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ORGANIC FOOD IN EUROPE

Guidelines for organic processing – boost or obstacle for innovation?

Johanna Stumpner, AöL e.V., Germany

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Current situation

- **The EU organic regulation does not give specific requirements for organic processing**
  - Ingredients have to be organic, use of food additives and processing aids are restricted
  - No detailed regulation on processing methods or on allowed degree of processing
- **New organic regulation will now begin on evaluating processing methods**
- **Organic principles (e.g.from IFOAM) are mainly directed at farming**

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- Developing a Code of Practice for organic food processors
  - will include a management guideline, an assessment framework and an communication guideline
- The overall target is about optimizing organic processing and quality in regard to:
  → nutritious and healthy food (nutrition)
  → and environmental performance

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Establishing an Assessment framework (AF)

- Evaluate processing technologies as a whole (ingredient, processing aids, processing methods and packaging)
- The AF will deliver a systematic assessment for the decision in regard to processing technologies used for organic foods
- The AF is written for organic processors and for labeling organizations
- Will deliver elements for further development of the legislative framework

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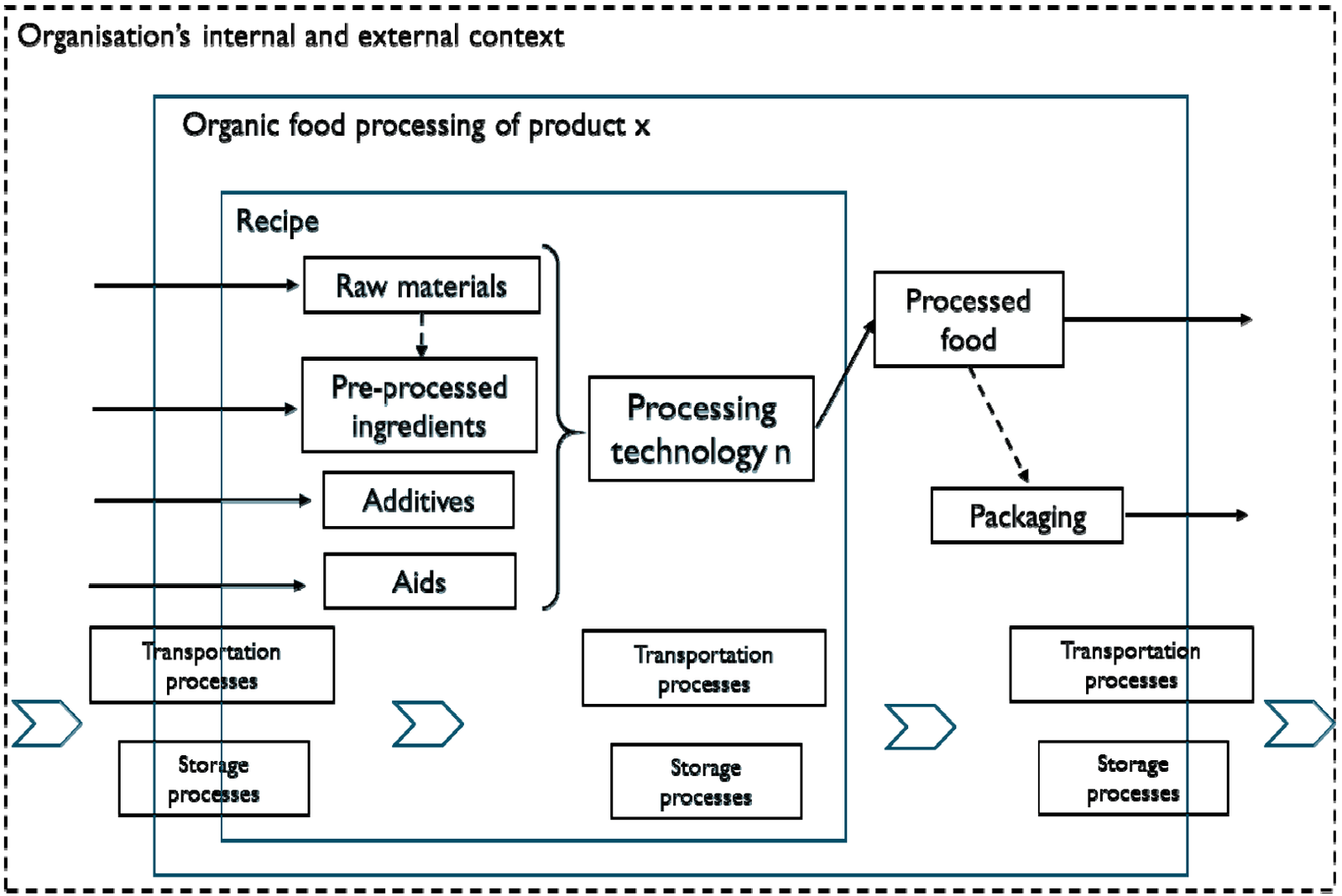
System understanding



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Aspects to be covered

For the assessment process

1. Sustainability aspects (at least covering environmental aspects and where relevant also economic and social aspects)
2. Nutritional quality aspects
3. Sensory quality aspects

For the final qualification of the technology

1. Consumer perception aspects

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Concept

The assessment framework will be established by setting

Criteria

associated indicators

meaningful parameters

1. **Step → Establish the context:**
   - System understanding
   - Characterizing the relevance of the different criteria (hot spot analysis)
   - System boundary setting
2. **Step → Assessment:**
   - Detailed characterization of the relevant assessment criteria
   - Selection of indicators and parameters for the relevant criteria
   - Analysis of criteria
   - Evaluation of the individual criteria (based on defined thresholds
3. **Step → Qualification**
   - Comparison of alternative methods/technologies
   - Benchmark test

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Example: apple juice processing - comparison of two processing methods

Aspect Nutritional quality

Aspect	**Criteria**	**Indicators**
Nutritional quality	Concentration of micronutrients	Vitamin C
	Concentration of phytochemicals	Polyphenols

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Example: apple juice processing - comparison of two pasteurisation methods

HPP treated apple juice vs. thermal pasteurisation (TP)

Aspect	**Criteria**	**Indicators**	**Absolut HPP** mg/100g	**Absolut TP** mg/100g	**Norm HPP**	**Norm TP**
Nutritional quality	Concentration of micronutrients	Vitamin C	9.700	1.400	693	100
	Concentration of phytochemicals	Polyphenols	3.250	1.690	192	100

Rating scale	***Range of normalized value***
2= far better	>150
1= better	>100; ≤150
0= same	100
-1= worse	<100; ≥50
-2= far worse	<50

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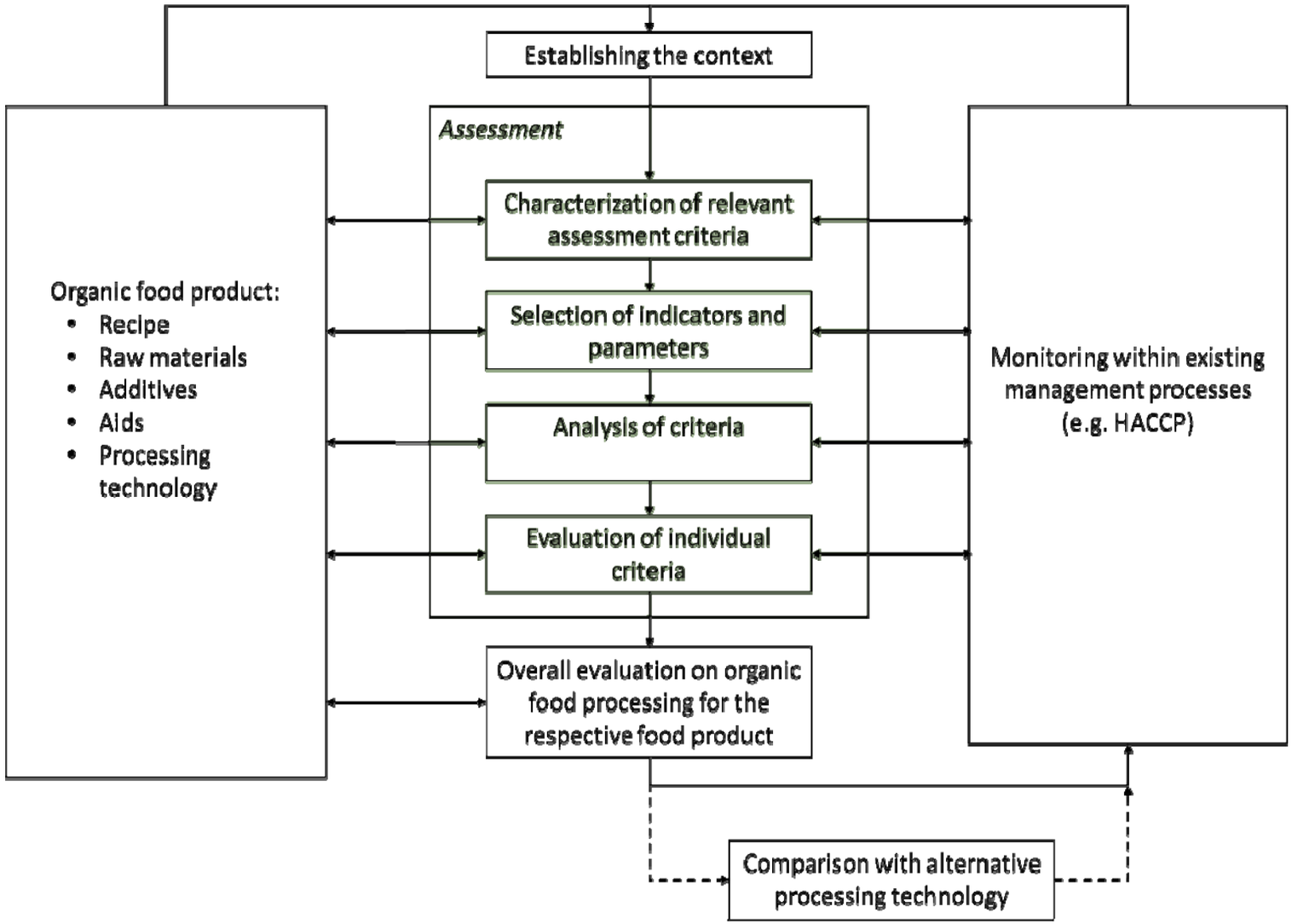
Assessment process



Final step → review in regard to consumer acceptance and economic sustainability

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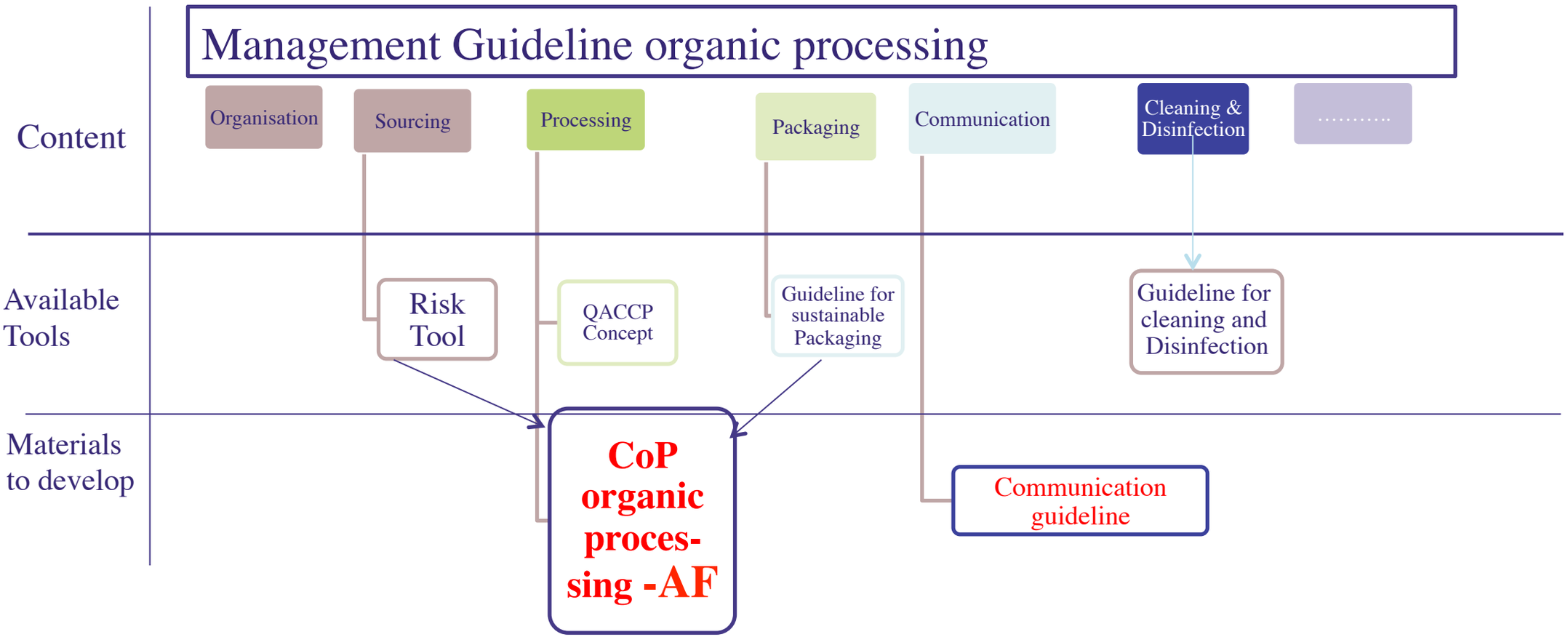
Overall Concept → Code of practice



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Progress achieved

- First draft for the management guideline is established – will go for tests
- First draft for the Assessment Framework is established – will go for tests
- Stakeholder workshops on drivers and barriers for organic processing
- First focus group discussions on consumer acceptance and preference are done
- First market studies (product screening) are done
- Preparation for consumer survey begins

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Getting a better and clearer picture, as well as guidelines and principles for organic processing

Boost or obstacle for innovation?

What do you think?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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