

# SPS, the WTO, and regional trade agreements

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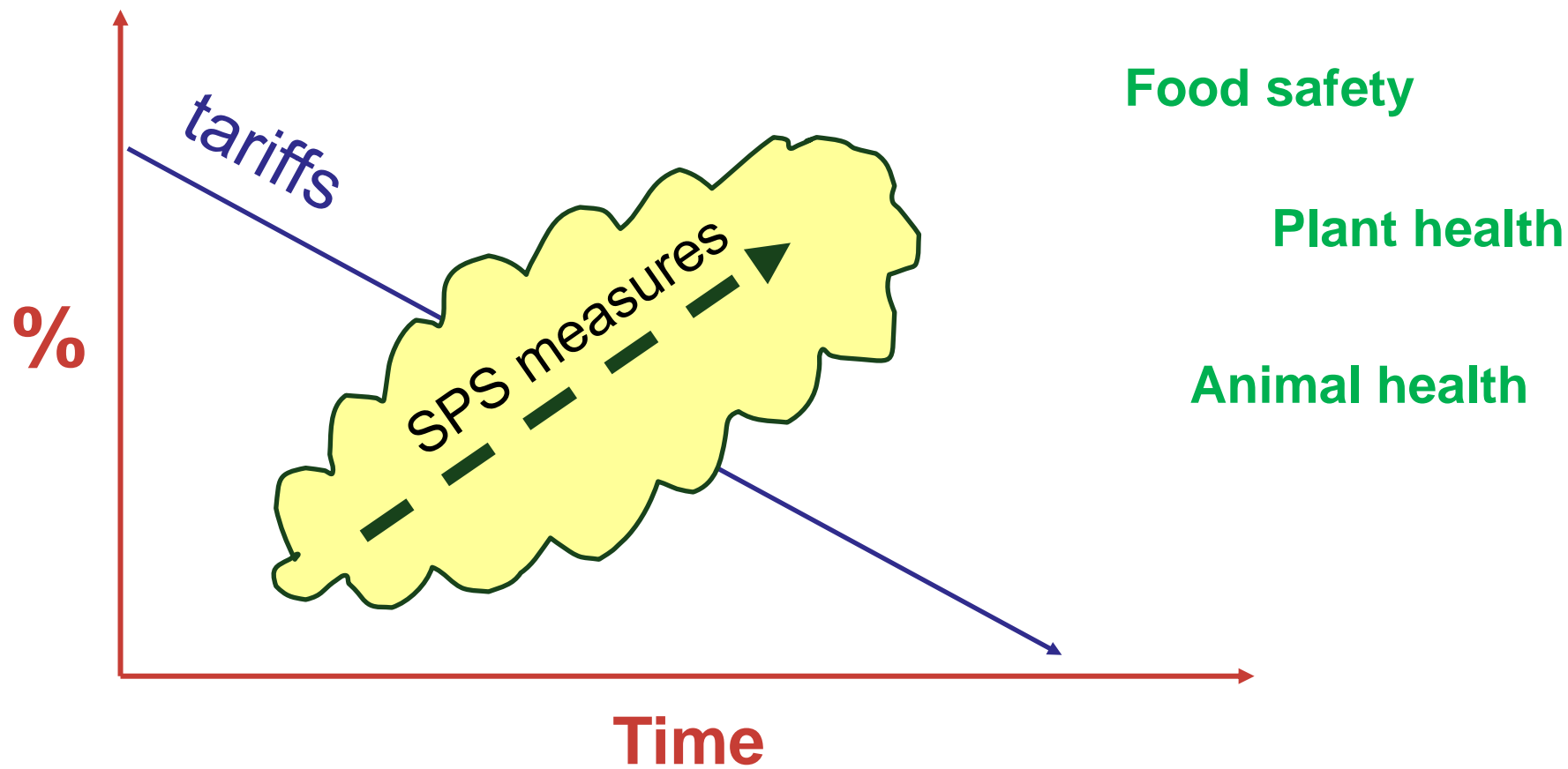


Framework for SPS  
measures

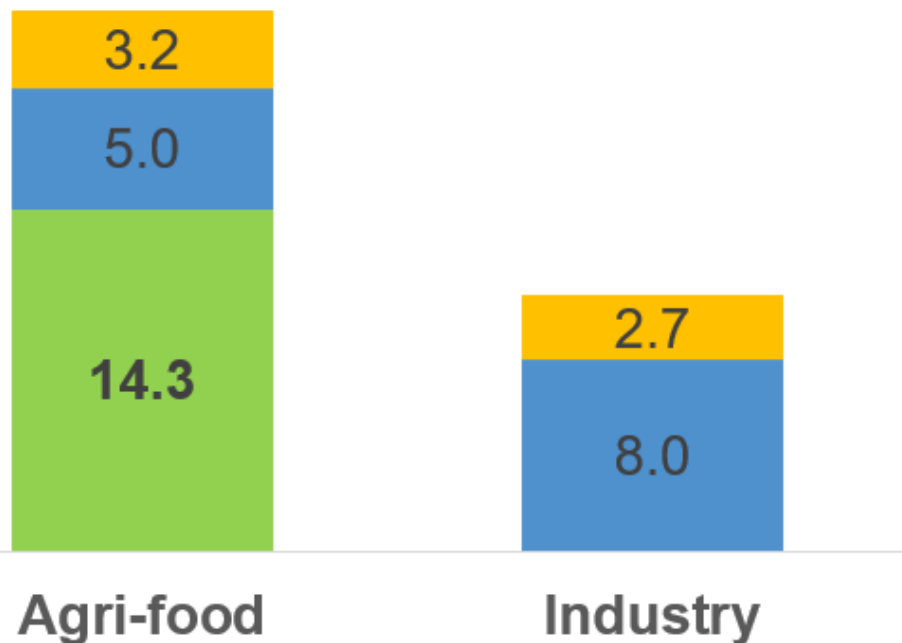


What implications for RTAs?

# SPS measures – upward trend?



## Price impact (in %)



SPS measures can impede trade and be costly

**Need for well-designed and effective SPS measures!**

■ SPS ■ TBT ■ Other NTMs

UNCTAD, 2015

# How does the WTO SPS Agreement help?

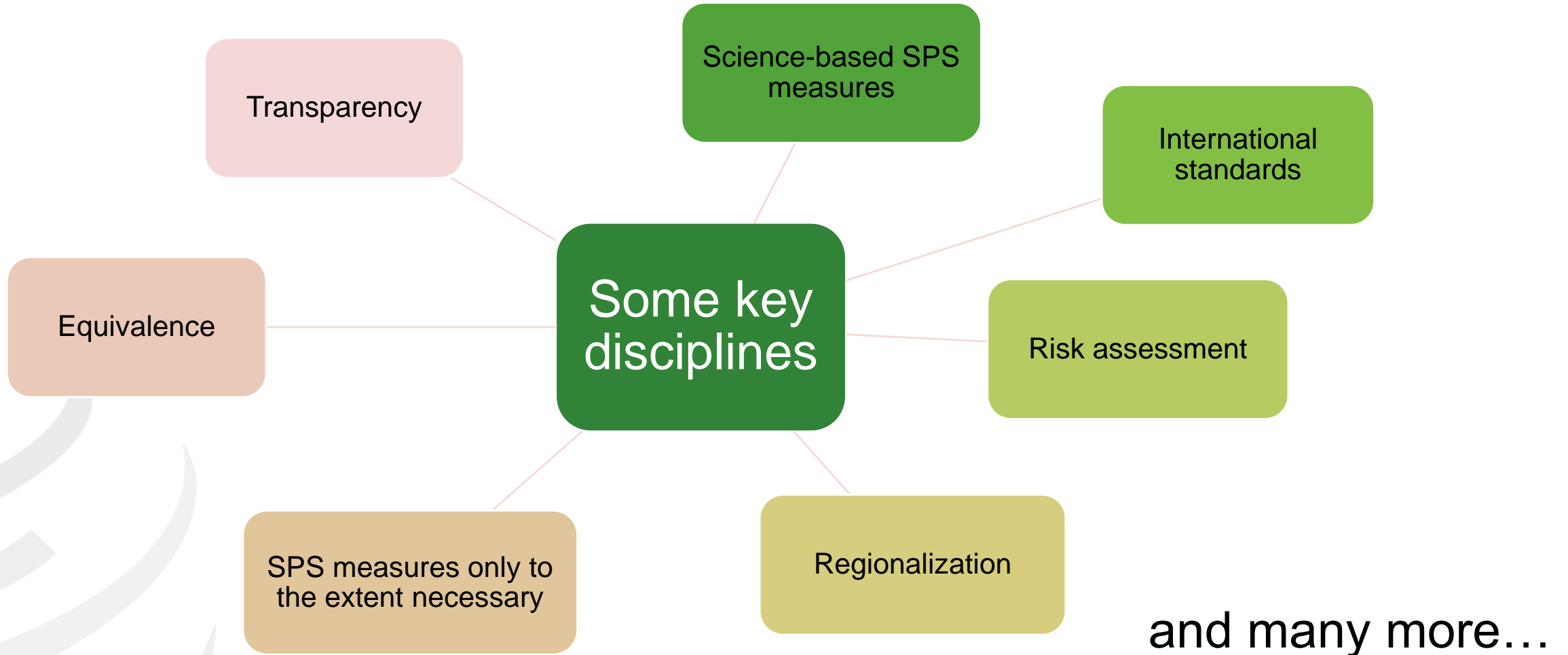


Protect human,  
animal, plant life or  
health



Avoid unnecessary  
barriers to trade

# WTO SPS Agreement



# What implications for RTAs?

Reaffirming  
importance  
of WTO  
SPS  
Agreement

Mirroring WTO  
disciplines

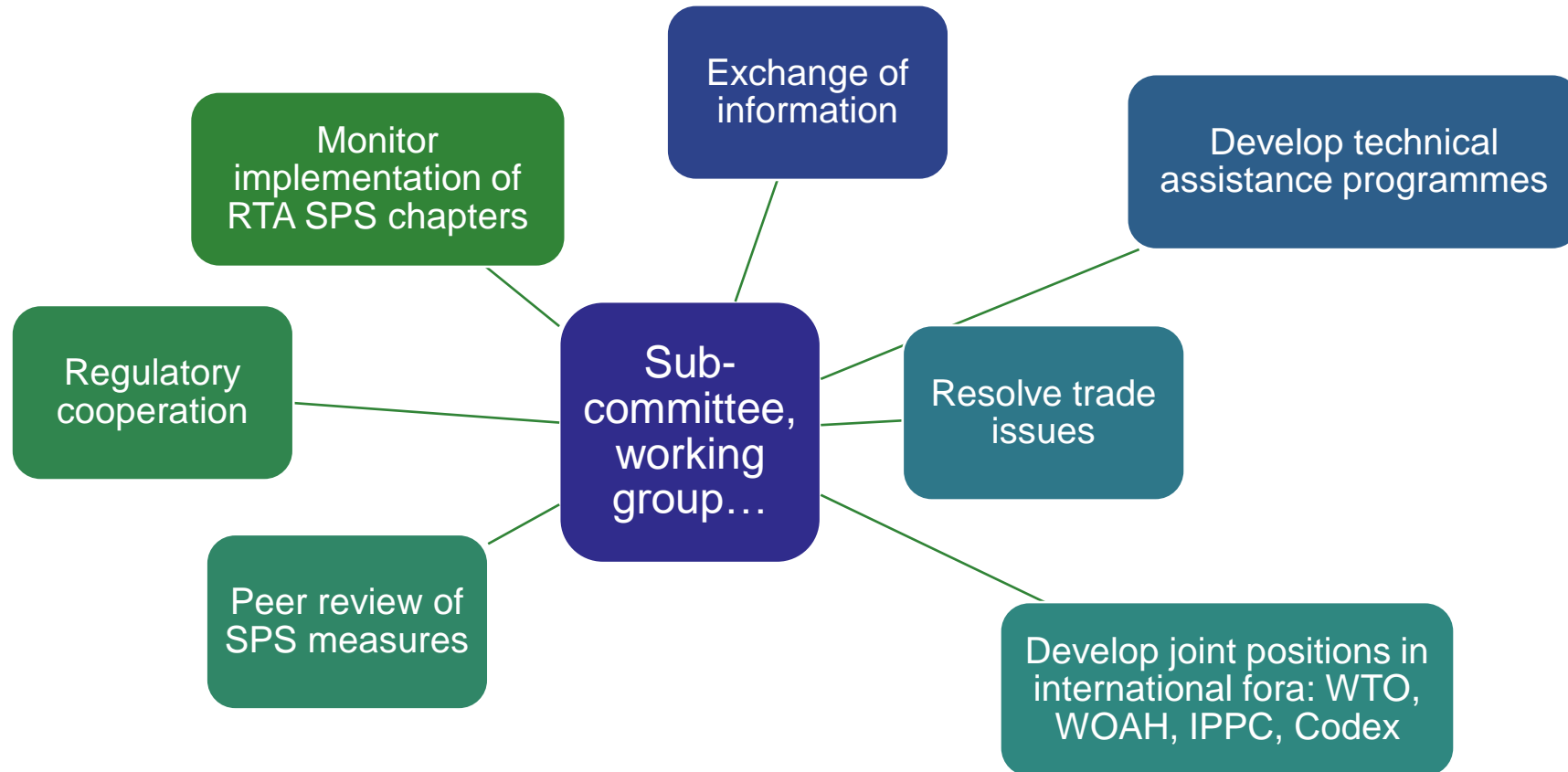
Incorporating  
WTO  
Committee  
guidance

Additional  
disciplines

Equivalence [G/SPS/19/Rev.2](#)  
Regionalization [G/SPS/48](#)  
SPS approval procedures [G/SPS/68](#)  
...

Transparency  
Digital tools  
Equivalence / mutual recognition  
agreements  
Alignment of border measures  
Good regulatory practices  
Animal welfare and SPS  
...

# Enhanced cooperation and transparency





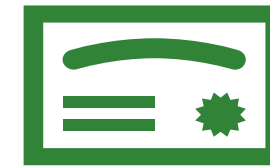
# Making use of digital opportunities for trade facilitation in SPS



## remote audits

[WTO | Thematic Session on the Use of Remote \(Virtual\) Audit and Verification in Regulatory Frameworks](#)

[Costs, benefits and effectiveness of remote audits for international food safety | en | OECD](#)



## e-certificates

[WTO | SPS committee thematic session on digital tools](#)

[Electronic SPS Certification | Standards and Trade Development Facility \(standardsfacility.org\)](#)

[Digital opportunities for Sanitary and Phytosanitary \(SPS\) Systems and the trade facilitation effects of SPS Electronic Certification | en | OECD](#)

## Key takeaways



Comprehensive SPS commitments in RTAs are on the rise



WTO SPS Agreement and Committee work as starting point  
Opportunity for WTO SPS+ provisions



Is the future digital?

# Thank you!

[WTO | Sanitary and phytosanitary measures – gateway](#)  
[WTO | Regional trade agreements](#)

If you have any questions:  
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