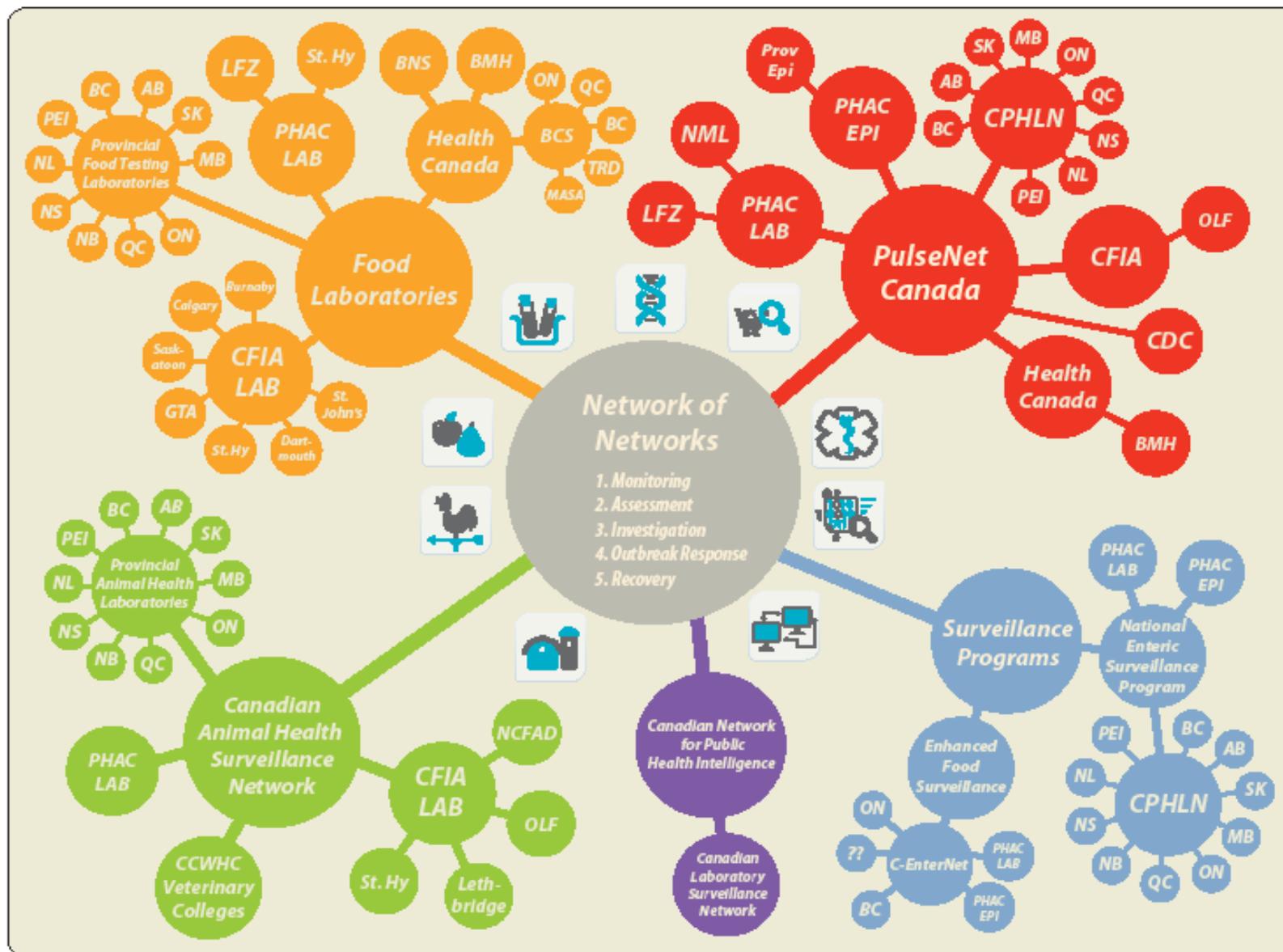


## *Why A Network Approach?*

- Networks offer a way to weave together and create capacities that get better leverage, knowledge, performance and results.
- Networks leverage and link expertise leading to efficiencies (everything doesn't have to be under one roof)
- Networks optimize use of assets (equipment, buildings etc.) that already exist in a system by connecting them to each other.
- Networks can build remarkable capacities because they mobilize diverse and flexible individuals and organizations.

## *What Could It Look Like?*

- **Vision:** A National Network integrating government and non-government food, public health, clinical, animal health and environmental laboratories that promptly and securely share, integrate and interpret the information required to rapidly identify, assess and respond to food-borne microbiological and chemical risks and diseases in Canada.
- **Mission:** To develop and maintain an Integrated Canadian Laboratory Network that rapidly integrates and applies laboratory information in order to monitor and respond to food-borne microbiological and chemical risks and diseases in Canada.



See Annex for symbols legend.

\*\*Draft\*\* - for Network of Networks' Federal Committee (by MW Gilmour)

# *Beginning the Conversation -Network of Networks Workshop*

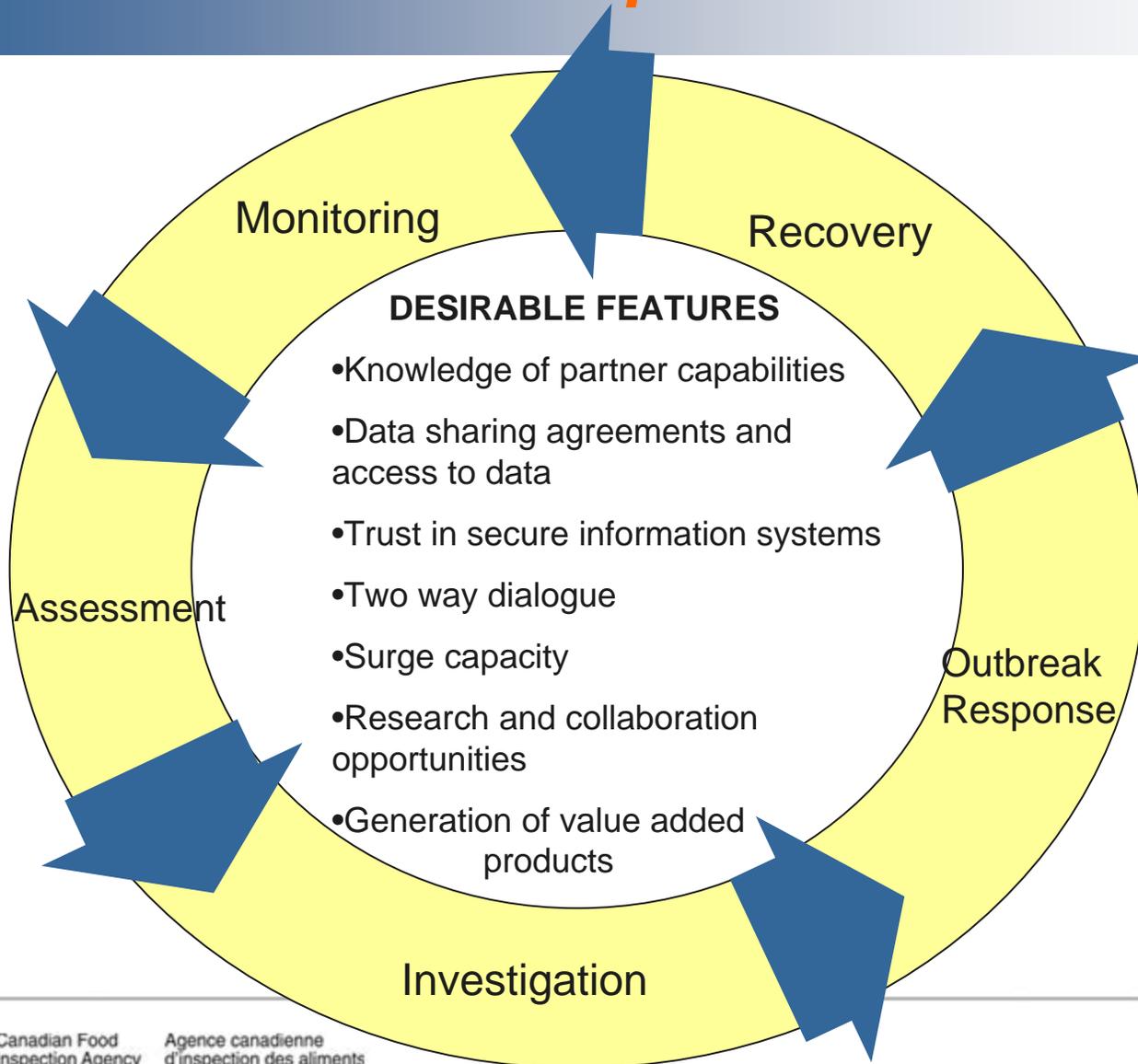
- Held March 22-24, 2011 in Toronto
- Approximately 60 representatives from Canada's federal, provincial, private and university laboratories
- Opportunity to meet face to face with colleagues and forge new working relationships



# *Critical Insights Going into the Workshop*

- We must move from simply cooperation with trusted counterparts to sharing and relying on information for planning and making certain regulatory decisions (true leveraging of resources)
- Work-sharing with trusted counterparts (true leveraging of resources)
- Obtain better and more robust information to help make better decisions
- Strengthen areas in which we can better collaborate to leverage/create synergies with scientific, inspectional and other resources
- Move from cooperation to confidence
- Achieve more rapid response

# Characteristics of An Effective Laboratory Response



# *Network of Networks Workshop -- Results*

- Workshop participants identified actions in the short and medium term to advance the Network concept which include:
  - Briefing colleagues and senior management;
  - Taking stock of how individual organizations could benefit from and contribute to the Network;
  - Identifying champions within organizations and sectors to promote and participate in the Network's creation; and
  - Begin to delineate member roles for: champions, project managers/secretariat resources and subject matter experts

# Next Steps

- Engagement with federal, provincial and territorial committees
- Seek formal support from provinces for participation as network members/champions
- Establish a Network of Networks Project Office
  - Move forward with proposed direction
  - Pursue funding for integration