



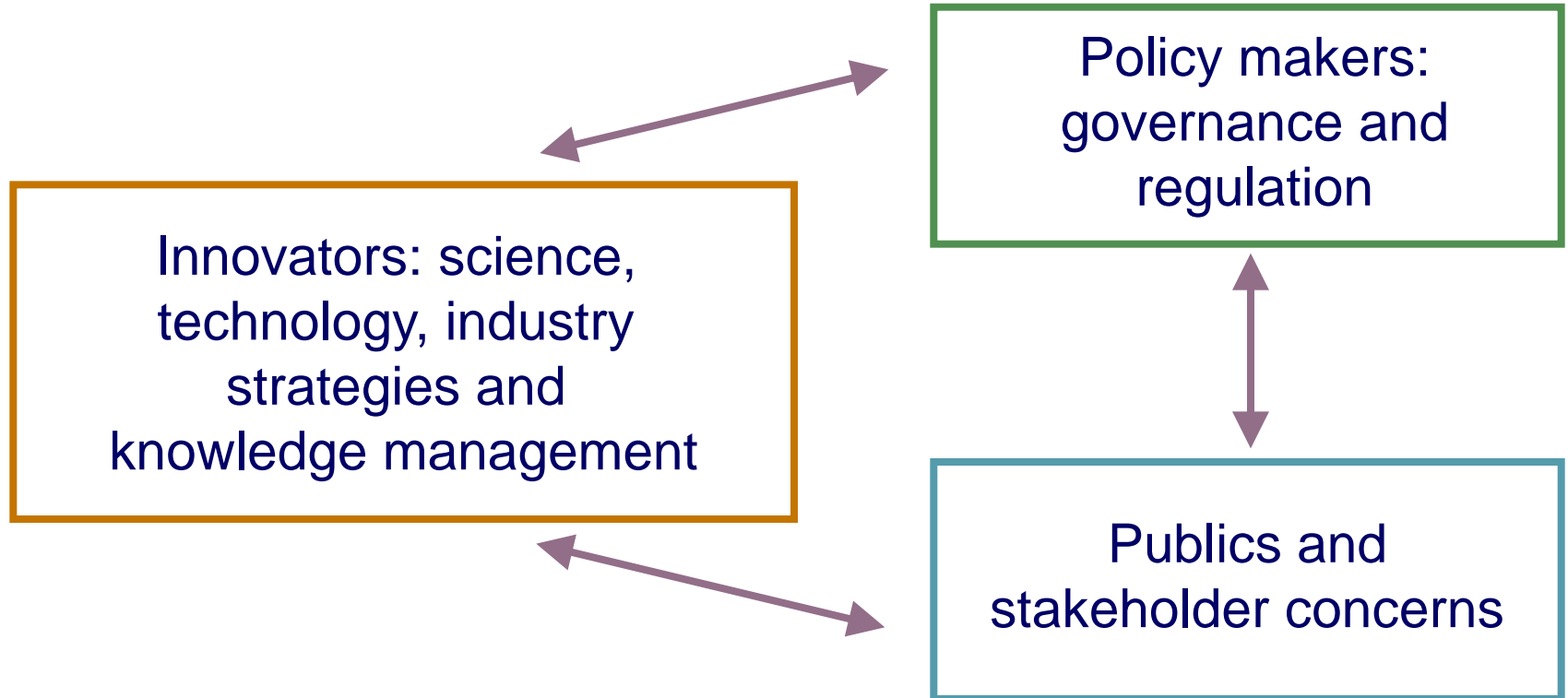
**Inappropriate governance of risks
in life sciences:
food security and health issues**

IRGC 2011 Annual Event

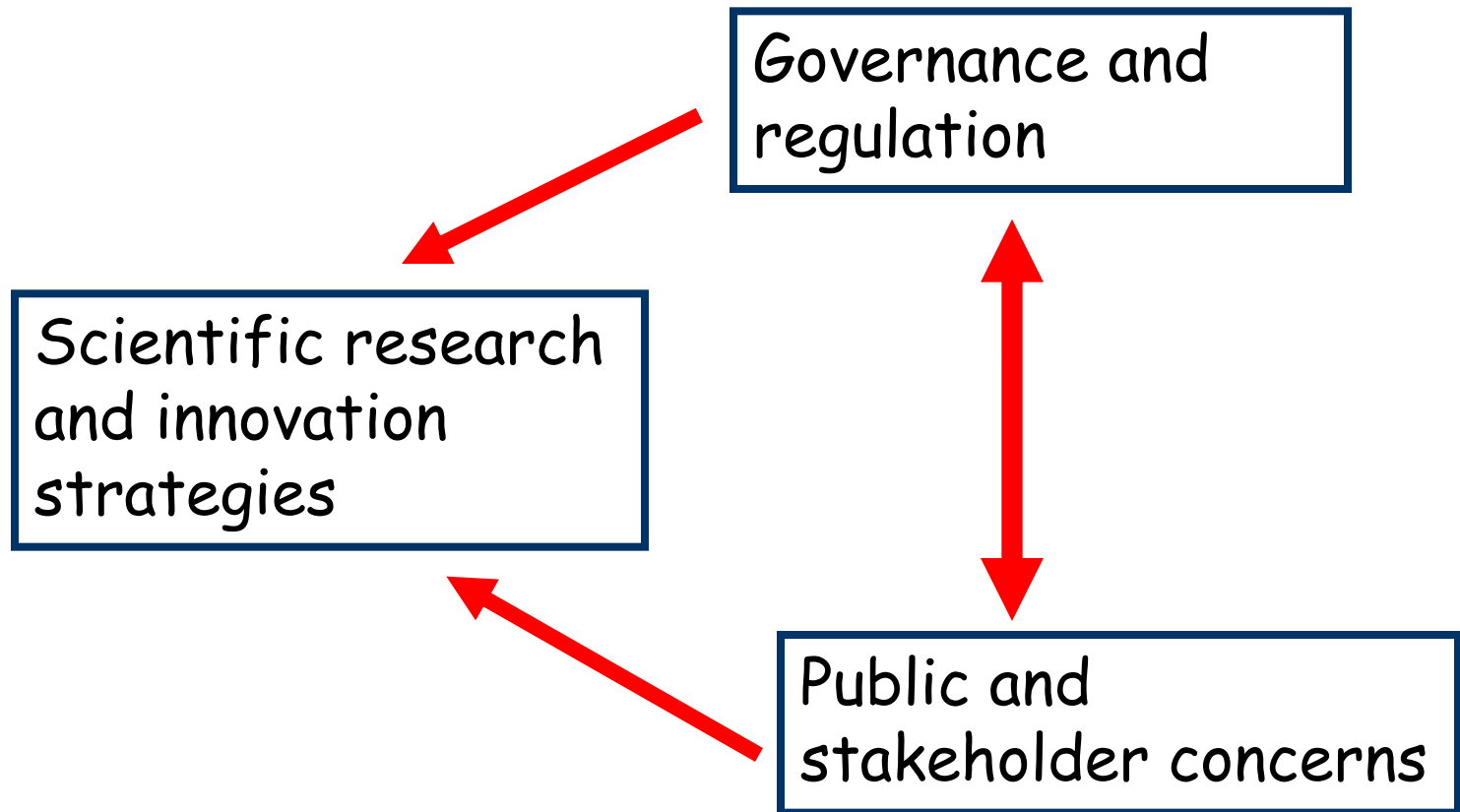
Lausanne, 3rd Nov., 2011

Joyce Tait, Innogen Centre
University of Edinburgh

Innogen Centre Research Strategy – three constituencies



Life Science and Pharmaceuticals: constraints on innovation



But is it good risk governance?

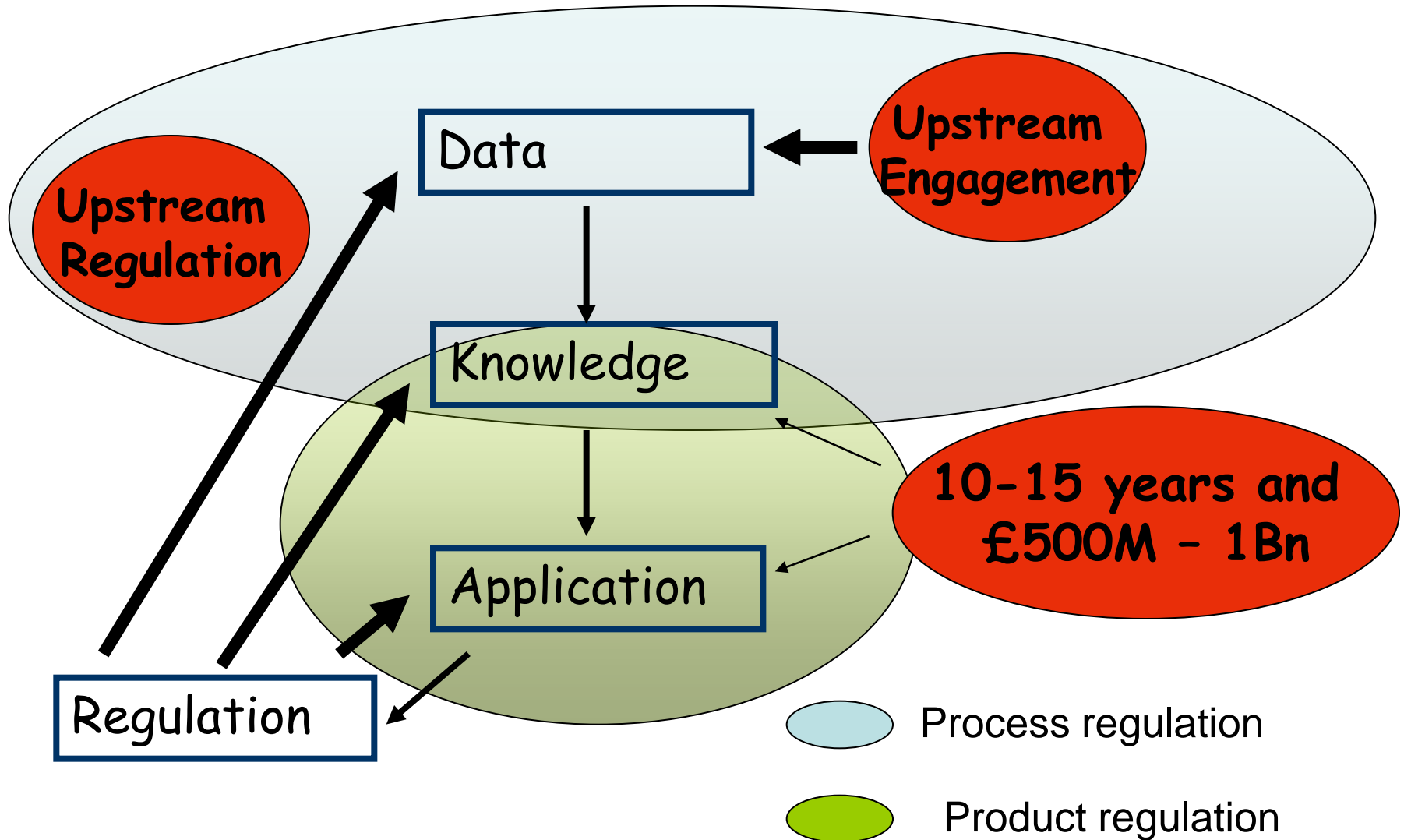
Retrospective Revision of Existing Regulations

- **EU Drinking Water Directive and US Food Quality Protection Act**
- **US Starlink Corn incident**

Prospective Regulation of New Technologies

- **GM Crops**
- **Cell Therapies**

Is this the best way to govern innovative technology?



Appropriate Risk Governance of Innovative Technology

An 'appropriate' approach to risk governance would be one that is enabling of innovation, minimises risk to people and the environment, and balances the interests and values of relevant stakeholders.

Tait, J., Chataway, J. and Wield, D., "Appropriate Governance of the Life Sciences – 2: The Case for Smart Regulation", Innogen Policy Brief, <http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/innogen/>

A New Approach to Regulation

Regulation is the key to managed evolution – need for a strong vision and sense of direction among policy makers and regulators

Better understanding of the far-reaching potential of regulatory innovation to change the whole course of an industry

Shift in perception of pipeline problems from ‘failure of innovation strategies’ to failure of regulatory systems to adapt to new circumstances

Elements of a smarter regulatory system

- **Flexible responsive regulatory systems in early stages of development to cope with evolving opportunity landscape; choose the regulatory system that is understood by the industry sector best able to develop the technology**
- **Fast tracks for societally desirable outcomes**
- **Enabling, discriminating regulatory instruments, rather than constraining/indiscriminate**
- **Creative use of technology to support regulatory aims (GURTs)**
- **Maintain and defend the quality of the evidence base**

Can we master this universe?



Eduardo Paolozzi – Master of the Universe