



غرفة الصناعات الغذائية
CHAMBER OF FOOD INDUSTRIES

In Partnership with



الهيئة القومية لسلامة الغذاء
National Food Safety Authority

GFoRSS



INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES ON THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FOOD ADDITIVES*

28 May 2024

Four Seasons Hotel Cairo at the First Residence, Giza, Arab Republic of Egypt

**An event preceding the 2024 Egyptian Global Food Safety Symposium (EGFoSS)*

Introduction

Food additives are chemical substances added to food for the purpose of exerting a technological effect, such as a change in colour, texture or microbiological load.

Food additives are subject to a strong level of oversight by most food regulatory jurisdictions prior to being permitted for use in conjunction with food production. Before authorizing their use, additives are examined for safety and technological effectiveness. It is only when both criteria are fulfilled, meaning when the use is justified and the safety is established, that conditions of such use are established and approved by food regulators.

The conditions of review and approval of food additives adopted by most food regulators internationally are based upon the guidance provided by the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), which is a risk assessment body, managed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

This workshop, co-organized by the Egyptian Chamber of Food Industries (CFI), in Partnership with the National Food Safety Authority of Egypt (NFSA), and the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS) aims to review international best practices related to food additives review and approval, including the JECFA approach, as well as approaches followed by international regulators to assess and approve food additives.

The workshop intends to set the stage for NFSA's food regulatory review dedicated to Food Additive Regulations, as part of the implementation of NFSA's strategic plan for 2023-26 and the commitment made to review key food regulatory provisions promulgated by NFSA to ensure they are aligned with scientific findings and international best practices.

This workshop will set the stage for continued discussions related to food additive approval in Egypt, Arab and African regions.

Program • 28 May 2024

8.30-9.30	Registration
9.30-10.00	Opening Ceremony Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Eng. Ashraf El-Gazairly, Chairman, Chamber of Food Industries (CFI)</i>➤ <i>Dr. Tareq El-Houby, Chairman, National Food Safety Authority of Egypt (NFSA)</i>➤ <i>Dr. Khaled Soufi, Chairman, Egyptian Organization for Standards and Quality (EOS)</i>➤ <i>Dr. Moez Al Sanaa, Head of Scientific Advice, Food Safety and Nutrition, World Health Organization (WHO)</i>➤ <i>Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Université Laval, President Elect IUFoST and Chief Operating Officer, Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS)</i>
10.00-10.10	Meeting Background and Expected Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Université Laval; IUFoST / GFoRSS</i>
10.10-10.30	International Standards for Food Additives Under the Auspices of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Dr. Fan Yongxiang, Deputy Director General, China National Centre of Food Safety Risk Assessment and Chair of CCFA</i>
10.30-11.15	Review of the JECFA Process for Assessment of Food Additives <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Dr. Moez Sanaa, Head of Scientific Advice, Food Safety and Nutrition, WHO</i>
11.15-12.00	Reviewing Food Additive Approval in the Arab Region Current practices in regulating food additives in Egypt and the Arab region - Reviewing safety assessments and approvals. <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Dr. Amine Kassouf, Research Manager, GFoRSS</i>
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12.30-13.00	Case-Study on Artificial Sweeteners: Discussion on Regulatory Decisions Related to Sweeteners in Food – Reviewing Approval and Labelling Requirements and their Application A presentation reviewing current requirements of approval and labelling of sweeteners in Egypt and the Arab region. <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Dr. Elie Bouyazbeck, Food Science Expert, Consumer Protection Specialist, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon</i>
13.00-13.30	Challenges Related to Risk Communication Associated with Sweeteners in Food <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Université Laval; IUFoST / GFoRSS</i>
13.30-14.30	Panel and Facilitated Discussions Aiming for the convergence of assessments and regulatory decisions related to the use of sweeteners in food sold in the Arab region: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Pre-requisites and Conditions of Success▪ Possible Development of a path forward for convergent food regulatory decisions on food additives in the Arab Region▪ Coordinated Efforts in Risk Communication <i>Representatives from CFI, NFSA, EOS and CCFA.</i>
14.30-15.00	Review of the Day's Discussions and Possible Path Forward for the Convergence of Food Additive Decisions in the Arab Region <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Université Laval; IUFoST / GFoRSS</i>
15.00	Official Adjournment and Lunch