

# **FOOD SAFETY ISSUES and CHALLENGES**

Dr. C.K. Shanmugarajah

# Food Safety in Sri Lanka

## ISSUES

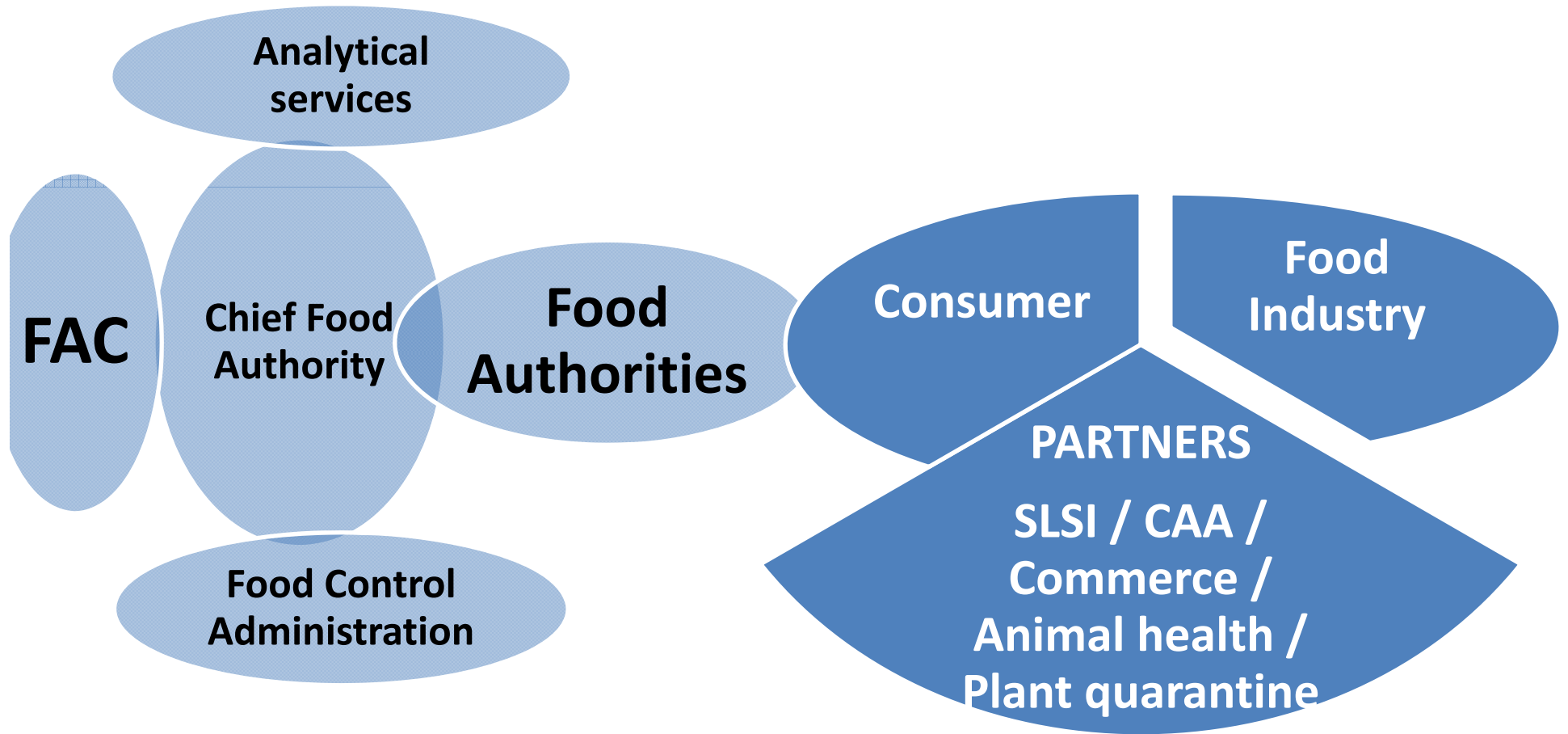
- **Shared responsibility**
- **Consumer participation**
- **Food borne diseases**
- **Surveillance**
- **Labelling**
- **Information system**

## CHALLENGES

- **Infrastructure development and organizational inputs**
- **Harmonization**
- **Emerging hazards in food**
- **Risk analysis**
- **Developing technologies**
- **Food Marketing**

# Shared Responsibility – the key

multiple stakeholders/misunderstanding /dominance /compartmentalization / duplication /contd. vigilance



# Consumer participation

- **Policy – FAC representation**
- **Existing Organizations**
  - **???activity / ???visibility / grass root level**
- **Pilot project on consumer societies at Medical Officer of Health level**
- **Role of Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA)**

# Food borne illnesses

- **Food hygiene – disease prevention**
- **Biological contamination in food causes 70% of diarrhoea globally - Incidence may be 300 to 350 times higher than what is reported**
- **Children (under 5 Years) are most affected from poor quality and unsafe food and water supplies**

Research Project: *Consultancy report submitted  
by Institute of Health Policy, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
to World Bank Washington*

The organization of P H & E S services in Sri Lanka,  
and the role of the PHI  
in service delivery.

*K.C.S. Dalpatadu*

*C.K. Shanmugarajah*

*Monica Das Gupta*

*H.M.S.S.D. Herath*

*Reggie Perera*

*Tharanga Fernando*

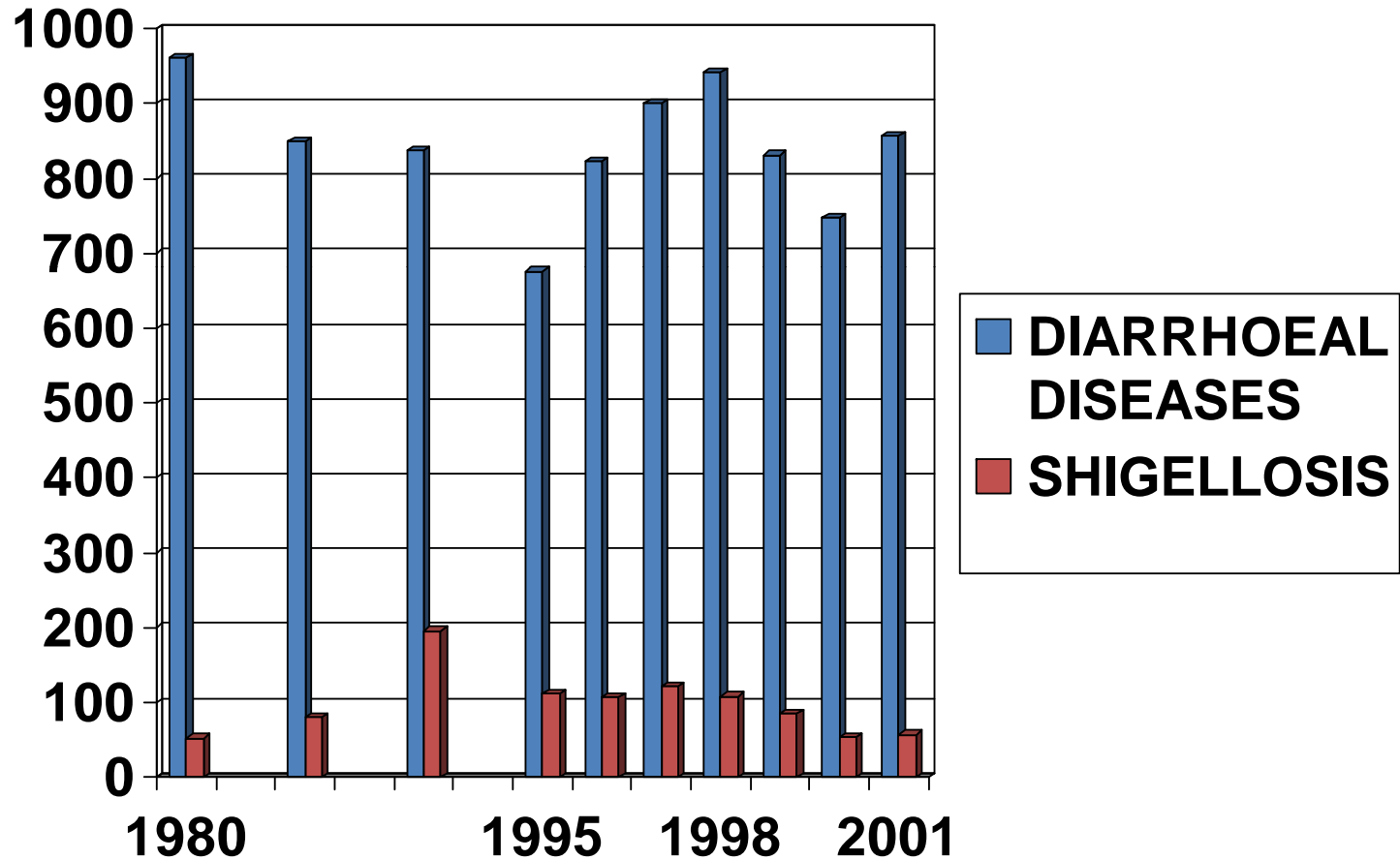
## **172 food establishments in 04 Districts:**

**Colombo (MC area excluded), Gampaha, Kalutara, Kurunegala surveyed in April/May 2008.**

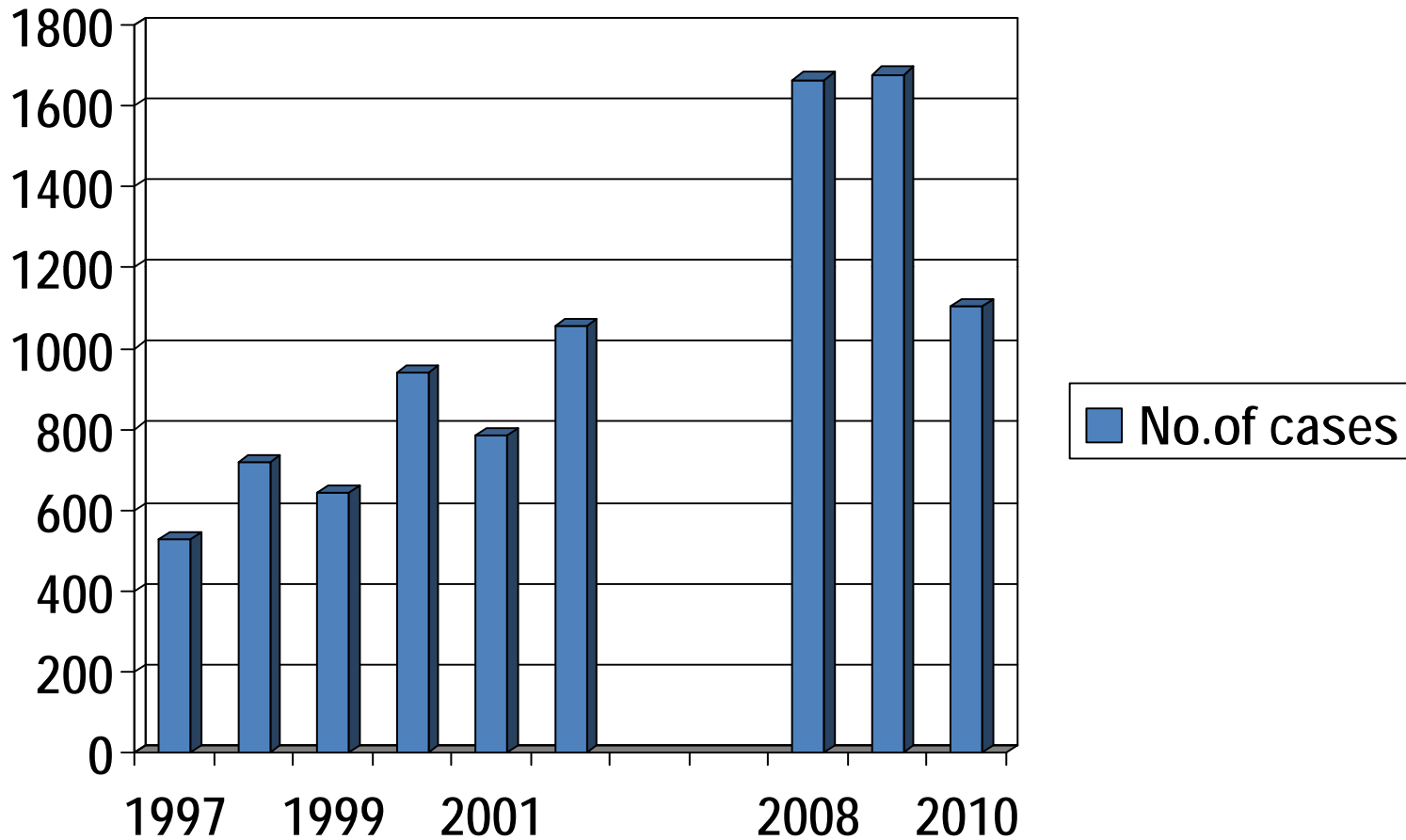
- restaurants (31%), snack bars (24%), tea/coffee shops (37%), and food outlets (8%)**
- 60% of sample in rural areas, 40% urban**
- Food sampling done in previous year: 45% urban, 36% rural**
- Had a H800 rating form: 62% rural, 69% urban**
- Medical checkup: All staff checked: 3% rural, 4% urban**
- All staff trained in food handling: 13% of establishments**

# MORBIDITY

(Rate per 100,000 population)



# FOOD POISONING (Notifications)



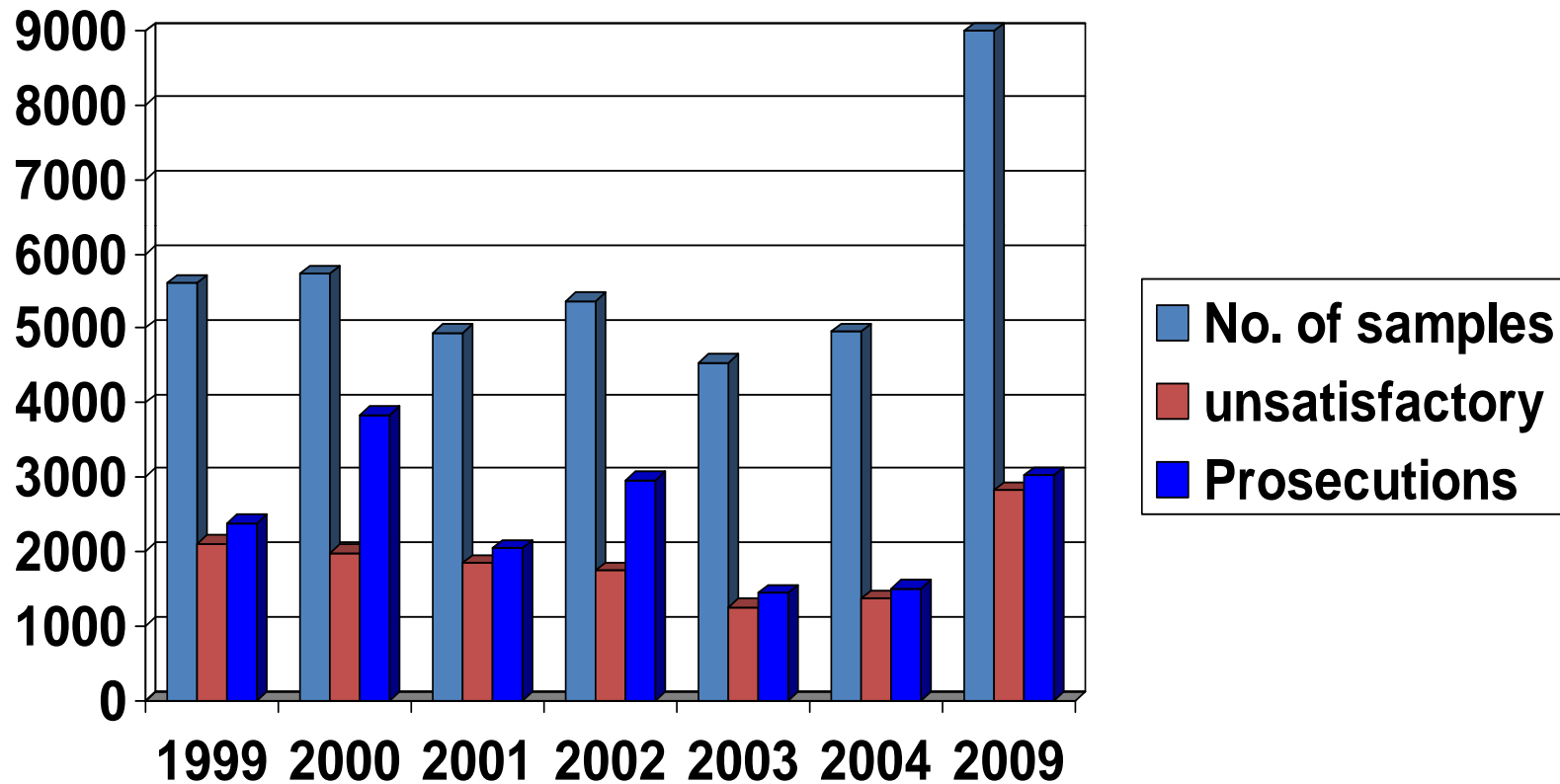
# Food and Water borne diseases

- **Bottled water regulations and pipe borne water supply / disinfection**
- **Registration of food handling establishments**
  - **Licensing / training food handlers / medical examination / street vendors**
- **Quality assurance systems – categorization, incentives, traceability, accountability, regulations**
- **Integrate food safety surveillance on food borne / water borne diseases with epidemiological surveillance**
- **Consumer education - Food hygiene - 4 C's**

# Surveillance

- **Imported / local foods**
- **Exports –health certificates**
- **Risk based management**
- **Planned activity**
- **Premarket approval**
  - **GM foods**
  - **Bottled water**
- **IDD elimination**
- **Zoonotic diseases**

# FIELD SURVEILLANCE



# Labelling

- **Monitoring for Compliance**
  - **Mandatory declarations / misleading information**
  - **Third party recommendations / claims**
- **Nutrition information**
- **Demographic transition and NCDs**
  - **Salt reduction**
  - **Sugar reduction**
  - **Quantitative declaration of ingredients**

# Information and Communication

- **Public awareness and dissemination of information**
- **Change of public attitude on food safety**
- **Data base and information flow**

# Infrastructure development and Organizational Inputs

- **Devolution**
- **Coordination at provincial, district and divisional levels**
- **Separate budgetary provisions**
- **Recruitment**
- **Training**
- **Skills**
- **Continuous education**
- **Analytical services**
- **Capacity for risk analysis**

# Harmonization

- **Constant updating of standards, regulations, guidelines – bottle necks**
- **Conflict of interests – local Vs imports**
- **Participation in the CODEX process**
- **Representation of local issues – WTO**
- **Awareness and resolution of local issues on exports / imports**
  - **Dept. of Commerce / sister agencies / notification authority and enquiry points under SPS**

## **Factors affecting new, emerging and reemerging hazards**

- **Changes in agricultural production practices**
- **Expansion of agricultural markets – global movement of animals and animal products**
- **Changes in food production, processing and distribution systems**
- **more ready to eat food products**

# Emerging Hazards

- **Environmental pollutants:** Dioxins, PCB's
- **Veterinary drug residues:** Nitrofurans and Chloramphenicol
- **Natural toxins :** Mycotoxins, seafood toxins
- **Toxicants:** Pesticide
- **Metal contaminants:** Mercury, Cadmium
- **Food packaging contaminants:** Vinyl chloride
- **Radiochemicals:** Cs<sup>137</sup>

# Developing Technologies

- **Food processing**
  - » irradiation
- **Genetic engineering - Biotechnology**
- **Additives**
- **Common sense / Traditional practices Vs Science**

# Food Marketing

- **Value additions**
  - **Organic farming / fortification**
- **Functional foods / Nutraceuticals / Bioactive ingredients**
- **Food advertising and claims**
  - **Unfair practices, targeting vulnerable gps.**