

안전한 먹을거리, 국민행복



Korea's Safety Management System for Agricultural Products



Ministry of Food and
Drug Safety



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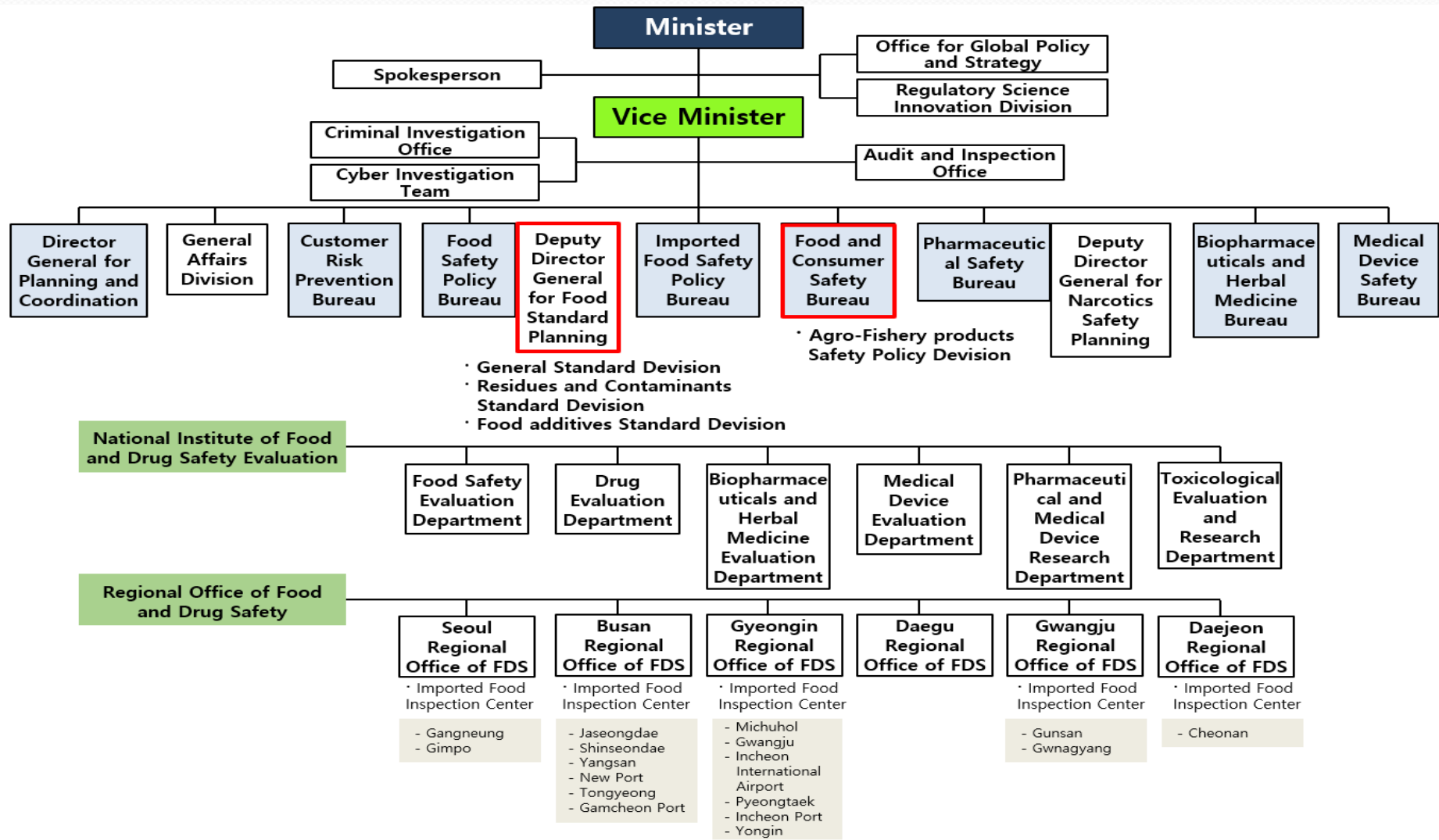
I

Organization and Relevant Regulations of MFDS

Organization of MFDS

✍ **HQ:** 7 Bureaus, 2 Planning Offices, 52 Divisions, 5 Teams

Subordinate Organizations: National Institute of Food & Drug Safety Evaluation,
6 Regional Offices (2 Centers, 17 Testing laboratories)



MFDS Relevant Regulations

✍ 25 Acts related to food, drugs and medical devices

- 28 Presidential Decrees; 31 Ordinances of the Prime Minister; 393 Notices, Instructions & Rules

Category	Food	Medicinal Products and Devices
Laws	1 Food Safety Framework Act 2 Food Sanitation Act 3 Livestock Products Sanitary Control Act 4 Health Functional Foods Act 5 Special Act on Imported Food Safety Control 6 Special Act on Management of Children's Dietary Lifestyle 7 Agricultural and Fishery Products Quality Control Act (Jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs) 8 Act on the Establishment & Operations of the Korea Agency of HACCP Accreditation & Services 9 Act on Labelling & Advertising of Food, Etc. 10 Hygiene Products Control Act 11 Act on Assistance in Ensuring Meal Service Safety in Social Welfare Facilities for Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities	12 Pharmaceutical Affairs Act (Jointly with the Ministry of Welfare) 13 Safety, Management, Etc. of Human Tissue Act (Jointly with the Ministry of Welfare) 14 Narcotics Control Act 15 Cosmetics Act 16 Medical Devices Act 17 Laboratory Animals Act 18 Act on In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices 19 Act on the Support of Medical Devices Industry and Innovative Medical Devices 20 Advanced Regenerative Medicine and Advanced Biopharmaceuticals Safety and Support Act (Jointly with the Ministry of Welfare) 21 Special Act for Promotion of the Development and Emergency Supply of Medical Products in Response to Public Health Crisis 22 Digital Healthcare Products Act
	23 Testing and Inspection of Food and Drugs Acts 24 Act on the Promotion of Food and Drug Safety Technology 25 Act on Risk Assessments of Products for Human Use	

Structure of Agricultural and Fishery Products Quality Control Act

(Production Stage) Agricultural Product Safety Inspection

✍ 「Agricultural and Fishery Products Quality Control Act」

- (Article 60 – Article 68) Safety inspection for agricultural product on production, distribution, sales stages

Article 60 Safety Management Plan

Article 61 Safety Inspections

Article 62 Collection of Samples

Article 63 Safety Inspections and Follow-Up Actions

Article 64 Designation by Safety Inspection Institution

Article 65 Cancelling Designation of Safety Inspection Institute

Article 66 Education on Safety of Agricultural Products

Article 67 R/D and Dissemination of Techniques

Article 68 Risk Assessment of Agricultural Products



•Article 60, 68 : Executed by MFDS

•Article 61-67: MFDS →
Commissioned to MAFRA

Agricultural Product Safety Management on Distribution Stage (Conducted by the MFDS)

(Distribution Stage) Agricultural Product Safety Management

「Food Sanitation Act」

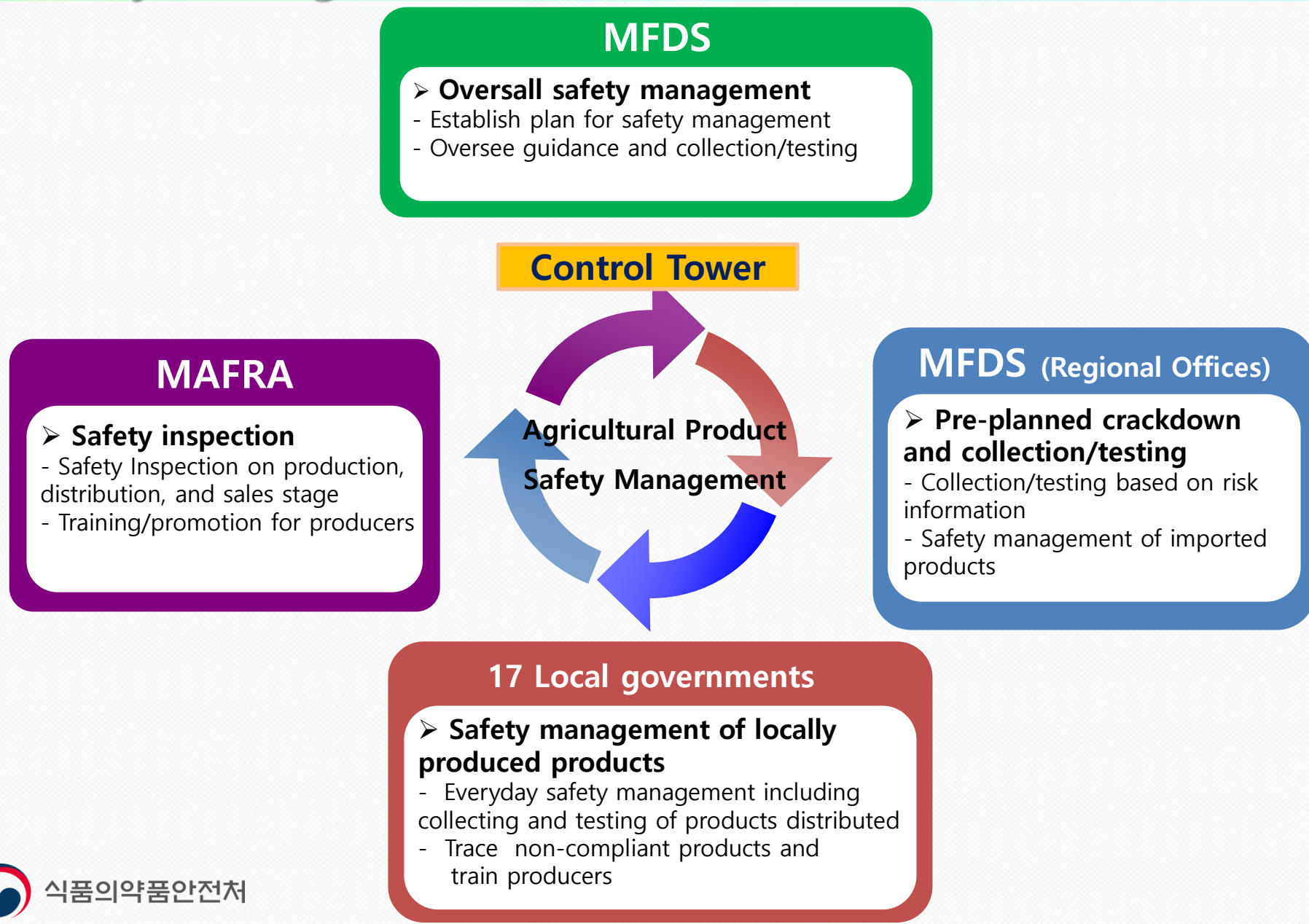
- (Article 7) Foods and Food Additives Standards & Specifications
- (Article 22) Access, Inspection, Collection



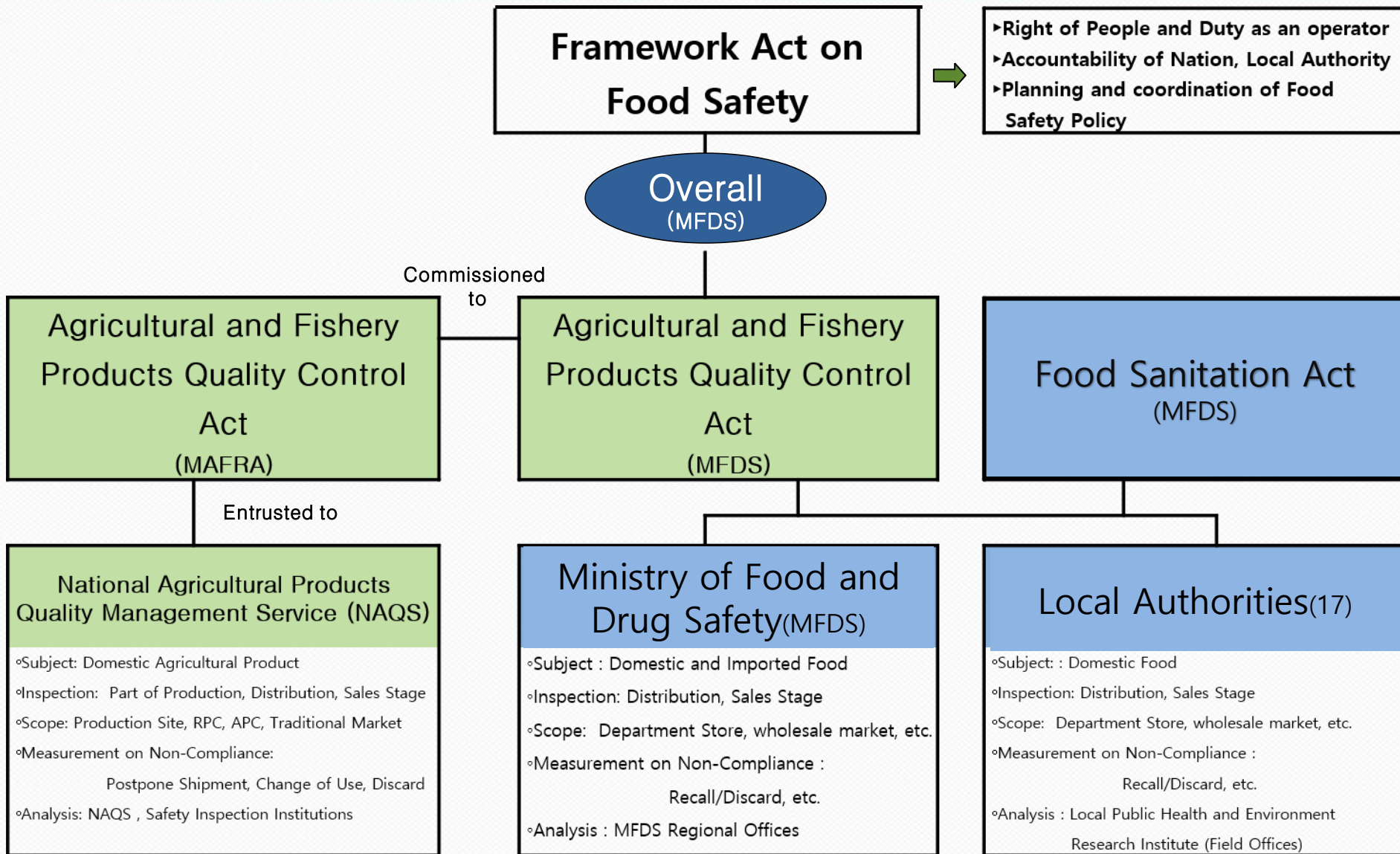
II

Organizational Structure for Agricultural Product Safety Management

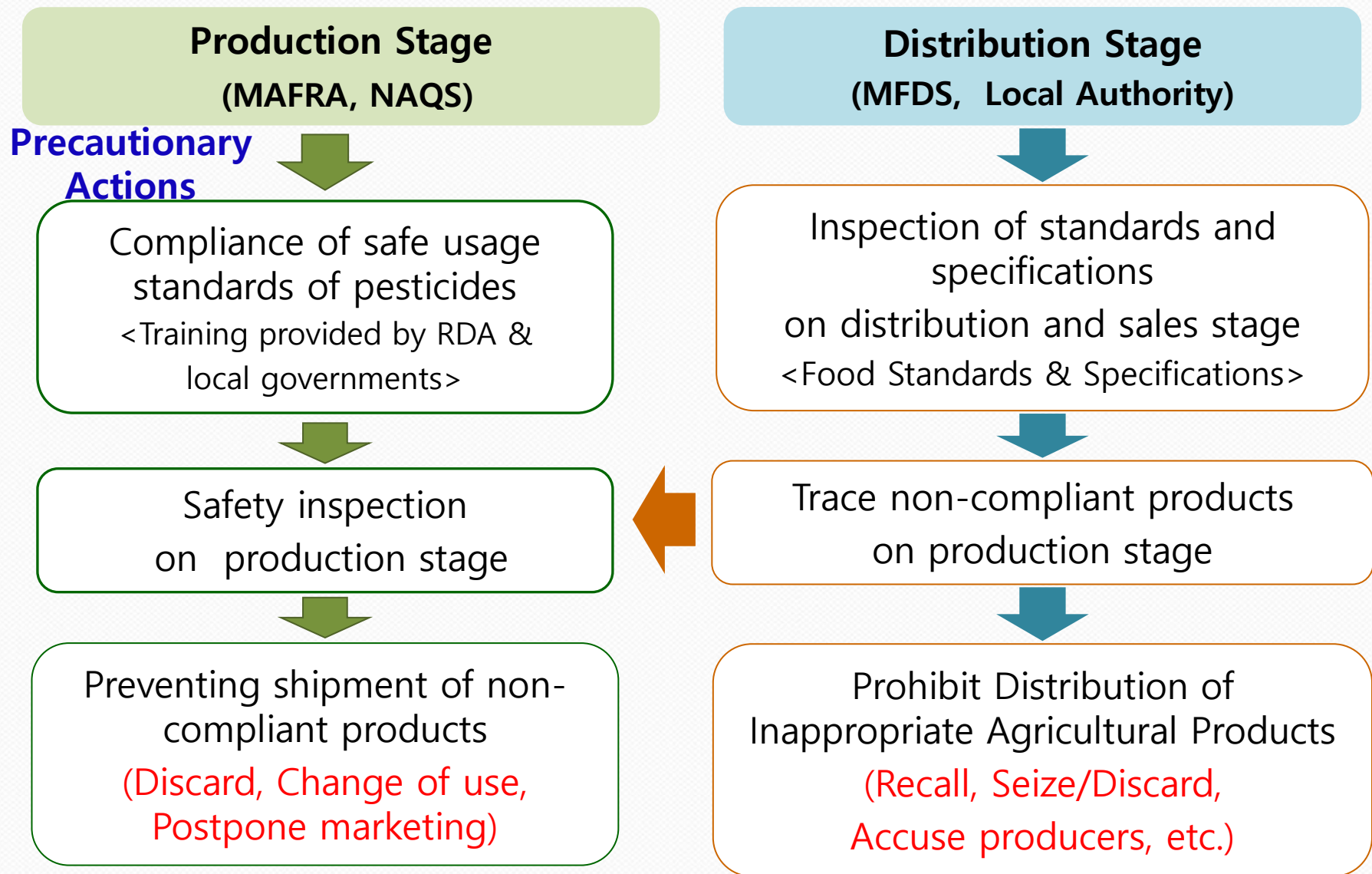
Organizational Structure for Agricultural Product Safety Management



Organizational Structure for Agricultural Product Safety Management



Agricultural Product In advance Prevention & Follow-up Management System





III

Agricultural Product Safety Management System

(Production stage) Agricultural Product Safety Inspection

✍ Executed by: MAFRA (NAQS)

✍ Targets: Agricultural products, soil, water, materials, etc.

✍ Results: Non-compliance rate of 1.2% in 2024

- Non-compliance items in majority : Residual pesticide > Heavy metals
- Residual pesticide accounts for 97% of total non-compliance cases in 2024

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of Non-Compliance Cases (Rate %)	Testing Items of Non-Compliance
2022	60,323	712(1.2)	Residual pesticide (698), Heavy metals (11), Mycotoxins (3)
2023	60,670	715(1.2)	Residual pesticide (670), Heavy metals (21), Mycotoxins (24)
2024	60,658	736(1.2)	Residual pesticide (711), Heavy metals (24), Mycotoxins (1)

(Production stage)

Actions Taken in Response to Non-Compliance Cases

- ☑ Discard, change of the use, shipment postponement
- ☑ Prohibition of alternation or use of land/water resources/materials, etc., used for the production of non-compliant products
- ☑ Safety education for owners of non-compliant agricultural products
- ☑ Imprisonment up to 1 year or fine up to KRW 10 million for those who have failed to comply with the measures

(Distribution Stage) Collection/Testing of Agricultural Products

✍ Executed by: MFDS's Regional Offices, 17 Local Governments

- Public wholesale markets, large-scale distribution centers, locally distributed products
(by local governments)
- Periodical inspection, theme-specific inspection, risk information-based inspection
(by MFDS regional offices, local governments)

✍ Results: Non-Compliance Rate of 1.4% in 2024

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of Non-Compliance Cases (Rate %)	Testing Items of Non-Compliance
2022	59,787	995 (1.7)	Residual pesticide (992), Heavy metals (2), Mycotoxins (1)
2023	59,031	851 (1.4)	Residual pesticide (848), Heavy metals•Mycotoxins•Sulfur dioxide (1)
2024	58,217	744 (1.3)	Residual pesticide (740), Heavy metals(2), Mycotoxins•Sulfur dioxide (1)



(Distribution Stage)

Actions Taken in Response to Non-Compliance Cases

- ✍ Marketing ban through recalling or seizing/discarding non-compliant products
- ✍ Actions taken against producers including legal accusation
(Imprisonment up to 5 years or a fine up to KRW 50 million)
- ✍ Information sharing with local governments, and
National Agricultural Products Quality Management Service
on non-compliant products
(Along with requesting them to tighten up safety inspection against the producers)

(Distribution Stage)

Safety Management of Agricultural Products

☑ Guidance and Inspection of Producers or Sellers

- **Minimally processed agricultural products:** Guidance and inspection of producers



Dried persimmon



Peeled chestnuts



Salted cabbage



Prepared carrot

- **Agricultural products unfit for use as food:** Guidance and inspection of sellers

(Distribution Stage) Safety Management of Agricultural Products

✍ Expansion of Testing within Distribution Channels

① 26 Field Testing Laboratories Established

- Installed within public wholesale markets to collect and test agricultural products entering the markets before the auction, completing the testing before release of the products from the markets
- Able to prevent non-compliant products from entering the market before they are distributed to the public
- Rapid testing capability covers approx. 97.5% of the distribution volume in public wholesale markets

(Distribution Stage) Safety Management of Agricultural Products

✍ Expansion of Testing within Distribution Channels

② Rapid Testing System Established

- To respond to fast distribution systems such as online shopping and early-morning delivery
- Installation of Rapid testing agency for agricultural products in Gimpo, Gyeonggi Province
- Agricultural products are collected at logistics centers and testing results are confirmed on the same day: Preventing distribution of non-compliant products

Pan-government Cooperation & Training / Promotion

☑ Intensive management of vulnerable parts through analysis and share of non-compliance information

- Analyze non-compliant items, share the information with relevant institutions / large-scale distributors
- Inspect production fields with frequent non-compliant items together with relevant bodies

☑ Strengthen training / promotion to meet safety standards

- Targets: producers, distributors, sellers





IV

Pesticide Positive List System

What is PLS Management System?

Positive List System (PLS)

- **By applying for setting Maximum Residual Limit (MRL)s for domestically produced food or imported food**
 - Registered/authorized compounds including pesticides and veterinary drugs are managed by establishing MRLs
 - For compounds with no established MRLs, 0.01mg/kg of MRL (non-detectable level) is applied
- **PLS in place in Japan (since 2006), EU (since 2008), Taiwan (since 2008)**
US, Australia, Canada apply a zero-tolerance principle when there are no MRLs

Background for Introduction of PLS

- **Facing the limitations of the existing safety management system**
 - Increase in food imports, food items diversified due to increased trade activity
 - Unavoidable to import of food items that may have been produced using unregistered pesticides or unauthorized veterinary drugs domestically
 - Need to **prevent entry of pesticides/veterinary drugs whose safety has not been proven**
- **To prevent misuse/abuse of pesticides/veterinary drugs in agricultural, livestock and fisheries products**

Through transition to a new safety management system,
promoting the import and distribution of safe food



Changes Before & After PLS Adoption



Compliance

Successfully complying with safety usage standards during production

Using unregistered or unauthorized pesticides or veterinary drugs

Non-Compliance



Category	Before PLS introduced	After PLS introduced
MRLs established	Apply established MRLs	Apply established MRLs
MRLs not established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Apply the CODEX standard ② Apply the lowest standard set to similar agricultural products ③ Apply the standard of other agricultural products ④ Apply the lowest standard set to the corresponding pesticide 	Apply uniform level of 0.01 mg/kg



Thank you!