

# African Union



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

**IFSTL** International Food Safety  
Training Laboratory



**Waters**  
THE SCIENCE OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE.™



LAND O' LAKES  
**VENTURE37**

## VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

*Enhancing food safety testing to support the free flow of traded food and agri-food products*

Webinar through Zoom Platform | 8 July 2021 from 8:00 – 10:00 Québec, Canada Time (UTC -4)

*Participation is free of charge. Up to 500 registrations can be accommodated on a first come, first served basis.  
Once registered, you will receive a subsequent email confirmation containing  
the relevant information necessary to attend the virtual workshop.*

Registration link → [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_4BEra9qjT8SaniPrlo9xew](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4BEra9qjT8SaniPrlo9xew)

### Background

The International Food Safety Training Laboratory (IFSTL) hosted by the Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform ([PARERA](#)) of Université Laval (Québec, Canada) is implementing a capacity building initiative aiming to enhance the capability of regulatory laboratories in Africa to support conformity assessment for regional and international trade in agricultural commodities.

This project will enhance competencies in methods of analysis of chemical contaminants in food, with emphasis on pesticides and mycotoxins, and will bring together over 160 food laboratory scientists from some 30 African countries. This initiative is a joint endeavor funded by the US Agency for International Development ([USAID](#)), the United States Department of Agriculture ([USDA](#)), [Waters Corporation](#) and [PARERA](#), in partnership with the [African Union](#) and the [AOAC Sub-Saharan Africa section](#).

A similar training program is also being carried out as a result of the partnership between the IFSTL, the Global Food Regulatory Science Society ([GFORSS](#)) and the TRASE initiative ([Trade in Agriculture Safely and Efficiently](#)) funded through the Food for Progress Program of the US Department of Agriculture, with the objective to enhance competencies of the food laboratory community in East Africa.

To highlight the launch of the IFSTL and its food laboratory capacity building initiatives, a virtual workshop is planned on 8 July 2021, with the goal to introduce these partnership projects and to discuss opportunities for the development of a robust and sustainable food safety testing capacity in Africa, supporting the free flow trade of food and agri-food products across Africa.

## PROPOSED AGENDA

8 July 2021 from 8:00 – 10:00 Québec, Canada Time (UTC -4)

### Workshop Introduction and Context

10  
minutes

Importance of Partnership Capacity Building Initiatives Targeting Food and Feed Laboratory Testing

*Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Université Laval, Québec, Canada*

### Official Opening of the Workshop – Introductory Remarks of Partner Organizations\*

30  
minutes

- ❖ US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- ❖ US Agency of International Development (US AID)
- ❖ African Union
- ❖ AOAC International Sub-Saharan Africa Section
- ❖ TRASE Program / Venture 37
- ❖ Waters Corporation

*\* 3-5 minutes allotted per partnering organization*

### Keynote Presentations

40  
minutes

- ❖ Food laboratory capacity building needs and imperatives of method standardization in the African continent  
*Dr. Owen Fraser, President, AOAC Sub-Saharan Africa Section*
- ❖ Implementing standardized pesticide analytical methods for food control  
*Professor Kaushik Banerjee, Principal Scientist, National Reference Laboratory, ICAR, India (Former President AOAC India Section)*

30  
minutes

### Questions and Answers

10  
minutes

### Wrap-up

*Workshop Adjourned*



## About PARERA and the IFSTL

The Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods ([INAF](#)) and the Food Science Department of Laval University (Canada) launched the Food risk analysis and regulatory excellence platform ([PARERA](#)) in 2017. Since its establishment, the Platform has contributed to the development of food regulatory sciences through research, educational programs, training and capacity building initiatives.

PARERA joined forces with the Waters corporation, to establish the International Food Safety Training Laboratory (IFSTL), specializing in providing laboratory training specifically designed for regulatory professionals involved in food conformity assessment.

## About GForSS

[GForSS](#) is a not-for-profit organization hosted by the Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence Platform ([PARERA](#)) of Laval University's Department of Food Sciences and the Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods.

The Society aims to promote the generation and dissemination of knowledge and competencies related to food regulatory sciences, that is, all disciplines applied in the context of developing, implementing and evaluating food regulatory decisions including, but not limited to, food risk analysis and associated disciplines.

Membership consists of scientists and regulators from food regulatory agencies at any level of government: municipal, state / provincial, national and international, including international organizations, scientists and professionals in any related food regulatory scientific discipline from non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.