



Needs and expectations of risk ranking in the food chain: results of a survey amongst risk managers and stakeholders

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Outline

- Introduction
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Preliminary conclusions



Introduction

- **Risk ranking (RR) used** to make **choices**, important when resources limited .
- **RR in food safety?**
- **Food safety policy** & sound scientific **evidence**.
- Interaction between risk assessors & managers important (stressed by e.g., EFSA,2012).



Science



Consumer Confidence



Politics



Public Health



Trade



Ethics



Food Safety



Introduction

- Risk ranking (RR) used to make **choices**, important when resources limited .
- RR in food safety?
- Food safety policy & sound scientific evidence.
- **Interaction** between **risk assessors & managers important** (stressed by e.g., EFSA,2012) .



Materials and Methods

- Online **questionnaire**: **179** food chain stakeholders & decision makers.
- **4** different **types** of **RR** questions:
 - **Personal** information.
 - Needs.
 - **Expectations**.
 - **Methodological** issues.

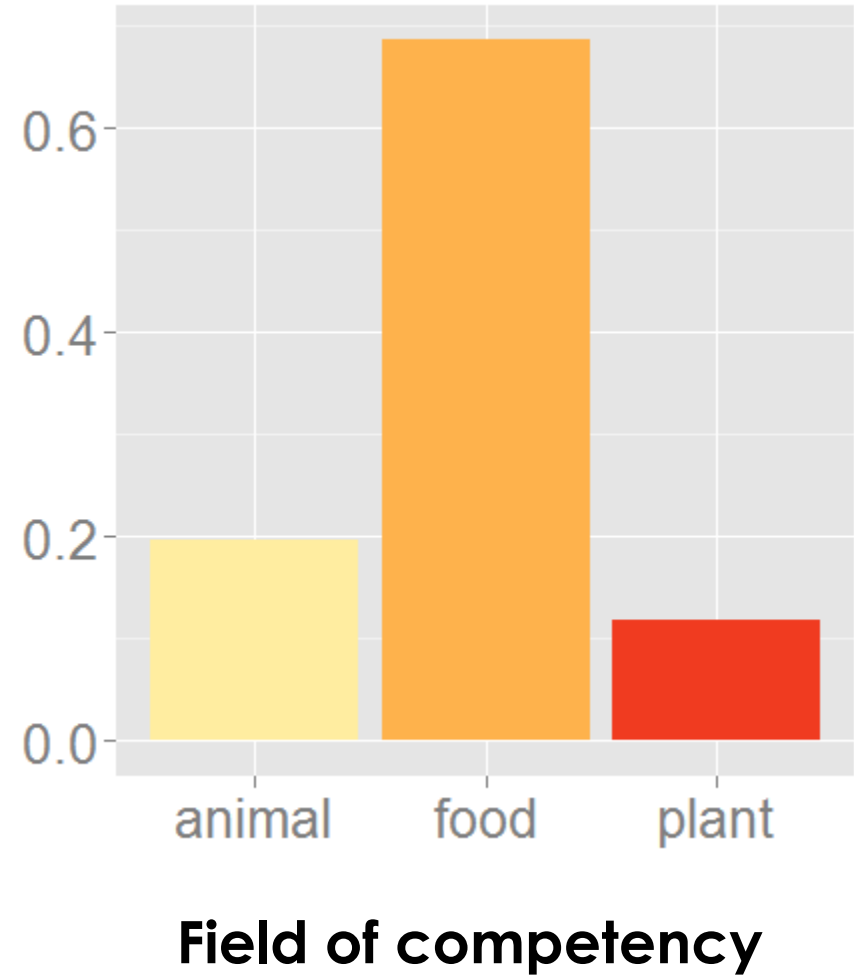
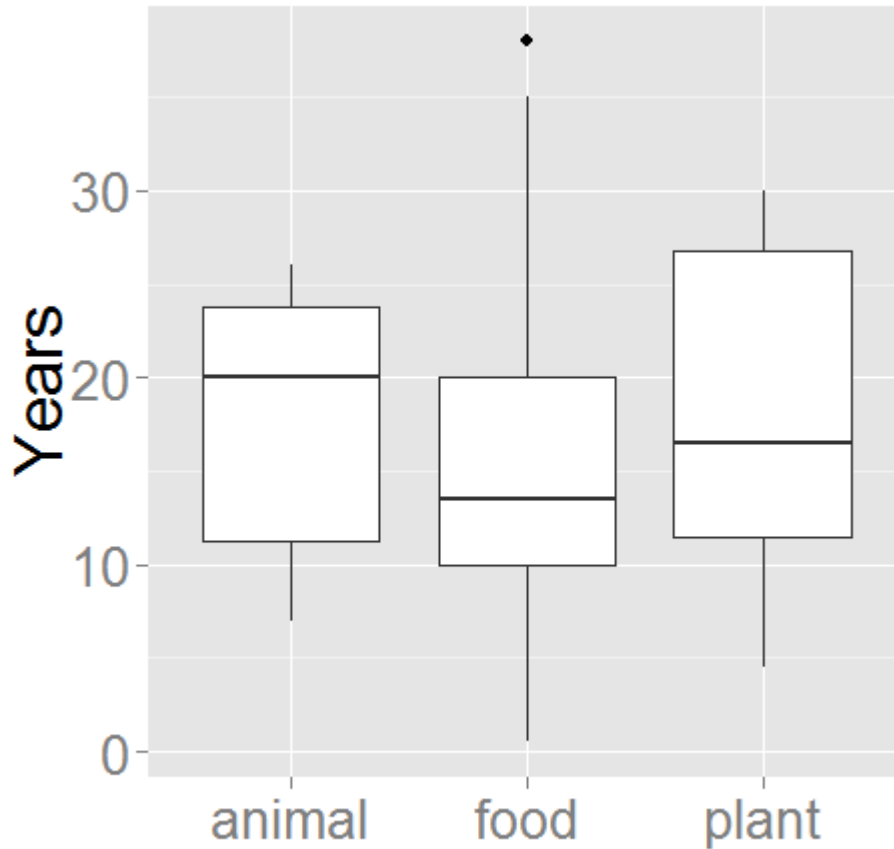


Results (I): Profile

- **51** respondents (until now)
- **Profile**: Business operators: **4**; Decision makers: **34**;
Scientists: **3**; Sector representatives: **8**
- Field of **competency**: animal: **10**; food: **35**; crops: **6**
- Years of **experience**, median= **14.5**

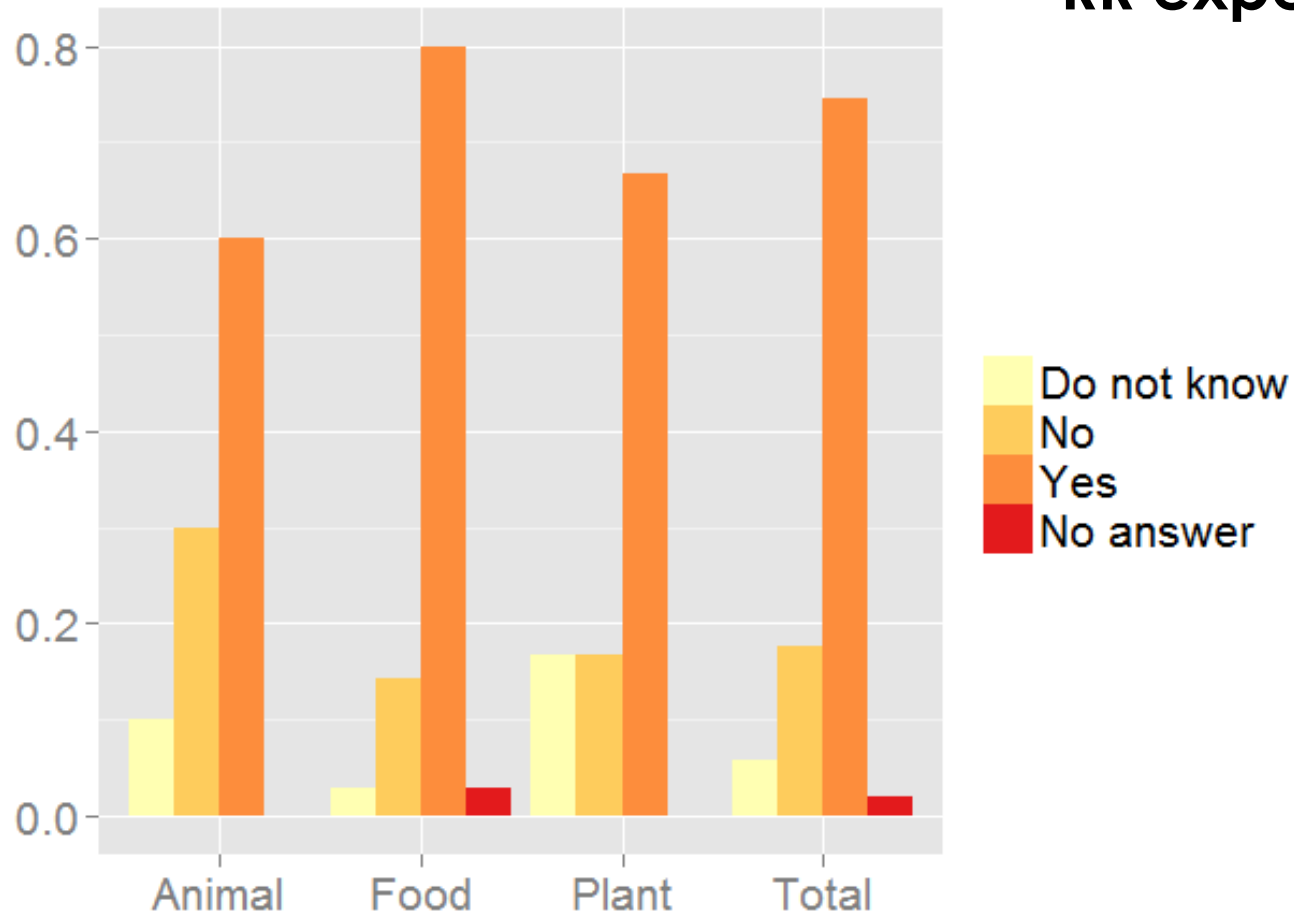


Years of experience



Results (II): RR

RR experience?



RR performed?

Examples: Fruits and vegetables; Organizing inspections,

When?

< 1 month ago	:	13
< 1 year ago	:	19
> 1 year ago	:	3

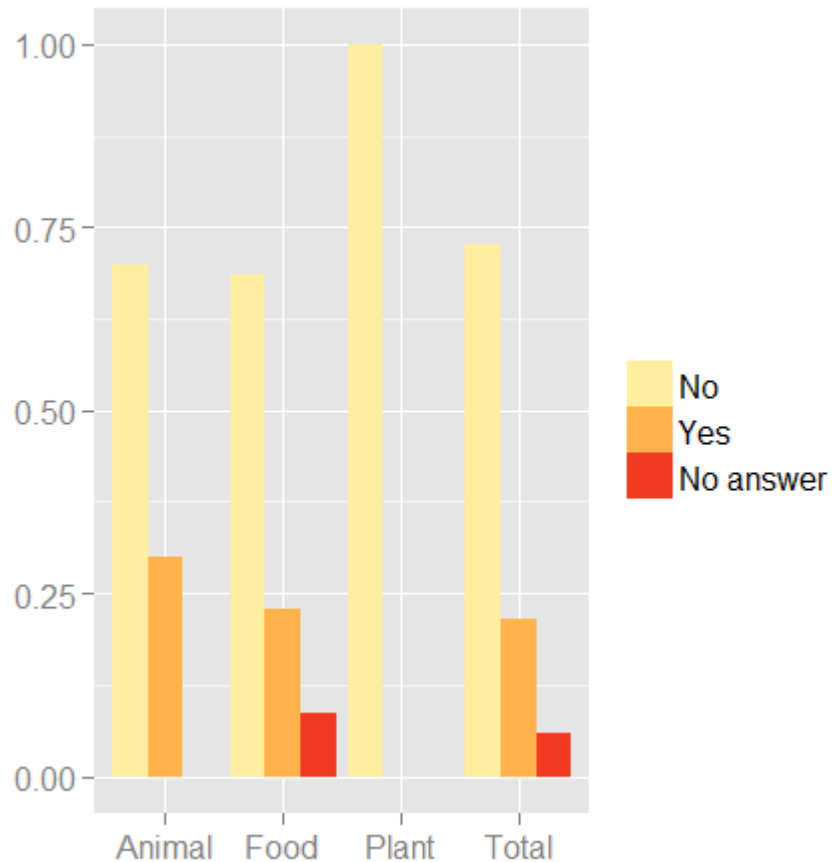
Mostly at **national level**: 84% (32/38)

RR not conducted... 38 % because no knowledge

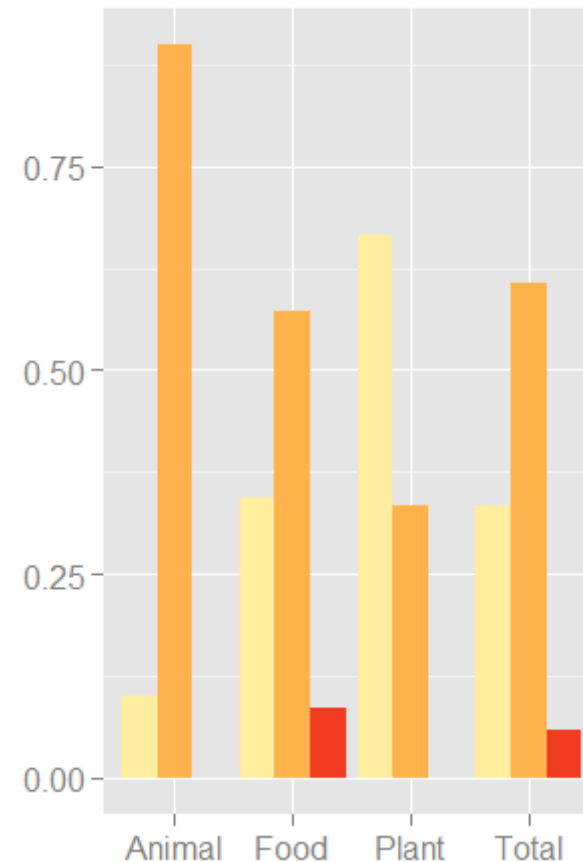


Results (III): Methods

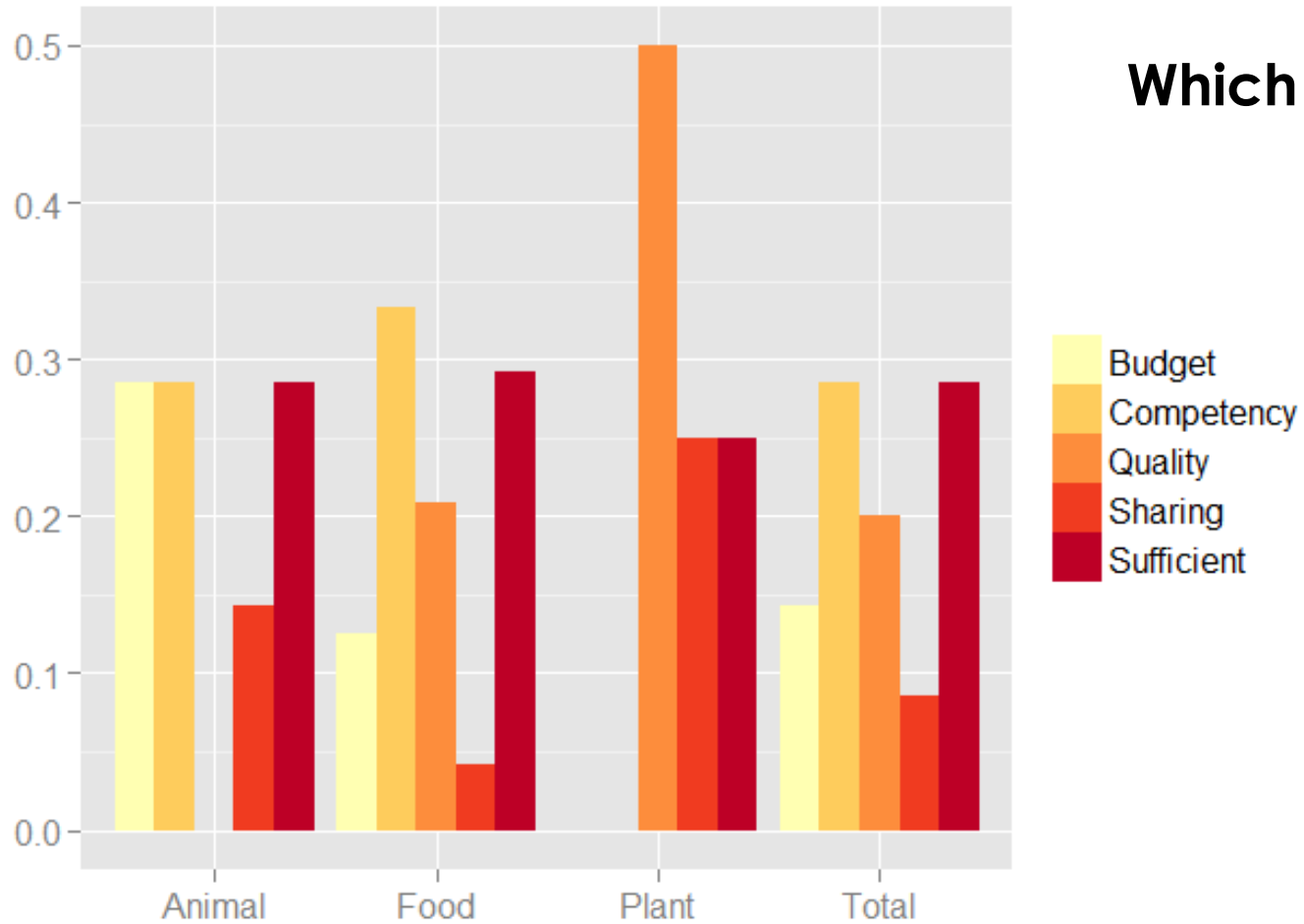
Training?



Read reports?



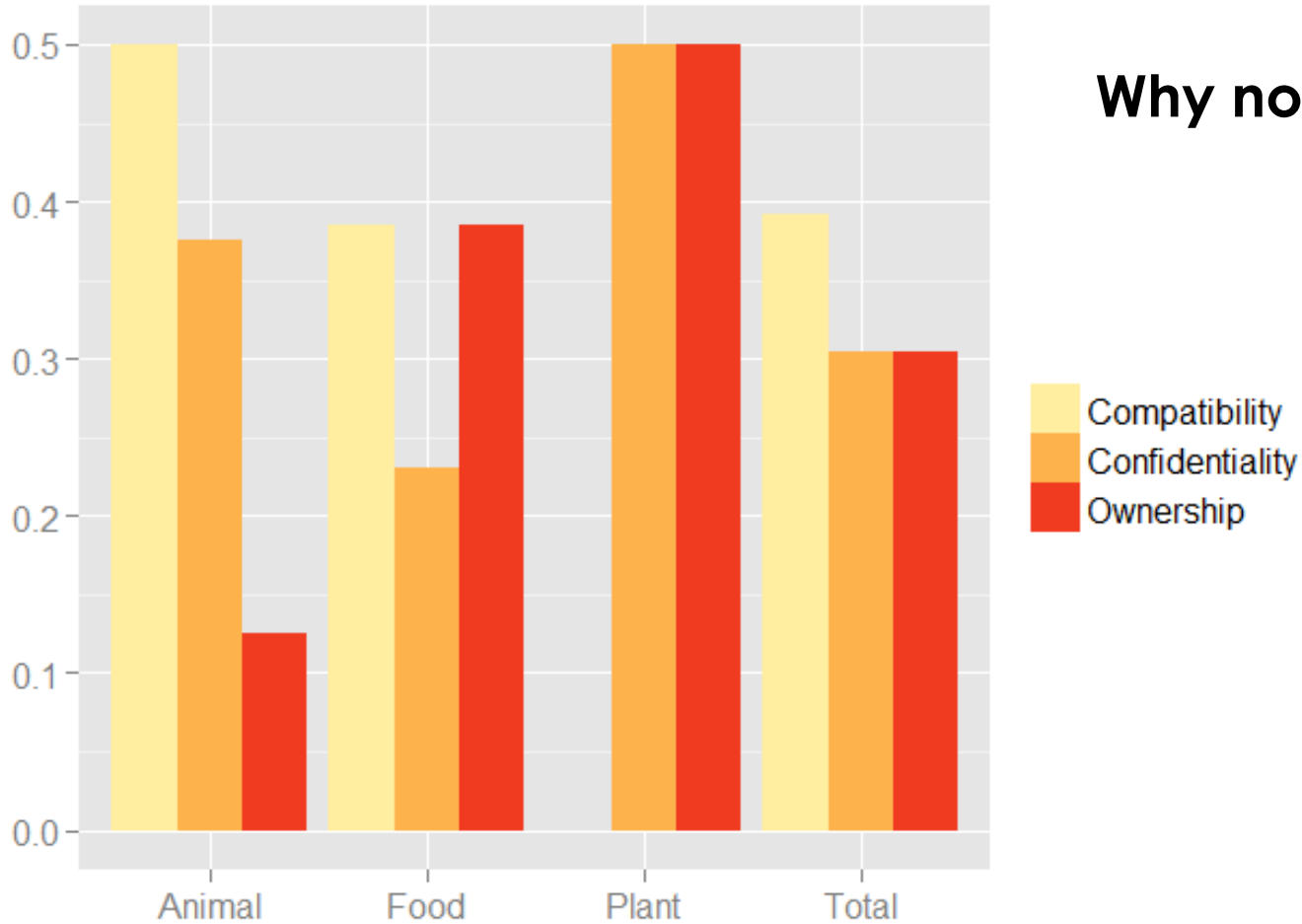
71% of the respondents did encounter data collection problems



Which problems?



45 % of the respondents did encounter data sharing problems



Why no sharing?



Recommendations...

- **Interaction** decision makers -- scientists?

Two way interactions, workshops, communication, risk ranking as a joint exercise, develop diagnostic tools for data-collection,....

- **Interaction** stakeholders -- scientists & stakeholders -- decision makers....



Discussion (I)

- **Insights** concerning RR **needs & expectations** of decision makers and stakeholders active in food chain: Training, Communication,....
- **Interaction decision makers – scientists!**
 - **No p-values**, uncertainty, but alternatives....
 - **Consequences** of action or inaction...
 - Transparency on what is **not** known...



Discussion (II)

- More **knowledge** needed on presenting **RR** results.
 - Researchers to understand policy mechanisms & structures.
 - “**Policy-free**” **evidence** is common.
 - Timing....
 - **Methods** appropriate to problems, resources & context.
- Harmonization of **RR....** **Global** level e.g., **FERG** (WHO)?



Preliminary Conclusions

- **RR** is conducted in the different fields: **animal**, **food**, **crops....**
- **Improvements** possible:
 - **Interaction** between key-players.
 - **Training** needs: 1. lack of knowledge reason for no RR and 2. key-players use RR but do not have training.
- **Data Collection** and **Sharing** are not optimal but important elements in a RR.



Thank you



Literature consulted

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