



مؤتمر عُمان الدولي السادس  
لسلامة وجودة الغذاء  
Oman 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference  
on Food Safety and Quality

## Panel Discussion: Addressing Food Safety and Quality Challenges in the Arab Region and Supporting Food Regulatory Convergence

MUSCAT\_OMAN  
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*Introducing the importance of convergence of food safety  
interventions*

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# Why Convergence in Food Safety is Crucial?

## Public Health Protection

Convergence brings together various stakeholders, including governments, regulatory agencies, food producers, and consumers, to establish common standards and best practices.

## Global Trade Facilitation

Convergence helps facilitate international trade by promoting harmonization and mutual recognition of regulations among different countries. When countries adopt similar standards, it reduces trade barriers and enables smoother movement of food products across borders.

## Efficiency and Cost Savings

When there are consistent standards and procedures in place such as monitoring program based on risk, it becomes easier for managers to control the food supply chain and optimize resource allocation.

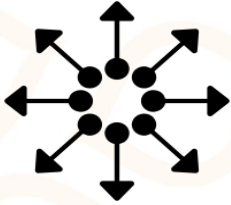
## Improved Risk Assessment and Management

Convergence allows for the pooling of scientific knowledge and expertise from multiple sources. By bringing together scientists, researchers, and regulatory authorities, it promotes collaboration and information sharing. This collective effort enhances the ability to assess risks associated with foodborne hazards,



# Overview of the general situation

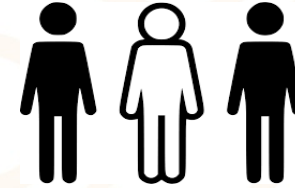
Food safety systems across countries and regions exhibit various characteristics and face distinct challenges.



**Dispersion in food safety standards**



**Weak Regulatory Frameworks**



**FSCS Totally different**



**Inconsistencies in control measures, monitoring, and enforcement**



**Large disparities in expertise and resources**

# Needs for Supporting food regulatory convergence



Review the food supply chain management (FSCM)



Technical assistance and knowledge transfer



Address common food safety challenges



Implement Risk Based Inspection System



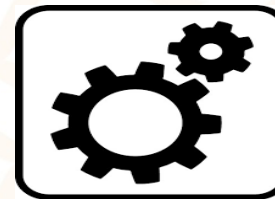
Involve capacity building efforts



Sharing of scientific knowledge and data



Alignment with internationally recognized standards



Harmonizing food safety standards and regulations



Enhancement of Food Laboratory Operations



Promote international collaboration

# Key Areas of Intervention

## Holistic Risk Assessment

This approach helps identify the potential risks associated with specific contaminants and enables the development of appropriate risk management strategies.

## Aligned Regulations

This alignment ensures that the same level of protection is provided to consumers globally and enhances international trade by minimizing technical barriers.

01



## Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance systems

By sharing data and information across different sectors, it becomes easier to identify emerging risks and implement timely interventions

02



03



## Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building


This knowledge sharing enhances the capacity of food safety professionals

04




# key Starting Points

To initiate the process of food safety convergence, several key starting points can be considered



Implement robust information management systems to collect, analyze, and disseminate data




Utilize risk assessment tools and software



Develop and adopt internationally recognized food safety standards and guidelines



Enhance laboratory capacities by equipping them with advanced testing and analysis equipment



Conduct specialized training and capacity building programs



Establish networking platforms, database and online communities for stakeholders involved in food safety



Thank You  
For Your Attention

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